

European City of Science 2022

The perfect stage for the Science Faculty

Leiden is the European City of Science (ECS) in 2022. What is ECS? What will be Faculty's role in 2022? How can I participate or contribute? In this Leiden2022 factsheet you will find relevant information concerning the Faculty of Science and its relation to the ECS.

What is European City of Science (ECS)?

In 2022, Leiden will be the European City of Science, a title awarded by EuroScience, in Strasbourg, to an European city every other year. In contrast to earlier editions, Leiden is also the first ECS to create a year-round programme with an international profile. The programme will consist of smaller sized, local activities to large, international events. The programme will cover a wide spectrum of knowledge, ranging from fundamental to citizen science.

Who is European City of Science for?

2022 is special as it is intended for anyone with a curious mind towards science, knowledge and art. For researchers, Leiden will serve as a stage to showcase Dutch knowledge in several scientific fields. For the broader public, it offers a full year of opportunities to participate in different types of scientific activities. By "sparking curiosity", Leiden2022 wants to help strengthen connections between the scientific community and the public in a playful way. Ultimately, meaningful interactions between scientists and citizens can lead to greater understanding and sustainable changes.

The central theme is 'Who Knows'. What does that mean?

As science advances and scientists know more now than they did in the past, the relationship between science and society is often under close scrutiny. Currently, tensions exist between what is scientifically provable and what is socially acceptable. The Leiden2022 programme centres around this zeitgeist, with the aim to bridge gaps between science and a broader public. 'Who Knows' is about where our knowledge lies. It's about the fact that what you know determines who you are. At the same time, it is also a gesture to the question of how our future will be, and to all the things we don't yet know.

Who initiated this?

Leiden European City of Science 2022 is an initiative of the Founding Partners (Municipality of Leiden, Leiden University and LUMC Leiden), later joined by Leiden University of Applied Sciences in 2020. Leiden2022 is a network-oriented project, in which collaboration is explicitly sought with other partners in the city, both at the Dutch and the European level.

EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF)

A central component of ECS is the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) that will take place on July 2022 in cooperation with EuroScience in Strasbourg. The ESOF is the largest multidisciplinary science meeting in Europe.

The programme for the ESOF is developed by ESOF champions Ferry Breedveld and Corinne Hofman in cooperation with EuroScience in Strasbourg. They are advised by a Science Council, consisting of delegates from all faculties from Leiden University. Ewine van Dishoeck is the delegate for the Faculty of Science.

Call for initiatives

2022 is approaching fast. Now is the time to foster ideas and initiate activities and collaborations for the European City of Science programme. Would you like to get involved, participate, or contribute? Get in touch via [e-mail](#) with any ideas and questions.

Who are organizing the activities?

The organisation of ECS and ESOF has been outsourced to a foundation (Stichting Leiden2022) set up in March 2020 especially for this purpose. Director Meta Knol has the overall leadership. The actual programme will be compiled on her behalf by Lucien Geelhoed, intendant of Leiden2022. For the Faculty of Science, Marin Visscher is coordinating the activities. He is the point of contact for any ideas and questions.

What are the aims/goals of the Faculty of Science for 2022?

Next year the Faculty wants to increase their visibility in and around Leiden and show its inhabitants the added value of the University to the city and surrounding regions. By going into the neighborhoods we are given the opportunity to show what science is and explain its importance in a manner that closely connects to the perspectives of those not normally invested in it.

What is the role of sustainability and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for Leiden2022?

The importance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a horizon to 2030 is acknowledged and endorsed by all Founding Partners. The SDGs are included as a starting point in the Leiden European City of Science 2022 [Playbook I](#) and also form an important frame of reference for EuroScience and the ESOF. The Leiden2022 foundation has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the [2030 Foundation](#), which is active in this field in Leiden. Sustainability is therefore an important condition in the development and implementation of the programme.

Would you like to know more about the Faculty's approach for 2022? Please send your questions to Marin Visscher via m.r.visscher@science.leidenuniv.nl. Marin Visscher is the Project Coordinator regarding the Faculty's activities for 2022.

Documents and links

- [Get inspired by each day's theme for next year.](#)
- [Download Playbooks I and II, that set the vision, strategy and the outline of the programme.](#)
- [Read more about the EuroScience Open Forum.](#)
- [Sign up for the Leiden2022 newsletter.](#)
- [A full Q&A \(Dutch and English\) released by Leiden2022 can be requested via e-mail.](#)