Citizen Science Activities at KTU:

Best practice cases from projects

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General overview

1. 2016 → The Citizen Science Cost Action CA15212

2. 2019 → national project "Citizen Science as an Innovative Form of Citizen Participation for the Development of a Welfare Society" (CS4Welfare)

3. 2020 onwards → Many different projects at KTU, e.g. **TIME4CS**, **SMART-ER, YOUCOUNT, PRO-BLEU**, etc.

4. Citizen science development at KTU

"Citizen Science as an Innovative Form of Citizen Participation for Welfare Society Development" (CS4Welfare)

This project aims to explore the potential of citizen science as an innovative form of engaging citizens in solving social problems of local communities and to develop recommendations for governmental institutions and other stakeholder groups.

"EMPOWERING YOUTH AND COCREATING SOCIAL INNOVATIONS AND POLICY-MAKING THROUGH YOUTH CITIZEN SOCIAL SCIENCE" (YouCount)

The overarching objective of YOUCOUNT is to generate new knowledge and innovations to increase the social inclusion of youth at risk of exclusion across Europe through co-creative youth citizen social science.

"SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO PROMOTE CITIZEN SCIENCE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" (TIME4CS)

TIME4CS general objective is to support and facilitate the implementation of sustainable Institutional Changes in Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) to promote Public Engagement (citizens and citizens associations) and Citizen Science in science and technology.
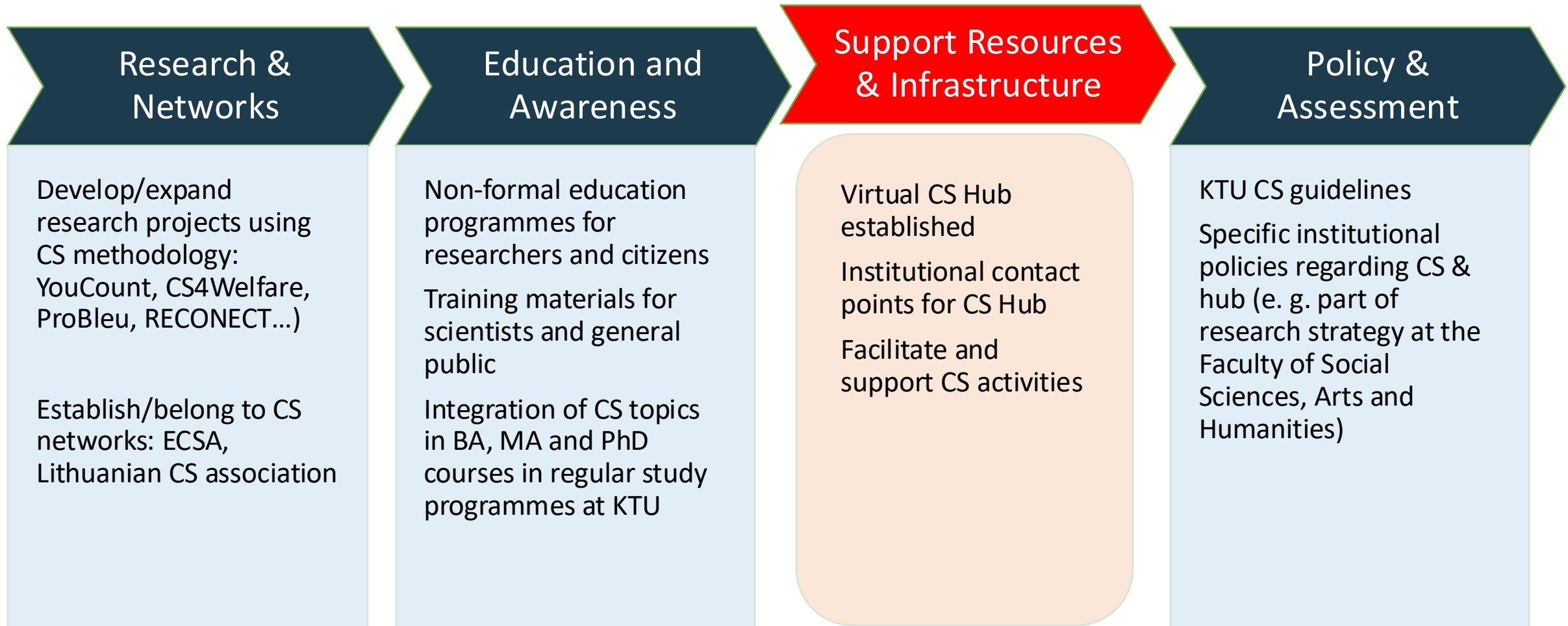
Breakthrough project on institutionalizing CS at KTU

2021-2023

TIME4CS grounding actions at KTU

Research & Networks

Develop/expand research projects using CS methodology: YouCount, CS4Welfare, ProBleu, RECONECT...)

