CSI-COP

Citizen Scientists Investigating Cookies and App GDPR Compliance

Newsletter #8: Oct-Nov 2022

CSI-COP's 8th Newsletter Presents:

Project Purpose

CSI-COP project at its core aims to engage citizen scientists across Europe and the world to explore their own digital journeys by recording the number, and type, of third-party tracking cookies they find across the web and in apps on their mobile devices. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about CSI-COP have been translated into Greek, Hebrew, and Hungarian and can be found here: https://csi-cop.eu/faq/

For further information please do contact CSI-COP's Co-Investigator and Director of Science:

Dr. Huma Shah on ab7778@coventry.ac.uk

Free educational resource

CSI-COP's free informal education resource (MOOC) '**Your Right to Privacy Online**', which you can complete in your own time, is available to download as a document in **English** and twelve translations (**Catalan**, **Czech**, **Finnish**, **French**, **German**, **Greek**, **Hebrew**, **Hungarian**, **Italian**, **Polish**, **Romanian** and **Spanish**) from the project website here: https://csi-cop.eu/informal-education-mooc/

In five easy-to-follow steps, the course on '**Your Right to Privacy Online**' can be completed in under half-a-day. The course covers:

Step 1 – The concept of 'privacy'.

Step 2 – *What is* 'personal data'?

Step 3 – *How a*re we tracked online?

Step 4 – What rights do we have to online data protection and privacy?

Step 5 – Free online tools to protect our data-privacy.

This MOOC is also available in English from the EU-Citizen.Science platform, from here: https://moodle.eu-citizen.science/
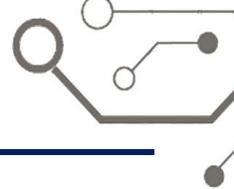
Project updates:

CSI-COP has been very busy since the last Newsletter in August 2022. In case you missed it, the last newsletter featured an interview with Dr. E. L. Briant, the Senior Researcher on Netflix's 'The Great Hack' documentary. That newsletter is available to read here: https://csi-cop.eu/csi-cops-7-th-newsletter/

Privacy, Infosec, Culture, Change, Awareness, Societal, Organisation (Piccaso)

In late July 2022 and during her annual leave, Dr. Huma Shah (CU-Coordinating partner), nominated CSI-COP in the 'Best Innovative Privacy Project' category in the inaugural '**P**rivacy, **I**nfosec, **C**ulture, **C**hange, **A**wareness, **S**ocietal, **O**rganisation' (PICCASO) awards. Huma learnt in early October 2022 that the CSI-COP project team had been shortlisted for the 'Best Innovative Privacy Project' award, along with others, including the UK data protection authority, the ICO. Other categories and shortlisted organisations can be found in Piccaso Privacy Awards shortlist page here: https://www.piccasoprivacyawards.com/shortlist. The results will be announced in an awards ceremony on 8 December 2022 in London.

Period 2 Review

In September, partners attended a hybrid meeting hosted by CSI-COP partner, UPAT, in Patras, Greece. In addition to project partners attending, the EU Project Officer, and the EU appointed External Examiner were present online reviewing the work in CSI-COP during Period 2 (January 2021-June 2022). The project's progress was considered satisfactory; the partners move forward to the final phase in CSI-COP.

Period 2 Review meeting in Patras, Greece.
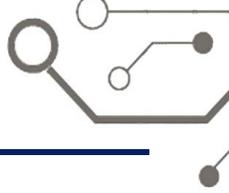
Partner Activities

CU

In August 2022, Coordinating partner CU partnered with other organisations supporting the inaugural '[Ideas Fest](#)' with a table in the festival at Wickham, Hants, UK. The Ideas Fest provided a great opportunity for CU's Dr. Huma Shah and Mr. Jaimz Winter to meet with the other festival sponsors on set-up day, Tuesday 2 August, and to engage with members of the public attending the festival's two days: 3-4 August 2022. Additionally, Ideas Fest invited Huma on one of the panels during the festival.

