THREE PRIZES FOR ONE GOAL

The pioneering research project GRECO aims – among others – to involve citizens in photovoltaic research. Through a virtual Call for Participation, GRECO researchers gathered fascinating input from people all around the globe. The goal was to develop ideas to foster the acceptance of solar energy in society. Now, two winning teams and one winner have been nominated in an online Award Ceremony.

Gema Revuelta and Luisa Barbosa Gomez from the Studies Centre on Science, Communication and Society of the **University Pompeu Fabra,** hosted the event.

> ***"We would like to thank our participants for their enormous effort and contribution. It has been very inspiring to read the proposals with their fascinating ideas",*** says Gema Revuelta, director of the Studies Centre.

The GRECO Keynote speaker for the online Award Ceremony was Martin Brocklehurst. He is part of the GRECO Social Advisory Board and leading member of the **European Citizen Science Association**. In his talk, he focused on the importance and the impact of Citizen Scientists.

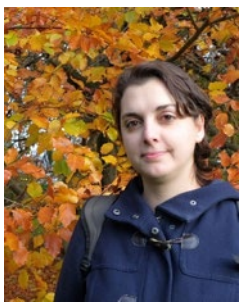
Awards were given for three categories: Team-building, creativity and the major prize for the overall best idea.

1. TEAM-BUILDING CAPACITY: **"ALOHA SMART CITY"** BY EDUARDO GARCIA, GUILLERMO CANDEL AND SERGIO VERA.

These young Spanish students combine industrial design, mechanical engineering, robotics and electronics. They have already developed a prototype of a solar table that works both as charging and weather station.

2. CREATIVITY: **SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SECOND SPRING** BY CAMILA BORGES AND DANIEL LYRA RODRIGUES.

The Brazilian students are aiming at mixing circular and blue economies to give a new lease of life to old solar panels. Thus, these will be increasingly cheaper. Poorer communities will be able to afford solar energy and also benefit from a sustainable energy supply.



3. MAJOR PRIZE: **OPEN DATABASE OF ROOFTOP SOLAR PV INSTALLATIONS** BY MARTA VICTORIA PEREZ FROM AARHUS UNIVERSITY IN DENMARK.

Marta proposes to create a database with solar rooftop PV installations for every country. Citizens will be able to upload the information from the PV installation on the rooftop of their house, the university that they attend, or the hospital where they work. The database will have an open license from the beginning. It could be used by society to monitor which percentage of installed PV capacity is owned by citizens and also by researchers to investigate future energy systems with high renewable penetration.

Fascinating idea – and GRECO researchers will actually implement it. Marta is very excited about it:

> ***"I feel very happy about the award. The implementation of the database would be really good to investigate important research questions regarding future low-carbon energy systems. On top of that, I hope that citizen participation makes them more aware of the challenges of the energy transition and how they can become a part of it. In summary, to know that the proposed idea is going to become a reality is super exciting."***

And there is another important aspect:
Marta as a female scientist increases gender equality in research. And this is one of the big issues of current EU-policy and of GRECO: promoting women in science.

At the end of the online Award Ceremony, Luisa Barbosa Gomez emphasized:

> ***"Please bear in mind that the process doesn´t stop here. In the upcoming semester, GRECO researchers will closely cooperate with Marta to apply her idea."***

GRECO researchers plan on having everything set by the end of this year and launching it early in 2020. Along this process, GRECO calls on all those interested to strive towards one goal: foster the mainstreaming of solar power.

Context:

GRECO is an international research project funded by the European Union. One goal of the project is to involve citizens in the research, development and innovation process in solar energy. More about GRECO: **www.greco-project.eu**

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