

# Researchers' Night in Europe

Interview on one of the most exciting science-show events of the year and the Hungarian example

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## Table of contents

Introduction of the event.....	3
FAWORIT 2022-2023 and the interview .....	4
Responses from the consortias.....	6
LiS-Dig (Life is Science in a Digital World) by acib GmbH - Austria.....	6
SEARCH - Bulgaria.....	7
SESAM2030 by UCPH - Denmark .....	10
LEAF - heal the planet's future by Frascati Scienza - Italy .....	11
SuperScienceMe by University of Calabria - Italy .....	12
A Touch of Blue in the European Researchers' Night for a more Sustainable Use of the Ocean -BlueNIGHTs by National Research Council - Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR-ISMAR) - Italy .....	13
BRIGHT-NIGHT by Università di Firenze - Italy .....	14
U-Night - The UNITA Researchers' Night by Università degli Studi di Torino - Italy .....	15
SOCIETY by CINECA - Italy .....	16
Science in the City / SitC by University of Malta - Malta.....	18
RAISE-Researchers in Action for Inclusion in Science and Education by Native Scientists - Portugal	21
Green Science at the Service of Healthy Society (GreenSCI) by Technical University of Moldova - Moldova .....	22
ERN 2022-2023 SVK by Slovak Organisation for Research and Development Activities - Slovakia	23
Humanities Rock! Human(e) to Animals - Science Covers Every Being! by Faculty of Arts Ljubljana - Slovenia.....	24
Ocean Night by CSIC - Spain.....	25
MACARONIGHT, The European Researchers Night of the Macaronesia by La Palma Research Centre - Spain .....	26
EDUCation about CLIMATE change and polar science (EDUCATE'22) by Polar Research Institute, TUBITAK, - Türkiye .....	27



## Introduction of the event

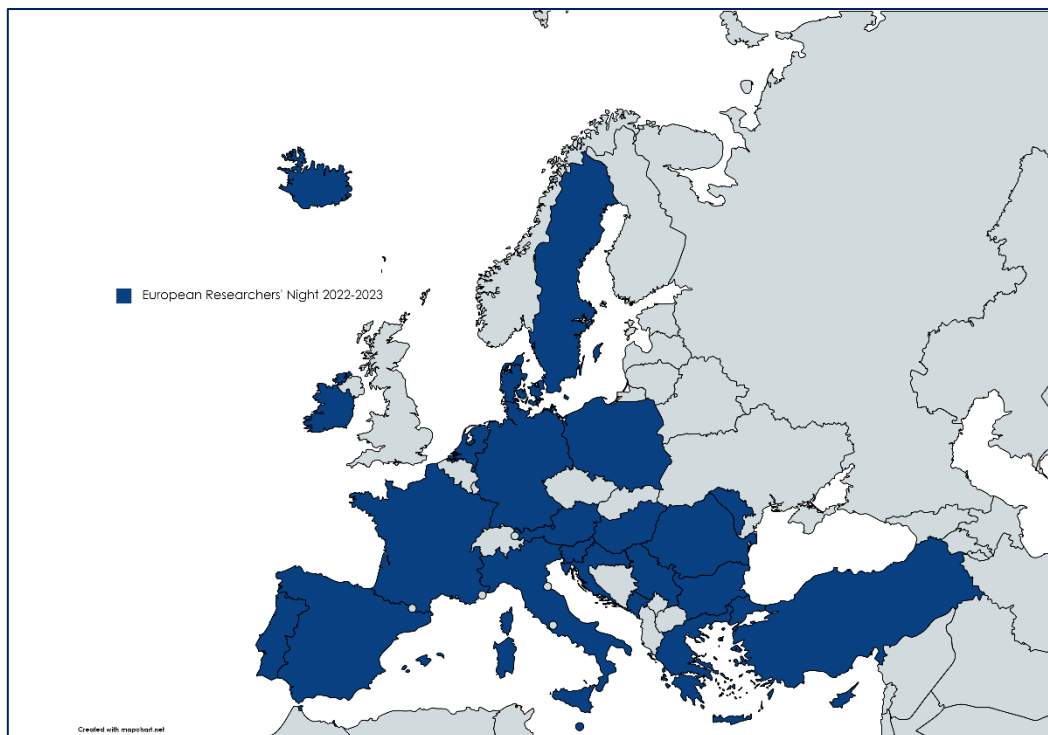
The European Researchers' Night is a series of free events across Europe to promote science and careers in research. The last weekend in September is the perfect opportunity to get a glimpse into the secrets of different scientific disciplines.

Through fun and inspiring lectures, experiments, laboratory visits and other playful activities, people of all ages will be able to discover the many new findings of scientific research. The main aim of the event, initiated by the **European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**, is to make the diverse work of researchers and developers attractive to young people - boys and girls alike.

The European Researchers' Night aims to:

- bring research and researchers closer to the public
- promote excellent research projects across Europe and beyond
- increase the interest of young people in science and research careers
- showcase the impact of researchers' work on people's daily lives

This year, the event will take place in **26 countries** on **Friday 29 September 2023**.



