



FAQ Leiden European City of Science 2022

In 2022, Leiden will be the European City of Science for one year. What does this mean? Who is participating? How did the program come about? And how can you participate yourself? Here, we answer your most frequently asked questions about Leiden being the European City of Science 2022.

What is the European City of Science?

Leiden European City of Science 2022 is a 365-day long science festival! Packed with activities, lectures, workshops, excursions, exhibitions, and events, it's perfect for anyone with a curious mind.

Every two years, EuroScience in Strasbourg awards the title of European City of Science to a different city. The title relates to Europe's largest biennial multidisciplinary science conference, the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF). In 2022, the ESOF will take place in Leiden. Although the title has been around for some time, Leiden is the first city ever to present a year-round program on science, knowledge, art, and skills.

In 2022, Leiden will be the Dutch stage of the European scientific world. The major issues of our time will be discussed during countless conferences and special meetings. Simultaneously, with and for residents of the city and region, we will design an exciting program in which every day is centred around a different, intriguing topic. The ultimate goal of Leiden European City of Science is to connect science and society.

How did Leiden get the title?

Many cities claim to be a city of knowledge — but Leiden really is. Since 1575, the combination of talent and knowledge has been responsible for Leiden's development, change, and innovation. It is, therefore, only logical for Leiden to profile itself as a European city of knowledge. With this in mind, a number of city partners teamed up in 2017. Together, they managed to bring the title of European City of Science to Leiden.

What and who is the Leiden2022 Foundation?

The organisation of Leiden European City of Science, or Leiden2022 for short, has been outsourced to the Leiden2022 Foundation. This foundation was set up in 2020 specifically for this event. Director Meta Knol is in full charge, and the program contents have been compiled by Lucien Geelhoed, intendant and editor-in-chief of Leiden2022.



Who established the foundation?

Leiden European City of Science is an initiative of the founding partners: the Municipality of Leiden, Leiden University and the LUMC, joined in 2020 by the Hogeschool Leiden. Leiden2022 is a network organisation that connects and actively collaborates with partners on a local, national, and international level.

Does the foundation have a Supervisory Board?

Of course. The Supervisory Board consists of Henri Lenferink (chairman and mayor of Leiden), Annetje Ottow (chairperson of the Executive Board of Leiden University), Joost Scholten (a representative of the business community), Kim Smit (Executive Board LUMC) and Joeri van den Steenhoven (College of Leiden University College Board).

What is the goal of Leiden2022?

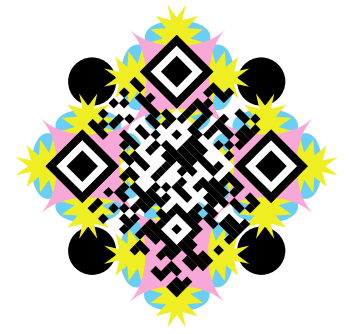
Our motto is simple: 365 days of curiosity. The mission of Leiden2022 is to create an accessible platform in which everyone who wants to share science, knowledge, art, and skills can participate. We make connections between science and society in an open, playful, and sincere way.

How are you going to achieve this?

Whether they are scientists or not, we start with the curiosity of people. We don't distinguish between target groups, instead, we appeal to people based on their interests. An example of this is the co-creation project, 'Knowledge Through the Neighbourhoods.' In the lead-up to 2022, hundreds of people have submitted subjects for our daily calendar, which will consist of 365 accessible, curious topics. Now, we're inviting people to become a 'day owner', meaning they will organise an activity on a given day. The subjects of the day vary from atoms to zygotes; there is something there for everyone! In doing this, we build new bridges between science and society every day.

And what will this lead to?

The program will range from small, local activities to large, prestigious events with an international appeal. Within this 365-day program, the entire knowledge spectrum will be covered, from fundamental science to citizen science. What does this actually boil down to? Firstly, showcasing all activities related to science, knowledge, art, and skills that will take place in Leiden in 2022 together. Secondly, with our own three productions: the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF), the EU Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS), and the co-creation project, 'Knowledge Through the Neighbourhoods.'



For whom is Leiden European City of Science for?

Science is relevant for everyone. We want to make a difference by creating meaningful encounters between scientists and people who don't usually think they come into direct contact with science. We go for the quality of the *real* encounter because we truly believe it is the most effective way. We'll do this by engaging with people about their common interests. If you're into stargazing, great! And we don't care if you're a winner of a Nobel Prize or a curious 10-year-old girl. Whoever you are, you are welcome!

In addition, Leiden European City of Science is a platform through which we can celebrate science at a European level — where the quality of science itself is paramount. In 2022, top scientists from all over the world will come to Leiden to examine the big questions of our time, such as climate change, migration, health, artificial intelligence, and a sustainable future.

What is the ESOF Conference?

In 2022, Leiden will host the ESOF conference. The EuroScience Open Forum is the largest multidisciplinary scientific conference in Europe. Working in close collaboration with EuroScience in Strasbourg, the tenth edition will take place between July 13 and 16, 2022, in Leiden.

The structure of the conference is led by two Champions specially appointed by Leiden University: professors Corinne Hofman (Caribbean Archaeology) and Ferry Breedveld (Rheumatology). They are working with the help of a Science Council, consisting of Ewine van Dishoeck (Mathematics and Natural Sciences), Pieter ter Keurs (Archaeology), Frits Koning (Immunology, LUMC), Rick Lawson (Law), Hannah Swaab (Social Sciences), Kutsal Yesilkagit (Governance and Global Affairs), Rob Zwijnenberg (Humanities), Wim van den Doel (Leiden-Delft-Erasmus), Noel de Miranda (Pathology, LUMC), Nicole de Voogd (Marine Biology, Naturalis) and Suzan van der Pas (Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Applied Sciences Leiden).

