

Tous Chercheurs



Tous Chercheurs, a support platform for participatory science and research

Principle investigator: Pascale Frey-Klett, UMR Interactions Arbres/Micro-organismes (IAM)

LabEx partner:: Annick Brun-Jacob, UMR IAM

Work package: : *Transversal*

Context — Faced with the growing demand of many citizens to be actors of science and knowledge production processes, academic research must mobilize and support the development of "research in a different way" conducted with and for citizens, with the same scientific rigor and the same quality and ethical requirements as traditional research. Thanks to the Tous Chercheurs laboratory in Nancy, under the joint supervision of INRAE and the University of Lorraine, we have the opportunity to take up this challenge. This laboratory is equipped like a real research laboratory but designed to welcome the public. We develop participatory science and research according to a new approach: citizens and researchers share their knowledge, jointly formulate research questions, experiment in the laboratory with real research equipment, produce, analyze and interpret their results together. Citizens trained in the scientific process are thus full-fledged actors in research. The CiTIQUE participatory research program, which relies on the Tous Chercheurs laboratory in Nancy, has enabled us to validate the concept of this "research in a different way" and we now wish to embark on an ambitious project to create a pilot platform to support the development of participatory research projects carried out with and for citizens (general public, professionals, companies, associations, students, elected officials).

Objectives — This platform should make it possible to (i) create a pool of citizen-researchers trained in the research process, and (ii) catalyze and incubate joint research projects at the interface between academic laboratories/civil society/companies.

Approaches — The creation of a pool of citizen-researchers requires the deployment of a strategy on two levels: training young researchers in the transmission of the research process to non-scientists, and setting up research internships allowing non-scientists, especially students, to learn this process by doing. This step is a prerequisite for developing quality co-investigations on new issues by capitalizing on the pedagogy, resources and skills of the Tous Chercheurs laboratory in Nancy.

Key highlights —

- 5 doctoral students have been trained in the transmission of the research process to non-scientific audiences
- 123 students from grade 6ème to grade 1ère, but also 46 citizens from 10 to 73 years old, were welcomed for research internships at the Tous Chercheurs laboratory in Nancy
- A project of spinning off the concept of a support platform for participatory science and research is under construction in partnership with a technological platform in Bar-le Duc
- A new participative research project on the oak processionary caterpillar is under construction

Perspectives — Launched in the spring of 2020, the project has been greatly slowed down by the health crisis which forced us to cancel many of the training and research internships that had been scheduled. We hope to be back to normal activity in 2022 in order to be able to respond to the many requests from citizens and teachers who wish to come to the Tous Chercheurs laboratory of Nancy for research training.

Valorization —

- Frey-Klett P., Andrade C., Guillou O., Raous S., (2021) Table ronde : Bonnes pratiques pour le montage d'un projet participatif : mener une démarche de co-construction avec les parties prenantes, écueils à éviter, etc., Colloque Sols et sciences participatives, Paris, 24 Novembre 2021
- Carravieri I., Julliard R., Préau M., Plattner G., Frey-Klett P. (2021) Panel de discussion : Mobiliser des citoyens dans des projets de sciences participatives en santé publique : enjeux, forces et faiblesses, Colloque Science & You, Metz, 16 Novembre 2021
- Frey-Klett P., Brun-Jacob A., Durand J., Carravieri I., Cappizzi S., Marchand J., Galley C., Vourc'h G. (2021) Apports des sciences et recherches participatives à la construction de nouvelles connaissances : exemple du programme CITIQUE, Colloque Evaluation des Sciences et recherches participatives, Lyon, 5 Juillet 2021
- Frey-Klett P., Brun-Jacob A., Durand J., Carravieri I., Cappizzi S., Marchand J., Galley C., Vourc'h G. (2021) Tous Chercheurs, vers une démocratisation de la recherche ?, Université Populaire d'Esprit civique, Cluny

Leveraging effect of the project — This project is part of the "Des Hommes et des Arbres" project, a winner of the "Territoire d'innovation" program of the French government, which is co-financed by the Métropole du Grand Nancy. It has also obtained financial support from the Grand Est Region.