Establish/belong to CS networks: ECSA, Lithuanian CS association

Education and Awareness

Non-formal education programmes for researchers and citizens

Training materials for scientists and general public

Integration of CS topics in BA, MA and PhD courses in regular study programmes at KTU

Support Resources & Infrastructure

Virtual CS Hub established

Institutional contact points for CS Hub

Facilitate and support CS activities

Policy & Assessment

KTU CS guidelines

Specific institutional policies regarding CS & hub (e. g. part of research strategy at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities)
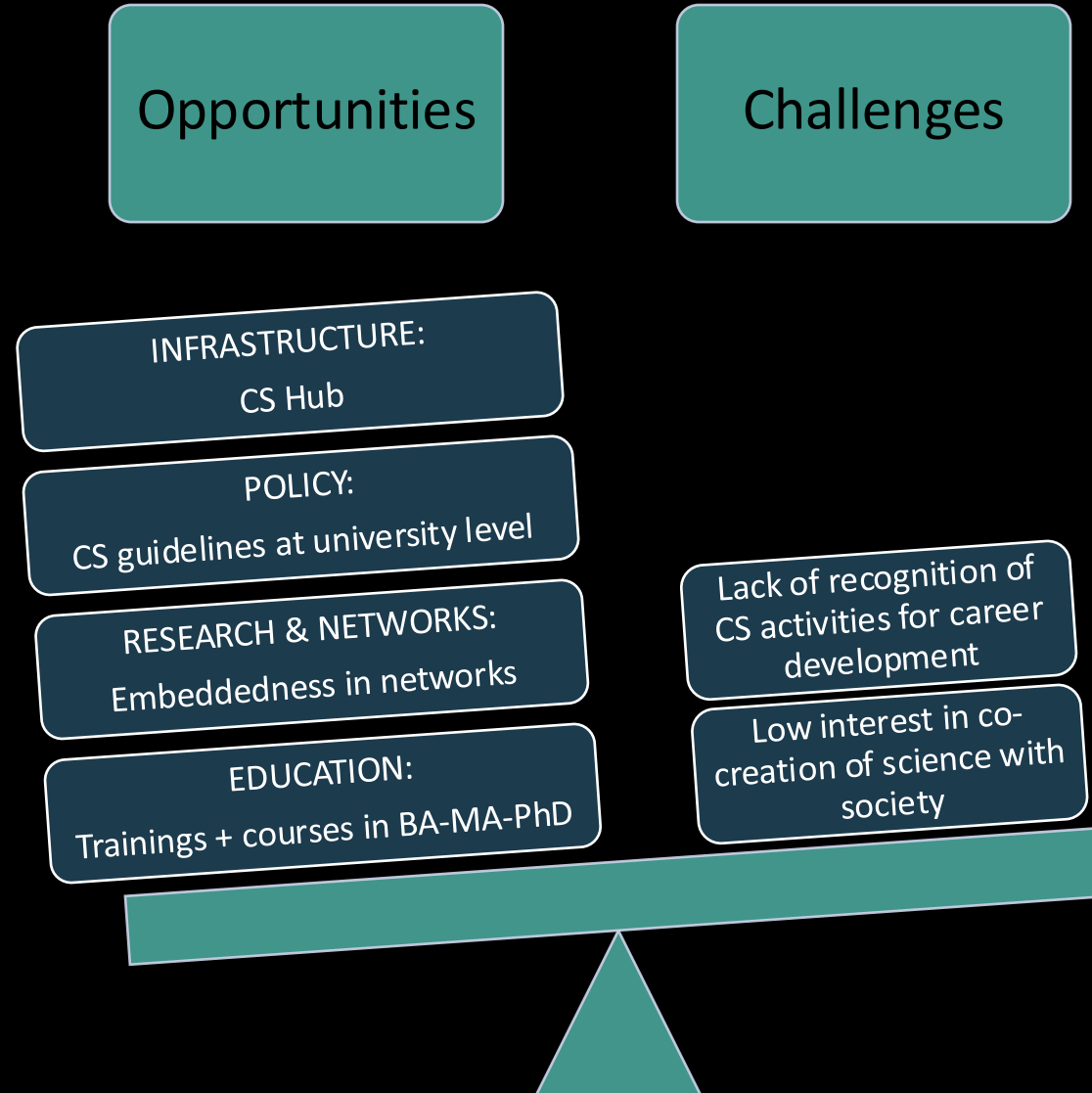
- GA#1: To establish connections with CS networks.