What is ESOF about this year?

This year's theme is 'Crossing Borders, Engaged Science, Resilient Societies.' Through this theme, we will dive into scientific topics such as:

- **A sustainable environment** (e.g. climate change, human rights, sustainable ways of living, green energy, citizen science, future mobility, future cities, economy).
- **Cultural identities and societal transformation** (e.g. migration, fortress Europe, missions of museums and collections, contested heritage, art, protest movements).
- **Space for science** (e.g. search for earth, construction in space and on the moon, finding extraterrestrial life, dark matter research, quantum computing).



- **Healthy societies** (e.g. chronic diseases, digital tools, increasing costs, interplay between industrial research and academic research, global inequalities, data protection, artificial intelligence).
- **Freedom and responsibility of science** (e.g. integrity in scientific advice, dialogue between science and policy, funding in freedom of science, responsible research and innovation, science diplomacy, conflict of interests).
- **Science and Business: the way forward with action-based entrepreneurship education** (e.g. entrepreneurial education, research performed in academia and industry, value-driven innovation, innovation within the humanities).
- **Sustainable Academic Careers.** (e.g. new career paths, research quality vs quantity, the role of team science).

Join the dialogue and cross borders here: www.esof.eu

EUCYS

The year 2022 has been declared the European Year of Youth by the European Commission. That's why it's extra great that Leiden2022 has also succeeded in bringing the 33rd edition of the EU Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS) to Leiden. In this way, we can boost the desire of younger generations to get involved in European City of Science 2022. EUCYS was founded by Philips to promote collaboration and exchanges between young scientists. Since its adoption by the European Commission in 1989, EUCYS has become the most important European platform for student science.

On behalf of the European Commission, Leiden2022 will both renew and expand on the existing EUCYS format. For example, during Leiden's edition of the EUCYS, we will not only focus on the traditional themes of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), but we will also include the theme 'Arts'. This makes the EUCYS structure even broader than before!

Knowledge Through the Neighbourhoods

With the co-creation project *Kennis door de Wijken* or "Knowledge Through the Neighbourhoods", we build bridges between science and local society. In the 101 neighbourhoods of Leiden, Zoeterwoude, Voorschoten, Oegstgeest, and Leiderdorp, daily accessible, bottom-up activities are organised around a topic that stimulates curiosity.

With Knowledge Through the Neighbourhoods, we gather and share science, knowledge, art, and expertise right through to the capillaries of Leiden and the region. The daily activities are organised by neighbourhood associations, residents, education providers or representatives of social organisations. There are two basic rules for scientists who participate: get out of your institute and don't just lecture! In this way, we challenge everyone to share knowledge in a playful way. From parking lots to shopping centres and swimming pools, our organised



activities can be found everywhere. Keep an eye on our website to see which topic is holding centre stage and what there is to do!

What kind of campaign does Leiden2022 have?

In collaboration with GH+O and Est Digital, a brand new house style and website has been developed especially for Leiden European City of Science. Our campaign is certainly drawing eyes because everything revolves around the QR code as a virtual peephole. Each activity has been given its own unique QR code, which — like Alice in Wonderland — will take you down that rabbit hole and land you on the relevant page on our website. The QR codes are packaged in colourful moulds, creating seas of flowers or gorgeous kaleidoscopes. So scan the QR code with your mobile and let yourself be carried away... we are counting on meeting you sometime in 2022!

Make use of our tear-off calendar

If physicality is more your thing, you can find all daily topics in our tear-off paper calendar: 365 different themes with 365 unique QR codes. Browse through the thick calendar and scan for your interests, or be surprised by the wide variety of subjects and discover what is hidden behind QR codes. The tear-off calendar is sustainably produced and distributed free of charge throughout Leiden and the region as part of Knowledge Through the Neighbourhoods.

Just ask! #DurfTeVragen (#DareToAsk)

It's inevitable that Leiden2022 will make you think more about the world in which you live. In fact, you'll probably have questions immediately. That's why we will open Postbus71, starting January 1st 2022: the place where you can ask all kinds of questions in the field of science and knowledge. Send your question, and you'll receive an answer from the relevant experts. How? Write down your question and send it to PO Box 71 in Leiden. Have you seen one of our Leiden2022 tuk-tuks or a special Postbus71 mailbox somewhere in your area? You can also post your question there. Just don't forget to include your name and address so we can actually reply to you! You can, of course, always send your question online. Simply go to postbus71.nl or check #DurfTeVragen. We will share the best questions (anonymously) on the radio and via our socials.

But if something's local, what's so European about the year?

Good question! What makes Leiden2022 relevant to Europe are the 'European Hotzones.' These are special internationally-oriented periods of the year with a specific, central theme, such as Life Sciences and Health, Open



Science, Space, and Young Talent. For example, in July, around the time of the ESOF conference, the Science in the City Festival is part of these European Hotzones. Just as the special ArtScienceWeek around EUCYS in September. Curious about what these entail? Check out our website for more information!

Leiden European City of Science is a unique opportunity to present European science on an international stage and to further strengthen Leiden's position amongst a network of European Cities of Knowledge. The organisation regularly consults with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission in Brussels. The Commission sees Leiden2022 as 'a role model for creating sustainable interactions between science and citizens.' Watching with deep curiosity, the Commission is excited to see what Leiden will achieve in 2022 as a European City of Science at a local, national, and international level.