*2022-2023 Researchers' Night events per country (Funded by the European Union)<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Italy, Romania, Cyprus, Slovenia, Spain, Moldova, Bulgaria, Türkiye, Portugal, Montenegro, Iceland, Denmark, Malta, Austria, Croatia, Sweden, Serbia, France, Poland, Greece, Netherlands, Germany, Ireland

## FAWORIT 2022-2023 and the interview

Fascinating World of Researchers in the Age of Technology - Alliance with Citizens (HORIZON-MSCA-2022-CITIZENS-01-01; FAWORIT 2022-2023) is the Hungarian event coordinated by the Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development Ltd with 4 partners.

Our proposal relies on the following main ideas:

- (1) “*being a researcher is cool and creative*” - by presenting some ground breaking inventions and the researchers behind the ideas we aim to show the public how innovation affects our lives;
- (2) “*young innovators are amongst us*” - by introducing young innovators, who will become both the audience and the participants of some of our activities, we encourage the youth even more to choose a scientific career path.
- (3) “*science is diverse and is for all*”- We address the experiences of more than a decade; lessons learnt from previous Researchers’ Nights by using new, novel methods and solutions.

Our main target group is students between the age of 6-26, but we aim to address all age groups and abilities with attractive programmes. Some novelties of our project: offering challenge-oriented activities - each of our 30 venues will present their innovative solutions related to interdisciplinary societal challenges; focusing on the concept of Responsible Research and Innovation – the audience will be informed about key elements of RRI, thus creating better understanding and fostering future involvement; launching “Science in the City” – a flash mob like activity, involving the public in spectacular experiments. We will apply an integrated approach in our project in which interdisciplinary challenges, innovative solutions, (young) researchers, their work and hobbies will be presented in an interactive, educating and entertaining way. The target audience can thus discover that being a researcher is cool and creative; researchers, but and young innovators are amongst us. Our objective is to have around 30,000 visitors at the events, but a multiple of that number (around 500,000) will see, hear or read about the Night. We intend to raise awareness of the European engagement in R&I; in the European Corners and at each venue related programmes of the European Union (Horizon Europe, H2020, especially MSCA) will be visible. The structure of the consortium: an innovative SME; an association of women in science; a national organisation for applied research; an independent think tank, a scientific association with a broad network of local member institutions all over Hungary and a highly innovative large company together with numerous contributing partners will ensure the success of the project.

The Hungarian website of the event can be reached under [kutatokejszakaja.hu](http://kutatokejszakaja.hu).

We are proud that almost more than **160 organisers** in **59 cities** provided more than **2.400 events** from the age 1 to 99 which made enough noise to share research career paths with 5% percent of the Hungarian society directly. With the strong communication strategy, we could reach more than **1,000,000 people** and more than **2459 researchers** were involved in the activities.

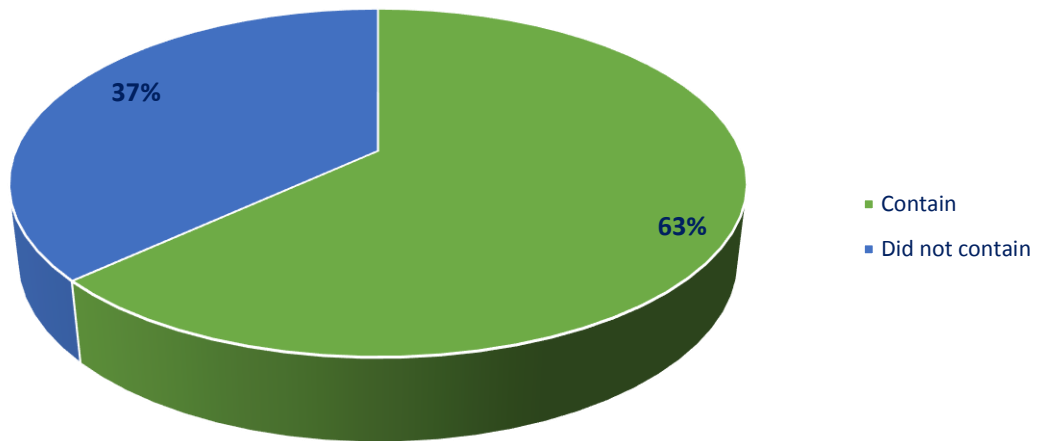
Cities cover by the FAWORIT2022-2023 consortia:

Various locations frequented by the public in Budapest and other venues throughout the country (16 in 15 cities: Békéscsaba, Kecskemét, Kisvárd, Nyíregyháza, Salgótarján, Sopron, Szeged, Székesfehérvár, Szekszárd, Szolnok, Szombathely, Tatabánya, Tihany, Vác, Vácrátót, Zalaegerszeg).

Other locations where the joined partners organised events:

Baja, Berkesz, Budakalász, Békéscsaba, Debrecen, Dunaharaszti, Dunakeszi, Eger, Esztergom, Érd, Farnos, Gyula, Gyöngyös, Győr, Gödöllő, Hajdúböszörmény, Hajdúszoboszló, Hortobágy, Hódmezővásárhely, Jászberény, Kalocsa, Kaposvár, Kiskunfélegyháza, Lovasberény, Martonvásár, Miskolc, Nagykanizsa, Nagyszénás, Nyírbátor, Oroszlány, Paks, Pallag, Penc, Pápa, Pásztó, Pécs, Sajólad, Szarvas, Szentes, Szombathely, Sárospatak, Tata, Veszprém, Vác, Zirc.

What percentage of Hungarian 2023 programmes included sustainability, environment protection, Green Deal, etc. (2023)



There is a cooperation already established with other European Researchers' Night projects in the form of common awareness raising. We would like to extend this cooperation also in 2023: the online platforms allow us to organise common programmes. Furthermore, this year, we contacted all the other Researchers' Night organisations across Europe with a special questionnaire/interview. The aim of this initiative was to gather valuable information and impressions about the events and from the participants in order to produce an impressive pictorial presentation of European Researchers' Night events across Europe. The information and images collected use to show how science and research are celebrated and enjoyed by people in different European countries. Through this document, we will share the diversity of events, inspiring research activities and experiences that enrich people's knowledge and interest. We want to show not only the extraordinary diversity of European Researchers' Night, but also the important role that science and research play in the life of European communities. We hope that through this showcase we will inspire people to become more interested in research and science and help spread the joyful message of the scientific community across the continent. The questionnaire was completed by 17 European Researchers' Night consortia.

We asked the following questions:

1. *How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?*
2. *How many and what type of programmes are organised?*
3. *How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?*
4. *What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?*
5. *What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?*



# Responses from the consortias

## LiS-Dig (Life is Science in a Digital World) by acib GmbH - Austria

### How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?

*„Public, and especially kids at all ages, get a good impression about different fields of science (life sciences, digital transformation) by offering interactive stations, where visitors can put their hands on and try things out. The event aims at connecting research topics (health & food, climate & environment, digitization) with everyone's daily life and to highlight the relevance of the particular topic.”*

### How many and what type of programmes are organised?

*„Our event in 2023 had 26 interactive stations, 5 talks, 2 pint of science events, 1 science slam and 12 school workshops.”*

### How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?

*„Participating in a Researchers' Night event is the best opportunity to pave the way for public acceptance for novel technologies and innovations. The earlier the connection to public is made, the better the understanding for new developments or even paradigm shifts is.”*

### What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?

*„We are happy and surprised at once, how excited even small kids (below 6!) can be about science. We saw it in their eyes and this is something really satisfying and gives hope for the future.”*

### What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?

*„We experienced that a location in the city centre is much better than a University location, which is usually more peripheral. In the middle of the city it is more likely that visitors come spontaneously. We plan to organize it again like that, even if a central location costs more.”*



## SEARCH - Bulgaria

### How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?

*„The event significantly contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness in various ways:*

- 1. Education and Awareness - The European Researchers' Night is an opportunity for researchers and scientists to engage with the general public. They can explain complex scientific concepts in an accessible manner, fostering a better understanding of science.*
- 2. Inspiration - The event can inspire the next generation of scientists. By showcasing the exciting and creative aspects of science, it encourages young people to consider careers in STEM fields.*
- 3. Community building - It brings the community together. People of all ages and backgrounds can come together to learn, ask questions, and discuss topics of scientific interest. This helps build a sense of community.*
- 4. Hands-On learning - Many events include interactive activities and demonstrations. These hands-on experiences make science come alive and engage visitors in a way that textbooks or lectures might not.*
- 5. Addressing myths and misconceptions - It provides an opportunity to address misconceptions and skepticism regarding scientific topics. Direct interaction with scientists can dispel myths and promote evidence-based understanding.*
- 6. Science communication - The event promotes effective science communication. Researchers need to communicate their work to a broader audience, which can help in making science more accessible.*
- 7. Social impact - Many scientific discoveries have the potential for significant social impact. By raising awareness about these discoveries, the event can highlight their importance for society.*
- 8. Promoting research funding - By showcasing research projects and their relevance to society, the event can advocate for more funding for scientific research.*

*In summary, the European Researchers' Night is a valuable platform for bridging the gap between scientists and the public. It fosters curiosity, understanding, and enthusiasm for science while creating a stronger sense of community and emphasizing the importance of research in our daily lives.”*

### How many and what type of programmes are organised?

*„The event features a diverse range of programs and activities aimed at engaging the public in science and research. Some types of programs and activities include the follow:*

- 1. Interactive Exhibits - These can include hands-on experiments, demonstrations, and exhibits that allow visitors to actively engage with various scientific concepts and technologies.*
- 2. Science Shows and Performances - Science-themed shows, demonstrations, and performances that are both educational and entertaining.*
- 3. Workshops and Workshops - Educational sessions where participants can learn new skills or explore specific scientific topics in-depth.*
- 4. Lectures and Talks - Presentations by researchers and scientists on a wide range of scientific subjects, often followed by Q&A sessions.*
- 5. Science Cafés - Informal gatherings in cafes or public spaces where scientists and the public come together to discuss various scientific topics.*
- 6. Science Art and Exhibitions - The fusion of art and science, showcasing how creativity and science can intersect.*
- 7. Guided Tours - Tours of research facilities, laboratories, and institutions, providing insight into ongoing scientific work.*
- 8. Contests and Competitions - Science-related contests, quizzes, and competitions for participants of all ages.*

9. *Panel Discussions and Debates* - Discussions involving experts and the public on contemporary scientific and societal issues.

10. *Virtual Events* - Some programs may include virtual components, such as online webinars, live streams, and virtual tours.

11. *Citizen Science Initiatives* - Involving the public in real scientific research projects or data collection activities.

12. *Career Fairs* - Opportunities for students and job seekers to learn about careers in science and research.

*These programs are designed to cater to various age groups and levels of scientific interest, from children to adults. The goal is to make science accessible and engaging to as many people as possible, promoting scientific curiosity and understanding in the community. The specific programs and their details can be found on the official website of the European Researchers' Night for each participating more than locations in Bulgaria."*

### **How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

*„The event features a diverse range of programs and activities aimed at engaging the public in science and research. Some types of programs and activities include the follow:*

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### **What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

*„Cutting-Edge Research, Interactive Experiments, Diverse Fields, Local Innovations etc."*



## What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?

„We have exciting plans for future Researchers' Nights. While the specific details will evolve over time, our general goals and vision for upcoming events include:

1. *Expanding Reach* - We aim to reach an even broader and more diverse audience, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds in the wonders of science.
2. *Interactive Virtual Experiences* - As the digital landscape evolves, we plan to incorporate more interactive online events, allowing people from around the world to participate and connect with scientists.
3. *Collaborations* - We will seek out new partnerships and collaborations with other organizations, universities, and institutions to make each event even more impactful.
4. *Innovative Themes* - We'll continue to explore fresh and innovative themes to keep the events engaging and relevant. Topics may range from emerging technologies to pressing global issues.
5. *Community Engagement* - We'll focus on building stronger ties with local communities, fostering a sense of excitement and curiosity about science and research.
6. *Hands-On Activities* - We will incorporate more hands-on, educational activities that allow participants to actively explore scientific concepts.
7. *Supporting the Next Generation* - We'll continue to inspire and empower young minds, nurturing the next generation of scientists and researchers.
8. *Sustainability* - As a socially responsible event, we'll work on making each Researchers' Night environmentally friendly and sustainable.
9. *Measuring Impact* - We'll closely monitor and assess the impact of each event through feedback and data collection, ensuring continuous improvement.
10. *Adaptability* - Flexibility and adaptability are key as we learn from each event and respond to the ever-changing landscape of science and public engagement.

The overarching plan is to keep sparking curiosity, promoting a deeper understanding of science, and celebrating the remarkable work of researchers. Researchers' Night will continue to be a platform where science meets society, fostering a stronger connection between researchers and the public. We're excited about the journey ahead!”



ЕВРОПЕЙСКА НОЩ  
НА УЧЕНИТЕ

## SESAM2030 by UCPH - Denmark

**How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?**

*„It works through a whole school approach with local community actions and with support from university and thereby it highlights role of research and its benefits for society - and for young people”*

**How many and what type of programmes are organised?**

*“We run SESAM in a east and west edition”*

**How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

*„Through PR and awareness raising”*

**What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

*„A full list will appear in our deliverable D2”*

**What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?**

*„We apply again”*



SESAM  
2030

# LEAF - heal the planet's future by Frascati Scienza - Italy

## How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?

*„All our events were built with the learning by doing methodology in order to completely involve public (from child to adults). We skipped from our program, since various years, not interactive events like conference, round tables, etc giving more room to Laboratories and hands-on activities”*

## How many and what type of programmes are organised?

*„We organized more than 400 events in 34 Italian cities including exhibitions, visits to research centers, laboratories, etc.”*

## How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?

*„To increase the participation of people far from our venues, we included some online events, both live and recorded, in order to increase the impact of the project.”*

## What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?

*„We organize EU NIGHT since 18 years, every year we have new people never joined this event but a lot of people that participate every year”*

## What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?

*„Continue increasing the number of interactive events exploring new methodologies”*



## SuperScienceMe by University of Calabria - Italy

### How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?

*„The event contributes to the knowledge of the researcher's work and its impact on the quality of life among citizens and, in particular, the younger generations.”*

### How many and what type of programmes are organised?

*„On September 29, 2023 in the Italian regions of Calabria and Basilicata were organized the following programs: i) research mission, a scientific tour in the laboratories to assist and participate in the experiments of researchers; ii) SuperScienceMe KIDS, educational activities dedicated to children; iii) EU Space (showcase of funded European projects), Innovation Space (exhibition of innovative products and services of spinoffs and startups), Regional/National Space (showcase of projects funded by regional and national funds), Gender Space (dedicated to gender policies), iv) daytime performances and evening concert.”*

### How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?

*„We should focus more on the organization of pre-event actively involving as testimonial of participants of previous editions (teachers, students, researchers, citizens).”*

### What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?

*„Children's enthusiasm and their active participation to the scientific activities.”*

### What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?

*„We would like to organize a cross-border event”*





# A Touch of Blue in the European Researchers' Night for a more Sustainable Use of the Ocean -BlueNIGHTs by National Research Council - Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR-ISMAR) - Italy

## How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?

„Because the citizens have the unique opportunity to informally meet several scientists to learn about their jobs, careers and motivations, as well as about topics and issues related to multiple fields of research”

## How many and what type of programmes are organised?

„The programmes are very variable according to the local partner and includes demonstration, hands-on, experiments, quiz, games, competitions and guided tours. We organise activities in 6 countries in Europe (Finland, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Romania) and in 15 cities across Europe”

## How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?

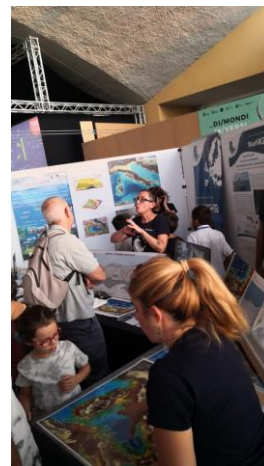
„Have you ever seen a researcher at work? What do you think are they doing in their labs and institutes? Let's discover together this wonderful world of talents and passion”

## What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?

„I discovered more about the colors, pigments and their world of chemistry and art”

## What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?

„To organise dedicated events in Italy and Europe and to plan new hands-on activities and guided tours to discover the Traces of the Sea around us!”





## BRIGHT-NIGHT by Università di Firenze - Italy

### How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?

„The event contributes by provoking curiosity and amusement around science and research careers. it essentially shortens the distance between experts and non-experts. it fails to delve deeper but certainly opens up avenues for future apporfection.”

### How many and what type of programmes are organised?

„The event is carried out by the 7 universities of the tuscan region, in its main cities. there are about 350 initiatives: exhibitions, games and contests, workshops, mini-conferences, guided tours, walks, demonstration booths.”

### How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?

„To encourage researchers who have not yet participated, I show photographs and videos. to encourage new audiences, we try to arouse curiosity on social media or by doing promotional operations in the city.”

### What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?

„Every year i am amazed at how researchers bring their passion to the streets. there is no research without passion, without tenacity, without optimism. that is why the atmosphere at this event is always festive.”

### What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?

„We need to find new spaces to accommodate the growing demand for booths but also the ever-increasing audience”



UNIVERSITÀ DI FIRENZE  
UNIVERSITÀ DI PADOVA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI TRIESTE  
UNIVERSITÀ DI TORINO

## U-Night - The UNITA Researchers' Night by Università degli Studi di Torino - Italy

### How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?

*„The event made citizens and researchers interact, allowing the public to discover what we are doing inside the university for the community.”*

### How many and what type of programmes are organised?

*„We have organised 5 different events in the cities of UNITA Alliance: Torino, Covilha, Pau, Chambéry and Timisoara. The activities were very different, from science cafés, to exhibitions and interactive laboratories.”*

### How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?

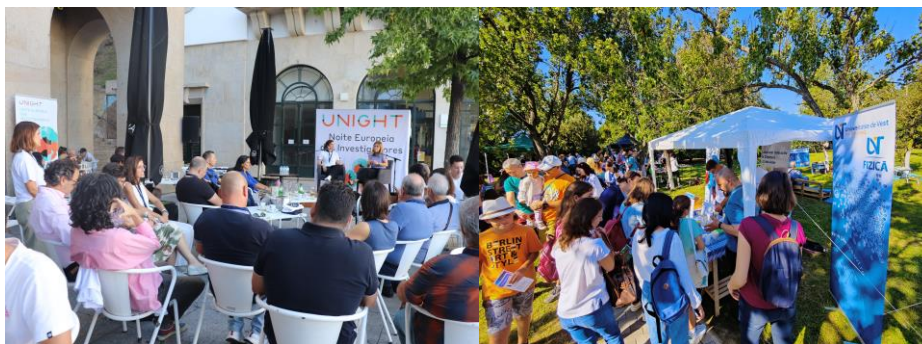
*„Through a massive and targeted awareness campaign”*

### What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?

*„People can really enjoy science and research in every field”*

### What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?

*„We want to reach even more people”*



# U-NIGHT

## SOCIETY by CINECA - Italy

### **How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?**

*„Researchers' Night events typically contribute to the promotion of science and community awareness by providing an opportunity for researchers to interact directly with the public. This interaction can demystify the scientific process, making it more accessible to the community. It can foster a sense of curiosity and appreciation for science and research. Public engagement in such events can help break down stereotypes about scientists and encourage young people to consider careers in research”*

### **How many and what type of programmes are organised?**

*„Before the Night we have a very intense programme of events that accompany the public to discover the Night:*

*The guided tours, the scientific aperitifs every week, and also conferences, shows, and other events.*

*During the night we organize a variety of activities such as hands-on experiments, workshops, lectures, exhibitions, and interactive demonstrations in a single location in the main town, Bologna, in Ferrara, and in the campus of the University of Bologna located in Romangna”*

### **How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

*„By effectively communicating the appeal and unique aspects of Researchers' Night, it is possible to encourage those who haven't participated yet to give it a try and experience the excitement of scientific exploration. Emphasizing the exciting and engaging nature of Researchers' Night. Mentioning that it's not a traditional lecture but a fun and interactive experience, a chance to learn Something New, meeting the Researchers and*

*Participating in Fun Activities. Underlining the importance of Inspiring Future Scientists and generating Networking Opportunities for professionals and researchers, making it a valuable event. Remembering that the event is Free and Accessible since Researchers' Night is not just about science but also about building a sense of community and promoting understanding between the public and scientists. Being consistent in promoting the upcoming dates, making it easy for potential participants to plan their visit. It may be useful to share positive testimonials or stories from past participants who had a great time and learned something new. Moreover personal experiences can be powerful motivators.*

*providing interactive website and sharing news through social media: event updates, videos, and photos to generate interest. ”*

### **What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

*„In addition to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Researchers' Night showcases that even humanistic disciplines can offer fascinating and surprising insights. Visitors can explore the world of arts, history, archaeology, and cultural heritage, unveiling the richness and intrigue of these human-centered subjects. It's a reminder that the world of research is not confined to one domain but spans the entire spectrum of human knowledge, making the event all the more diverse and captivating.”*

**What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?**

*„We plan to propose the same format as the previous ones, finding new partnership with the local institutions.”*





## Science in the City / SitC by University of Malta - Malta

### **How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?**

*Since 2012, Science in the City Festival has grown to become the biggest and most recognizable science event in the Maltese islands, attracting ten of thousands visitors annually, providing the platform to numerous researchers and artists to introduce and communicate their work.*

*As part of the European Researcher's Night, throughout the years, we have managed to build strong and meaningful co-operations both at national and international level. Those seeds we have sowed, have now taken roots and blossomed into wonderful changemakers all over Malta and Europe.*

*The festival itself is a unique opportunity to raise awareness on matters related to scientific research, innovation, arts and creativity. Needless to say that inclusivity and openness are probably the most important pillars of Science in the City. We are happy to say we have built a welcoming community and a hub for researchers, NGOs and artists who participate in various ways including performances, science-based activities, talks and exhibitions.*

*All the aforementioned stakeholders become agents of change and ambassadors of Science through the platform we provide. We see them becoming an inspiration for all ages and a role-model for the youth. Via our communication channels, we keep trying to make the event attractive and offer a holistic approach to the citizens of Malta.*

*We firmly believe that Science should not just be celebrated in one or two days a year. That's why we have also planned pre and post festival events spanning from August to November. We constantly analyse the data we collect in order to better understand what works and what doesn't and ultimately modify our actions to improve the effectiveness of the event so that the message and impact will reach even more people.*

### **How many and what type of programmes are organised?**

*As it has been described already, we approach Science in a holistic and inclusive way. That's why apart from the main festival which is a two-day event, we have organised additional programmes; a pre-festival which included mostly lectures and workshops, a post festival which focused on workshops and hands-on activities and a virtual festival which enabled people who cannot visit the main event, experience the highlights in a digital space.*

*The pre-festival featured eight lectures and workshops delivered online and/or on-site in various locations around Malta engaging with the community and introducing to the public themes like "Robotics and Automation", "From Space Junk to Street Art" and "Women Connect: Leadership Transforming Communities", to name a few.*

*During the main festival, the programme was packed with exciting activities that aimed to showcase that rationality and creativity, science and arts go hand in hand. We had a wide range of activities, spread to various locations around the city, encouraging people of all ages to engage in active participation and direct communication with our researchers, students and artists.*

*This year, we decided to keep the vast majority of our performances in a historic area (Floriana) and a beautiful building (Catholic Institute), just a five-minute walk from the street festival which took place in the*



most recognizable of Malta (Triton Square/Biskuttin). The performances included a plays (What we Wear, Mythoxjenja, Kids Dig Science, Vucijiet Beltin), exhibitions (Prader-Willi Superheroes), games (Taboo MT), workshops (Zoology of Cartoons, Murder in the City), shows (Brilliant Blood, SciAntific, Musical Minds) and lectures (Changemakers' Spotlight and Psychological First Aid).

The street festival featured more than eighty (80) stands divided thematically on twelve zones (Body and Health, Our Environment, Live Science, Astronomy, Art & Community, Brains & Forensics and VR & Technology). The public had the opportunity to explore a wide range of scientific and artistic fields including decoding DNA, a 3D brain journey, mixed-reality in forensic science, DIY with homemade experiments, observation of the solar system with telescopes and improving our waste-sorting skills among others.

Additionally, this year, for the first time we have prepared a well-equipped quiet room where our visitors could get away from the crowded events. Moreover, we made sure that six (6) performances are Sensory Friendly. Lastly, we should mention the Vucijiet Beltin project, which engaged the community from its conception to the execution.

### **How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

Science in the City, has been engaging and trying to inspire various groups of people in maltese society since its conception back in 2012. For more than 10 years we have managed to constantly increase people's participation and curiosity in matters that are considered not so popular or difficult to communicate. This year's Vucijiet Beltin project performed beyond our expectations when it comes to the level of community engagement and involvement during the whole process of realisation.

Every year, we are trying to find new ways not only to keep the existing participants but also attract new ones. The core-team is taking analytics seriously, since they point to general directions and aspects we can improve to reach even more people. Once we analyse this data, then we can target certain age groups, areas, use the most influential social media, pick up the next location(s) for our activities, follow a hybrid model and more.

When it comes to our partners, performers and exhibitors, it is important to mention that we reach out directly to numerous organisations and researchers and we attract private companies, government agencies, universities, schools, student organisations, NGOs and other civil society members.

### **What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

The past two years we are excited to return back to the street where we can again feel the vibes and energy of researchers, scientists, artists, students and citizens coming together. The high participation rates accompanied by almost exclusively positive feedback was definitely rewarding. We, ourselves, learned that despite the difficulties in organising such a big event, if you approach everything with honesty, originality and good intentions, there is no burden that cannot be overcome.

An absolutely memorable moment were the performances by the infamous James Piercy from Queen Mary University London. Brilliant Blood! was performed in a full house (all three times) with hundreds of people learning, enjoying and warmly applauding a person who knows very well how to communicate science, captivate and engage the audience.

*Last but not least, we took valuable lessons from the obstacles we had to overcome. When you try to organise a dynamic event with tens of thousands of participants, hardships are always around the corner, from logistics to licences and even the weather. A good example of this, is a change of plans for a performance just a week before the festival. The whole team had to work together and make sure it doesn't change the programming and the quality of the event and we succeeded.*

### **What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?**

*Our mission to communicate science, spread knowledge and create a network which engages citizens and empowers scientists, has just begun and we are determined to bring even more in the years to come. At this point we are about to begin analysing our data. After a period of reflection we will start planning the strategy and the event for the next ERN. Our values and principals definitely remain the same. Our dedication is out of the question.*

*As discussed already, our aim is to expand our partners and reach even more people around the maltese islands. We plan to build on this year's success of community engagement projects and explore new ways to promote and foster citizen science, bringing together researchers, policy makers and citizens. For next year, our theme will be Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; values that form the word JEDI, which evokes images from popular culture like Star Wars, a similarity we want to use to attract new people to the festival while providing an educational and entertaining event for many different groups of people to enjoy.*



## RAISE-Researchers in Action for Inclusion in Science and Education by Native Scientists - Portugal

### **How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?**

*We had around 50 activities with a diverse programme in terms of topics and formats while promoting an open dialogue between students and teachers from underserved schools, scientists from different domains, teenagers from the deaf community, children from social solidarity organizations, artists, families, athletes... it's something that should really make us all feel very proud of.*

### **How many and what type of programmes are organised?**

*We had around 50 activities, from hands-on experiences to sports, art, lab tours, concerts and stand-up comedy.*

### **How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

*We have to attract people that usually don't come to these kind of events so we have to go getting them where they live...in their schools and their neighbourhoods.*

### **What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

*Just reinforced the idea that curiosity and science unites people from different backgrounds and ages.*

### **What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?**

*We will continue working with underserved communities during the school year to develop more activities that can be integrated in future ERN.*



raise

## Green Science at the Service of Healthy Society (GreenSCI) by Technical University of Moldova - Moldova

**How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?**

*Certainly*

**How many and what type of programmes are organised?**

*More than 25: exhibitions (research results, books, paintings), master classes, workshops, experiences, demonstrations, fashion show, quizzes, games, contests, raffle.*

**How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

*Promotion of the event in schools*

**What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

*Information about biofabricating materials*

**What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?**

*We will continue to organize Researchers' Night events with or without EU financial support.*





## ERN 2022-2023 SVK by Slovak Organisation for Research and Development Activities - Slovakia

### **How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?**

*The event brings science closer to wider community in an attractive and interactive way and thus motivating young people to consider scientific profession in planning their future careers.*

### **How many and what type of programmes are organised?**

*We organised main events in five cities and a number of accompanying events all across Slovakia. More than 1.600 researchers participated actively in 250 scientific stands and the event attracted more than 150 thousand of visitors. Altogether, we organised more than 100 lectures, 33 workshops, 14 discussions, 53 competitions and 8 exhibitions.*

### **How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

*Communication with schools, media coverage, activities at social networks.*

### **What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

*The number and different categories of people that are fascinating by science.*

### **What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?**

*Focus on hands-on experiments, demos, simulations, science shows, debates, discussions, chats with researchers, lectures, guided tours, science shows, stage happenings, science parties, discussions, exhibitions and competitions.*





# Humanities Rock! Human(e) to Animals - Science Covers Every Being! (101060963) by Faculty of Arts Ljubljana - Slovenia

## How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?

*The event is a big, open-air celebration of science and research and their benefit for the society and the humankind. The variety of events, interaction, edutainment and direct contact of scientists and researchers with the public enables the visitors to demistify the role of science and research in society, as well as contributes to the awareness of its benefits and rises the interest of the participants in research and science.*