Also in August. CU's CSI-COP team hosted school pupils aged 17 placed with Coventry University through its collaboration with Nuffield Research Placement. This took place across two weeks from 9 – 22 August. The school pupils engagement included learning about a 'parent's perspective' from watching a video by CSI-COP partner Dr. Tiberius Ignat (IB). The video interview presented a parent's dilemma in protecting their children online while making the wonders of the Internet available (see photo below). Tiberius' text-based interview is available to read in CSI-COP project's [5th Newsletter](#) here: https://csi-cop.eu/5th-newletter/
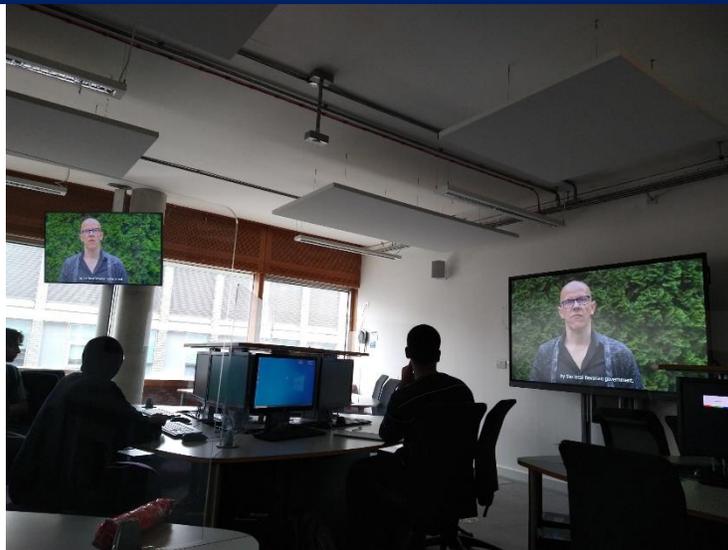
The Nuffield placed pupils also learnt about the CSI-COP project but completing the 'Your Right to Privacy Online' course and conducting some website and app investigations.

In September 2022, Dr. Huma Shah met with her local member of the UK parliament, Gareth Thomas, MP for Harrow-West, London. In the meeting Huma explained the work in CSI-COP and the project's relevance to the **UK's forthcoming Online Safety Bill**, including protecting children online. Dr. Huma Shah also engineered a **meeting with the UK data protection authority, the ICO** explaining the purpose of CSI-COP's tasks in raising awareness of the extent of online tracking. The ICO revealed connecting to stakeholders was a challenge.

In October 2022, Huma visited the **BBC Sounds** building in Wogan House, Great Portland Street in central London. Huma was interviewed about artificial intelligence from BBC Sounds by science journalist Dean Russell across the Internet from WBUR, Boston-US. Huma's interview will feature as part of a future podcast for 'Endless Thread'. Pictures from Huma's visit to BBC Sounds are below.
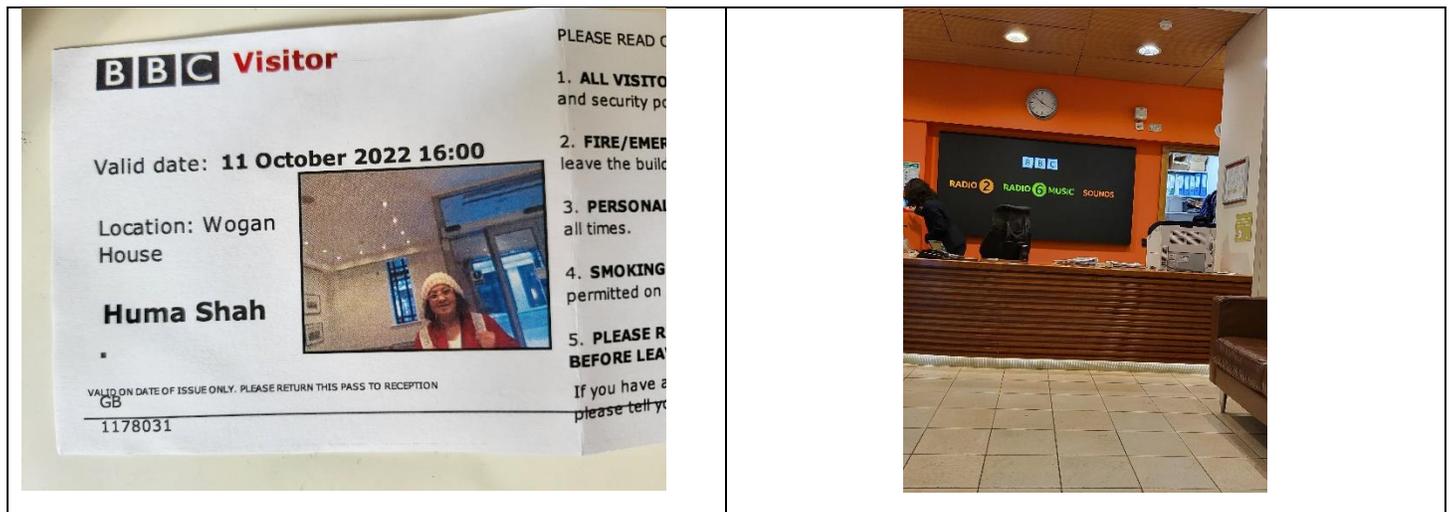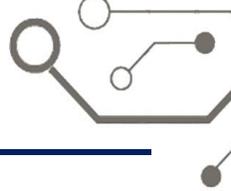
In November, Huma will deliver a webinar to the African chapter of the Association of Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T).

