



25 March 2022: At the starting line the Citizen Science Harnesstom experiment

Expiring the 25 March registration deadline, the Citizen Science Harnesstom experiment is on the road with more than 500 European citizens participating in Bulgaria, Italy, and Spain. Registered citizens are receiving a “kit” containing seeds of five varieties selected for their promising agronomic and quality traits, together with a cultivation tutorial and a form to score traits and report preferences. In line with the principles of Citizen Science, citizens/consumers (but also farmers and growers) will be involved in scientific activities with the dual objective to disseminate scientific principles and procedures and to increase the consciousness of the consumers towards food production and quality.

The total varietal panel distributed to citizens lists 25 genotypes selected for outstanding performance among thousands of tomatoes characterized in previous EU-funded projects. The same varieties are in parallel proposed for cultivation to professional farmers for an evaluation of their agronomic and commercial potential. Thus, Citizen Science will meet Participative Breeding.

The Citizen Science task belongs to WP8 of the HARNESSTOM project; the partners directly involved are MVCRI in Bulgaria, UNITUS and UNINA in Italy and UPV and FMA in Spain.

