

# EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT:

## ! BRINGING SCIENCE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

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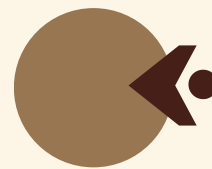


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## BACKGROUND

- The European Researchers' Night is a powerful pan-European initiative committed to fostering public engagement with research.
- We recognize that scientific progress has left many rural communities feeling excluded from the science&innovation, which is particularly evident in Armamar and Resende.
- To address this issue, we have **developed a Rural Researchers' Night (RERN)** that challenges the traditional urban-centric paradigm.



Our **mission** was clear:  
**to bring science to traditionally unconventional and underprivileged territories, democratizing its access.**

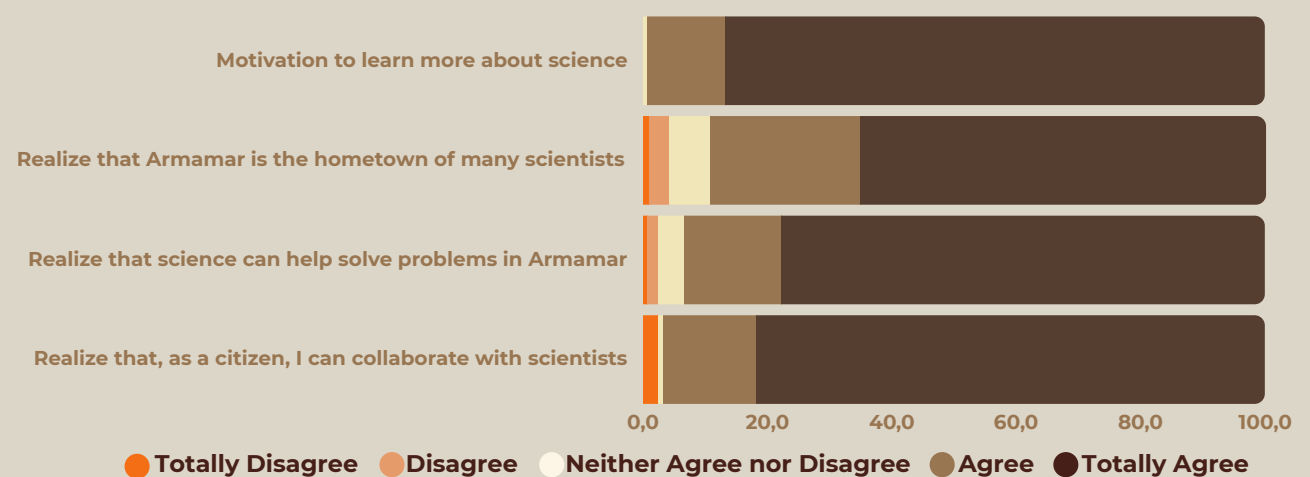
## STUDY KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

- First evidence of the impact of ERN in rural areas of Portugal, specifically in Armamar and Resende.
- A clear guide for future similar initiatives and emphasize the pivotal role of RERN in driving community-led transformative changes.
- An immense potential of RERN as a potent tool for promoting science communication and public engagement with science in an equitable manner.
- Social impact towards a more inclusive and collaborative future.

## RESULTS

### RERN :

- Successfully drew in over **250 participants** from diverse age groups (7 to 70 years old).
- Led by 33 researchers** (mostly native to these communities), which were **affiliated with 12 different institutions**.
- Science stations (attended by 60.6% of the researchers), flash talks (21.2%) and science speed-dating session (18.2%).



**Figure 1.** The impact of the Armamar European Researchers' Night initiative: responses from participants.



## FUTURE WORK

### 1. Geographical Expansion

- Develop a proactive approach to cover nearby underserved regions (e.g. creation of a communication strategy and strategic partnerships).
- Build a community of local scientists from rural contexts.
- Complement on-site events with online platforms.

### 2. Sustainability and Continuity

- Assess and establish partnerships with local organizations, institutions and municipalities.
- Engaging the community.
- Providing opportunities for researchers to contribute to local projects or educational initiatives.

### 3. Long-Term Impact

- Evaluate and implement tailored approaches to address the unique challenges and opportunities of each rural setting.
- Evaluate the broader socioeconomic impact (e.g. contribution to local economic development, empowerment of communities and enhancement of educational opportunities).