

(Citizen Science) LibOCS BESPOC Implementation

Multiplier event, 17 April 2024

Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships program
Project number: 2021-1-EE01-KA220-HED-000031125



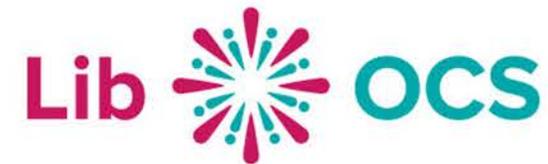
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Housekeeping

- This event will be **recorded**. The recordings will be used mainly for internal purposes but might be shared publicly.
- Please keep your **camera off** & your **microphone muted** for the first part of the workshop, during the presentations.
- Use the **Q&A** for questions during presentations.
- **Join** in the dialogue at the end! This is an interactive workshop, so please ask your questions and make your comments in the last part of the event (via chat, Q&A, or raise your hand).



Speaking BESPOC with Practitioners (LibOCS Multiplier Event)



Lilian Neerut
Head of the Department
of Subject Librarians at
the University of Tartu
Library



Tiberius Ignat
Director
Immer Besser &
SKS Knowledge Services



Gita Rozenberga
Chief Librarian at the
Library of University of
Latvia



Tuuliki Tõiste
Development manager TalTech
Library
President of the Estonian Librarians
Association (ELA) Board



Aistė Pranckutė
Head of the Research
Information Services Unit at
Kaunas University of
Technology Library



Floor Keersmaekers
Citizen Science Contact
Point of the Vrije
Universiteit Brussel

Speaking BESPOC with Research Libraries (LibOCS Multiplier Event)



Time	Topics
14:00-14:10	LibOCS Project: a short introduction: Lilian Neerut (Tartu University)
14:10-14:30	The BESPOC Model At Glance: Tiberius Ignat Immer Besser (LibOCS Partner) & SKS
14:30-15:00	BESPOC Implementation at Baltic Universities: Gita Rosenberga (University of Latvia) , Tuuliki Tõiste (TalTech University, Tallinn), Aiste Pranckutė (Kaunas University of Technology), Lilian Neerut (Tartu University)
15:00-15:15	A compass for a Citizen Science Hub: How the BESPOC model helped shape our Contact Point (Dr Floor Keersmaekers, Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
15:15-15:45	Questions, Answers, Dialogue with participants

Lilian Neerut
(Tartu University)
(14:00-14:10)

Overview of the project

- ▶ ***University libraries strengthening the academia-society connection through citizen science in the Baltics***
- ▶ Duration: 01.01.2022 –30.06.2024
- ▶ Partners: University of Tartu Library, TalTech, University of Latvia, Kaunas Technological University, Vytautas Magnus University, Web2Learn and Immer Besser GmbH + associated partners (public libraries)
- ▶ <https://www.libocs.ut.ee>



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Necessity of the project

- ▶ Academic libraries in Baltic states have been actively involved in OS activities
- ▶ The need of Baltic universities and libraries to fully integrate Open Science (OS) and Citizen Science (CS)
- ▶ Involvement in CS is still in the development phase
- ▶ Lack of knowledge base



Project outcomes

PR1- **Report on drivers and barriers** of civic engagement in open science and the role of university libraries in the Baltics - University of Tartu (Estonia)

PR2- **Study and an information campaign:** the transformative role of university libraries for citizen and open science in the Baltics– University of Latvia

PR3- We are building a **collection of resources for staff training** in Baltic academic libraries on the topic of civic engagement in open science – Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania)

PR5- **Institutional change:** Series of consulting activities with partner universities – policy+culture change - Immer Besser GmbH (Germany)

PR6- **A toolkit for librarians** on CS/OS – TalTech (Estonia)



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Our achievements

- Mapped drivers and barriers of civic engagement in open science and the role of libraries
- Information campaigns and surveys among researchers, staff of memory institutions, citizens, volunteers
- Collected Open Access materials about citizen science – database
- 5 module Open Access training course for librarians <https://tinyurl.com/LIBOCSonline>
- Started with the implementation of BESPOC model in Baltic University libraries

Upcoming – CS/OS toolkit

All milestones with documents are available here <https://www.libocs.ut.ee/milestones/>



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You can find us:

Website: <https://www.libocs.ut.ee/>

Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@LibOCSproject>

Twitter: [\(11\) #LibOCS - Twitter Search / Twitter](#)

Zenodo collection: [University libraries strengthening the academia-society connection through citizen science in the Baltics | Zenodo](#)



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Thank you

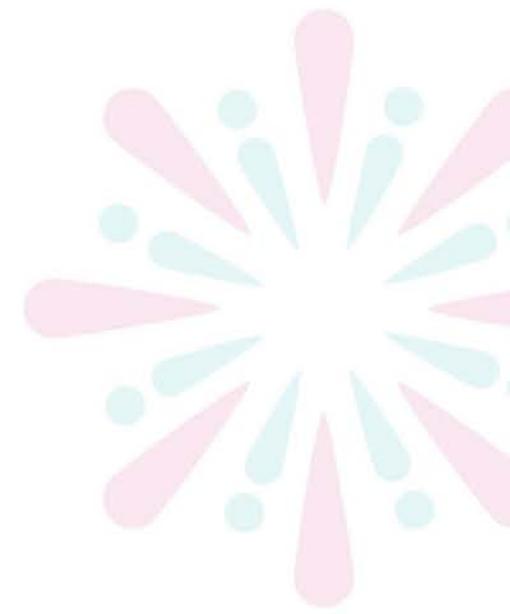
Lilian Neerut
University of Tartu Library, Estonia

Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships program

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Tiberius Ignat
(14:10-14:30)

