Activating collaboration between researchers and society: the VERA platform

Caroline Delmazo, OPERAS
Judith Schulte, OPERAS and Max Weber Foundation

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Presentation summary:

- ✓ VERA in a nutshell
- ✓ Context 1: COESO project
- ✓ Context 2: OPERAS research infrastructure
- ✓ What VERA is and what VERA is NOT
- ✓ Main features
- ✓ VERA and libraries: an important match

A service for participatory research with the SSH

Virtual Ecosystem for Research Activation

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- **Discover** partners
- **Manage** projects
- **Find** funding
- **Get** visibility

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(While I am talking, feel free to access and explore VERA)

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Context 1

The (co)design within the COESO project

coeso
connecting research and society

Overcoming obstacles that hinder the development of Citizen Science in the SSH

- **Supporting 10 Citizen Science pilots** representing a variety of disciplines, societal challenges and types of engagement with citizens.
- **Collaborating with research funding organizations** to enhance financial support to Citizen Science.
- **Increasing SSH citizen science visibility** by experimenting with blogging and other science communication practices.
- **Developing VERA (Virtual Ecosystem for Research Activation) platform** for the public to manage SSH citizen science projects, find partners, collaborate and find funding: vera.operas-eu.org

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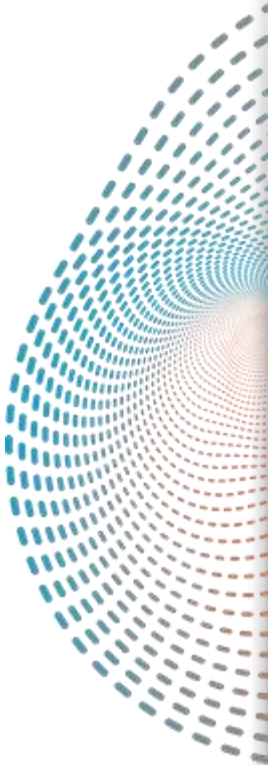
(part of the) VERA's design story

Active engaged conversations and/or joint activities with:

- the **European citizen science community**, that is a treasure in terms of projects, networking and capacity building opportunities
- the **science shops/Living knowledge** networks
- **libraries networks** willing to support citizen science
- **SSH research infrastructures**, building on and nurturing our connection with them

Bringing:

- the voice of participatory research in the social sciences and the humanities, that still is underestimated.



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Context 2

VERA as part of the OPERAS services catalogue

OPERAS

operas-eu.org

OPERAS is a dynamic and community-driven **Research Infrastructure** that enhances **open scholarly communication** in the **social sciences and humanities (SSH)** across Europe.

It provides services that help **improve how researchers share knowledge**, making Open Science accessible and impactful.

By addressing the fragmented landscape and unique challenges of SSH disciplines, **OPERAS empowers scholars to innovate and collaborate.**

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OPERAS Service Catalogue

Discovery Services

GoTriple

Exploring Social Sciences and Humanities research in multiple languages

Pathfinder

Finding editorial services for academic publishing

Quality Assurance Services

PRISM

Increasing transparency about peer review for monographs

Research for Society Services

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Activating participatory research in Citizen Science

hypotheses

Fostering research dialogues and impact through academic blogging

Analytics Services

Metrics

Measuring usage and impact of Open Access content

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What VERA is	What VERA is NOT
A platform to help people interested in Participatory Research in the **SOCIAL SCIENCES and HUMANITIES (SSH)**	**A platform for STEM-only projects**
A platform where SSH researchers and other societal actors can **find each other**, **manage their projects**, **discover funding opportunities** and **get more visibility to their projects**	**A platform for crowdsourcing**

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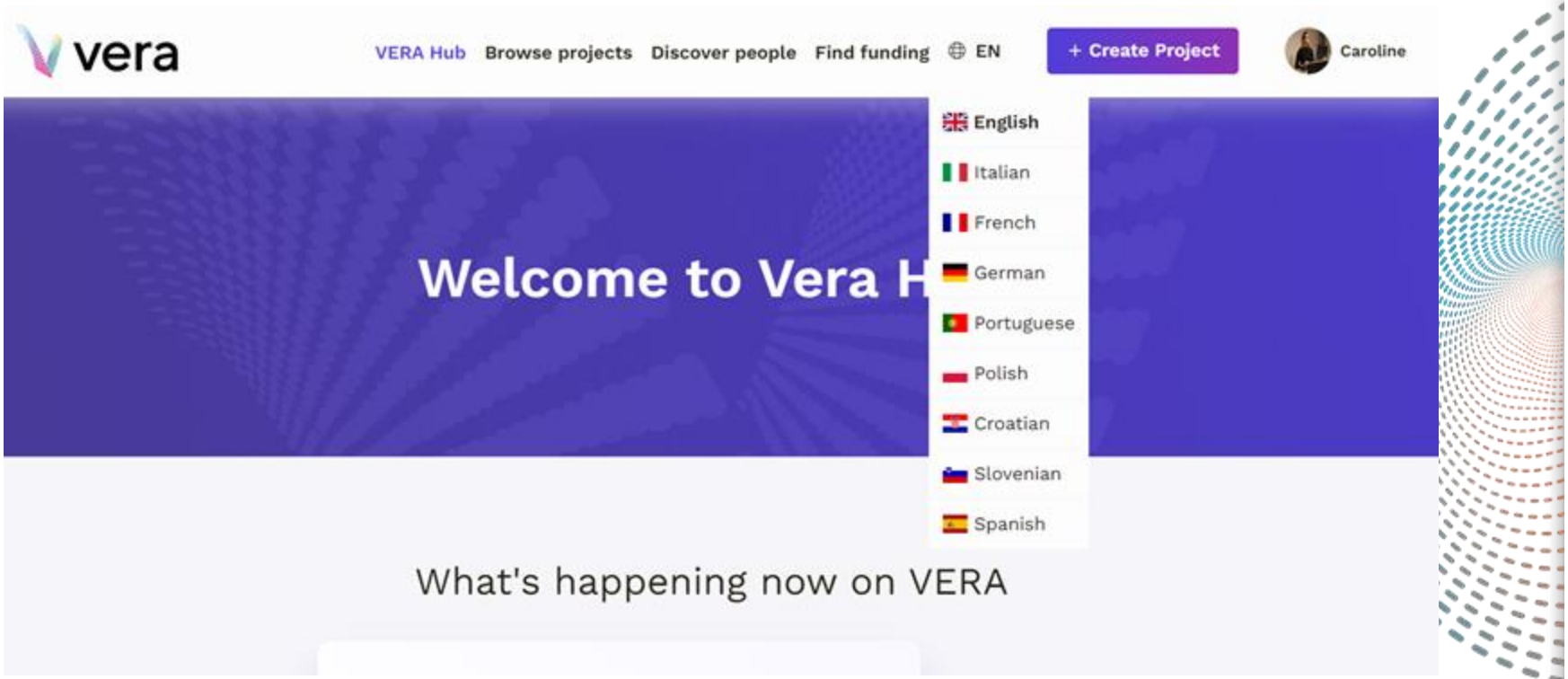
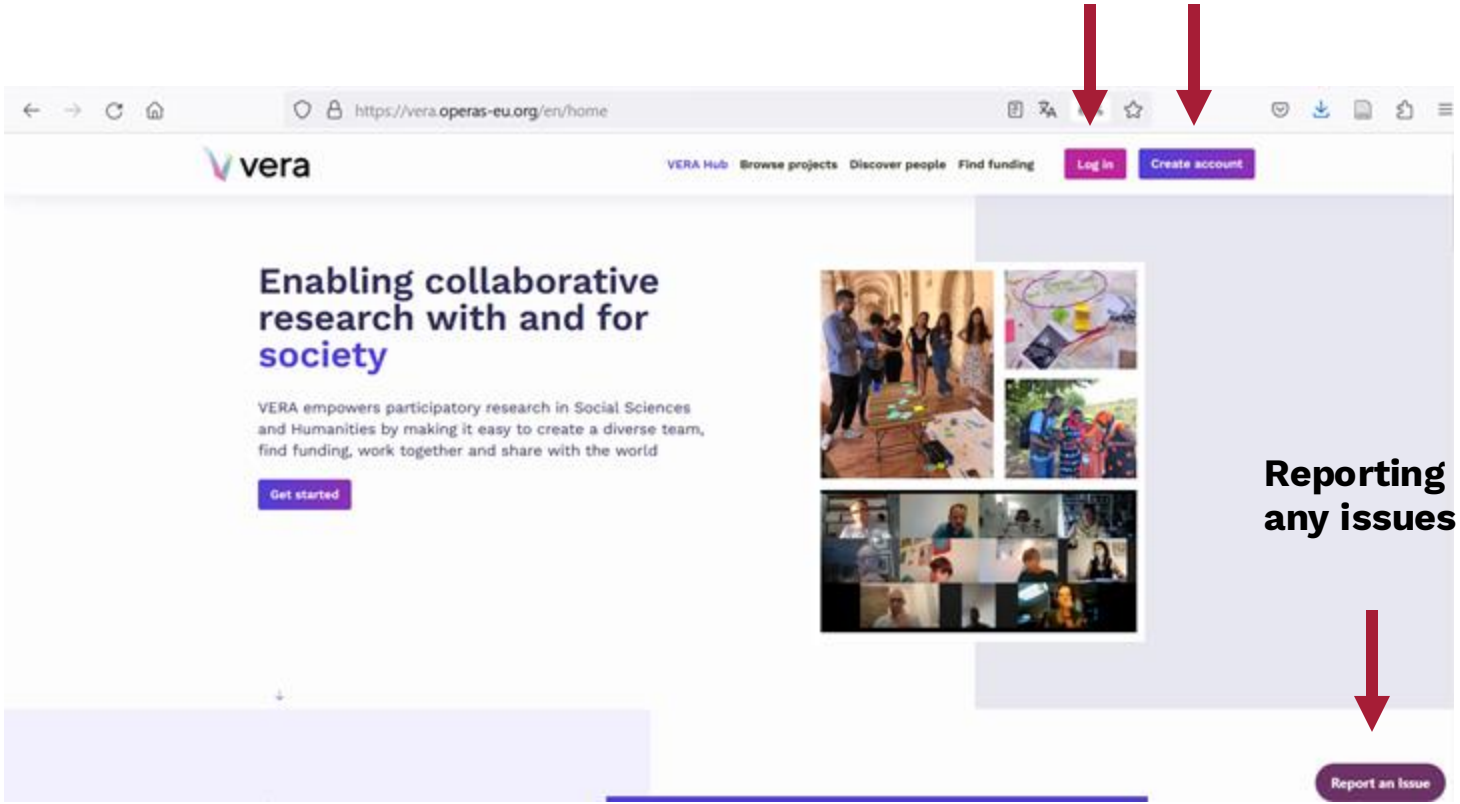
MAIN FEATURES

