

UG/UMCG Public Engagement Network Event Programme



**July 5, 2023 12:00 - 17:30 | House of Connections, Grote Markt 21,
Groningen [Registration Form](#)**

NETWORK LUNCH (walk in 12.00 – 13.00)

Over lunch, we will do a little creative mapping, to create an image of Public Engagement actors and activities across the UG and UMCG. And obviously this is a chance to meet new and old colleagues and friends.

PLENARY SESSION (13.00 - 15.00)

[Dr. Henk Mulder](#), Programme Director of the Master Science Education and Communication, and one of the coordinators of the Science Shop at FSE, will briefly introduce current state of affairs and the work carried out within the UG/UMCG Open Science Programme regarding public engagement.

[Maddy Foard](#) of the [National Co-ordinating Center for Public Engagement \(NCCPE\)](#), UK, will share with us the UK experiences in supporting universities to foster Public Engagement. The NCCPE was established in 2008 "To create a culture within UK higher education where public engagement is formalized and embedded as a valued and recognised activity for staff at all levels, and for students."

WORKSHOPS

A1: Fostering Public Engagement at UG and UMCG (14.15-15.15)

The [NCCPE](#) developed a tool to assess an institute's support for public engagement, the [EDGE Tool](#). It structures the PE support and values it, from embryonic, through developing and gripping, to embedding. That way it gives insight and can be used to decide what to focus on in the next few years to improve PE support. [Maddy Foard](#) of the NCCPE will give a short introduction on the tool and how it is used, followed by a discussion with the UG/UMCG's PE team and [Quin Genee, MA](#), UG Head of Public Affairs and Public Engagement. How will we further develop [the UG vision and strategy to foster Public Engagement](#) in the coming years?

A2: Support and Career Paths for Public Engagement (15.15-16.15)

In this workshop we will have a look at the requests that academics have for support in doing public engagement, based on a survey from the UG-UMCG PE Team and a series of follow-up interviews with staff at FSE by [Alice Spruit](#) (Science LinX). Based on the national plans for "Recognition and Rewards" of academics, FSE is currently introducing a new career path for those professors who would like to allocate a larger share of their time to "impact", which can include public engagement activities. Is this career path also applicable to other faculties or entities in the UG/UMCG? What is good, what should be changed or added according to you? What are the top 3 'rocks' for PE? And the top 3 'balloons', to make PE fly?

B1: What makes a good Public Engagement project / (grant) proposal? (14.15-15.15)

Many research funders now require some form of outreach or public engagement. There are also various specific options to obtain funding for Public Engagement. Small projects of up to 5k were funded by the UG's [Seed Fund for Public Engagement](#); larger projects up to 50-150k are funded by NWO through the [NWA Science Communication call](#). For both, more than half the submitted proposals in the past were found to be not eligible. We will have a look at the criteria to assess those projects and what we can learn from common omissions and mistakes. [Valeria Cernei, MA](#), PE-impact researcher, will share her experience, together with seed fund jury members.

B2: How to advance Citizen science at UG/UMCG? (15.15-16.15)

There is a growing interest about research and education using citizen science as a method for public engagement with science. Recognition of [citizen science as an approach to support EU Policies](#), financial support by national organizations such as [NWO](#), establishment of initiatives like the Network of citizen science practitioners in the Netherlands ([CS-NL](#)), and the recent establishment of [the European Citizen Science Academy](#) are just a few examples of efforts at the EU and national levels to further advance the field of citizen science. UG and UMCG colleagues have also been active in research and education on this topic. For example, initiatives like [CurioUs!](#) aim to involve citizens in citizen science projects e.g., by borrowing measuring equipment, and participation in various citizen science projects. In addition, the FSE now offers a new [Masters level course on citizen science](#). Nevertheless, there is a need to better understand and strengthen these efforts, and to explore potential collaboration opportunities across different teams, departments and faculties. The aim of this workshop is therefore to explore the possibilities to advance citizen science across the UG/UMCG. During this workshop we will explore questions such as:

- How to make sure we are all aware of past, ongoing and planned research and education activities on citizen science at the UG/UMCG?
- What resources or opportunities already exist that can be utilized?
- What is needed to foster collaborations across different groups/institutes/faculties?

[Dr. Mohammad Gharesifard](#), Assistant Professor of Citizen Science at FSE, and [Niels Alberts, MSc](#), of Science LinX, representing the Curious project, will discuss these issues with you.

DRINKS (16.15-17.30)

Another networking moment. We aim to invite a few special guests to introduce their engaged projects in an informal way.

Please register via the link below by June 27, 2023:

[Registration Form](#)

The [UG/UMCG Public Engagement Network](#) was formed as part of the Open Science Program to bring together professionals working in public engagement, outreach and scholarly communication at the UG & UMCG.