UOULU

On October 13, CSI-COP was represented at 'Shaking Up Tech Oulu'. This event was visited by high school pupils coming from all over Finland and especially targeted young women and nonbinaries in technology fields.

BIU

Bar Ilan's Dr Maayan Zhitomirsky-Geffet won best paper prize for her scientific article 'Turning Filter Bubbles into Bubble spheres' which she will deliver in October 2022 in the ASIS&T conference in Pittsburgh, US.

UPAT

In an effort to disseminate the CSI-COP project, UPAT team contacted members of the Library and Information Center (LIC) that are involved in the "Citizen-enhanced open science in south-eastern Europe Higher Education knowledge hubs" project (http://ceosse-project.eu/). In the several meetings that took place, there have been discussions and exchange of opinions about citizen science and the promotion of public participation in research. LIC of the University of Patras will attend a conference in Corfu on 19 October where they will inform the attendees about CSI COP project, and distribute CSI-COP promotion material.

Additionally, in the evening of 5 October 2022, CSI COP UPAT team delivered the content of the MOOC in the 3rd Vocational evening high school of Patras. More than 50 people attended the event, including 5 under the age of 18. They were really interested in learning about the concept of privacy online and *how* it is possible to protect it, since it is not considered to be a statutory human right.

TDL

Trust in Digital Life held an event in September 'Online Services: Improving Usability and Trust' when cookies and trackers were discussed and CSI-COP was mentioned
- https://trustindigitallife.eu/online-services-improving-usability-and-trust/

UAB

Universität Autònoma de Barcelona's Professor Jordi Vallverdú created a virtual presentation of his co-authored paper on *creativity* for CU Dr. Huma Shah's first year undergraduate class 'artificial intelligence, creativity and ethics'. Jordi's talk gave the students a lot to think about the creativity of algorithms and whether machines can be truly creative.

Researchers' Night: 30 September 2022

CSI-COP project was well represented in the 2022 European Researchers' Night on 30 September. Five of CSI-COP's ten partners were involved and present their evening below.

NaTE

Pleasant scents greeted the visitors as they entered the venue of the Researchers' Night organised in Budapest by the Association of Hungarian Women in Science (NaTE). Among the many powerful aromas, even the well-known scent of cloves was hard to recognise. The slogan of the 'High Pressure Operational Research Group' of the Budapest University of Technology was "Natural raw materials from waste - test your smell with natural extracts!"

The Energy Science Research Center held a spectacular presentation on tactile perception and tissue recognition in minimally invasive surgery. The Nanochemistry Research Group of the Institute of Biophysics and Radiobiology of Semmelweis University introduced the visitors to the mysteries of the nanoworld. Another one of the varied programs guided them through the steps of turning a dream into a business. Those interested could also hear exciting things about honey and see what it is made of. Children were surrounded by the magic of making lightning and they asked the researchers to repeat the experiment several times.

In addition to university professors and researchers, there were also PhD students among the participants of the event. With the support of the mentor program of NaTE these young people had become confident speakers and won awards at NaTE's annual science communication contest called

SCIndicator in the previous years. Winners of NaTE's Women in Science Excellence Award also attended the event, serving as role models for the younger generation by promoting science and technology careers. At the 2022 Researchers' Night event in Budapest, about 150 interested and experimental young people absorbed the new knowledge.

According to the managing director of NaTE, *Fanni Szigeti*, science, technology, mathematics and engineering careers are amazingly exciting, and the NaTE team wants to make sure that not only boys, but also girls notice the enormous potential in these fields early on.