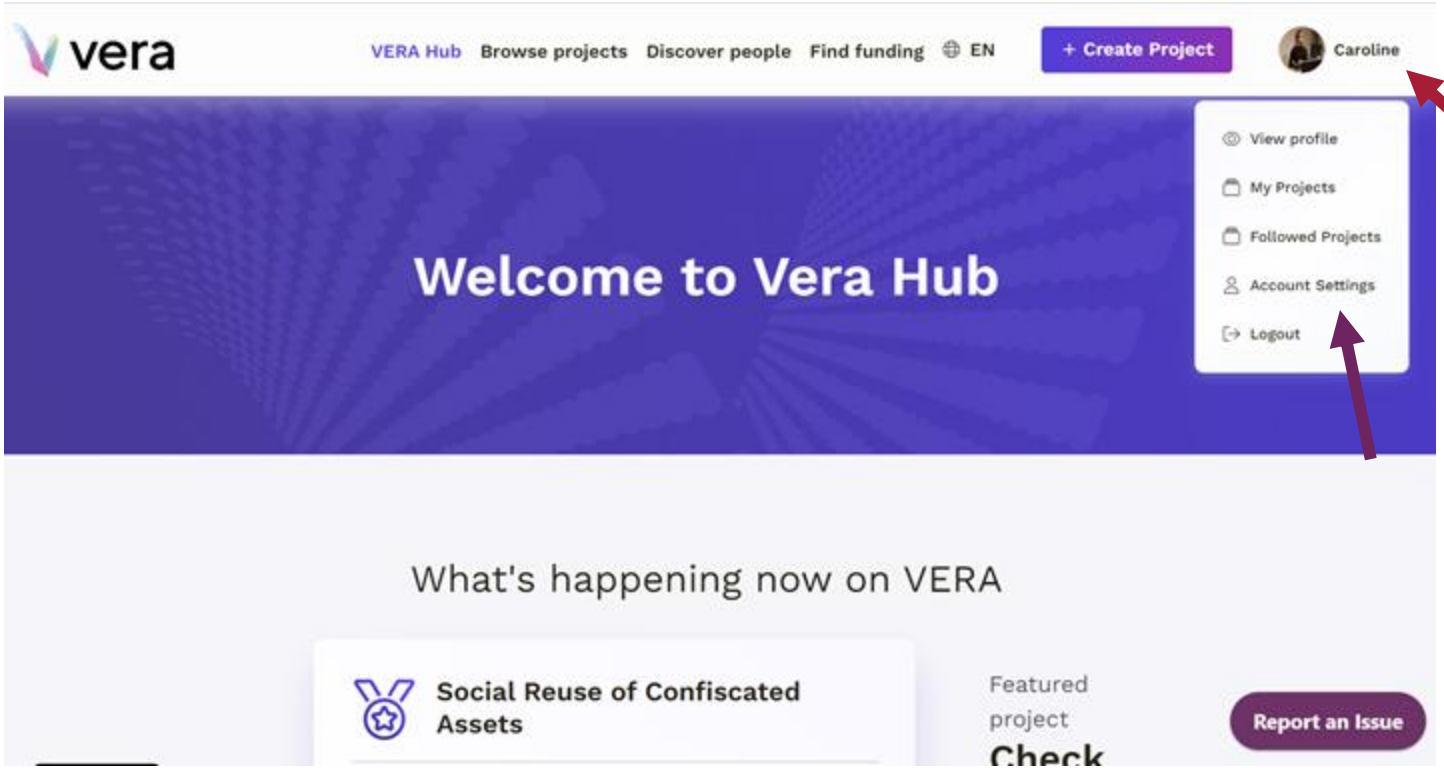
Multilingualism matters!



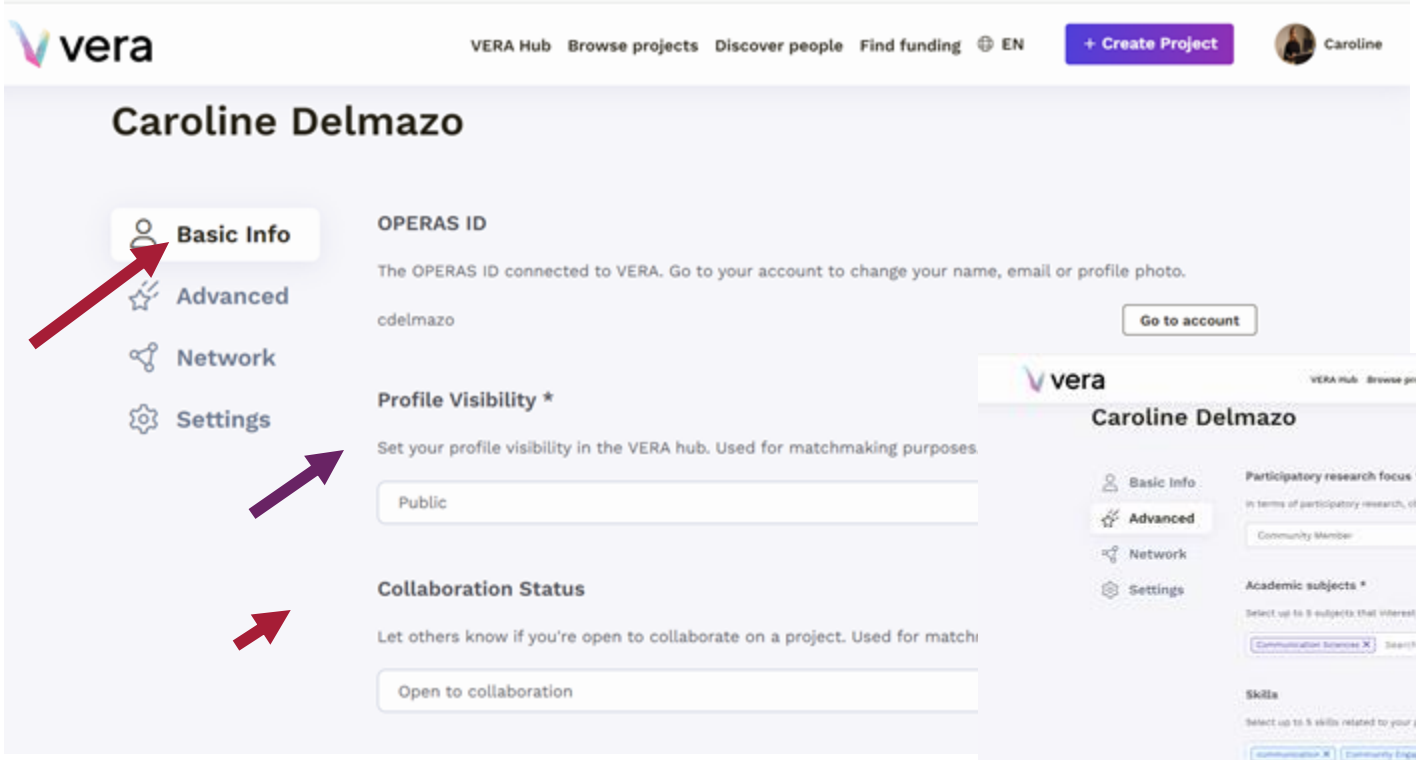
Log-in/Create account



Profile


vera
VERA Hub
Browse projects
Discover people
Find funding
EN
+ Create Project
Caroline
View profile
My Projects
Followed Projects
Account Settings
Logout
Welcome to Vera Hub
What's happening now on VERA
Social Reuse of Confiscated Assets
Featured project
Check
Report an Issue