  - KTU became an institutional member of national citizen science association and ECSA – opens opportunities for resources

- GA#1: To involve researchers of diverse career stages and disciplines from different fields into research project proposals on CS.

  - KTU has submitted 5 project proposal for institutional or international funding programmes, including into the team researchers of different career stages – especially Erasmus+ programme projects

- GA#1: To disseminate research results on CS through different academic channels:

  - KTU researchers published research results in articles and monograph and participated in national and international conference to disseminate research results on CS, inviting students to events and raising awareness

- GA#2: To engage researchers of diverse career stages and disciplines into a series of non-formal education sessions on the CS topics.
  - The trainings about CS and public engagement has been and will be further organized for KTU researchers: internal trainings
- GA#2: To include CS topics in formal education programmes.
  - KTU created and offers now BA, MA and PhD courses that include CS topics.
  - BA: Basics of science communication
  - MA: Organization information management and communication
  - PhD: Science communication (micro-module)
- GA#3" To establish a virtual hub for the CS projects and appoint a contact point for the CS initiatives.
  - The establishment of virtual hub for the CS: informal training for society
- GA#4: To develop, adopt and disseminate CS guidelines among university academic and non-academic communities.
  - The guidelines set strategy for CS implementation at the university level.
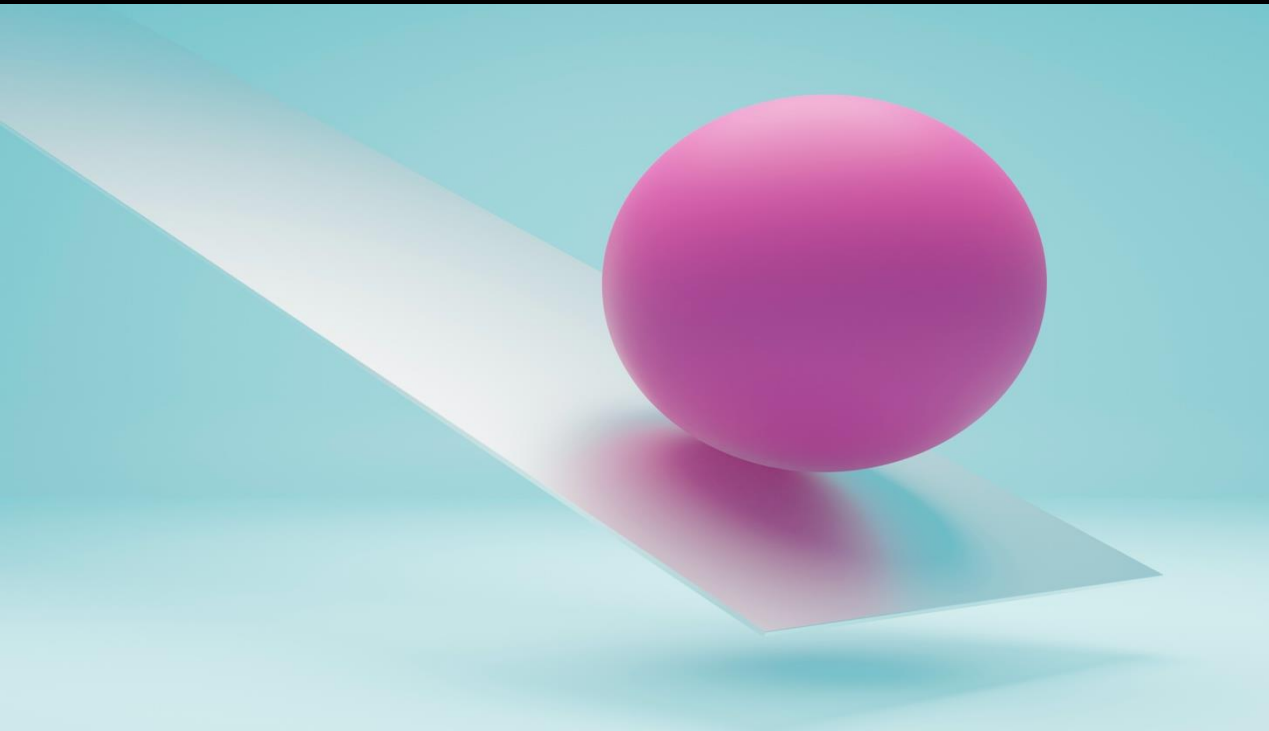
TIME4CS: opportunities and challenges