Left picture: NaTE's Mária Hinsenkamp

CTU

Czech Technical University (CTU) hosted a CSI-COP booth during the Researchers' Night. This booth (in the right part of the images below) was full all the time between 17:00 and 22:00. The high interest was because the CTU CSI-COP team had prepared a computer game for young visitors. The game describes an adventure of a group of kids who have to solve some puzzles related to privacy on-line in order to find their lost friend. While the young visitors were fully absorbed in the game the CTU members of the CSI-COP team Olga, Filip and Lenka explained to their parents the core ideas of the CSI-COP project and invited them to join the project team as citizen scientists.
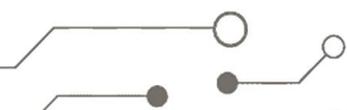
UOULU

CSI-COP partner UOULU was present at the Researchers' Night event held at the University of Oulu from 17:00 to 21:00. About 3000 visitors walked through the booths. UOULU's Dr Ulrico Celentano and Henna Tiensuu engaged in interesting discussions with visitors of a wide age range, from teenagers to retired individuals.
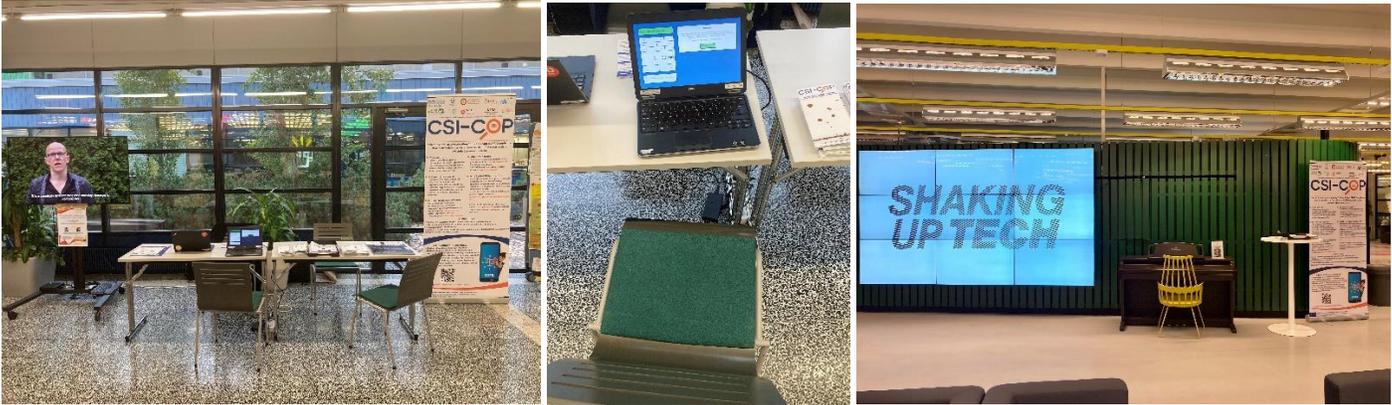
UPAT

CSI COP's UPAT team participated in the annual Researcher's Night in the city of Patras. This allowed the UPAT team to inform the audience about CSI – COP project and hand out informative leaflets. UPAT team discussed with guests about the concept of citizen science, the catalytic role that a citizen scientist can play in research and how both science projects and citizens can benefit from each other in this cooperation.

In the next section, CSI-COP's #8 Newsletter presents short interviews with some of the role models in CSI-COP's team: Partner Leads Professor Jordi Vallverdú (UAB), Professor Olga Stepankova (CTU), and Professor. Yannis Gialelis(UPAT).

Prof. Jordi Vallverdú

Tell us a little about yourself:

I am an ICREA researcher at Philosophy Department, Universität Autònoma de Barcelona - Catalonia. My main research is related to epistemology and cognition, especially those connected with contemporary computer sciences. Currently, my ICREA 5 years grant is devoted to the analysis of how Deep Learning experts deal with causality. Nevertheless, I have plenty of interests: Asian philosophies, contemporary bioart, political science, and ethics. I have also musical background, but currently have no time for playing. Instead, I study and write haiku poetry.

Do you have any forthcoming invited talks or other activities in which attendees could be made aware of the CSI-COP project's mission?

In the next months, we will be organising in Barcelona some events related to citizen science. At UAB we have a strong network of researchers in citizen science!

How do you feel about citizen science? Do you think it necessary/important to include the general public in some way in scientific activities – if so, why?

It was a strong part of my Ph.D thesis, written 20 years ago! But at that moment was not labelled in that way. In any case, the analysis of the role of citizens in the evolution of scientific practices and knowledge has been something of my interest all throughout my career. From an STS perspective (my original conceptual background), all the agents involved in the scientific process are necessary. Besides, new electronic environments have allowed the emergence of true collaborative epistemic projects. A real democratic society must include all citizens in these fundamental aspects of reality, because using science we define our world and also transform it.
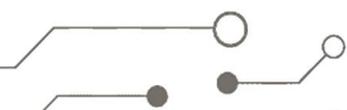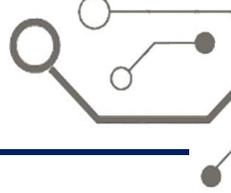
Prof. Olga Stepankova

Tell us a little about yourself:

I graduated in mathematics from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University and my PhD thesis was dedicated to utilization of 1st order logic for robot action planning. In 1998, I was awarded the title of full professor of technical cybernetics at the Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU) and currently I am the head of the department Biomedical Engineering and Assistive Technology (BEAT) of the Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics (CIIRC CTU), a recently established university institute of the Czech Technical University in Prague (www.ciirc.cvut.cz).