Profile


vera
VERA Hub
Browse projects
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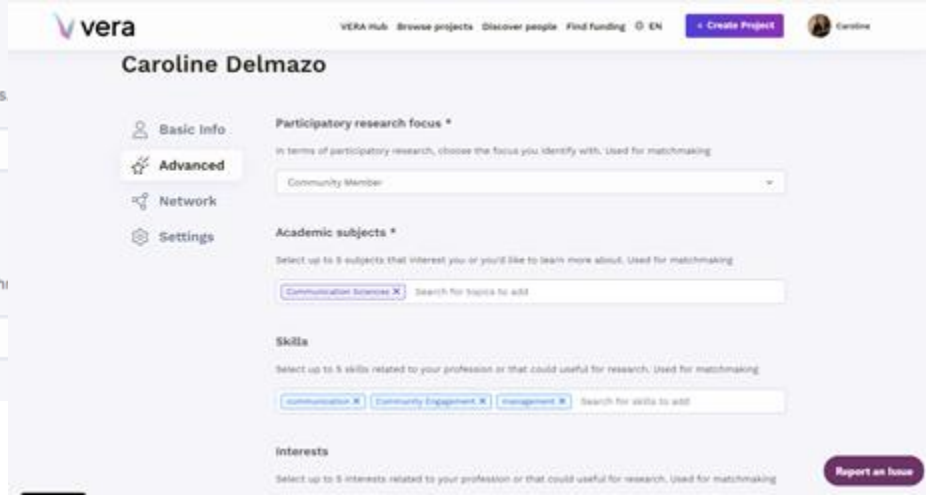
EN
+ Create Project
Caroline
Caroline Delmazo
Basic Info
Advanced
Network
Settings
OPERAS ID
The OPERAS ID connected to VERA. Go to your account to change your name, email or profile photo.
cdelmazo
Go to account
Profile Visibility *
Set your profile visibility in the VERA hub. Used for matchmaking purposes
Public
Collaboration Status
Let others know if you're open to collaborate on a project. Used for matchi
Open to collaboration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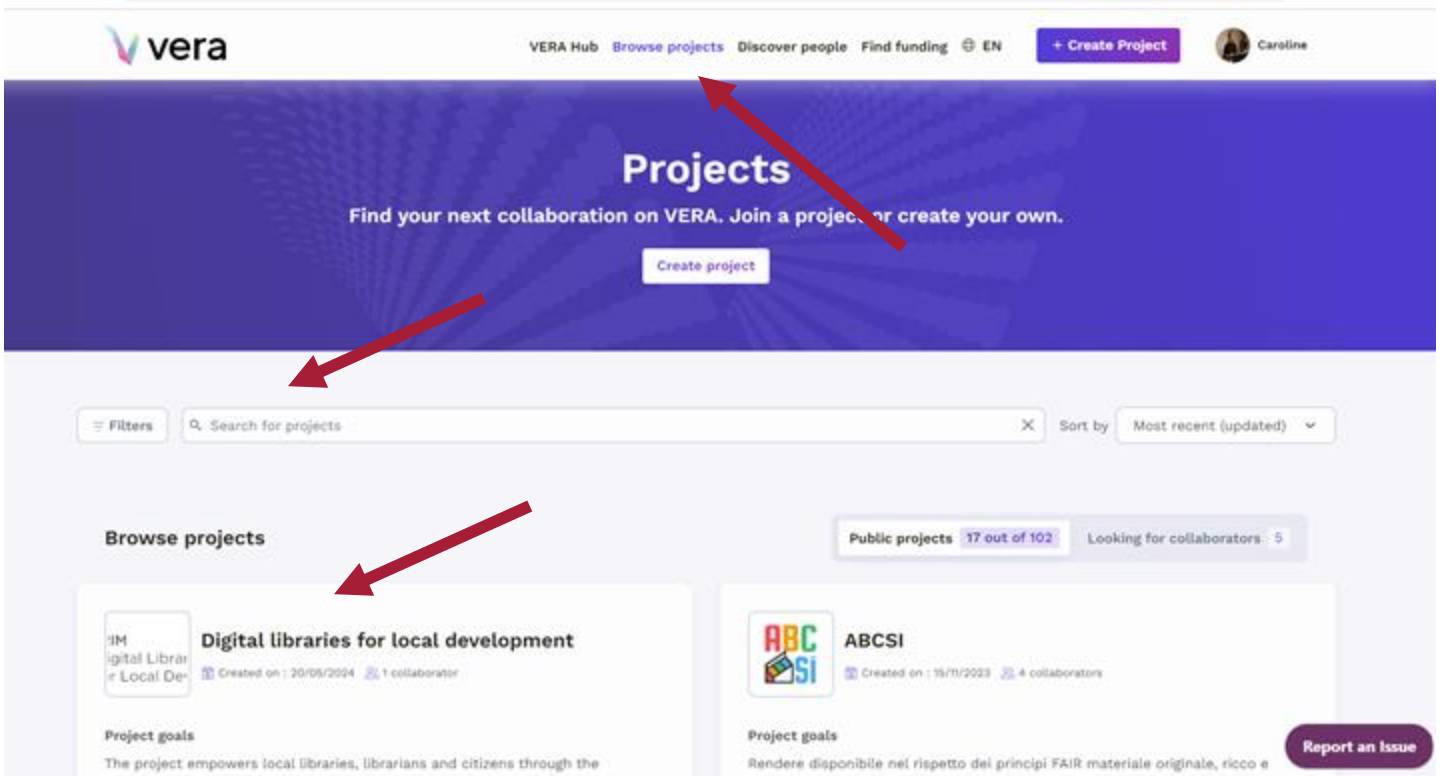
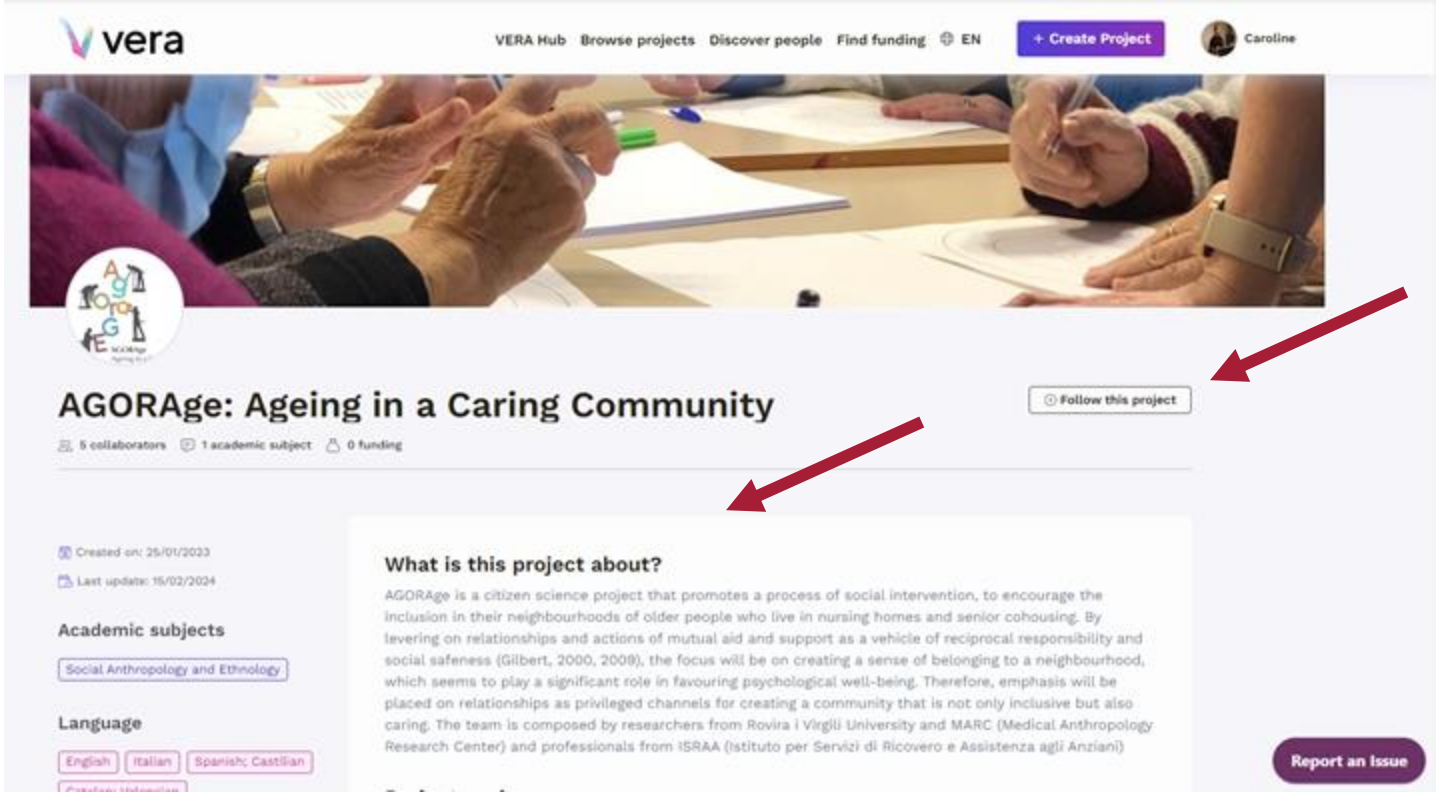
Caroline Delmazo
Basic Info
Advanced
Network
Settings
Participatory research focus *
Academic subjects *
Skills
Interests

