



TIME4CS

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE
INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES
TO PROMOTE CITIZEN SCIENCE IN
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TIME4CS project

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TIME4CS Statement

What is Time4CS statement?

- Invitation to research institutions to embrace Citizen Science, get inspired and learn from Time4CS know-how
- The statement is complemented by practical, adaptable and innovative steps on how to create the right conditions and support for CS projects



TIME4CS statement:

**It is Time for
Citizen Science!**

**and
Overview of key
recommendations to research
institutions on the adoption
of Citizen Science**

TIME4CS Statement

It is time for Citizen Science!

- Why adopting CS?
- Cultural change to support the changes which CS brings in principle and practice
- Combination of two approaches: top-down and bottom-up
- Drivers of successful Institutional Change
- Indicators for Change
- Institutional Roadmaps framework



- Tangible examples of success
- More inclusive and impactful scientific community



TIME4CS statement: It is Time for Citizen Science!

In today's rapidly changing scientific landscape, research performing organisations (RPOs) must adapt and evolve to meet the demands of an increasingly complex world. One powerful approach that can help achieve this goal is the integration of Citizen Science into the scientific research process. It is time for Citizen Science, and research institutions are urged to embrace this methodology and make the necessary Institutional Changes to facilitate its implementation.

The benefits of adopting Citizen Science are not only scientific but also societal. It empowers citizens to become active participants in the scientific process and fosters a sense of ownership over the knowledge generated. Moreover, it enhances transparency and accountability in research, aligning with the principles of Open Science and data sharing, and democratising science. Participation in Citizen Science projects facilitates the societal acceptance of innovations and new technologies, but also a better understanding of science-based policies. As we face complex global challenges, it is crucial that research institutions seize the opportunity and make Institutional Changes to adopt Citizen Science. The TIME4CS project's methodology and recommendations offer a valuable starting point to embark on this transformative journey.

The adoption of CS in RPOs requires a culture of change, and a combination of the two common approaches to Institutional Change needs to be considered: the social approach and the organisational approach. The social approach looks at social patterns that are modified, requiring a personal commitment of people to change their own mindsets, views and behaviors. In the organisational approach instead, internal organisational structures such as procedures and norms are modified. In this case the role of governance is important, as while the social approach rather works on bottom-up basis, the organisational approach is implemented mostly top-down. To be sustainable, these Changes should be irreversible, inclusive, comprehensive and contextualised.

Four drivers of successful Institutional Changes in support of Citizen Science were identified: i) a considerable number of established Citizen Science projects; ii) different types of local, national and international networks for reinforcing collaborations between different actors; iii) Citizen Science champions at different levels at the institution; and iv) the existence of a strategic plan in support of Citizen Science activities. The identification of indicators for changes supporting Citizen Science and the development of a general Roadmap framework also significantly contributed to creating the TIME4CS knowledge base. These results are linked to tangible examples of success and implementation of tailored and flexible Institutional Roadmaps with concrete actions triggering long term changes in project partner RPOs.

TIME4CS Statement

It is time for Citizen Science!

Practical guidance built on successfully implemented actions and mechanisms leading to Institutional Change

3 main areas:

- Boosting motivation to initiate and participate in CS projects
- Ensuring funding for CS activities
- Defining tailored Institutional Roadmaps (flexible Action plans)

Boosting motivation of both researchers and members of the public to initiate and participate in Citizen Science projects.

This part of recommendations focuses on explaining the benefits of Citizen Science through various communication campaigns both inside and outside your institution, learning the main steps how to develop a Citizen Science project, starting small, identifying and liaising with Citizen Science champions in the institution or its network and thinking about rewarding mechanisms for doing Citizen Science. TIME4CS trainings and webinars are valuable resources to learn more about Citizen Science in institutional contexts. Check our MOOC!



Ensuring funding for Citizen Science activities.

Organising Citizen Science activities and information events, providing trainings, developing and spreading communication materials as well as other Citizen Science related activities require funds.

Encourage the setup of pilots/tests before the early adopters invest time and resources, provide small grants to facilitate adoption, learn how to write a winning grant, explore local and national foundations and organisations for additional support, consider crowdfunding and look for partnerships.

Developing and implementing personalised Institutional Roadmaps.

The Institutional Roadmaps are flexible, personalised documents describing concrete actions

TIME4CS Statement – Boosting motivation for doing CS

RPO and researchers' level

- Explain the benefits of CS through communication campaigns both inside and outside your institution
- Choose your audience
- Collect feedback and opinions
- Learn by doing!
- Start with small contributory projects
- Get inspired by TIME4CS training
- CS champions
- Reward mechanisms
- Take advantage of networks

Members of the public level

- Explore different formats for CS activities
- Awareness raising
- Training opportunities for citizen scientists
- Reward mechanisms

TIME4CS Statement – Boosting motivation for doing CS

Researchers' level

Learn by doing! Main steps to develop a CS project:

- Start with an issue that both researchers and citizens care about.
- Develop a pitch for a CS project:
- Know who you would like to have participating and plan ways to reach them. Advertise, co-create.
- Plan the project, develop meaningful tasks and act.
- Provide and get regular feedback, adjust, learn and communicate.

Members of the public level

Explore different formats for CS activities

- Desirable level of participation
(from simple data collectors to the highest level of scientific collaborators)
- Interesting, appealing activities
(after-work expeditions, gamification, etc)
- Clear communication, feasible tasks, flexibility and recognition



TIME4CS Statement – Ensuring funding for CS activities

List of recommendations

- Encourage the setup of pilots/tests
- If possible, provide small grants
- Explore local and national foundations and organisations for additional support
- Write a winning grant
- Consider crowdfunding
- Look for partnerships and collaborations



Example

Write a winning grant!

- Scoping, pitching, writing and re-writing
- Do your research, note differences in the scope of different funding instruments, success rates, timelines, frequency of calls, assessment criteria, etc.
- Allocate enough time for preparations
 - Seek feedback
 - Seek assistance from research support units

TIME4CS Developing and implementing tailored Institutional Roadmaps – flexible Action plans

List of recommendations

- Get inspired by Time4CS know-how
- Set your baseline – what you have and what you need
- Reflect on your Action plan and make a strategy
- Co-create
- Ready, steady, implement
- Think sustainability
- Monitoring and evaluation

Example

Reflect on your Action plan

Check our **Reflection tool** – practical guidance for identifying institutional needs, goals, resources, barriers, mitigation measures – to define the Grounding Actions suitable for your institution and put them in a common frame with realistic timeline



TIME4CS Statement

Check and make use of a full set of our practical recommendations with all relevant details, concrete steps and examples from TIME4CS partner institutions' experiences!





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#TIME4CS



Thank you for your attention !

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