

CNIO & THE CITY

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“CNIO & The City is our instrument to reach out to the educational community and catalyse interaction between educators and CNIO scientists. We hope to promote knowledge co-creation and value in collaboration with different societal groups.”

The success of the CNIO & The City’s first edition (May 2017 – March 2018) set a strong precedent and has motivated us to continue with our outreach efforts; these are undertaken through educational activities for pre-university students and by supporting STEM careers to empower society as a whole, hereby emphasizing the full and growing commitment to science outreach. In April 2018, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) – Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, awarded funding to the CNIO to continue with the project for another year, this time focusing on strengthening the bridges between CNIO scientists, the educational community and society by means of co-creation.

The openness of research centres to society through outreach events, citizen science and public engagement is an aspect of increasing interest and importance for European institutions, funding bodies and evaluators. It is essential that research projects as well as institutions acknowledge the importance of this kind of outreach for achieving new standards of scientific excellence in the future. The CNIO has always celebrated special occasions with science outreach activities, such as the European Researchers’ Night, the Science Week or the guided visits, and has always encouraged the staff to be actively involved. Thanks to CNIO & The City, this commitment can be upheld throughout the whole year.

This new project kicked off in May 2018, maintaining the two main gears of the project (EDCUACNIO for students, and FORMACNIO devoted to teachers), and since then even more students and teachers have ended up swelling the ranks of CNIO & The City participants: ‘Lab Immersion’ and ‘My First Science Project’ (88 Secondary students and 3 classrooms, 70% women) and the ‘Stop Cancer Training Course for

Secondary Teachers’ (50 teachers, 80% women). In 2018, CNIO & The City included new science workshops aimed at primary school students in order to start impacting on younger generations as a stepping stone for accomplishing our objective to foster STEM careers. In addition, the project has focused on supporting the CNIO Arte initiative, and facilitating educational talks at schools and inspirational and vocational material (blog posts, videos...), which are available to the public and disseminated through our social channels.

As the above numbers reveal, this project is also committed to closing the gender divide in science. In CNIO & The City, we regard gender equity values and the importance of women in science as a transversal theme and we thereby strongly encourage the participation of female students in all the activities; strategies to this regards are developed and implemented in collaboration with the CNIO WISE Office. In February, we marked the International Day of Women and Girls in Science by sending some of our female scientists to the schools and celebrating the event ‘Mom, I want to be an artist...and a scientist!’; we benefitted from the special collaboration of the pioneering molecular biology scientist Margarita Salas and the renowned visual artist Eva Lootz .

All CNIO & The City activities represent a team effort and they would not be possible without the commitment and collaboration of the more than 70 CNIO volunteers, ranging from Principal Investigators to technicians and other administrative staff. The integration of science in societal culture is a long-standing demand in Spain, as the 9th Social Perception of Science Survey (FECYT) reveals, and we eagerly join other research centres in leading science outreach projects and meeting society’s needs.



History of Cancer (watch video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFAO7fDhZX8>).

