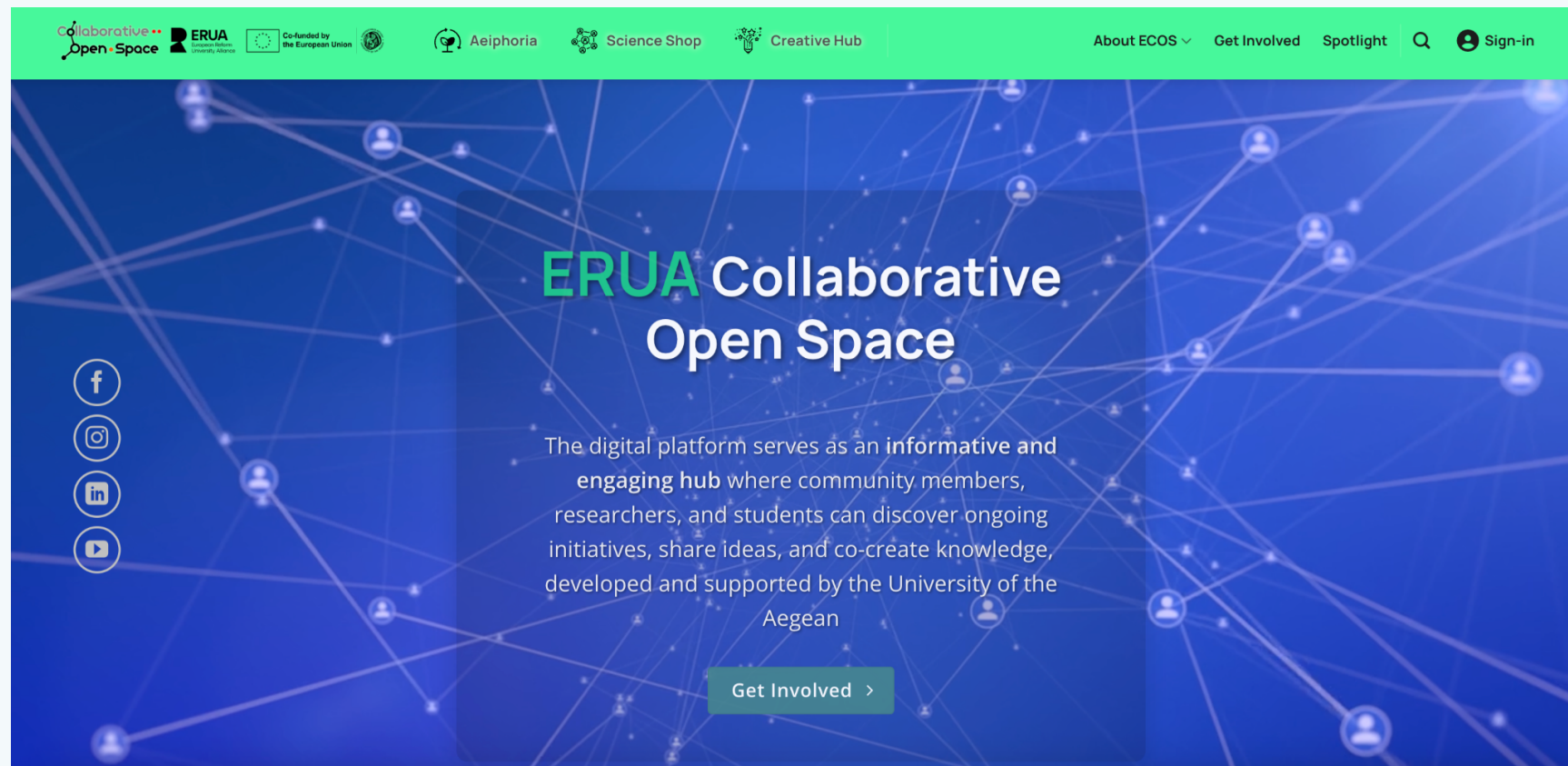


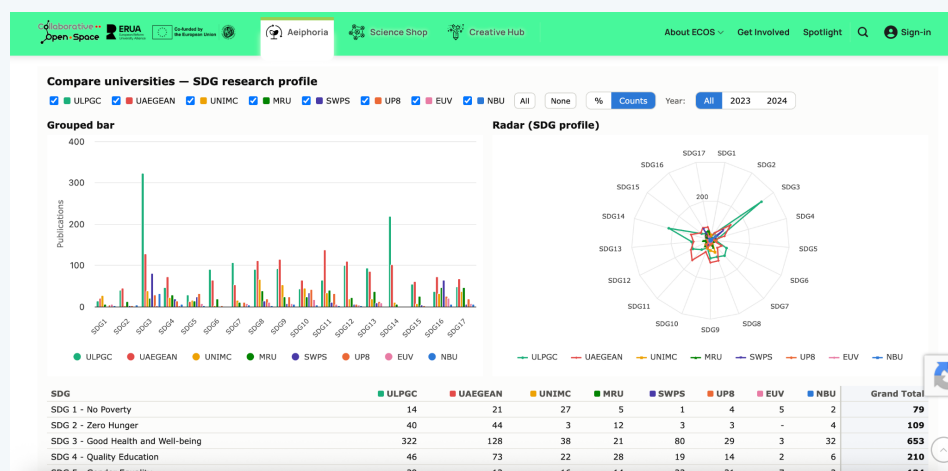
ECOS

Knowledge. People. Societal challenges.



AEIPHORIA | SCIENCE SHOP | ERUANers CREATIVE HUB

Background leaflet for the ERUA Challenge-to-Impact initiative



ONE COLLABORATIVE SPACE

AEIPHORIA

Science Shop

ERUANers Creative Hub

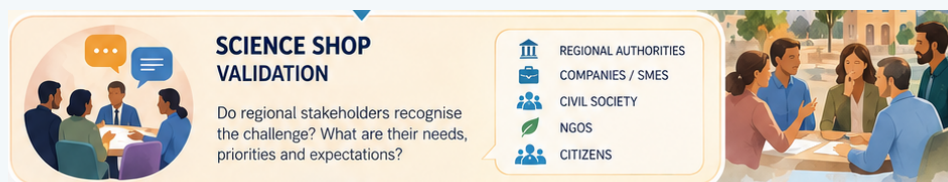
ECOS

ECOS—the ERUA Collaborative Open Space—is the digital infrastructure through which ERUA connects university knowledge, people and societal challenges. Developed within WP5 under the leadership of the University of the Aegean, it brings together three complementary areas: AEIPHORIA, the Science Shop and the ERUANers Creative Hub. These connect evidence about educational and research capacities with opportunities for civic engagement, collaboration and creative activity. ECOS addresses students, researchers, educators, regional stakeholders and associated partners, giving them a shared framework for contributing to the alliance’s work. Its purpose is to make knowledge across the eight universities more accessible and help participants develop cooperation around concrete needs. Within this framework, AEIPHORIA provides the knowledge and evidence base, the Science Shop connects academic communities with societal concerns, and the Creative Hub supports creative contributions and their visibility. ECOS also provides the common setting for communities, calls, engagement activities and collaborative initiatives. For a Challenge-to-Impact participant, it offers a route from identifying a challenge to finding relevant knowledge, collaborators and opportunities for action.



AEIPHORIA

AEIPHORIA is ERUA's evidence base for understanding how the alliance's educational and research capacities relate to sustainable development and regional needs. Already operating, it maps curricula and research across the eight ERUA universities against the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It combines this university knowledge with information on innovation performance in approximately sixteen regions where the partner universities operate, using the Regional Innovation Scoreboard and a limited set of available Eurostat indicators relevant to sustainable development. This combination allows educational and research strengths to be considered alongside the conditions of the surrounding regions. AEIPHORIA can therefore inform several connected levels of activity: students' engagement with sustainability, cooperation within the alliance, the identification of collective ERUA strengths, and collaboration with broader society. Its value lies in making connections visible between what universities teach and investigate and the challenges communities face. For an Ideathon or Hackathon participant, it provides an evidence-based starting point for exploring a challenge and identifying relevant academic knowledge. Further matching and service applications are being developed around this foundation.



KNOWLEDGE MEETS SOCIETY

Science Cafés · DigiTalks · Forums
Seminars · Ideathons · Hackathons
Education and training

SCIENCE SHOP

The ERUA Science Shop provides an interface between university knowledge and the concerns of communities and regional stakeholders. Its role is to help societal questions become subjects of academic dialogue, collaborative learning and practical investigation. Citizens, civil society organisations, public bodies and other stakeholders can contribute needs and experiences, while students, researchers and educators bring relevant knowledge and methods. The Science Shop supports the collection and clarification of challenges, their discussion with participants, and the development of cooperation around them. Its activities include Science Cafés, DigiTalks, forums, seminars, Ideathons and Hackathons, alongside education and training and initiatives such as Doing Democracy. These activities contribute to continuing relationships through the three CIKCs, which form its community foundation. Within ECOS, the Science Shop connects the evidence available through AEIPHORIA with people who can interpret, question and use it. For Challenge-to-Impact participants, it provides a setting in which ideas can be grounded in expressed societal needs and developed with the involvement of those concerned.



CONTINUING COMMUNITIES

Shared interests. Complementary knowledge.
Collaboration across communities.

CIKCs

The three CIKCs are the knowledge communities that form the living foundation of the ERUA Science Shop: the Community of Social Innovation and Civic Engagement, the Community of Sustainability and Regional Development, and the Community of Creative and Artistic Engagement. They bring together academic participants and external stakeholders around related interests and challenges, sustaining cooperation beyond individual events. Their development builds on engagement through Science Cafés, DigiTalks, the ERUAiDeaThon, Hack4Impact and Arts & Edges activities. Each community provides a setting for exchanging experience, identifying needs, bringing together complementary knowledge and developing collaborative work. Their fields overlap: an environmental challenge may involve civic participation, while an artistic initiative may contribute to inclusion or regional development. Participants can therefore cooperate across communities when a challenge requires several perspectives. The CIKCs connect engagement with the wider resources of ECOS and AEIPHORIA and support the progression towards co-creation and practical action. For Ideathon and Hackathon participants, they offer continuing communities within which teams, ideas and stakeholder relationships can develop.



ERUAners CREATIVE HUB

Calls · Projects · Creative clusters
Arts & Edges · Biennale · Showcases
Recognised contributions

CREATIVE ERUANERS

Creative ERUAners are contributors whose meaningful participation in ERUA's collaborative and creative work is recognised through the ECOS framework. This identity is associated with validated contribution and selection or nomination through ECOS calls; registration alone does not confer ERUAner status. Creativity here encompasses artistic expression as well as the ability to connect knowledge, people and experiences in developing responses to shared challenges. The ERUAners Creative Hub provides the setting for this participation, bringing together calls, collaborative projects, creative clusters, resources and opportunities to present work. Its structure includes links to Arts & Edges activities and the Biennale, alongside spaces for showcasing contributions and recognising achievement. Recognition and awards acknowledge work undertaken, rather than serving as a condition for membership. Within the Challenge-to-Impact initiative, participants can contribute through developing ideas, building teams, collaborating with communities and producing useful or expressive outcomes. The Creative ERUAner identity gives visibility to such contributions and connects them to a wider community of people actively shaping ERUA's work.