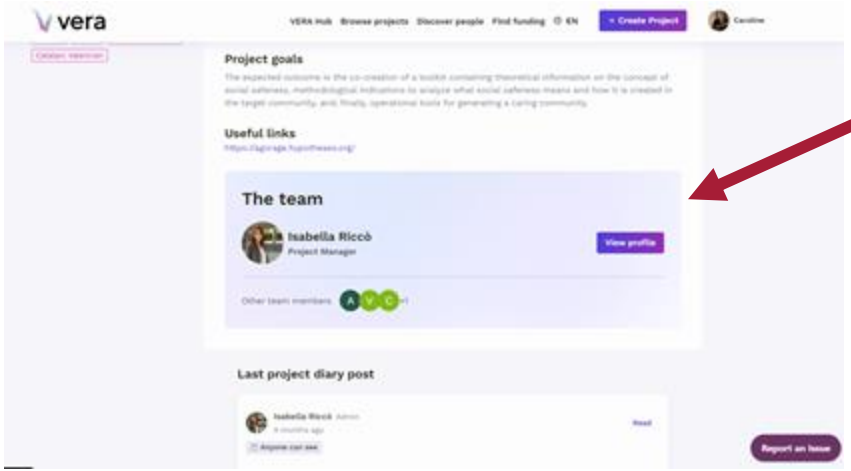
Browse projects

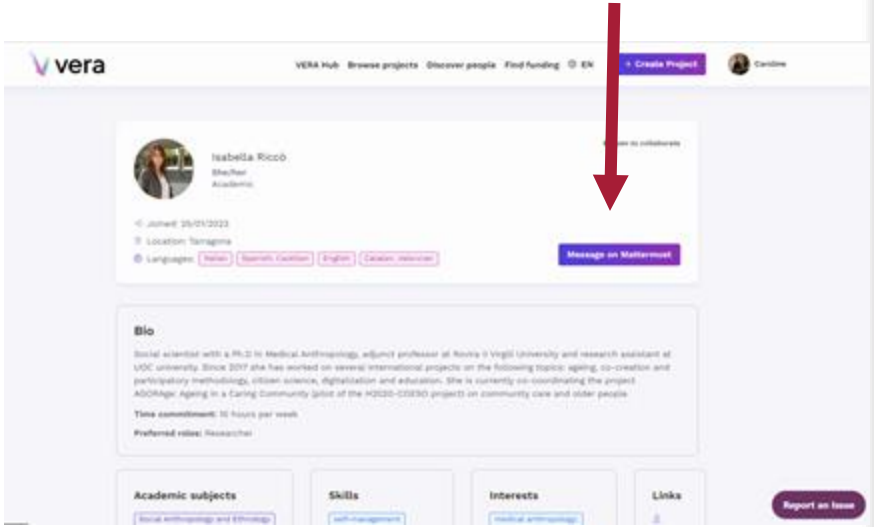


Project’s page



Project’s page & team





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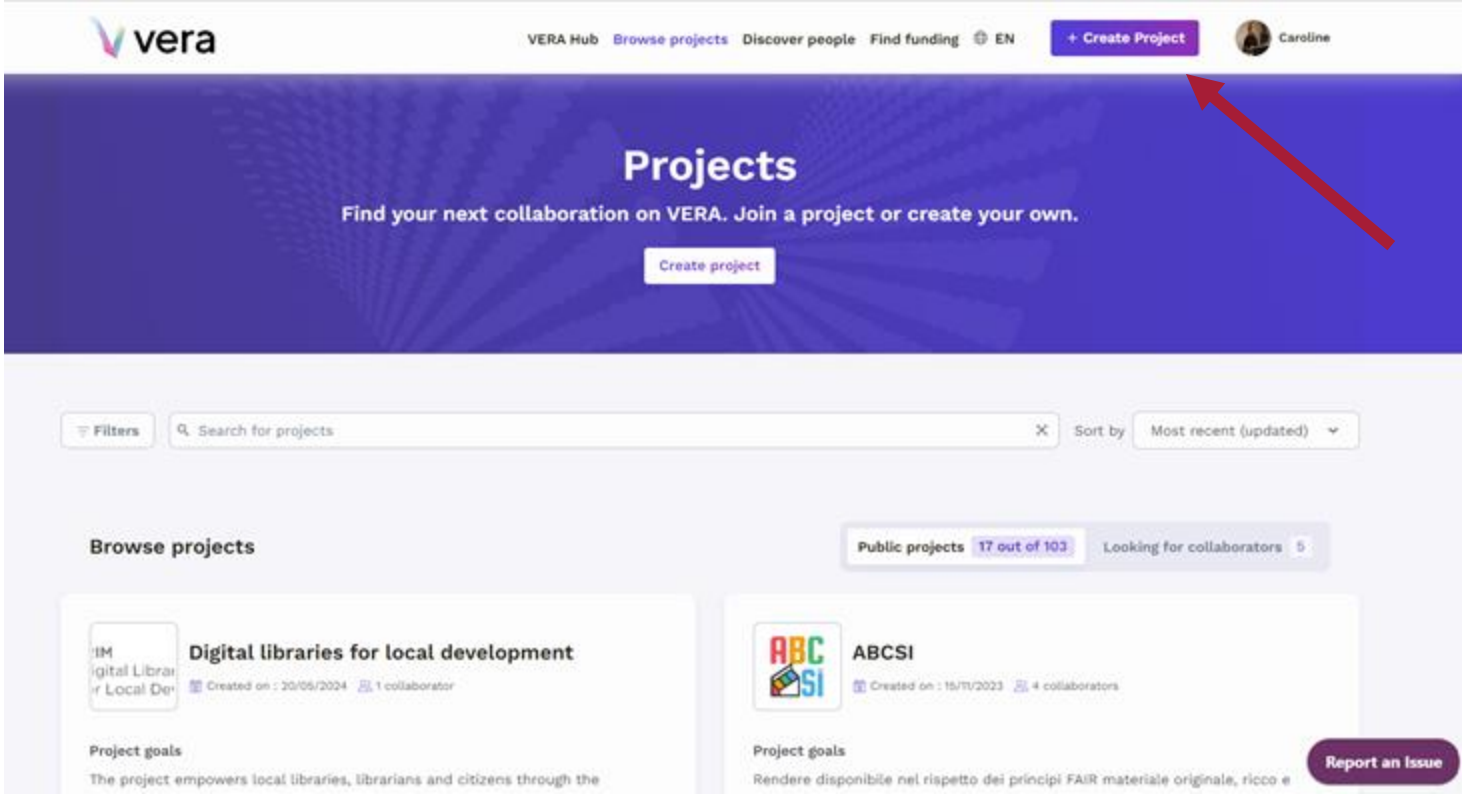

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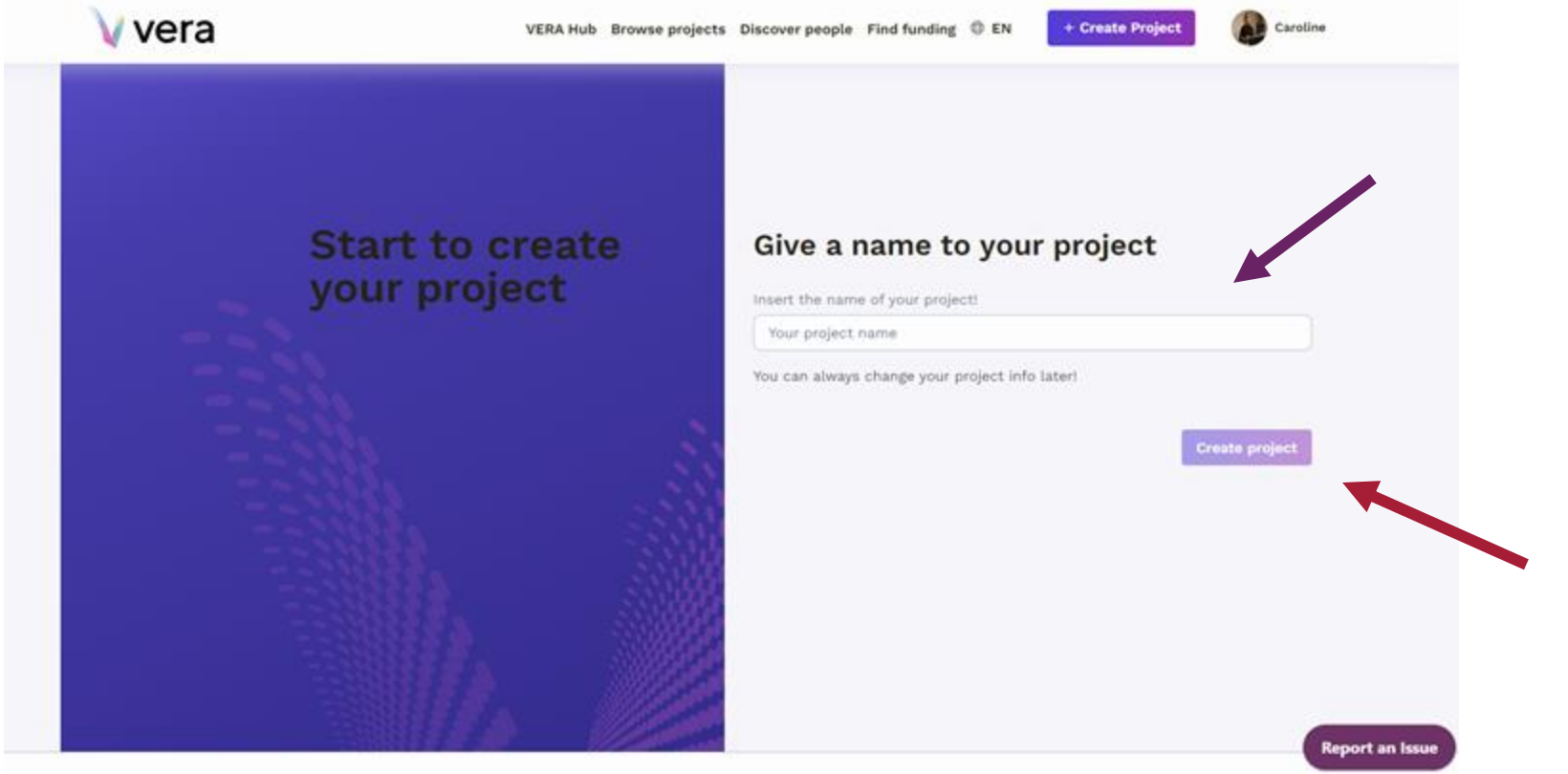