BESPOC

*broad engagement in science,
point of contact*

Tiberius Ignat

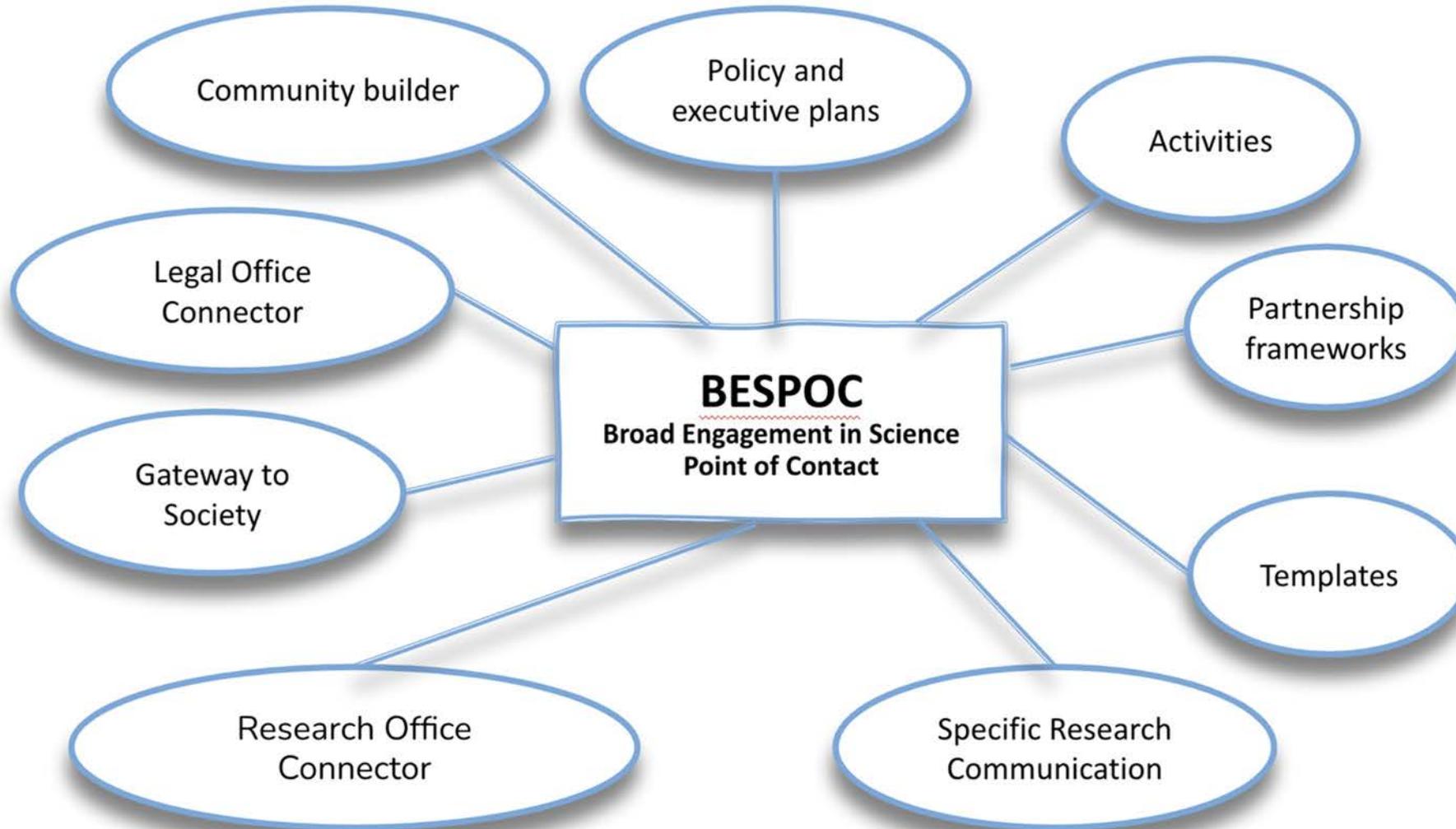
Immer Besser / SKS Knowledge Services



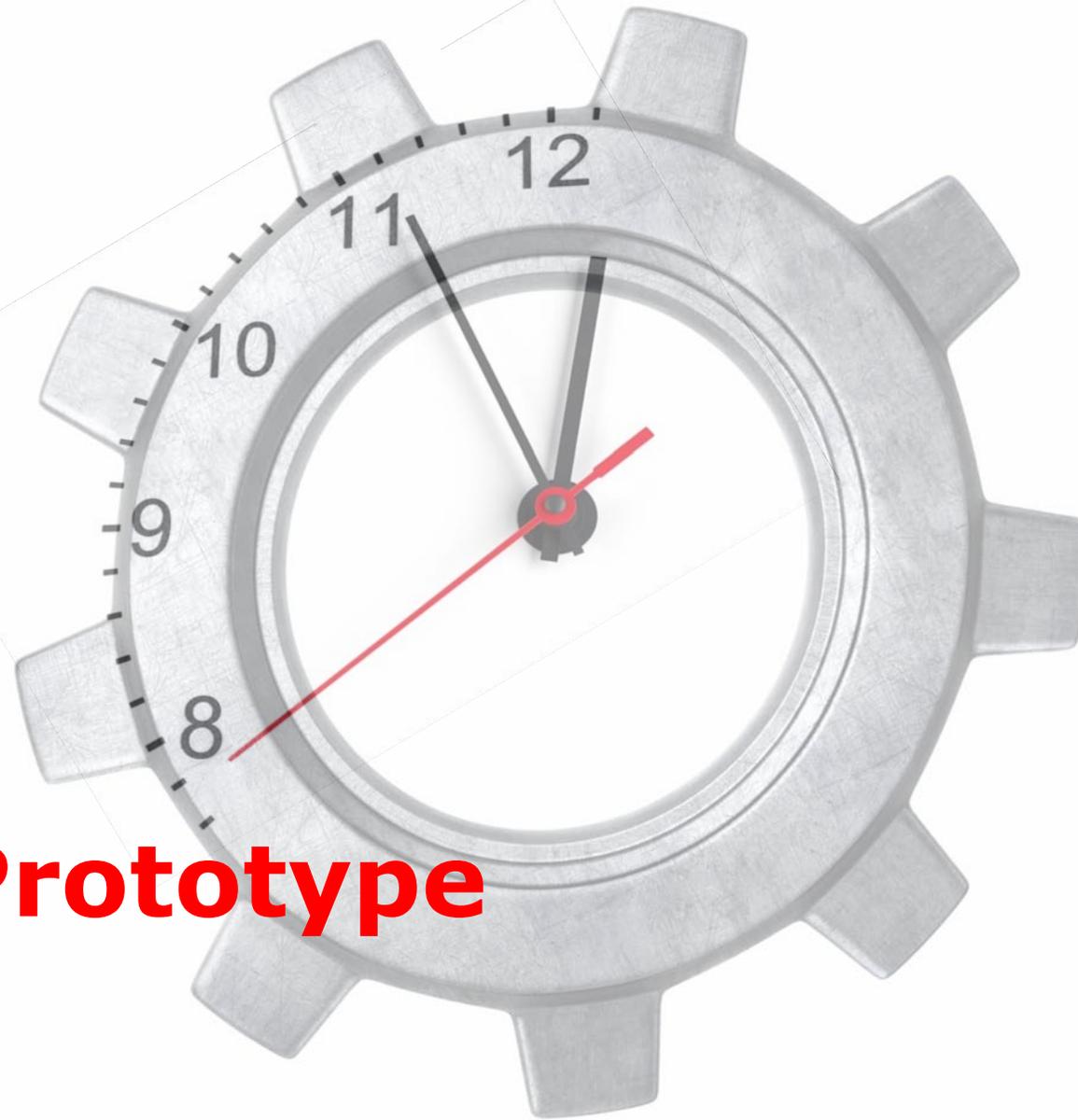
BESPOC

**A Central Hub for
Science-Society
Engagement**

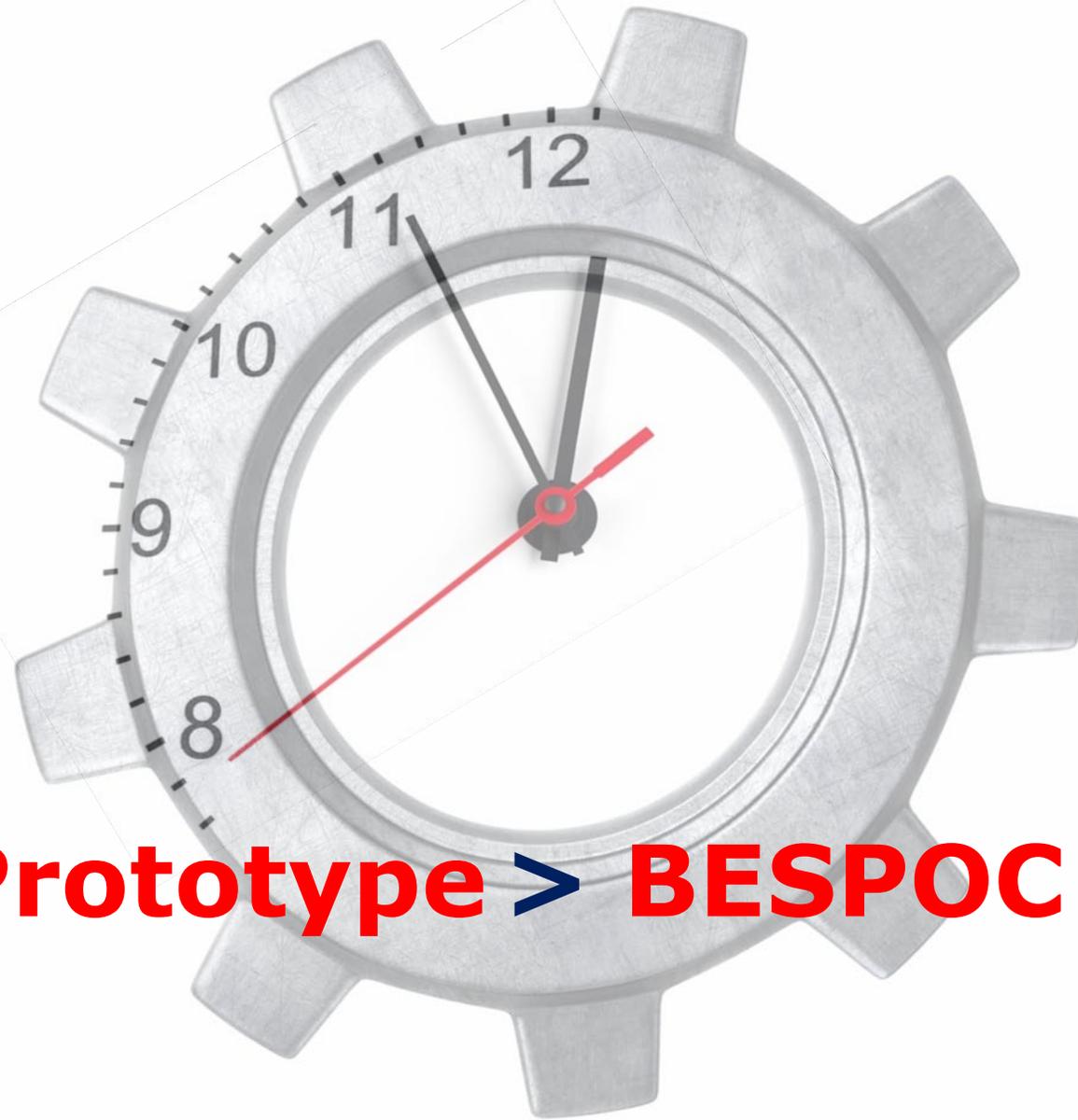
The BESPOC Prototype



- BESPOC Brief Presentation video: <https://vimeo.com/870255373/2da1ea4990>
- <https://vimeo.com/478021537>
- <https://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.501/>



BESPOC Prototype



BESPOC Prototype > BESPOC Model

BESPOC implementations in *LibOCS*



The BESPOC Model modules at a glance (1)

Policy & Development Plans (P&D-CS)

This module is **focused on the development and periodic updating of policies specific to citizen science**, aiming to **institutionalize these practices within academic settings**.

It ensures the **effective communication and engagement of these policies** across the institution.

The BESPOC Model modules at a glance (2)

Activities Portal (AP)

Acting as a **central hub**, the Activities Portal **facilitates the transformation of policies into actionable projects and campaigns**.

It supports **project engagement, dissemination, and collaboration**, serving as a vital resource for citizen science endeavors.

The BESPOC Model modules at a glance (3)

Partnership Frameworks (PFs)

BESPOC emphasises establishing **collaborative relationships** with various stakeholders, outlining the structure, roles, responsibilities, and objectives of these partnerships.

This framework **enhances the impact of citizen science both in academia and in broader society.**

The BESPOC Model modules at a glance (4)

Templates for Citizen Science Projects (TCSP)

Provides **essential, (almost) ready to use resources for initiating and executing CS projects.**

Includes **consent forms, data collection sheets, and safety protocols, ethical compliance tools, effective communication templates, and many more.**

We hope for a community-driven **BESPOC Repository** to start sharing such templates!

