

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

Cēsis Vidzeme Concert Hall, June 04 2019 Minutes of the Fifth Management Committee Meeting

TO 0: Welcome

- Baiba Pruse, researcher and project manager from Institute for Environmental Solutions, Latvia, as local host and
- Dr. Katrin Vohland, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany, as Action Chair

TO 1: Formalities

- Julia Kaufmann was confirmed as note taker
- It was assessed that the quorum of 25 countries out of 37 member countries was NOT reached. 19 countries were represented by the MC members (see appendix)
- The suggested agenda was adopted; minutes from the MC Meeting in 2018 have been approved via Loomio ; online https://www.cs-eu.net/sites/default/files/media/2018/07/180606_4MC_Meeting_Geneve_Minutes.pdf)

TO 2: Update from the Grant Holder: Action Budget Status

Dr. Katrin Vohland gave a short reflection about the changes:

- Action budget status: this Grant Period less, 184.011€ in comparison to 222.306€ (Tab. 1)

Table 1: Financial overview of COST Action CA 15212

Period	I	II	III	IV	V
Duration	6 month	1 year	1 year	1 year	6 month
Time	1.11.16- 30.4.17	1.5.17- 30.4.18	1.5.18- 30.4.19	1.5.19- 30.4.20	1.5.20- 20.9.20
Resources	70.500 €	175 966 €	222.306 €	184.011 €	
Activities	MC Meeting <i>Dezember 16, Berlin</i>	MC Meeting <i>October 17, Tartu</i>	MC Meeting <i>June 18, Geneva</i>	MC Meeting <i>June19, Cesis</i>	MC Meeting <i>Juli 2020, Antwerp</i>
	Workshops, Summerschools, Conferences, STMS,.... Publications, MOOCs, Guidelines,...				& Final Conference

- Scientific output (like publication) is not that high yet, but the Action contributes to develop the area of science.
- Please refer to the COST Action if you are involved in any publications arising from our joint COST network and sent a copy / link to Katrin and Julia to include on the webpage to make the results more visible
- A final curriculum like book is planned: "Science of Citizen Science" with Editors from our network (Dr. Katrin Vohland, Dr. Anne Land, Dr. Luigi Ceccaroni, Dr. Josep Perello, Esra Per, Prof. Roeland Samson, Katherin Wagenknecht) as a product of the end of this action. Three key sections are foreseen: Epistemic output of CS in different disciplines, societal added value of CS, and the practice, guidelines, institutions next to an introduction and outlook. Currently there are negotiations with Springer, free online access may be about 14.000€. Everybody is welcome to contribute, please contact the editors. In December, an author meeting is planned as quality and coherence control.

MC Decision: the MC Members agree to reserve about 14.000€ for the final publication as open access book in addition to a printed version: **Yes**

Table 2: Overview about the financial Report of GP 3.

AGA-CA15212-3-FR

Report Date: 2019-05-29 17:24:59 Period of reporting from 01/05/2018 to 30/04/2019

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Networking Expenditure	Grant budget (a)	Expenditure			Delta (g=d-a)
		Actuals (b)	Accruals (c)	Total (d=b+c)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Total Meetings	132 290.00	98 771.71	0.00	98 771.71	-33 518.29
Total Training Schools	34 520.00	39 770.95	0.00	39 770.95	5 250.95
Total STSM	12 500.00	14 310.00	0.00	14 310.00	1 810.00
Total ITC Conference Grants	10 000.00	11 053.00	0.00	11 053.00	1 053.00
Total Action Dissemination	4 000.00	4 000.00	0.00	4 000.00	0.00
Total OERSA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Networking expenditure	193 310.00	167 905.66	0.00	167 905.66	-25 404.34

- The financial report is approved by COST.
- Generally, there is finally again some underspending (Tab. 2). Not all the money for meetings was used, we spent less than we could despite some new activities (Tab. 3):
 - Meeting Geneva (Switzerland): MC -20' €
 - Meeting Toulouse: ESOF – 4'€
 - Meeting Barcelona: City -new
 - Meeting Brussels: WG2 -new
 - Meeting Brussels: WG4 / EUSC -new
 - Total (-10'€)
 - Cancelled CS Technologies, May 2019, London: -10'€: when Meetings are cancelled in the last month from the grand period, then the money is gone, because it is not possible to plan short-term activities.