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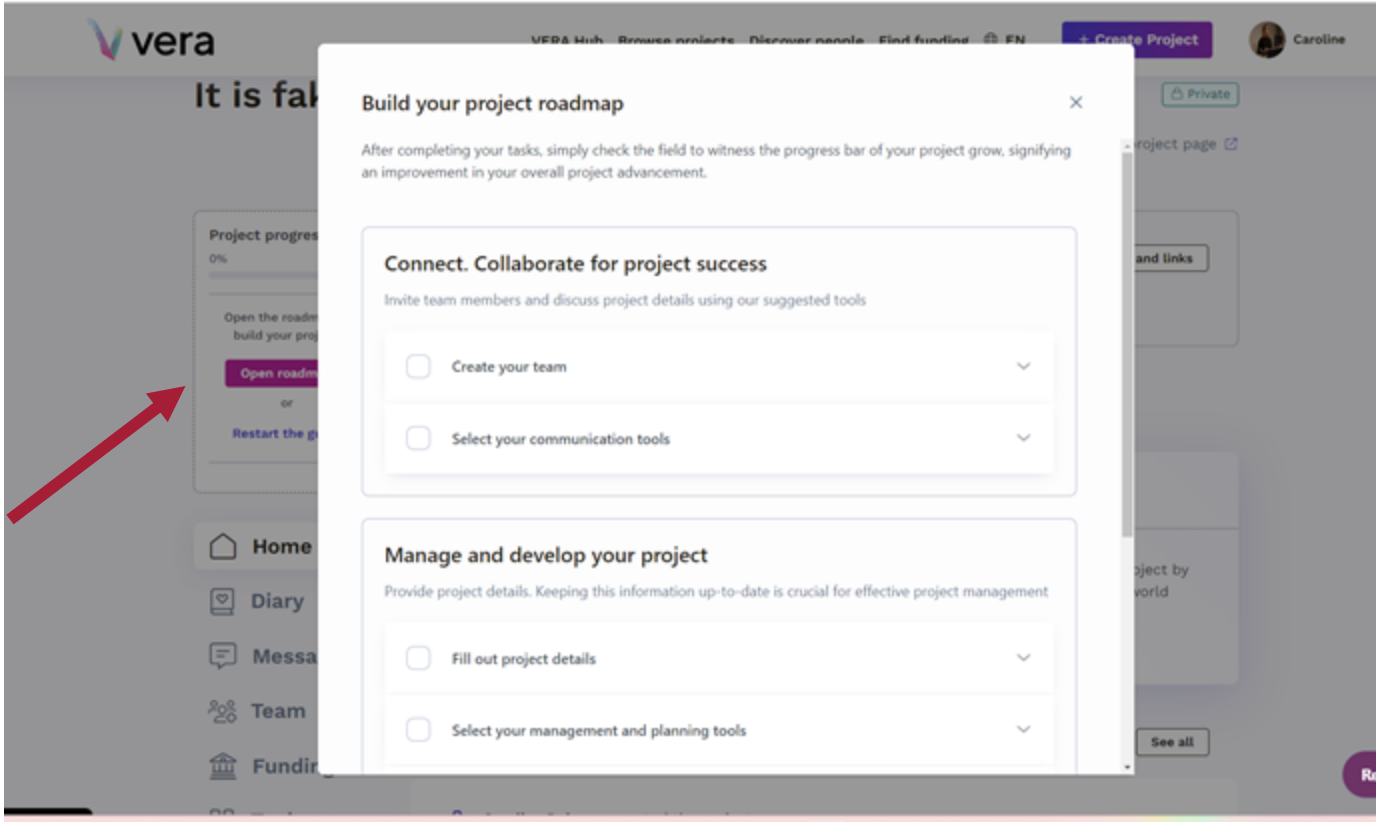

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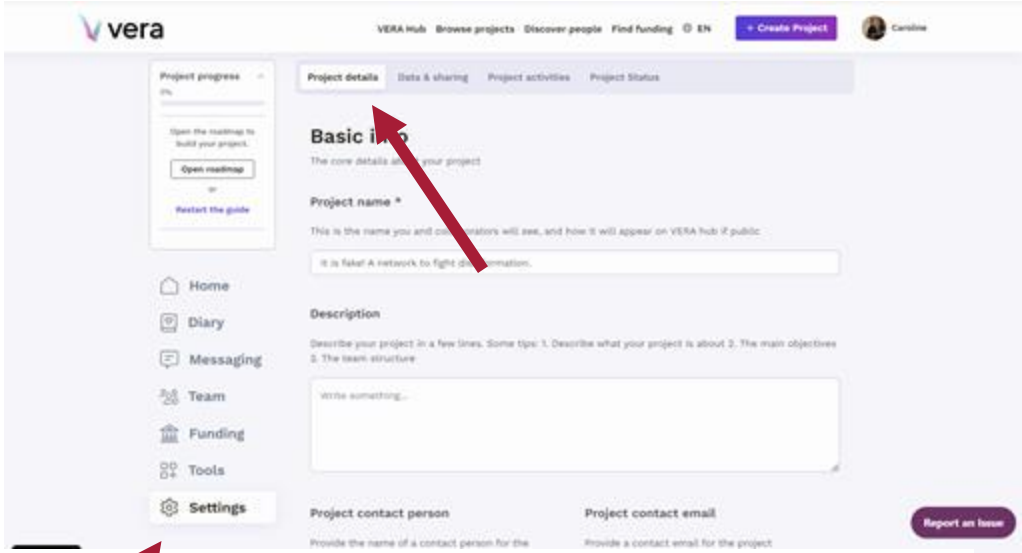
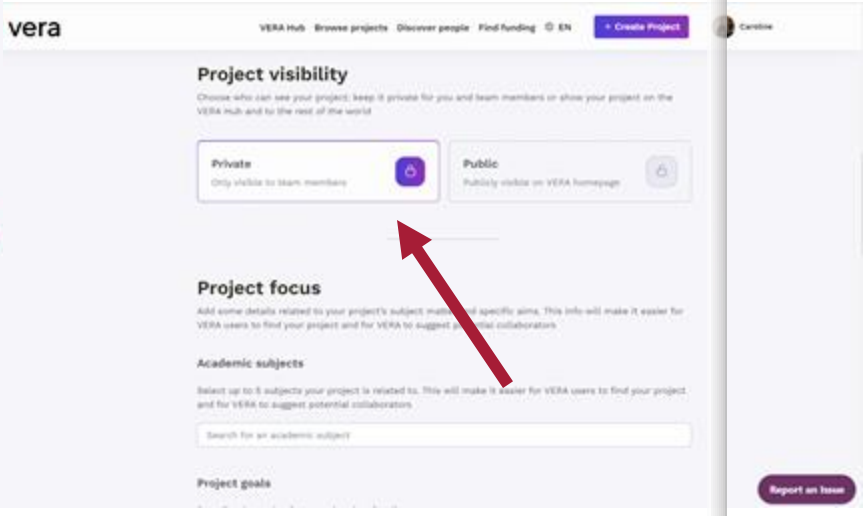
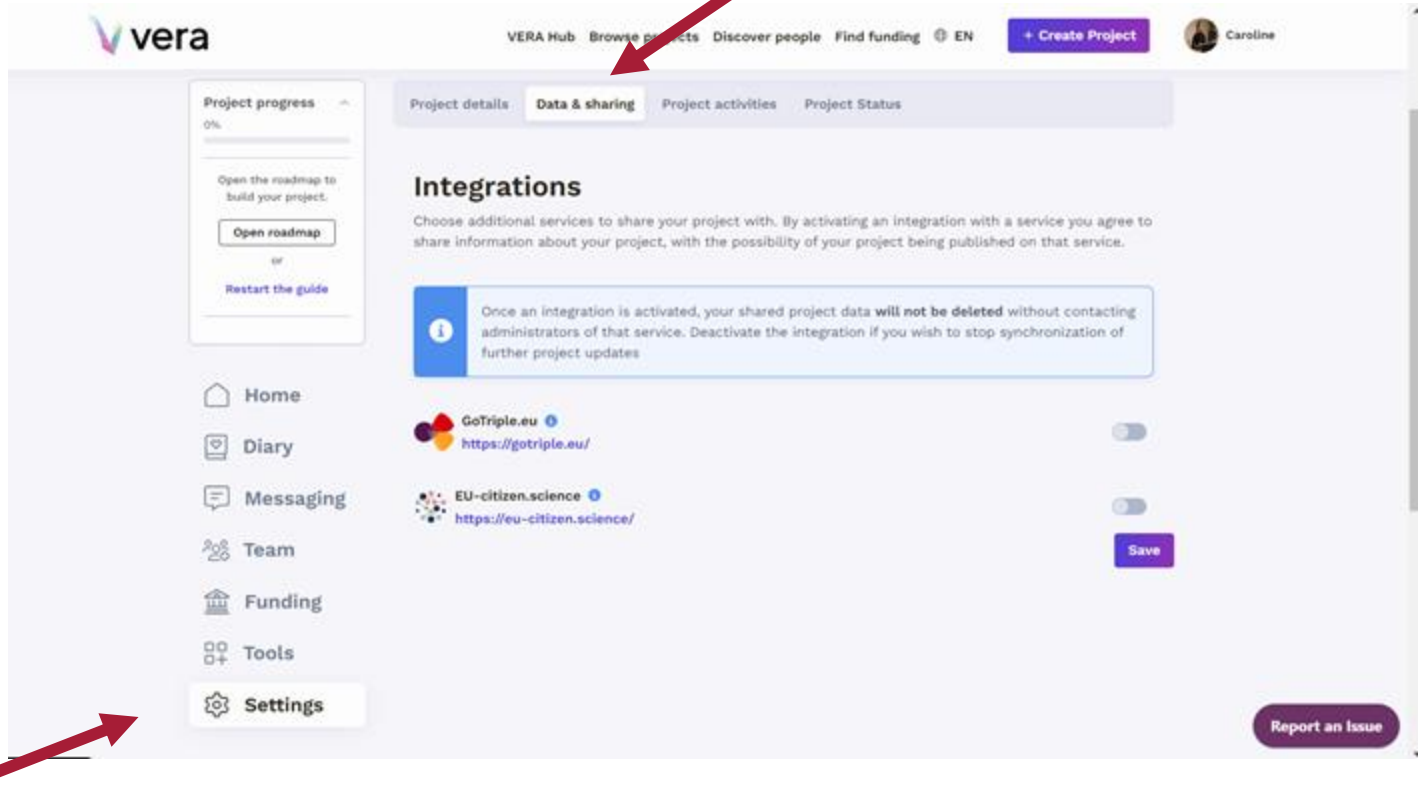