Opportunities

Challenges

INFRASTRUCTURE:

CS Hub

POLICY:

CS guidelines at university level

RESEARCH & NETWORKS:

Embeddedness in networks

EDUCATION:

Trainings + courses in BA-MA-PhD

Lack of recognition of CS activities for career development

Low interest in co-creation of science with society

The overall goal was to establish infrastructure and organizational arrangements that enable and facilitate the development of CS.

The specific objectives were:
1. To establish a virtual hub for the CS projects and appoint a contact point for the CS initiatives.
2. To sustain a virtual hub for the CS projects and embed it into international networks.
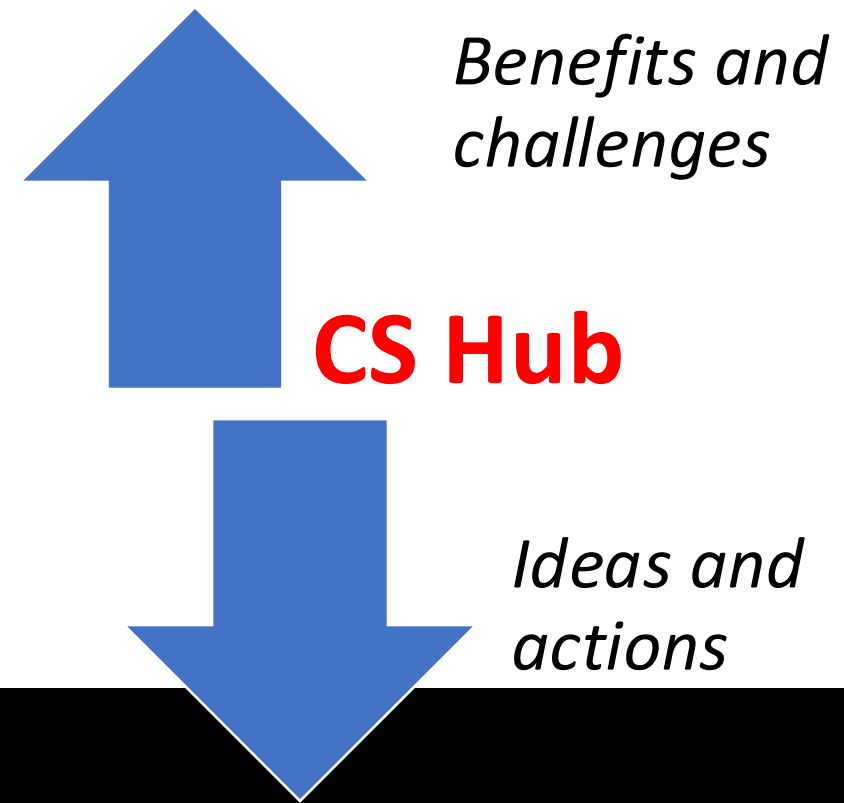
WHY WE NEEDED IT?
- **to close the gap** – the lack of dedicated personnel that could answer the CS related issues and coordinate the actions towards the CS projects development on a University level.
– lack of a CS hubs in Lithuania that could serve as **arena for CS community building** and CS projects outreach.