The BESPOC Model modules at a glance (5)

Specific Citizen Science Communication (SCSC)

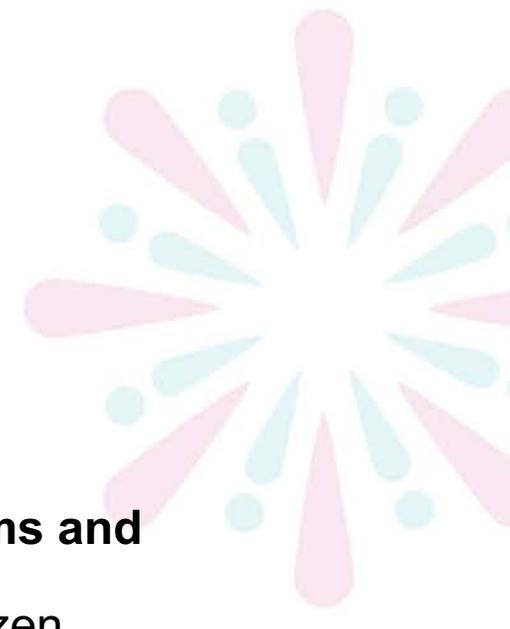
Tailored to **address the unique challenges of communicating complex research to non-professionals.**

Promotes **accessibility, engagement, and two-way communication, fostering transparency and adherence to OS principles.**

The BESPOC Model modules at a glance (6)

Research Management & Administration Connector (RMA-C)

This connector **integrates CS activities with existing research management systems and offices**, facilitating efficient workflows, policy integration, and enhanced support for citizen science projects within the institution.



The BESPOC Model modules at a glance (7)

Gateway to Society (GtS)

Empowers **citizens to contribute to shaping research priorities** and **ensuring research findings inform policymaking**,

Strengthens **the connections between research activities and decision-making processes**.

The BESPOC Model modules at a glance (8)

Legal & Safety Office Connector (LS-C)

Ensures **legal and safety compliance** in citizen science projects.

Facilitates **understanding and responses to legal and safety matters, safeguarding participants, researchers, and the institution.**

The BESPOC Model modules at a glance (9)

Communities Builder (CB)

Focused on **cultivating sustainable communities around citizen science** projects (well-maintained bridges, beyond projects).

Supports the development of and the transition from **Communities of Interest to Communities of Knowledge, and to Communities of Practice**, encouraging personal and collective growth within these communities.

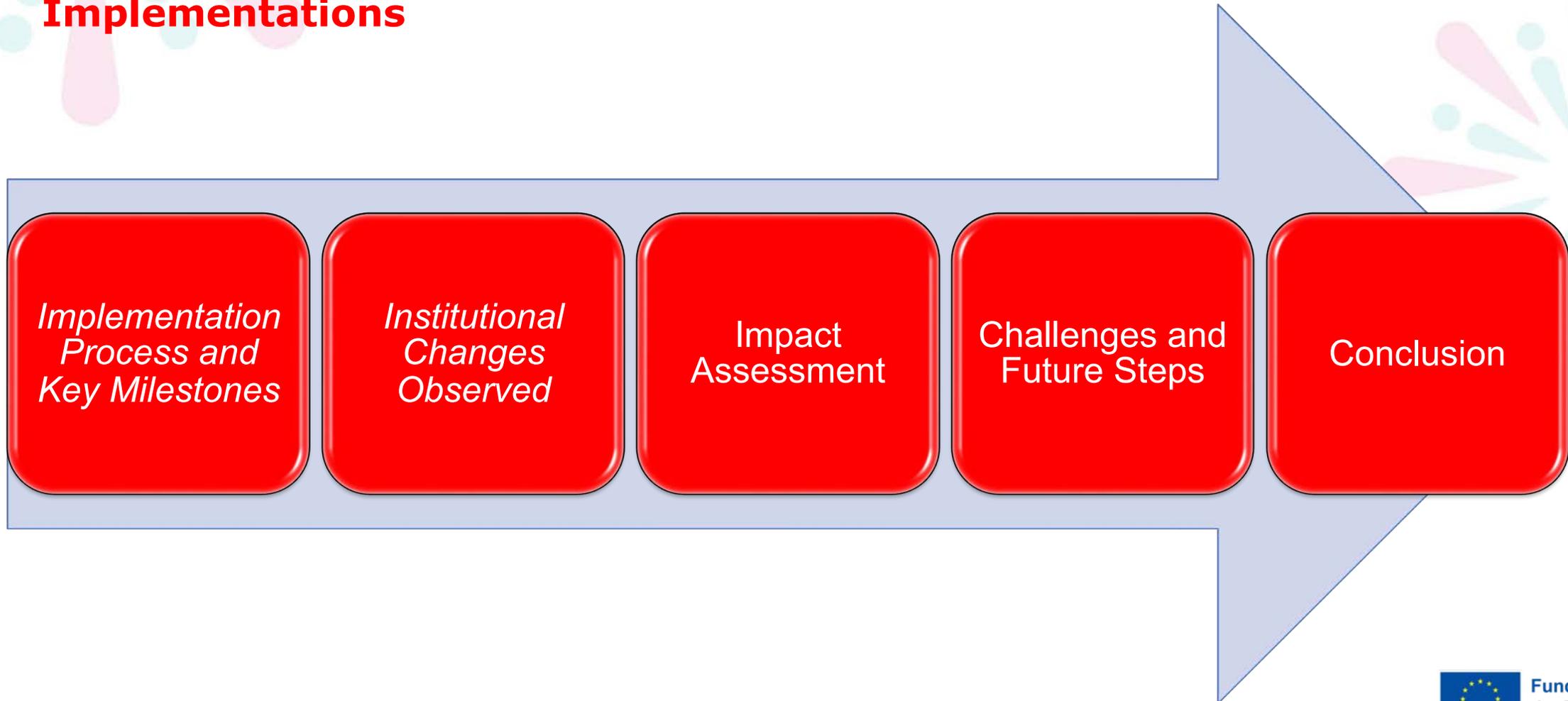
The BESPOC Implementation Methodology in LibOCS



