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ExoClock Unlocked: Fostering Public Engagement in Exoplanet Research

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ExoClock Unlocked, an initiative of the ExoClock project team, aims to democratize the field of exoplanet research by enabling public participation in support of ESA's Ariel space mission. The project has been running for two years and participants get the opportunity to observe exoplanet transits by using remote observing facilities. ExoClock Unlocked invites all exoplanet enthusiasts, regardless of their previous experience, that don't have access to equipment to participate in a real space mission. During the project seminars, all members engage as citizen scientists. They learn how to perform remote observations, with support from the ExoClock team, which includes scientists and public engagement specialists, and analyze the gathered data utilizing user-friendly tools. This presentation will outline the key procedures and strategies that have led to successful project outcomes. We will discuss the challenges encountered and the solutions implemented by our team, and highlight the tangible benefits realized through this inclusive scientific initiative.