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SPHERE Project Launches an Inclusive Online Course on Citizen Science in Global Health

The **SPHERE project (Spreading Global Health Citizen Science Research Methodologies for UNITA)**, developed within the **UNITA – Universitas Montium European University Alliance** (<https://univ-unita.eu/>) announces the launch of an **Online Citizen Science in Global Health Course**, running from **February to June 2026**.

The initiative responds to the growing need for **inclusive, participatory research approaches** in Global Health. Citizen Science is an innovative methodology that actively involves non-professional scientists—citizens, patients, and communities—across different phases of the research process, strengthening both scientific quality and societal impact.

The course consists of **10 free online lessons**, held **twice a month**, on the **second and fourth Fridays**, from **3:00 to 4:30 PM (CET)**, for a total of **15 hours of training**. It combines expert-led lectures with real-world case studies presented by practitioners from academic and non-academic sectors. The

A comprehensive and interdisciplinary program

Sessions are delivered by internationally recognized experts. Afterwards, a guest speaker—in most cases from outside the Universities—presents in 15 minutes a citizen science project based on his/her direct experience. In this way, every session adds new real-world testimonies, thereby enriching the course with concrete examples and recognised best practices presented by leading practitioners.

The 10-lesson course is structured into **five thematic sections**

I. Introduction to Citizen Science

1. Friday, 13 Feb 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Introduction to Citizen Science.
Teacher: **Muki Haklay**, Team Lead Citizen Science and ECS Academy
2. Friday, 27 Feb 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Citizen engagement.
Teacher: **Andrea Sforzi**, President of Citizen Science Italia Association,

II. Social Aspects of Citizen Science

3. Friday, 13 Mar 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Open data and data ethics in Citizen Science.
Teacher: **Gefion Thuermer**, Freelance Research Consultant and a Research Fellow at King's College London.
4. Friday, 27 Mar 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Impact Assessment and Social Inclusion in Citizen Science.
Teacher: **Antonella Passani**, Partner and Head of Research at T6 Ecosystems.

III. Methods and Tools for Citizen Science

5. Friday, 10 Apr 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Technologies and Citizen Science.
Teacher: **Fermín Serrano Sanz**, research and project management of Ibercivis Foundation
6. Friday, 24 Apr 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Ensuring Data Quality in Citizen Science.
Teacher: **Jaume Piera Fernández**, research group leader of Environmental and Sustainability Participatory Information Systems at the Institute of Marine Sciences.

IV. Citizen Science for Global Health

7. Friday, 8 May 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Agri-food and Citizen Science.
Teacher: **Laurent Hazard**, Directeur UMR AGIR (AGroécologie, Innovations et terRitoires).
8. Friday, 22 May 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Environmental Citizen Science.
Teacher: **Diego Casado Mansilla**, Faculty of Engineering of the University of Deusto.
9. Friday, 12 Jun 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Patient-based citizen science.
Teacher: **Maya Fedeli**, Citizen Science & EU project communication officer of the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University

V. Writing and Publishing in Citizen Science

10. Friday, 26 June 2026 - 3:00–4:30 PM (CET) - Writing and publishing in Citizen Science.
Teacher: **Norbert Steinhaus**, founder WILA - Bonn Science Shop

Accessibility and inclusion at the core

In line with **WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines)**, the course is designed to ensure that learning materials and online delivery are **accessible, perceivable, understandable, and usable** for all participants. Live sessions will be recorded and made available for asynchronous access, supporting different learning needs and schedules.

Target audience and certification

The course is open to the **UNITA academic community**, including:

- Master, Professional Degree and PhD students
- Researchers and teaching staff
- Technical and administrative staff
- Non-academic partners and members of the wider international scientific community

Participants who attend **at least 6 of the 10 sessions** and complete the required activities will receive a **digital Open Badge issued by BESTR**, certifying their competencies in Citizen Science and Global Health.

A collaborative international initiative

The course is funded by the UNITA Alliance, and organized by **University of Turin, University of Zaragoza, Public University of Navarra, and West University of Timișoara**—together with **Geminae Partners from Brazil** and **non-academic organisations**, including **Citizen Science Italia, Fundación Ibercivis, T6 Ecosystems**, and the **European Citizen Science Academy**

The initiative is funded by the **UNITA Alliance through the Starting Grant on Global Health program**.

Registration and information

Applications will be submitted via a **Google Form**, to be distributed through UNITA institutional channels. It is also possible to attend individual sessions without obtaining the Open Badge.

The language of instruction is English.

Opening data: 21 January 2026

Closing data: 10 February 2026

Click here to register: <https://forms.gle/mmb8B6rvnXfGzKGM9>

Updated information here: https://www.clinbio.unito.it/do/avvisi.pl/Show?_id=ud9d

Contact us at: **sphere@unito.it**.