05.06.2023 – 25.10.2023 – 01.03.2024

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

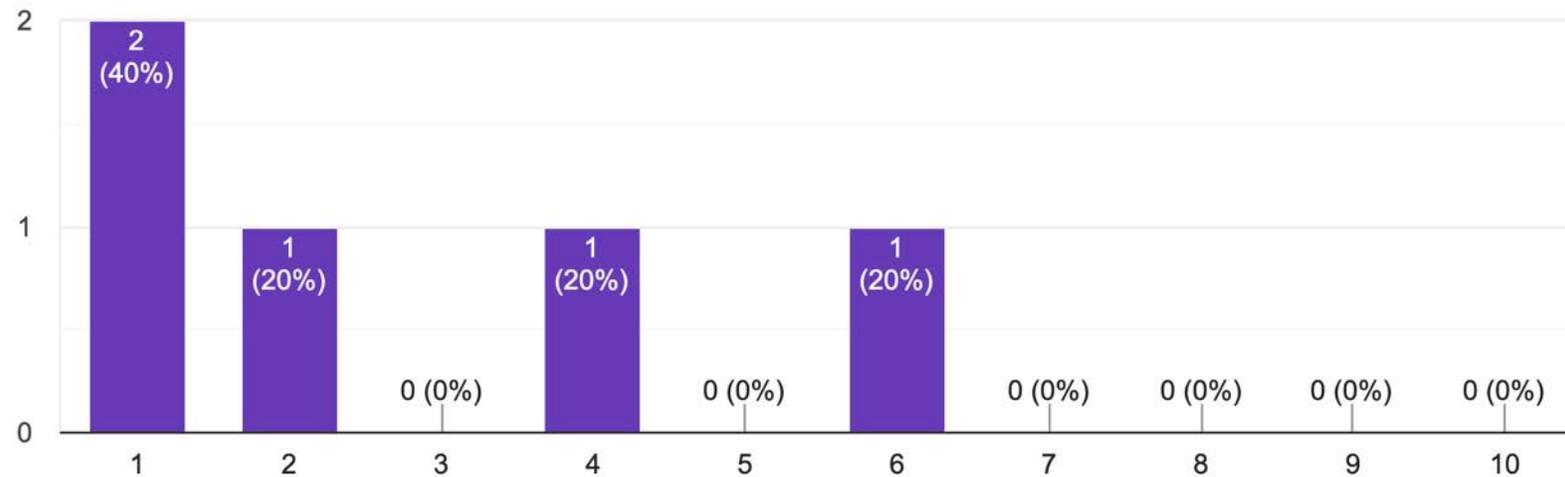
Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations



The Current Implementation Status

On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate the current level of BESPOC model implementation at your institution?

5 responses



Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESPOC Implementations

The cross-institutional analysis recognize the unique specificity and priorities of each university.

The BESPOC implementation focuses on valuing collaboration over competition, encouraging mutual support, sharing practices, and engaging in meaningful dialogue.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 1: Enhance stakeholder engagement

Develop targeted communication strategies to better engage researchers, administrators, and students, highlighting the mutual benefits of citizen science for academia and society.

Organize interdisciplinary forums and workshops that bring together stakeholders from within and outside the university to foster collaboration and share best practices in citizen science.

Steadily build up this kind of engagement. Getting the large variety of stakeholders on board for citizen science or academic public engagement takes time, perseverance and is a long-term commitment.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 2: Expand public outreach and education

Increase public awareness and understanding of citizen science through regular public lectures, exhibitions, and media outreach.

Place citizen science in the larger context of public engagement activities for your organisation and connect your efforts with similar ones from your colleagues responsible for the educational programs

Offer citizen science (participatory science) training programs for the public to enhance their scientific literacy and skills, making it easier for them to contribute to research projects.

Actively contribute to transitioning existing communities of interest to communities of knowledge and further on, to communities of practice and showcase the added value of your university or research organisation.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 3: Develop the existing or new digital platforms and systems (p1)

Develop or enhance your existing online portals that facilitate the sharing of research projects and results, allowing for greater transparency, participation, and dissemination of knowledge. While not all your research projects are suitable for citizen science, it is important to responsibly present your ambitions and results to the larger public.

Explore if your existing CRIS system is suitable for expanding towards a more public interface, including more interoperability with your institutional repository.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 3: Develop the existing or new digital platforms and systems (p2)

Understand the special requirements of engaging and communicating with the public, including among others the language, the format, and the frequency of your digital communications.

Utilise social media in a responsible way to engage broader audiences and create communities around specific research topics or projects. Support social media platforms and tools that nurture a healthy audience (e.g. filter disinformation and prevent opinion polarisation).

Grow your audience in a way that actively supports you in identifying accounts that misleadingly present themselves as being part of (or connected to) your organisation. In return, offer curated and trustful information through your platforms and develop engagement programmes openly available for those interested in connecting with research activities.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 4: Institutionalize citizen science

Incorporate citizen science into university curricula by developing courses or modules that cover its principles, methods, and ethics, encouraging future researchers to engage with the public.

Establish dedicated support structures within universities, such as offices or centres for public engagement and citizen science, to provide guidance, resources, and support to projects involving public participation.

Aim for streamlining research-related public engagement and participatory science, moving away from strategies that align with the typically short lifespan of projects and embracing long-term strategies.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESPOC Implementations

Recommendation 5: Other recommendations (p1)

Allow your BESPOC service to gain greater adaptability of the BESPOC model to fit your specific needs, cultures, and structures, enabling more tailored approaches to implementing citizen (or participatory) science.

Adapt your service to modular implementation strategies that allow you to prioritize certain aspects of the BESPOC model based on your immediate goals and capabilities.

Consider the detailed guidelines and resources for each BESPOC module, including case studies, templates, and best practices, to assist your researchers in the practical aspects of implementation.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 5: Other recommendations (p2)

When necessary, consider external training and consultancy services, ensuring that your organisation has access to expert advice and support throughout the implementation process.

Support the creation of a network among institutions implementing the BESPOC model (or similar) to encourage the exchange of experiences, challenges, and successes.

Encourage collaborative projects that involve multiple institutions, leveraging the strengths and resources of each to tackle larger societal challenges through citizen science and research-related public engagement.

Build professional connections and attract enough resources to develop comprehensive guidelines on legal and ethical issues related to citizen science, such as data privacy, intellectual property, and participant consent, to assist your research communities in navigating these complex areas.

The Implementation Score (1 to 10)

9,2

Milestone 30:

[doi.org/...soon]

Forward Looking Paper – Public Scholarly Engagement in Baltic HEIs

Coming soon ...

Thank you!

Dr Tiberius Ignat

orcid.org/0000-0002-4839-2344

www.linkedin.com/in/tiberiusignat

Volunteer Registration Form

For gathering basic information about volunteers, their interests, and expertise.

Key Guidelines

- privacy: ensure that you are only collecting information that is necessary and relevant to the project. always maintain the confidentiality of personal information.
- accessibility: the form should be accessible and user-friendly, considering potential participants' diverse backgrounds.
- clear instructions: each section should be clear about the information it's seeking, with optional explanatory notes if needed.
- varied input methods: include a mix of multiple-choice, short answer, and open-ended questions to cater to different information needs.
- interests and skills: it's crucial to know the areas of interest and expertise of volunteers to match them with suitable roles or tasks.
- emergency contact: in certain projects, especially those in the field or involving physical tasks, an emergency contact detail might be necessary.
- availability: knowing when volunteers are available can help in planning and allocating tasks.
- opt-in for communications: allow volunteers to opt-in or out of newsletters or updates related to the project.