Keep scrolling down

Create a project, get visibility



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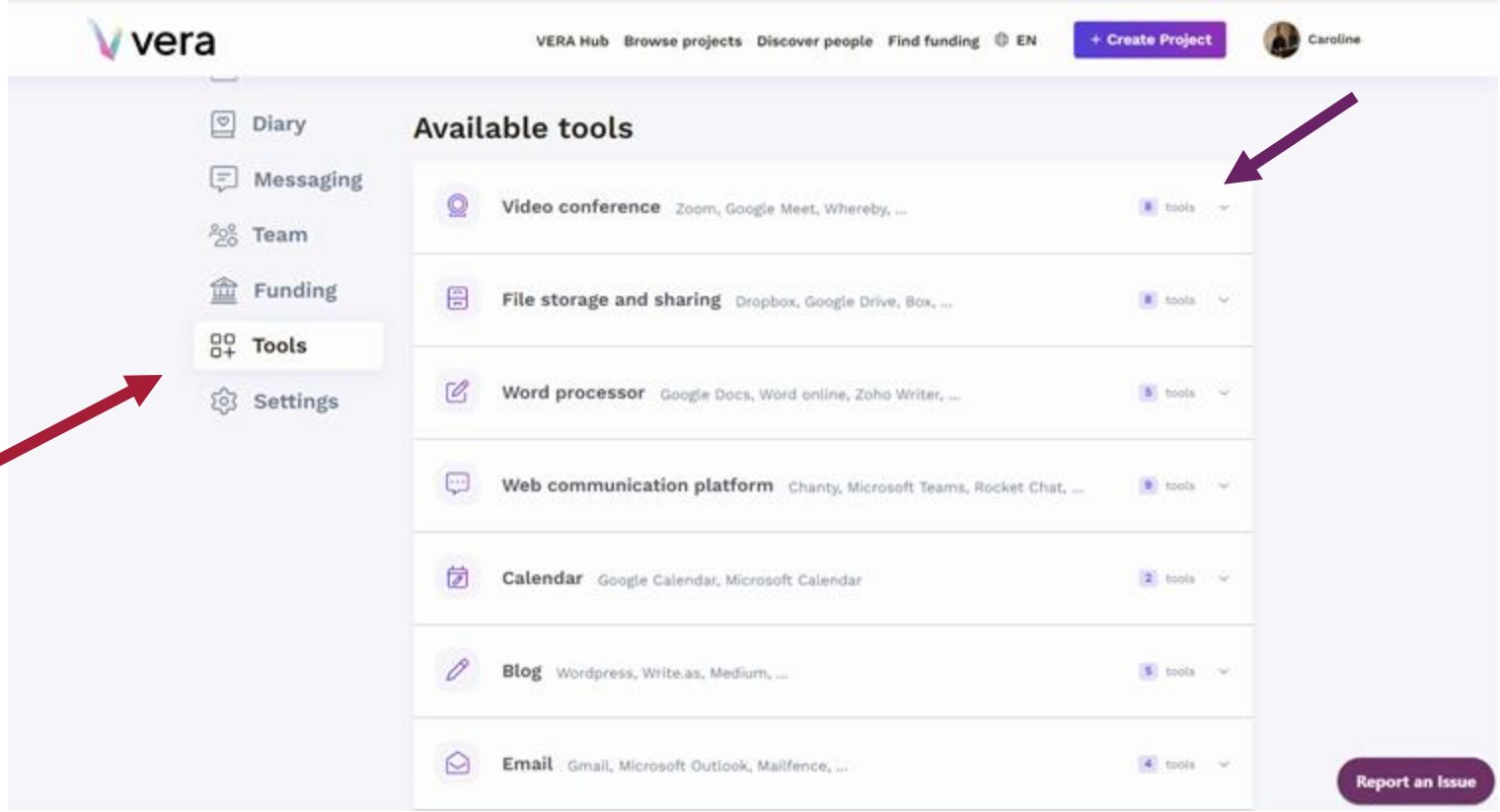