Table 3: GP 3 financial report, details on workshops.

Total number of Meetings		Actuals	Accruals	Total EUR	
1	Geneva (Switzerland)	31 394.17	0.00	31 394.17	← MC (-20.000) ← ESOE (-4.000)
2	Toulouse (France)	1 835.01	0.00	1 835.01	
3	Lugano (Switzerland)	3 555.05	0.00	3 555.05	
4	Riga (Latvia)	6 733.38	0.00	6 733.38	
5	Ispra (Italy)	7 028.22	0.00	7 028.22	
6	Barcelona (Spain)	10 839.93	0.00	10 839.93	← ~ City new
7	Iasi (Romania)	5 042.82	0.00	5 042.82	
8	Enschede (Netherlands)	4 325.66	0.00	4 325.66	
9	Brussels (Belgium)	5 907.06	0.00	5 907.06	← WG 2 -new
1	Brussels (Belgium)	7 399.75	0.00	7 399.75	← ~ EU.Citizen.Science
0	Sevilla (Spain)	7 687.73	0.00	7 687.73	
1	Kaunas (Lithuania)	7 022.93	0.00	7 022.93	
Total expenditure		98 771.71	0.00	98 771.71	Plan: ~ 130.000

Cancelled CS Technologies, May 2019, London ← = (-10.000)

- For Grant Period 4: please use the resources available to strengthen the scientific networks. In the last GP, we probably will focus on the final symposium.

MC Decision: Additional Workshop – Authors Meeting – December 2019, place tbd: **Yes**

TO 3: STSMs

Dr. Anne Land on behalf of Maria Attard gave a review of completed reports and new applications

- STSM: Exchange of expertise: it's a great chance to meet and learn from one another, always open, special calls possible
 - GP1: 1 STSM
 - GP2: 14 STSM
 - GP3: 7 STSM
 - GP4: 3 applicants (so far)
- ITC Conference Grants are open for ITC Countries
 - GP2: 2 (1 from Turkey, 1 from Republic of North Macedonia)
 - GP3: 10 (8 from Turkey, 2 from Serbia)
 - GP4: 3 (all from Turkey so far)

TO 4: Gender Balance and Early Career Investigators

Carole Paleco talked about the implementation of COST policies on Promotion of gender balance and ECI:

- Short overview of the numbers: DITO's a very good practice example and it is a part of a wider discourse, gender representation of DITO's it quite even -> nearly 50% (Austria a little bit less woman, Germany a little bit more),
- Brief synthesis on the workshop in Iasi, Romania "CS & Gender" (2019-20-03), focusing on female research as a role model, the path they have to go against the male world and a ceremony awards of 3 female researchers using Citizen Science on their field work.

This was followed by a question round, and a workshop on representation of women in CS vs in Academia

- There seems to be a strong support from female researchers on the topic: why is this the case? Would it be because this soft science suits them better? CS is not a source of funding and thus disinterests men? Schedule suitable for women? -> a few ways to go further:
- Adapt to the CS; importance of facilitators' role & contact person (gender-role model)
- Suggestion of another activity focused on publications on Wikipedia and disinhibition of woman in this practice (Workshop): fix a date and place for this in 2020, Trainer: Siobhan Leachman, Citizen Scientist, gender imbalance in articles.

Comment:

*in UK (Alex) there is also a workshop preparation about the topic "women write"

MC Decision: Yes, general agreement to let this workshop take place this or next year

TO 5: Report of the Working Groups (for details see Appendix)

WG1: Ensure scientific quality of Citizen Science | (Bálint Balázs)

- Where we stand today; Doing Better CS, from data quality to project design
 - Data is key, need to reuse, contextualisation, interoperability, quality
 - what challenge is CS faced? Data quality (DQ) is still the most important issue
 - DQ perspectives: there is the need for legitimisation (User, individual CS, policy maker)
 - DQ definitions are needed – for different purposes
 - Data validation methods should be made more public
 - Process of assurance and control should be part of any project
 - Challenges of DQ: spectrum very long, output
 - Workshop: finalising workshop planned in 2019

Comment:

* One tool for all problems for DQ is possible (Yes and Not)?

* DQ are we sure about that is one big thing to face in SC? Should be later discuss

* BB agree to participate on the final book with one and more chapters about this topic

WG2: Develop synergies with education | (Silvia Winter & Laure Kloetzer): unattended

WG3: Improve society-science-policy interface | (Dr. Katrin Vohland on behalf of Sven Schade)

- Where we stand today: CS Strategies in Europe is currently the main topic of this WG, and will be addressed later in talks and the workshops
- Workshops: CS and Environmental Reporting – Challenges and Benefit in Ispra (21.-22.11.2018) was done with JRC, report will be published in August 2019.

WG4: Enhance the role of CS for civil society | (Artemis Skarlatidou)

- Where we stand today: Progress Report Update
 - Mapping Volunteers aims and needs: D4.1./2 (delivered)
 - Review of participation patterns: D4.3/4 (work in progress)
 - Development of participation framework: D4.5 (work in progress)
- Subgroups:
 - Stakeholder Mapping
 - Mapping Public Participation Outputs and Outcomes
 - Volunteers motivations
 - Volunteers aim and needs from CS
 - Social innovation in CS

Activities:

- STSM UCL & University of Ljubljana
- Workshop on lessons learned from volunteers interactions with citsci technologies (UCL April 2018): special issue & book on geographic CS design: no one left behind
 - Stakeholder mapping workshop/ paper
 - Questionnaires for the motivation for citizen science scale (available on the website)
- Workshops:
 - People-Places-Stories (6. June 2018, Geneva)
 - CS & Social Innovation (15.-16- April 2019, Lithuania) with policy brief as a output
- Training School:
 - Where Science meets society (26.11 – 1.12-2019, Erice IT)
 - Training School on Digital Transformations in CS & Social Innovation (Jan)
 - Hackathon
- Workshop coming:
 - 19.11.19 in Brno (Dr. Barbora Duzi) Degrees of Public Participation in Scientific Research (PPSR), Outputs and Outcomes – Marisa Ponti Contact Person

Comment:

- * What is about Participants/ Volunteers terminologies

WG5: Improve data standardization and interoperability | (Luigi Ceccaroni)

- Where we stand today: The objective of WG5 is to develop a metadata-concepts vocabulary and an ontology to support data sharing among CS projects
 - Deliverable 1: Downloadable version of the ontology code via Action website (Task 1) (delivered)
 - Deliverable 2: Standardization of the ontology as sensor web enablement profile for citizen science by the *Open Geospatial Consortium* (OGC) (Task 2) (in process)
- Plan for June 2019 – March 2020:
 - ensure that COST action's efforts are part of the related international ones
 - define a plan on how to implement the ontology
 - define a plan on how to disseminate/ standardize results, beyond papers
 - mapping and documentation of meetings/workshops/conferences on standardization and interoperability in citizen science

WG6: Overarching – Cross-WG-Synthesis and overarching measures | (Roeland Samson)

Overarching issues are the book (presented before), and the final conference (presented below).

TO 6: Location and date of next meeting: Final Symposium (Roeland Samson)

- End Symposium: City of Diamonds => Title: "CS: a scientific diamond?"
- Date: June 30 – July 2, 2020 (End of Action)
 - Tuesday June 30: Mc-Meeting +. Celebration
 - Wednesday July 1: Symposium Day 1 + conference dinner
 - Thursday July 2: ½ day Symposium
- Place: the historical city center of Antwerp, Belgium in the buildings of the University of Antwerp
- Why there? Because is well-known in Belgium of its cs projects, mainly on air quality and the University has experience of organized symposiums
- Local team: Roeland Samson, Karen Wuyts, Sarah Lebeer, Carole Paleco + scientific organising team: COST Chair & Co Chair, COST WG Chairs and CO-Chairs, selected persons

Comment:

*on 4., July there is a big event in Trieste (Italy) , the ECSA Conference is in May, and ECSITE Conference from 11-13. June 2020

MC Decision: the MC Members agree to have the final conference in Antwerp: **YES**

MC Decision: MC Meeting takes place during the final conference from June 30 – July 2 of 2020 in Antwerp: **Yes**

TO 7: Summary of MC decisions (Katrin Vohland and Anne Land)

All MC votes were positively voted on

TO 10: AOB

No more decisions, concerns or calls to action.

Minutes Julia Kaufmann and Katrin Vohland, with additions from Claudia Göbel, Carole Paleco, Luigi Ceccaroni, Loreta Tauginienė, Daniel Dörler, finalized 5.8.2019

Appendices:

A. List of Participants

Name	MC-Member/Substitute	Country
Mr Daniel Dörler	x	AT
Ms Barbara Heinisch		AT
Prof Rahman Nurkovic	x	BA
Ms Marzia Mazzonetto		BE
Ms Carole Paleco	x	BE
Prof Roeland Samson	x	BE
Prof Kiril Barzev	x	BG
Ms Eva Novakova	x	CZ
Dr Jakub Trojan	x	CZ
Mr Frank Becker		DE
Dr Miriam Brandt	x	DE
Ms Claudia Göbel	x	DE
Ms Julia Kaufmann		DE
Dr Katrin Vohland		DE
Ms Katherine Wagenknecht		DE
Prof Mart Külvik	x	EE
Dr Monika Suškevics	x	EE
Mr José Pablo Gómez Barrón Sierra		ES
Dr Jaume Piera	x	ES
Mr Francisco Sanz		ES
Prof Juha Oksanen	x	FI
Ms Anna Echassoux	x	FR
Dr Legris Martine		FR
Mr Balint Balazs	x	HU
Dr Lucy Bastin		IT
Dr Egle Butkeviciene	x	LT
Mr Regimantas Juras	x	LT
Dr Monika Mačiulienė		LT
Ms Baiba Pruse		LV
Dr Anne Land	x	NL
Dr Hai-Ying Liu	x	NO
Prof Małgorzata Grodzińska-Jurczak	x	PL
Dr Andrzej Klimczuk	x	PL
Prof Cecília Galvão	x	PT
Mr Stephen Coulson	x	SE
Dr Bogomil Breznik	x	SI
Dr Pınar Gültekin		TR
Dr Yaşar Selman Gültekin		TR
Dr Esra Per	x	TR
Mr Hamdi Tekin		TR
Ms Alexandra Albert		UK
Dr Luigi Ceccaroni		UK
Dr Artemis Skarlatidou	x	UK

B. Presentation - Open Access

Theme	Speaker
Action (budget) status and Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)	Katrin Vohland, Anne Land
Promotion of gender balance and Early Career Investigators	Carole Paleco
WG 1: Ensure scientific quality of Citizen Science	Bálint Balázs
WG 3: Improve society-science-policy interface	Katrin Vohland
WG 4: Enhance the role of CS for civil society	Artemis Skarlatidou
WG 5: Improve data standardization and interoperability	Luigi Ceccaroni
Final Symposium	Roeland Samson
Invisible Citizen Science	Bálint Balázs
How the citizen science community frames policy engagement	Claudia Göbel
Introduction to the survey on citizen science strategies and first results	Marina Manzoni
National networks and initiatives	Daniel Dörler
EU-Citizen.Science	Katherin Wagenknecht
How to gain maximum benefit by working in an interdisciplinary group	Karine Oganisjana

C. Short notes on the individual presentations and captured comments on them:

1-7: Presentations by members on relevant topics within the COST Action

1. Invisible Citizen Science (Bálint Balázs)

Making Visible CS with the Hungarian version of the FixMyStreet app: jarokelo

- Rendering Invisible CS practices Visible
 - Multiple levels of invisibility: 1st level, 2nd Level, 3rd Level
 - Unequal knowledge production coming from CS project
 - Silences CEE countries, marks from Greenpeace activist “new and niche ... people are not familiar with CS”/ Grow Obs “ will only work if .. it well designed”
 - Discourse on the apparent divide between west and east; published articles referring to (some vs zero), ECSA Members (many vs few), PPSR practices (many vs few)
- Reconceptualisation: „Invisible” Citizen Science - Invisibility as a manifestation
 - Initial successes in CEE countries: Quality of communication, platforms linked citizen and NGO’S. database, cultural change
 - a suggestion for new projects planning: more success to come – Initiatives do not explicitly start as citizen science but could be later turned into one. Applications linked to SSH never considered themselves citizen science (jarokelo – Citizen Activism, Hungarian version of the FixMyStreet app), easy database
- STSM Mission: CS on the challenges of urban food infrastructure), participants are welcome

Comments:

- * another project - connection suggestion: BB agreed
- * another comment to the terminology. CS, Amateurs, Participants, Volunteers...
- * Academia ignorant about thinking about CS – slowly step by step we come closer to highlight the role and importance about CS

2. How the citizen science community frames policy engagement - Analysis of policy engagement activities in the DITOs Project (Claudia Göbel)

- Policy engagement done in DITOs as understood at ECSA
 - Aims: sharing information & good practice, creating encounters and institutional infrastructures
 - Through organizing a diverse range of events including: 6 Discovery Trips 17 Stakeholder Round Tables 1 Pan-European Policy Forum + many additional workshops as well as 13 Policy Briefs
- Working mainly on the EU policy agendas: RRI & Open Science main learnings: It matters how participation & research are conceptualized & done / Therefore policy engagement work at ECSA needs a pluralistic concept of Citizen Sciences & a diversity of voices when representing practitioner communities / Important challenges remain, e.g. regarding openness & ICTs, addressing questions of power, building sustainable infrastructures, institutionalization of CS.
- For examples of that work and impacts see the presentation (https://zenodo.org/record/3238233#.XS8g_mjgrIX)

3. 4. Introduction to the survey on citizen science strategies and first results (Marina Manzoni & Katrin Vohland)

- Motivation of survey and targeted outputs:
- Epistemic outputs:
 - Who are the actors supporting citizen science?
 - What are the rationales to support citizen science?
 - Are there different cultures in Europe?
 - Mainly with regard to science and participation? and how do they impact the ideal and practice of citizen science?
- Strategic & Operational outputs:
 - What can we learn from each other?
 - What are successful tools?
 - What may work in different cultural and social contexts?
 - Toolbox with modules to implement strategies/platforms etc.
- Survey Structure
 - 3 Main products: a) "Country fact sheets" which should develop into a living pan-European inventory of CS strategies, b) overview of strategies, initiatives and practices, c) a report – and scientific paper - on the state of the art of CS in EU
- Tools: online survey
- Actors:
 - COST members
 - JRC of the EU Commission
 - Input from relevant international bodies and experts (ECSA, NGOs, Academia ...)
- Structure: general information, methodological approach, relevance and impact, preliminary considerations
- Received replies
 - number of countries: about 30
 - coverage: good geographical coverage, including eastern countries, and co-operating members
- Preliminary findings
 - main issues: CS presence/ level of development in the COST Countries / existing strategies / areas of coverage / involved actors / tools and methodologies / perceived impact / influencing factors
- Issues to be discussed further in the working groups

Comments:

- * enriched the survey with the different kinds of terminologies about CS-Participants?
- * include a border picture of evolution about citizen science in EU?

Next Steps: Work in Groups on CS strategies in Cesis (Katrin Vohland)

- Step1 results of the survey for the specific questions are provided (Cluster 1 – 6)
- Step2 options to ask for understanding
- Step3 Add open issues, for content, for countries,...
- Tomorrow:
 - 09:00 – 11:00 wrap up results
 - 11:00 – 13:00 speak about the final book
- WG3 Meeting to discuss outputs: 4.11.2019 in Vienna
 - Scientific paper for journal
 - Chapter for Final COST Book
 - Policy Paper