Volunteer Registration Form Template:

PERSONAL DETAILS:

- Full Name: _____
- Date of Birth: // _____ (Decide if this is optional)
- Address: _____ (Decide if this is optional)
- City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ (Decide if this is optional)
- Phone Number: _____ (Decide if this is optional)
- Email Address: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST:

Please tick the areas you're interested in:

- Data work
 - collection
 - curation and enhancement
 - analysis
 - other: _____
- Fieldwork
- Outreach and communication
- Administrative support
- Project Design and Analysis
- Other: _____

EXPERTISE & SKILLS:

Please list any specific skills, qualifications, or expertise you have that might be relevant to the project:

AVAILABILITY:

Please indicate the days, times and kind of activities you're typically available for:

- Weekdays: Morning / Afternoon / Evening
- Weekends: Morning / Afternoon / Evening
- Digital activities only



- Field activities only
- Digital and field activities

EMERGENCY CONTACT (Optional but recommended for certain projects):

- Name: _____
- Relationship: _____
- Phone Number: _____

OPT-IN FOR COMMUNICATIONS:

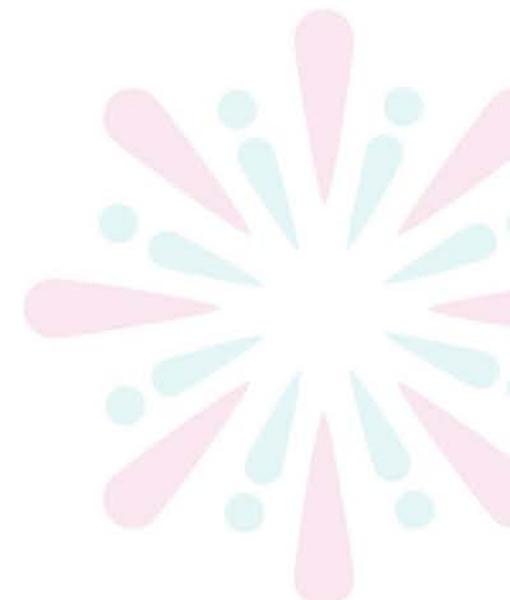
- Yes, I'd like to receive updates

MISCELLANEOUS:

- What attracted you to our project?

- How did you hear about us?

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Consent Form Template

For obtaining informed consent from participants

Key Guidelines

- clarity and simplicity: the language should be clear, straightforward, and jargon-free. it's essential that participants fully understand what they're consenting to.
- purpose of the project: start by introducing the project's goals, objectives, and why you're collecting data.
- description of tasks: clearly explain what will be expected of the participants.
- duration: mention the expected duration of participation.
- potential risks and benefits: clearly state any risks, discomforts, and benefits to the participant.
- data privacy: describe how the collected data will be used, stored, and protected. also, mention if the data will be shared, and if so, with whom.
- voluntary participation: stress that participation is voluntary and they can withdraw at any time without any repercussions.
- contact information: provide contact details for the researchers and an independent point of contact for any concerns.
- signature section: ensure there's a section where participants can sign to confirm their understanding and consent.

Consent Form Template

PROJECT TITLE: [Project Title Here]

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: [Provide a brief overview of the project, its objectives, and its significance.]

YOUR ROLE AS A PARTICIPANT: [Describe the tasks that the participants will be asked to perform.]

DURATION:

The expected duration of your participation is [insert duration here, e.g., "one hour," "three weeks," etc.].

POTENTIAL RISKS AND BENEFITS:

- Risks: [List any potential risks or discomforts to the participant. If none, state: "There are no anticipated risks associated with participating in this study."]
- Benefits: [List any direct benefits the participant might receive. If none, state: "While there are no direct benefits to participating, your contribution will..."]

DATA PRIVACY AND PROTECTION:

Your data will be [describe how it will be stored, e.g., "anonymized and stored securely"]. It will be used for [state purpose, e.g., "research purposes only and will not be shared with third parties."]

Attach or provide a link to your DMP (Data Management Plan) which should include, among others, your Privacy Policy on personal data and research data.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION:

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. You can choose to withdraw at any time without any repercussions.

[Please elaborate if you'd like to present a good practice for withdrawing. Such practice will not create obligations, but it could suggest a procedure that make sure the participant's withdraw doesn't harm the project]

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

Here is a list of activities you can get involved in if you'd like to support our research. We did our best to include all the activities, but this list remains open for other activities that could be presented to you, for your volunteer participation:

- [list activities here]

[if you have developed specific protocols for such activities, please include them here or refer to them as separated documents / links]

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

- Researcher: [Name, Email, and Phone Number]
- Independent Point of Contact: [Name, Email, and Phone Number for someone not directly involved with the project, e.g., an ethics committee representative.]

CONSENT:

I have read the above information and understand what is expected of me as a participant. I consent to participate in this project.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

[if you intend to recruit underaged participants, please make sure this consent form is signed by a legal tutor]

Data Collection Sheet

For recording data collected by citizen scientists during fieldwork or observations.

Tailor this template based on the specific nature of the data being collected and the project's requirements. Ensure that the forms and processes are compliant with regional and institutional data protection and copyright laws.

Key Guidelines

- simplicity: the layout should be intuitive and simple to follow to ensure that data is recorded accurately and consistently.
- guidance: brief instructions or legends can be provided alongside fields to help volunteers understand what's expected.
- flexibility: ensure that there's room for additional notes or observations, as structured data collection might not always capture everything.
- licensing & usage: clearly explain how the data will be used and obtain consent from the volunteer for its usage and publication.
- anonymization options: provide options for the contributor to choose if they want their data to be anonymous.
- long-term preservation: explain how the data will be stored and preserved in the long term.
- copyright clearance: ensure there's a section that allows volunteers to acknowledge that their submissions are original and not copyrighted elsewhere.

Data Collection Sheet Template

DATA ENTRY SECTION:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____ (or other specifics for each data entry)

Observation/Data Type 1: _____

Observation/Data Type 2: _____

(...continue with fields relevant to the type of data being collected...)

Additional Notes/Observations: (Leave a space or provide lines for free-text input.)

LICENSING & USAGE

I, [Full Name], grant the [Project Name/Research Team] the permission to use, publish, and share the data I have provided for research and educational purposes.

- I grant the use and publication of this data to the project [Project Name/Research Team].
- I wish to remain anonymous. (Do not link my personal details with the collected data.)

DATA PRESERVATION

The data you provide will be stored securely and preserved for long-term research and educational purposes.

- I consent to long-term preservation of this data.
- I do consent to long-term preservation of this data.

COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE

I hereby declare that the data I am submitting is original, and I own the rights to this data. It does not infringe on any existing copyrights.

- I confirm the above statement.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Situation Template

For dealing with and documenting emergency situations during citizen science activities.

Key Guidelines

- immediate safety first: any emergency procedure should prioritize the safety and well-being of all involved. The template should facilitate quick decision-making.
- clarity: ensure the template is easy to follow, even under stressful conditions. instructions should be clear and concise.
- contact information: provide immediate access to essential contact numbers, including local emergency services.
- documentation: have a section for recording details about the emergency. This can be filled out after ensuring everyone's safety but is crucial for future references and any potential investigations.
- action steps: provide a step-by-step guide on what to do during different types of emergencies, if possible.
- follow-up: include guidelines on post-emergency procedures, such as informing institutional points of contact or undergoing debriefing sessions.

Emergency Situation Template

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

- Local Emergency Services: [Phone Number]
- Project Coordinator/Leader: [Name, Phone Number]
- Secondary Point of Contact: [Name, Phone Number]
- Institutional Emergency Contact: [Name, Phone Number]

TYPE OF EMERGENCY (Tick or circle as appropriate):

- Medical

- Human-made disaster (e.g., pollution, virus or bacterial infestation, open fire, documents destruction)
- Natural disaster (e.g., earthquake, flood)
- Conflict or disturbance
- Lost participant
- Equipment failure or hazard
- Other: _____

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN:

(Provide a few predefined general steps for various emergencies if possible, or a general guideline like:)

Ensure the immediate safety of all participants.

Contact appropriate emergency services.

Inform the project coordinator/leader.

DETAILS OF THE EMERGENCY:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Description: (Describe the events leading up to, during, and following the emergency. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS:

(List names and roles of individuals involved or witnesses.)

ACTIONS TAKEN POST-EMERGENCY:

(Describe any follow-up actions taken such as further medical treatment, counseling, equipment repair, etc.)

Signature of Reporting Individual: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Project Leader/Coordinator (if different from above): _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: It's important to adapt this template based on the nature of the project, the potential risks involved, and the local context. Regularly reviewing and updating emergency protocols and this template is vital. Training sessions on how to use this template during real emergencies can also be beneficial.

Safety Protocol Template: For establishing safety guidelines and protocols for data collection in potentially hazardous environments.

Key Guidelines:

- risk assessment: start by identifying potential risks associated with the specific environment and activities involved in the project.
 - clear communication: use clear and concise language. avoid jargon unless it's common knowledge among participants.
 - training: all participants should undergo necessary safety training, and this protocol can serve as a reference guide.
 - equipment: list and explain the usage of any safety equipment that might be necessary.
 - emergency procedures: always have a clear, step-by-step procedure for emergencies, including who to contact.
 - review & updates: safety protocols should be periodically reviewed and updated based on new knowledge, incidents, or changes in conditions.
-

Safety Protocol Template:

INTRODUCTION:

Briefly explain the nature of the project, the potential hazards of the environment, and the importance of following the safety protocol.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS IDENTIFIED:

Hazard Name: (e.g., "Unstable Ground")

- Description: Briefly describe the hazard.
- Prevention: Steps or measures to prevent incidents related to this hazard.
- In Case of Incident: Immediate actions to take if something goes wrong.



Hazard Name: (e.g., "Wildlife Encounters")

- Description: ...
- Prevention: ...
- In Case of Incident: ...

(Continue listing identified hazards)

REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

Equipment Name: (e.g., "Safety Helmet")

- Purpose: Briefly describe its use.
- Usage Guidelines: Explain how to use it correctly.

Equipment Name: (e.g., "First Aid Kit")

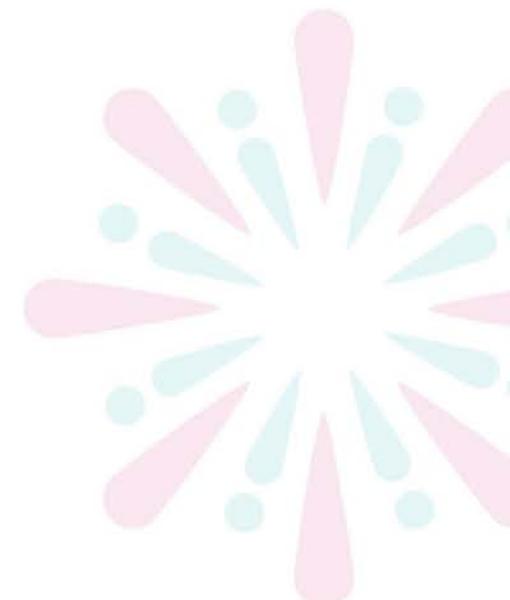
- Purpose: ...
- Usage Guidelines: ...

(Continue listing required equipment)

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

- Immediate Actions: General steps to take in any emergency.
- Emergency Contacts: List of essential contacts, including project leaders and local emergency services.
- Evacuation Procedures: If relevant, provide a step-by-step guide on how to evacuate the area safely.

TRAINING & BRIEFINGS:



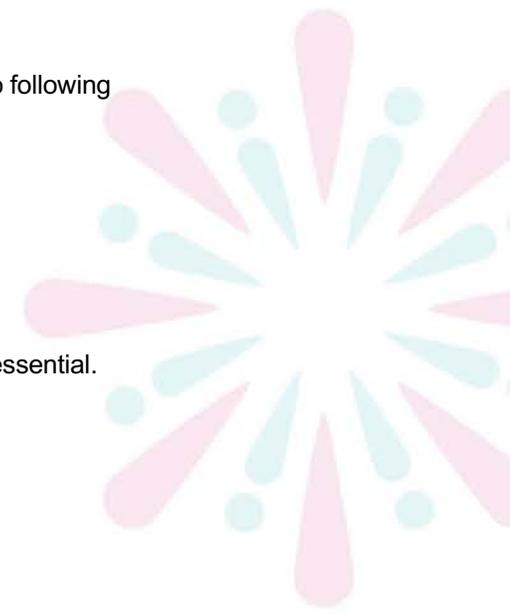
Indicate that all participants must undergo safety training and regular briefings. Specify the frequency and nature of these training sessions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING:

I, [Full Name], have read, understood, and will adhere to the safety protocol for [Project Name]. I acknowledge the risks involved and commit to following the guidelines established for my safety and the safety of others.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: Adapting this template based on the specific environment, potential risks, and the nature of the citizen science project is essential. Ensure that participants are always well-informed, and regularly reinforce the importance of safety.