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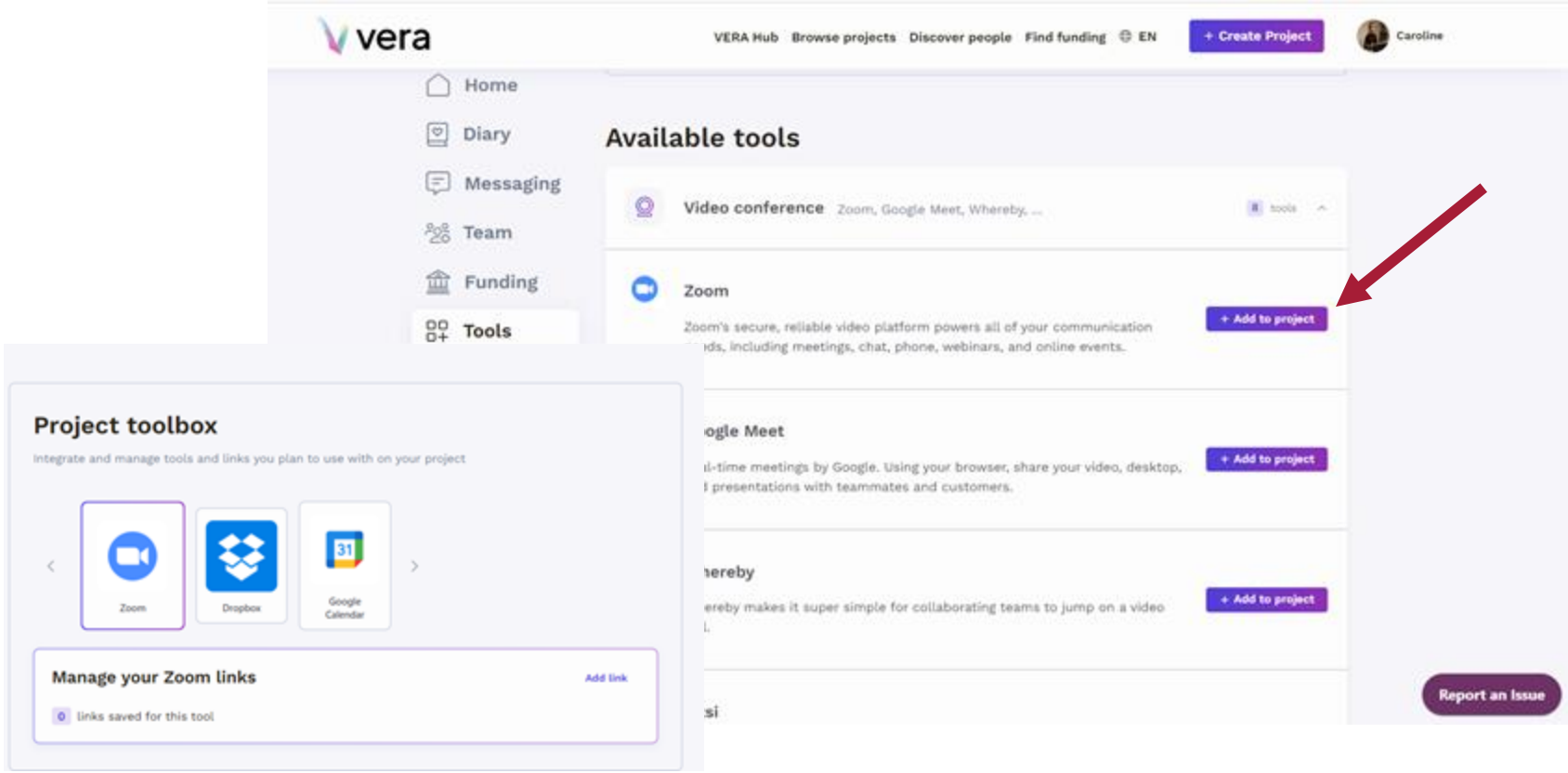
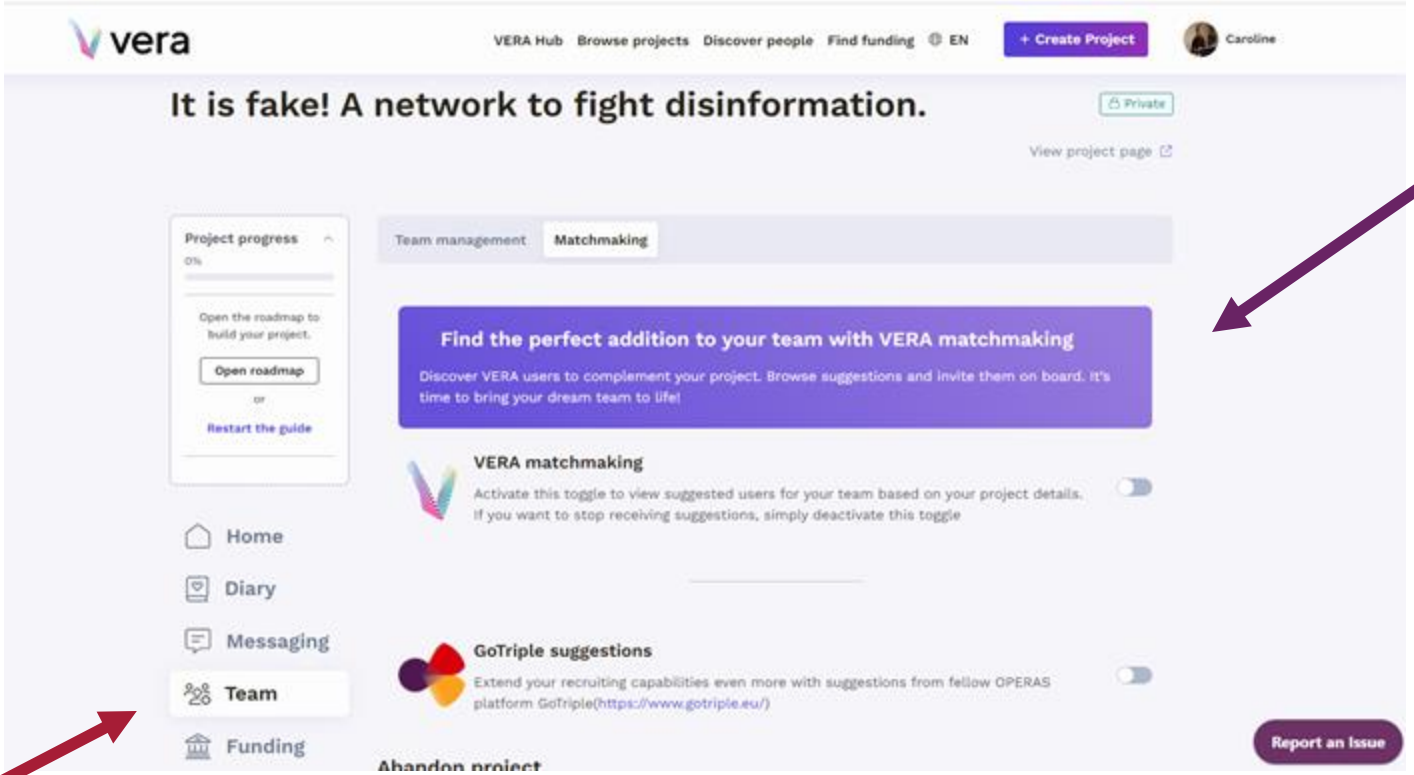
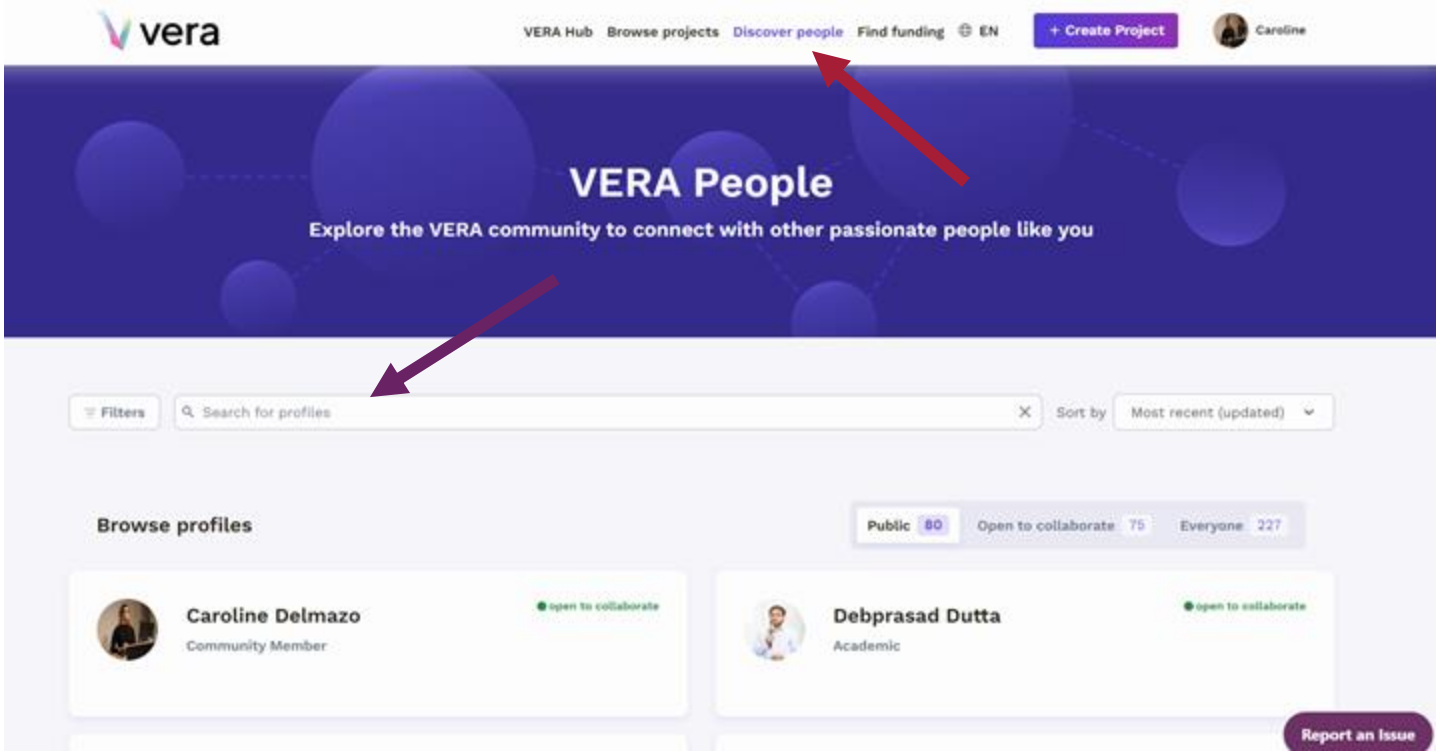