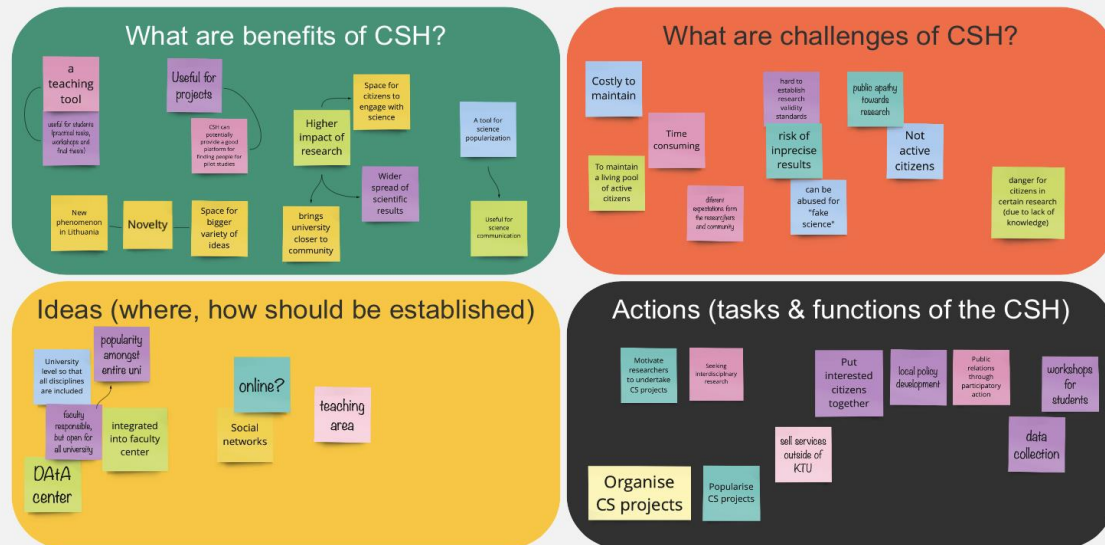# Actions for long-term sustainability of CS at KTU

1. CS Hub sustainability plan

2. Advancing non-formal CS education

3. Developing the next generation of CS researchers

TIME4CS

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO
PROMOTE CITIZEN SCIENCE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Barriers/obstacles for CS Hub

👥	**Motivation: why do we need it?**	**High level management** **Scientists** **Lay people/citizens**

🤝	**Sustainability of Funding: what is next?**	**strategic investments in CS hub/ Open science hub** **sustainability after the project**

Next steps:

1. Communicate clearly the added value of the CS for institutions and the value of Hub for different stakeholder groups: lay people, researchers, management of institution.
2. Creating **sustainability plans** to keep the CS Hub running beyond the project lifetime
3. Foresee financial recourses and non-financial rewards to stimulate and incentivize scientists and lay people to engage in CS projects

Development of Citizen Science in KTU

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The aim of the project is to develop citizen science activities in order to increase the involvement of Kaunas University of Technology community in citizen science projects and to promote the involvement and participation of society in scientific research, cooperation between scientists and the society in solving the issues and challenges that are relevant to society.

NAUJOS KARTOS LIETUVA

Finansuoja Europos Sąjunga
NextGenerationEU

Sustainability actions
Advancing non-formal CS education

1. **Area**: education and awareness-raising

2. **Objective**: to advance education and awareness raising on CS.

3. **Action 1**: Actions for the improvement of the non-formal education programmes "Citizen Science Fundamentals" and "Application of Citizen Science in Research", e.g. move the courses to open.ktu.edu and Consider teaching in English (2023-2024)

4. **Action 2**: Train a second lecturer for the non-formal education programmes, who could alternate training with the programme coordinator.

5. **Responsible**: DAtA Centre, Coordinator of the School of Methods; Coordinator of the non-formal education programmes. Synergize with: KTU Library.

6. **Main constraint**: training facilitators' working hours are not paid.

7. **Overcoming constraints:** FSSAH support, seek for project based funding.

Sustainability actions
Developing the next generation of CS researchers

1. **Area**: research & networks

2. **Objective**: to ensure the development of knowledge on CS and train a new generation of professional CS researchers.

3. **Action 1**: Supervise at least one dissertation on citizen engagement in CS (to be defended in KTU by 2028)

4. **Action 2**: Supervise one more dissertation on CS methodologies (to be defended in KTU by 2030)

5. **Responsible**: Researchers working on PhD programmes in sociology and political science at KTU.

6. **Main constraint**: PhD admissions are highly competitive, so candidates interested in CS topics may not necessarily win a PhD place

7. **Overcoming constraints:** Marie Skłodowska-Curie and Lithuanian Research Council PhD position applications; individual work with PhD candidates to strengthen their research portfolio.