It was only a step from mathematical logic to logic programming and later to the search for techniques suitable for the implementation of multi-agent systems. If a system is to work effectively in a dynamically changing environment, it is obvious that it should be able to react flexibly to changes - it should recognize specific situations and use its previous experience to choose the next course of action to take. Machine learning and knowledge mining from data seemed to be great tools that agents could utilize for that purpose. Soon we started to apply these tools to collections of patient data in order to extract from them knowledge that can help to identify a serious disease as early as possible at the stage when it can be efficiently treated.

My work requires not only hours of concentration, but it also offers opportunities to meet many admirable people. I love both these aspects of our activities.

How do you feel about citizen science? Do you think it necessary/important to include the general public in some way in scientific activities – if so, why?

I believe citizen science is a great concept.

Centuries of patient nature observations show how valuable is citizen science for building the body of scientific knowledge. New technologies, and especially the internet, are changing the world we were created for before our eyes. The speed at which information is disseminated, the number of people we communicate with, the volume and frequency of messages that reach us ... all this has multiplied by orders of magnitude over the last decades. Experts point to the profound effect these changes can have on us as individuals and as citizens. However, it is very difficult to convince about it the general public, who tend to doubt everything they have not had the opportunity to observe first-hand similarly as they did centuries ago. I believe that citizen-science can not only contribute to a better understanding of the impact of these phenomena, but also lead the public to take greater responsibility for our human future.
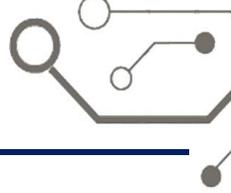
Professor Yannis Gialelis

Tell us a little about yourself:

Yannis Gialelis is an adjunct professor in electronic systems in the University of Patras (UPAT). A pointer to his research can be found in his Google Scholar page:
(https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=q8mVDKoAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao).

Do you have any forthcoming invited talks or other activities in which attendees could be made aware of the CSI-COP project's mission?

Yannis' recent talks comprise:

i)   "Our Right to Privacy - CSI COP Project" in the 3rd Vocational evening high school of Patras during the CSI COP workshop that took place 5 October 2022,
ii)   "Biosensor systems in emergency departments and hospital clinics for the priority triage and monitoring of medical events" in the eHealth session of the Forumanaptixis 2022 in Patras Greece (https://www.forumanaptixis.gr/conference/forum-ygeias-2022/item/106),
iii)   "Identifying heart arrhythmias through multi-level algorithmic processing of ECG on edge devices" in the 19th International Conference on Mobile Systems and Pervasive Computing 2022 in Niagra Falls Canada.

 UPAT's team includes (in alphabetical order) Aggeliki, Ilias and Nantia who have been heavily involved in organising UPAT's successful CSI-COP activities.

How do you feel about citizen science? Do you think it necessary/important to include the general public in some way in scientific activities – if so, why?

Yannis is a strong supporter of citizen science deeply believing that crowd-sourced science validates the results of scientific research. In the framework of CSI COP project, he is very excited to collaborate with UPAT team members Nantia, Angeliki and Ilias in the delivery of CSI-COP workshops trying to motivate citizens to become citizens scientists and get involved into the search of internet cookies and trackers. Although he was aware of the extent of online tracking, through CSI COP he became an even more stoutly supporter of protecting our digital privacy.

It is fair to say we have some great role models in the CSI-COP team, and we have very much enjoyed meeting new role-models of the future from the project's engagement with vibrant members of the general public across Europe and in Israel.

CSI-COP Partners

Coventry University
Coordinator
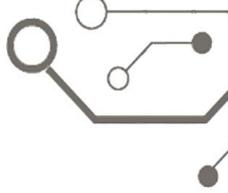
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΑΤΡΩΝ

TDL | Trust in Digital Life

UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Bar-Ilan University
אוניברסיטת בר אילן

security
tech Stelar law
research

IMMER BESSER

NaTE
Nők a Tudományban Egyesület
Association of Hungarian Women in Science

UNIVERSITY OF OULU

CTU
CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE