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Comms release 02

Celebrating the successful Citizen Science Initiatives, IMPETUS Accelerator officially launches!

We are pleased to announce the successful selection of the citizen science initiatives (CSIs) for the first open call of the IMPETUS project and the beginning of our Accelerator programme. After careful evaluation and consideration, we have started working with 30 outstanding projects that have demonstrated the potential to make a significant impact in their respective fields (4 projects are still in the negotiation phase). These initiatives will now proceed to the next stage of the IMPETUS journey, where they will receive mentoring, training, and financial support through the [IMPETUS Accelerator programme](#).

By leveraging the collective power of citizen scientists, these projects have the potential to generate valuable insights and solutions to complex problems we face. This year's call focused on Healthy Planet and Cities for Life as a substrate to which these projects will actively contribute, also linking their work to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Deal, two key frameworks where IMPETUS wants to show impact.

Project leaders come from different backgrounds and types of organisations, involving universities, municipalities, NGOs, and individuals as well. Seventeen European countries are represented, and more than half of the projects are led by women.

The selected initiatives span a wide range of topics, including air pollution, biodiversity, climate, coasts, gender, health, mobility, seagrass, socio-economic inclusion, soil and water. Each project has demonstrated a strong foundation, innovative methodologies, and the potential to create positive social, environmental, economic and policy impacts. Know the initiatives here: <https://impetus4cs.eu/accelerator>

Through the Accelerator program, these citizen science initiatives will receive comprehensive support to develop further and enhance their technical skills. They will participate in online social "Aperitives", which is a great opportunity for peer learning and networking, within the CSIs and with the broader community. Mentoring sessions will be conducted by experts in the relevant fields, providing valuable guidance and expertise to

the project teams. Additionally, training workshops and resources will be made available to equip the citizen scientists with the necessary tools and knowledge to maximise the impact of their research.

Financial support will be provided to cover essential project expenses, such as equipment, materials, data analysis, and dissemination activities. This support aims to alleviate the financial barriers that citizen scientists often face and empower them to pursue their research goals effectively.

We are excited about the potential of these projects and the positive impact they can have on both the scientific community and society as a whole! IMPETUS aims to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the democratisation of science.

We would like to extend our congratulations to the selected project teams and express our gratitude to all the applicants who submitted their initiatives! The dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by the citizen science community are truly inspiring. We look forward to witnessing the progress and success of these projects and their contributions to advancing scientific knowledge and addressing pressing global challenges.

This important milestone enriches the IMPETUS European Union Prize for Citizen Science, which announced the awarded projects last Monday, 22 May: Isala, Urban Belonging and Restart where the 3 awarded projects, which received 60K, 20K and 20K, respectively, together with 27 Honorary Mentions. Check their outstanding achievements here: <https://impetus4cs.eu/meet-the-winners-of-the-eu-prize-for-citizen-science/>

Citizen science, as an open and inclusive approach, has gained immense popularity and recognition in recent years. It allows individuals, regardless of their professional background, to actively contribute to scientific research. You can check the project's definition here: <https://impetus4cs.eu/about/citizen-science/>.

@impetus4cs on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Youtube and the hashtags #impetus4cs #citizenscience #citizenscienceprize #opencall

More information at www.impetus4cs.eu or contact us at comm@impetus4cs.eu

IMPETUS is a 4-year project that gathers 7 European partners aiming to work together towards more accessible funding schemes for the development of citizen science. It is led by Zabala and King's College London, with the collaboration of Ars Electronica, EUSEA, Nesta, Science for Change and T6 Ecosystems.