Create a project, find partners



Find partners!



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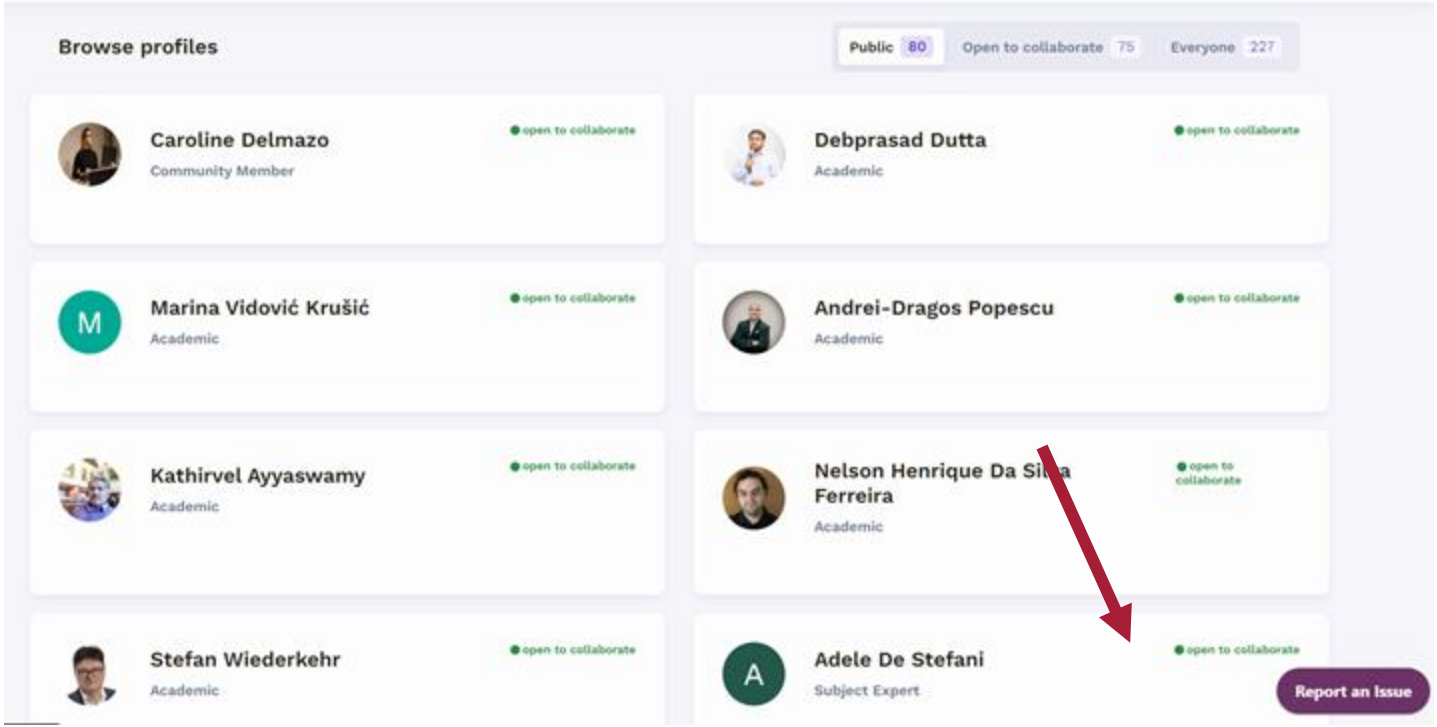
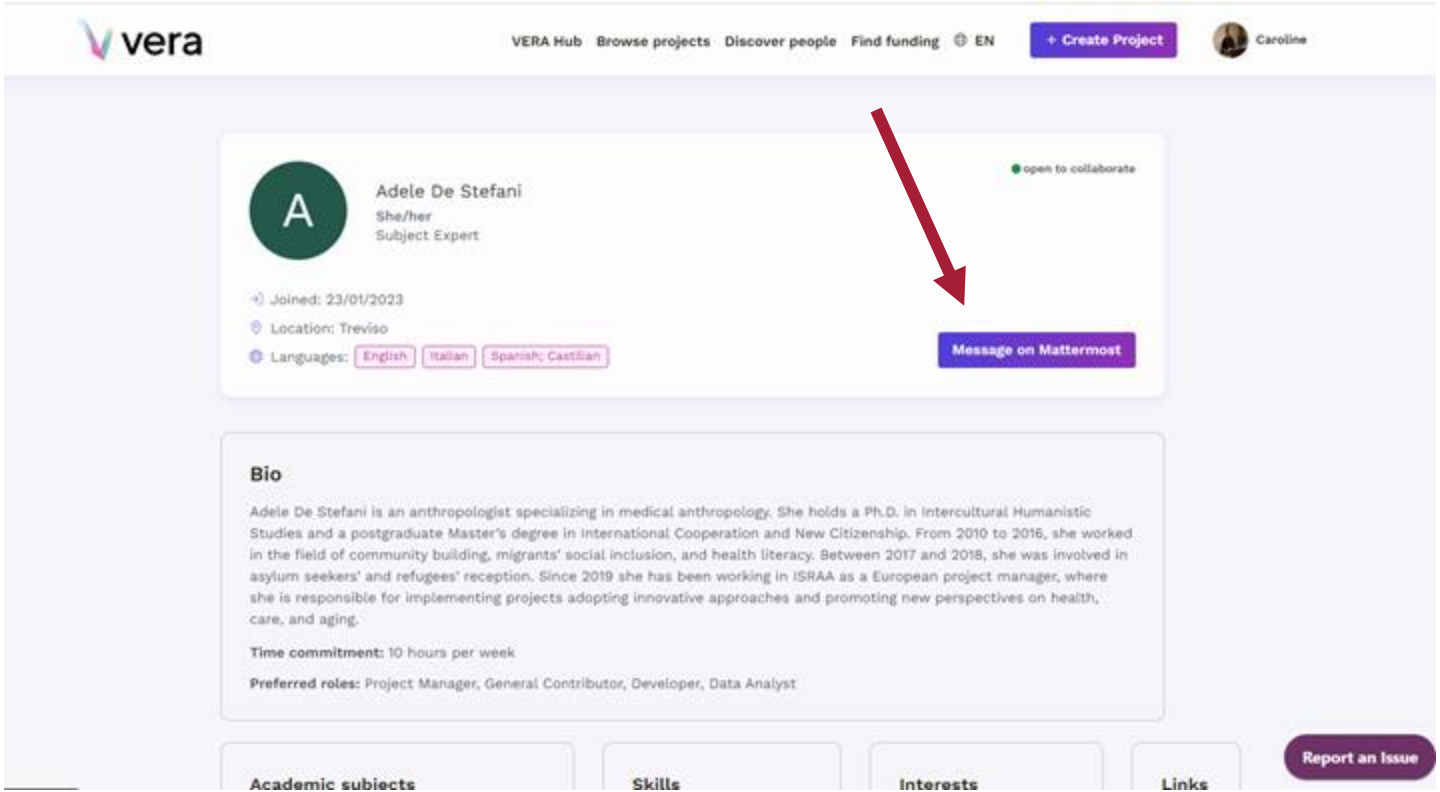
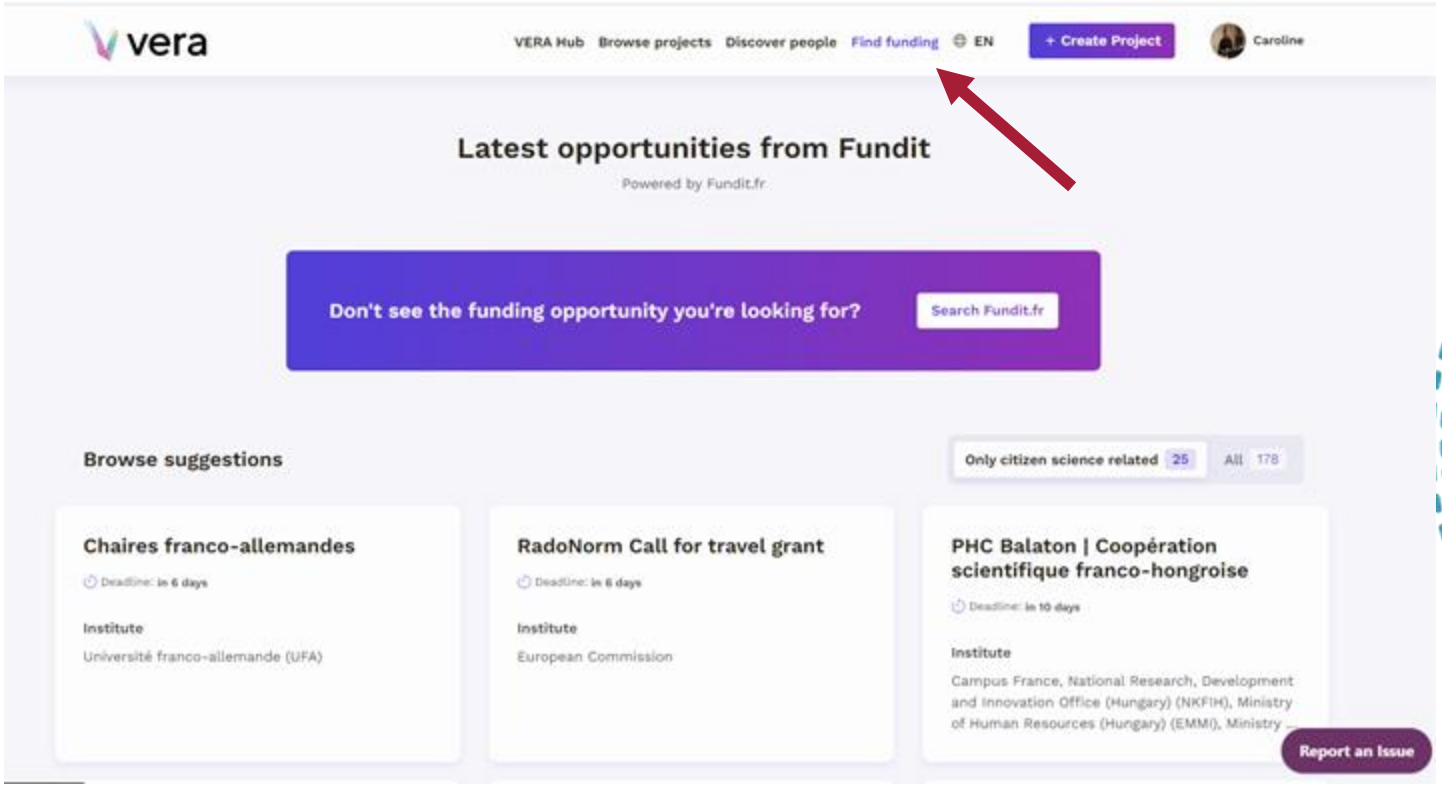


Find partners!



Discover funding opportunities for SSH



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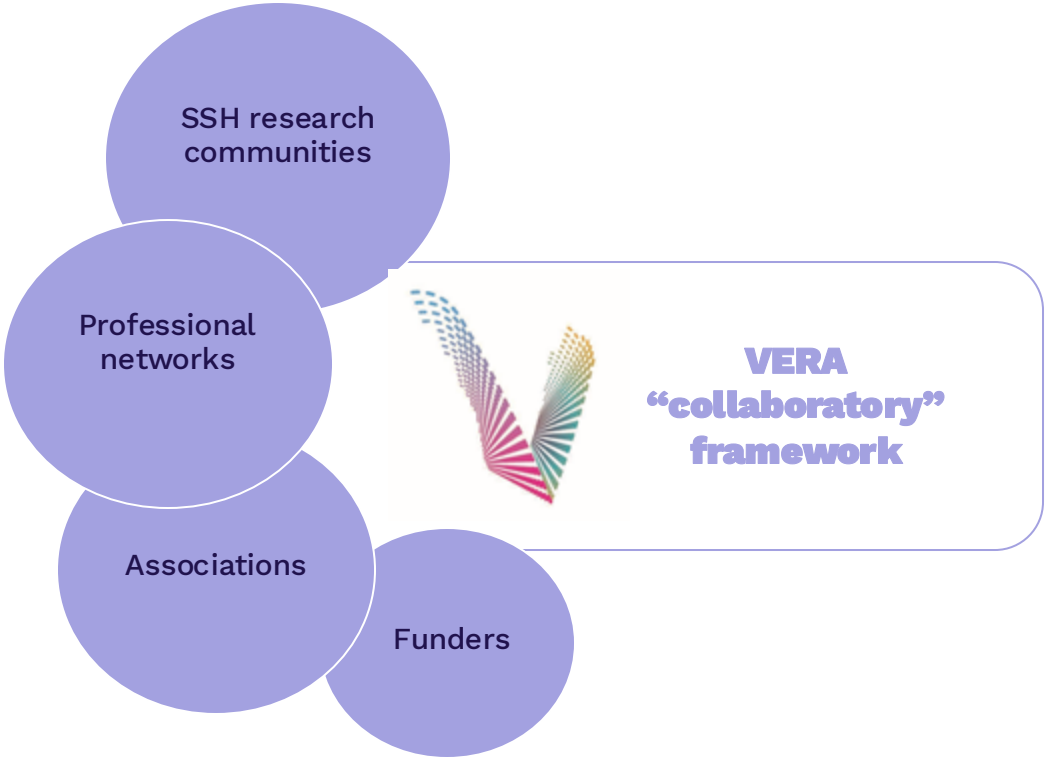
VERA and libraries: an important match

Bridging the digital and physical places



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VERA can help libraries in their work of supporting citizen science:

- finding projects
- connecting people
- helping projects to scale

How can we improve VERA? Let's **collaborate** and further develop VERA together!

Do you need training on participatory research in the Social Sciences and Humanities? We can help as well.

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Sources for this presentation

Caliman, L. (2024, May, 6) *Mãos à obra: a plataforma VERA para projetos de ciência participativa*. In: *Comunidades de Ciência Aberta na UC 2024*.

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OBRIGADA! Questions?

carol.delmazo@operas-eu.org

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