## How many and what type of programmes are organised?

*In September 2023, we have organised 18 pre-events, including single events and researchers' visits to schools and on the European Researcher's Night Event on 29/9/2023 we have organised 89 activities which took place on 18 locations in Ljubljana and online between 9am and 10pm.*

## How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?

*We would encourage them with a yearly series of ongoing events for presentation and promotion of science and research, including shows, competitions, exhibitions, lab visits, workshops, discussions, hands-on experiments, EU corners, open days, live chats with scientists, taking place especially in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, but also online, in research institutions, education institutions and in public space.*

## What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?

*Also science-reluctant visitors become interested when they see the interesting, attractive content, especially if related to hot topics, such as animal rights, viral diseases, endangered species, unique species, such as the human fish, and similar.*

## What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?

*We are applying to the next open call for MSCA / ERN 2024-25.*



University of Ljubljana  
Faculty of Education



<sup>2</sup> Photos by Marijo Županov

## Ocean Night by CSIC - Spain

**How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?**

*It gives a reasonable contribution, but the scope is limited to the people attending. This is a small percentage of the whole population.*

**How many and what type of programmes are organised?**

*Ocean Night organised multiple events across 5 locations in Spain: Mallorca, Blanes, Barcelona, Cadiz, Madrid. These included talks, concerts (art and science), demonstrations, workshops. The full program is available on the Ocean Night website if necessary*

**How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

*I think we should stress the importance of the publica understanding of science in steering the future choices we will have to make to try and manage the planet*

**What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

*I think it is difficult to thread the line between science as a serious activity and science as entertainment.*

**What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?**

*We will organise more events. No specific plans at the moment.*



OCEAN  
NIGHT



changing perceptions

# MACARONIGHT, The European Researchers Night of the Macaronesia by La Palma Research Centre - Spain

**How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?**

*We connect archipelagos and hard-to-reach audiences with the excellence centres and the science being carried out in outermost regions.*

**How many and what type of programmes are organised?**

*We organize Researchers at School, visits to the centres and Universities and the Night in 7 islands.*

**How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

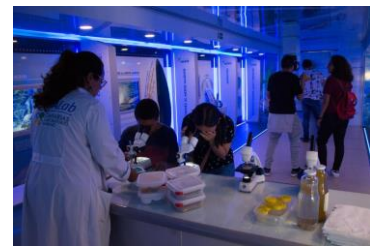
*We will try to reach to new audiences, specially those in the rural areas away from main islands.*

**What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

*We have organised Macaronight since 2018, we have learnt a lot. For example, elderly citizens are very interested in the visits and we try to include them in the programme.*

**What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?**

*Highlight inclusivity and facilitate the participation of disabled researchers and citizens.*



## **EDUCation about ClimATE change and polar science (EDUCATE'22) by Polar Research Institute, TUBITAK, - Türkiye**

### **How do you think the event contributes to the promotion of science and community awareness?**

*The events organised within the EDUCATE project, which is part of the "European Researchers' Night" within the scope of the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, present the studies and results of global climate change in an appropriate language that will appeal to the general public. By explaining the impact and benefits of these studies on our daily lives, it was aimed to raise public awareness of the polar regions and global climate change and to introduce relevant research and researchers to the public. It also aimed to introduce researchers and their professions in an entertaining environment to create role models for young generations.*

### **How many and what type of programmes are organised?**

*EDUCATE was organised in two different cities, 31 booths were set up in Istanbul and 24 booths were set up in Gaziantep. Before the concert event and after the documentary screening in Gaziantep, the participants were invited to join a polar & climate-themed Kahoot! quiz game as a warm-up event. Before and after the concert event night sky observations were done in Gaziantep. Besides, before the concert events, documentaries shot during national polar expeditions titled "the Blackbox of the Planet: Antarctica" and "You Have a Message From Polar Regions!" were screened. As well as, 2 different concerts were held in 2 different cities. In addition, within the project activities, guided tours were organized where groups of participants visited Polar Science Museum. The visitors experienced the cold environment of polar regions with the climatized room at -20° C. Moreover, they had the chance to see the outfits of polar researchers and learned how researchers are protected from the harsh conditions of polar regions. Furthermore, researchers from various disciplines played short football matches and penalty shoot-outs with young participants in Istanbul. Also, a total of 27 researchers from 13 different scientific disciplines and 20 different institutions made presentations on their studies and experience on polar regions and climate change. For the assessment of the project's impact on the participants, field surveys were carried out.*

### **How would you encourage those who have not yet participated in the Researchers' Night?**

*Municipalities' announcement channels including banners and social media accounts were used during EDUCATE. Also, the directorates of the educational education ministry sent notifications to the schools. Moreover, shuttle lines were organized from public areas to venues to get attraction from the public.*

### **What interesting or surprising facts did you learn at the event?**

*Since the event was held in 2 different cities, we carried out two different market activities. In both cities, we had more participants than we expected. Thus, we reached a total of 50,000 people for 2 days.*



**What plans do you have for other Researchers' Nights in the future?**

*Project applications for different concepts with international partners are also being considered.*



**TÜBİTAK**