5. National networks and initiatives (Daniel Dörler Sub-WG3)

- Discussion at ECSA 2018 on citizen science networks in Europe
- Citizen science networks have unique opportunities and challenges
 - Opportunities (like foster cs on a national level) vs Challenges (like funding situation)
 - connect coordinators, share best practices in a living document
- Founding of networks: all participating networks
 - 2013: USA, Germany
 - 2014: Austria, Switzerland, Australia
 - 2015: Belgium, Netherlands
 - 2016: Spain
 - 2018: Denmark
 - 2019: in the process of setting up a network: Sweden, Malta, Portuga
- Diversity:
 - Institutional Background (Consortium, ...)
 - Project Diversity: (specific types of science more than 65%)
 - Number of projects in networks (more than 20% >100 projects)
 - Members of networks (80% Citizen)
- Goals and Activities:
 - More than 90% connect actors
 - Workshops and conferences are the common activities
- Challenges and Achievements:
 - Challenges: funding more than 60%
 - Networks: Awareness form CS more than 60%
- Diversity is key in citizen science networks
 - Diversity in institutional background / members / projects
- But: Diversity is also a challenge (see e.g. community building, organisation)
- Challenges and achievements reflect that many initiatives are still in the early working stages
- (Sustainable) funding remains major challenge for most networks

Comments:

* Networks/ Platforms are separated? Answer not really, is a living document

6. EU-Citizen.Science (Katherin Wagenknecht)

- March 2020 is the official Start
- Proposal Full Name: The Platform for Sharing, Initiating, and Learning Citizen Science in Europe
- Topic: SwafS-15-2018-2019 – Exploring and supporting Citizen Science (CSA)
- Duration: 2019 til 2021
- Increase the effectivity of Citizen Science *by*
 - Creating a central hub for cross-European knowledge sharing
 - Identifying good practices
 - Identifying training needs
 - Co-creating training material
- Forces with 14 partners, †third parties involved in the project
- the project comprises eight work packages that work with different work orders to achieve our goals

7. How to gain maximum benefit by working in an interdisciplinary group (Assoc. prof. Karine Oganisjana, Riga Technical University)

- Problem-based approach for working in an interdisciplinary team (Oganisjana, 2019)
 1. Analysing and formulating the main problem which the interdisciplinary team is to solve within the project and the value to be created.
 2. Analysing and defining the key concepts of the project.
 3. Analysing and systemizing the competencies needed for solving the problem.
 4. Self-analysis of the own competencies by the team members and comparing to the set of competencies required.
 5. Enrolling new team members in case if the team lacks certain competencies.



6. Elaborating the methodology of the project: the aim & objectives; methods, resources and the plan of activities for solving that problem.
 7. Dividing the interdisciplinary team into microgroups (the number depends on the size of the team and fields encompassed) and allocating responsibilities among the microgroups.
- Conducting research/executing the work by microgroups
 - Exchanging findings and integrating the results.
 - Analysing the outcomes and putting forward new tasks
 - Continuing research/executing the work by microgroups ...

Work in groups on topics of the survey for Citizen Science Strategies in Europe (15:00 – 17:30)

- **Cluster 1: Terminology and stage of development**
(page 1 of the survey) (Input and moderation: Balint Balasz; Note Taker: Monika Suškevics)
- **Cluster 2: Do Citizen Science strategies exist in your country?**
(p.2, q. 7- 13) (Input: Katrin Vohland; Moderation: Frank Becker; Note Taker: Hai-Ying Liu)
- **Cluster 3: People, organisations and networks for supporting & opposing Citizen Science**
(p.2, questions 14-16) (Input and Moderation: Claudia Göbel)
- **Cluster 4: Which particular resources and tools are available to support Citizen Science in your country?** (p.2, q. 17-20 , own survey presented in the morning) (Input and Moderation: Daniel Dörler; Note Taker: Lucy Bastin)
- **Cluster 5: Which types of (socio-economic) impacts of Citizen Science contributing to policy making processes are you aware of in your country?**
(p.3, q. 21-22) (Input: Marina Manzoni; Moderation: Martine Legris; Note Taker: Egle Butkeviciene)
- **Cluster 6: Which types of scientific impacts of Citizen Science in your country are you aware of?**
(p.3, q. 23-29) (Input: Anne Land; Moderation: Anne Land; Note Taker: Miriam Brandt)

A detailed report on the outcomes on the work in groups on topics of the survey for Citizen Science Strategies in Europe is compiled separately.