

SciChallenge Competition

The SEIT Laboratory (Software Engineering and Internet Technologies, <http://www.cs.ucy.ac.cy/seit>) of the Computer Science Department of the University of Cyprus is involved in the HORIZON 2020 Research Project “SciChallenge” - a European project for young people. SciChallenge is an innovative project for promoting interest and education in STEM areas (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) as well as career opportunities in these fields. SciChallenge is supported under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Programme (Grant Agreement No 665868). The project is conceptualized as a digital contest, where young people between 10 and 20 years develop their own projects, ideas and visions of a particular STEM field.

The University of Cyprus is glad to announce that over 400 projects by young people of age between 10-20 from across Europe – and 20 from Cyprus – were submitted in the Horizon2020 SciChallenge competition. The submitted projects were related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) topics. 12 winner projects were selected, following the jury and online ratings. You can see their ingenious applications [here](#).

The highest number of projects were submitted as an Open STEM Topic, followed by the topic Clean Water, Health, Climate Change, Biodiversity and Robotics.

While demand for STEM-related skills is increasing, enrolment rates in STEM-based degree programs remains low. Addressing this issue, the contest was well-received and the concept as well as the integration of social media obviously encouraged young people to participate.

Girls as interested as boys in STEM competition

#SciChallenge projects were submitted from 28 different countries and gathered over 4 million views and 21.087 Likes on Youtube and Slideshare. There was an almost even distribution among age groups 10-14 and 15-20 year olds. This also holds true for the gender distribution of the participants, which is also relatively balanced: 56 % were female and 43 % were male (1 % didn’t reveal their gender). This shows that the SciChallenge competition was equally interesting for girls as well as for boys.

Over 600 attendees at the Award Event in Vienna

The Award Event held at the University of Vienna was attended by over 600 attendees, including contest participants, parents, award winners, accompanying persons, consortium members and representatives of the jury.

The SciChallenge certificates and trophies were handed over to the winners by Christa Schnabl – Vice-Rector of the University of Vienna – and David G. Pina – Research Programme Officer at the European Commission.

Additionally, a science fair-like exhibition area was set up and after the official part of the award ceremony, the audience had the opportunity to get directly in contact with the winning teams. See the video from the SciChallenge award event and visitors program [here](#).

For more information:

Contact: [George A. Papadopoulos](#), Professor, University of Cyprus

[Christos Mettouris](#), Researcher, University of Cyprus

Project Website: project.scichallenge.eu

Platform Website: <https://www.scichallenge.eu/>

Coordinator: office@scichallenge.eu



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Consortium:

