COST Action CA15212
Citizen Science to promote creativity,
scientific literacy, and innovation throughout Europe

Cluster 6: Scientific impacts

Input and Moderation: Anne Land;
Note Taker: Miriam Brandt
discussed in Cēsis, Latvia, June 4th 2019

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Results from Group 6: Scientific impacts

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Difficulties with survey questions were reported regarding the level of activity addressed (project or national level), ambiguous terminology, variation of concepts across countries and languages which may lead to different understandings of the categories used, the selection given. It was also criticised that the categories for scientific impact given here had been too narrow to capture the impacts CS might have on research. Many suggestions were given to improve future surveys.

As a concrete recommendation for the national level it was suggested to find ways to open up reports that come out of CS projects like the Austrian CS platform does with providing reviews, descriptions of papers and projects on their webpage.

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The questions in the survey:

23. **Which types of scientific impacts of Citizen Science in your country are you aware of? (multiple choice)**
24. **Can you give any example of scientific impacts of Citizen Science in your country?**

Group discussion

Q23: Level of project example or national level meant?

Difficult to answer for the whole landscape – if you're not a network coordinator, how would you know this about all CS projects?

Different ways to interpret this – are these tasks that citizen scientists perform in projects?

What does University teaching position mean in this context?

Scientific impact only if you published a scientific paper on it? Or a blog?

What is meant by scientific impact? In the regular sense (Nature papers…), or impact on the way science is done?

Include a question on "how well do you know the CS landscape in your country?"

Science communication: are citizen scientists doing science communication, or is CS a means of science communication?

Rephrase question: Which phase of the scientific project are citizen scientists involved in?

Separate questions for University positions (add "are there specific courses teaching CS" - differentiate from courses using CS as a means to teach science) and Science Communication (or is that a phase as well?)

Q24: Question very ambiguous – answers include:
- Scientific publications
- projects
- Platforms
- Maker spaces
- New curriculum
- More data, better quality
- Use of environmental data in policy making
- Use of data in environmental courts

Maybe do some interviews first, then set up survey with more specific questions? Or at least test survey with external people…

Recommendation for the national level: find a way to open up reports that come out of projects. E.g. Austrian CS platform: Rezensionen, descriptions of papers coming out of the projects on the webpage