Data Collection Protocol Template for Citizen Science Projects Related to Legal Court Activities

This template serves as a foundational document to be tailored according to the specific requirements and legal considerations of the project at hand. It is crucial that all citizen scientists involved in monitoring legal court activities are thoroughly trained and understand the sensitive nature of the data they will be handling.

[Cover Page]

Logo: [BESPOC Logo or Project-Specific Logo]

Title: Data Collection Protocol for [Project Name]

Subtitle: Legal Court Activities Monitoring by Citizen Scientists

Date: [Latest Revision Date] Prepared by: [Name of the Organization/Research Team]

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VII. Quality Control and Verification

- Cross-verification Procedures
- Data Auditing Processes

VIII. Training and Support

- Required Training Sessions
- Ongoing Support and Resources

IX. Legal and Ethical Obligations

- Legal Restrictions and Permissions
- Ethical Codes of Conduct

X. Appendices

- Data Collection Forms
- Contact Information for Legal Advisors
- FAQs and Troubleshooting Guide

XI. Protocol Amendment and Update History

[Introduction]

This document outlines the procedures and guidelines for citizen scientists collecting data on legal court activities. It ensures that data is collected systematically, ethically, and in compliance with legal standards.

The scope of this protocol includes observation and documentation of public legal proceedings, case outcomes, and court operational processes.

Citizen involvement is vital for transparency and public knowledge dissemination regarding the workings of the legal system.

[Project Overview]

Offer a concise overview of the project, its objectives, its relevance to legal and judicial research, and the expected outcomes of the data collection efforts.

[Compliance and Confidentiality]

Detail the ethical considerations necessary for data collection in legal settings, emphasizing the importance of maintaining confidentiality and privacy.

[Citizen Scientist Responsibilities]

Define the criteria for citizen scientist participation, describe their specific roles, and outline the procedures for communication and reporting.

[Data Collection Procedures]

Provide a detailed description of the types of legal court activities to be monitored, the specific data points to be recorded, and the methodologies to ensure accurate and unbiased data collection.

[Data Handling and Storage]

Outline the processes for entering, managing, and securely storing collected data, as well as protocols for ensuring the long-term preservation of data.

[Quality Control and Verification]

Describe the steps for cross-verifying collected data and the auditing processes to ensure the integrity and quality of the data.

[Training and Support]

Include information about the training sessions required for citizen scientists and details about ongoing support and additional resources.

[Legal and Ethical Obligations]

Explain the legal restrictions and permissions related to the monitoring of legal court activities, and the ethical conduct expected from citizen scientists.

[Appendices]

Provide all necessary forms for data collection, contact information for legal advisors, and a guide for frequently asked questions and troubleshooting.

[Protocol Amendment and Update History]

Keep a log of any changes or updates to the protocol, including the date, description of the change, and the name of the person who authorized the update.

Volunteer Recognition Certificate Template

For acknowledging and appreciating the contributions of volunteers.

Key Guidelines

- Addressing the volunteer by their full name adds a personal touch to the certificate, making it more meaningful.
- Clearly state the reason for the recognition, specifying the project or activity they contributed to.
- A visually appealing certificate can be more cherished. Consider incorporating the project or organization's logo, appropriate color schemes, and decorative borders.
- The signature of the project leader, coordinator, or head of the institution adds authenticity to the certificate.
- Leave space for adding specific accomplishments or milestones achieved by the volunteer, if relevant.

[Header: Place the logo of the project or organization at the top-center of the certificate.]

Volunteer Recognition Certificate Template

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

In appreciation of your dedicated service and outstanding contributions,

[Full Name of the Volunteer]

is hereby recognized for their invaluable efforts and participation in

[Project Name/Description]

Your commitment and dedication have significantly contributed to the success of our mission. We are grateful for the time, expertise, and enthusiasm you have shared with us.

[Space for specific accomplishments or milestones]

Awarded on [Date: e.g., "31st October 2023"]

[Left side at the bottom] Signature of Project Leader/Coordinator [Space for Signature] [Name of Project Leader/Coordinator]

[Right side at the bottom] Signature of Head of Institution/Department (if applicable) [Space for Signature] [Name of Head of Institution/Department]

[Footer: Consider adding a decorative border or watermark for added visual appeal.]

IMPORTANT NOTES:

When printing or distributing the certificates, using high-quality paper or digital formats can further enhance their significance for the volunteers.

Remember, the key is to make the volunteers feel valued and appreciated for their efforts and contributions.

Checklist: Environmental Impact Assessment (for assessing potential environmental impacts of the project)

This checklist is intended to be a starting point and might need customization based on the specific nature and location of the project. Some projects may require a more detailed environmental impact statement or report, while others might only need a brief assessment. Always consult local environmental regulations and experts when conducting an assessment.

Key Guidelines

- The assessment should consider both direct and indirect impacts.
- Consider both the scale (minor to major) and duration (short-term to long-term) of potential impacts.
- Assess the combined effect of multiple activities or projects in the area.
- Ensure that local communities and other stakeholders have an opportunity to contribute to the assessment.
- Identify ways to minimize negative impacts or enhance positive ones.
- Environmental factors can change, so regular reviews and updates to the assessment are important.

Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist

1. Land and Soil:

- Changes in land use or land cover.
- Soil erosion or compaction.
- Loss of fertile topsoil.
- Contamination from chemicals or waste.

2. Water:

- Changes in water quality (pollution or purification).
- Changes in water quantity (drainage, runoff, or water table levels).

- Impact on local watersheds or drainage systems.
- Disruption or alteration of water bodies or courses.

3. Air:

- Emissions of pollutants or greenhouse gasses.
- Changes to local air quality.
- Potential for dust or odor issues.

4. Flora and Fauna:

- Loss or fragmentation of habitats.
- Disturbance to or loss of specific species.
- Introduction or spread of invasive species.
- Effects on species diversity or abundance.

5. Noise and Vibration:

- Increase in noise levels during project activities.
- Potential disturbance to local communities or wildlife.
- Vibrations affecting structures or natural features.

6. Cultural and Social Impacts:

- Impact on historically or culturally significant sites or artifacts.
- Changes to local community lifestyles or livelihoods.
- Potential for displacement or resettlement.

7. Aesthetic and Visual Impacts:

- Changes to landscape views or visual character.

- Light pollution or changes to natural darkness.

8. Climate Change and Carbon Footprint:

- Contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Impact of the project's carbon footprint.
- Vulnerability of the project to future climate changes.

9. Cumulative Impacts:

- Combined environmental effects with other existing or future projects.
- Potential for amplifying or offsetting effects when combined with other factors.

Mitigation Measures (if any):

[List of measures planned or proposed to address identified impacts.]

Stakeholder Comments:

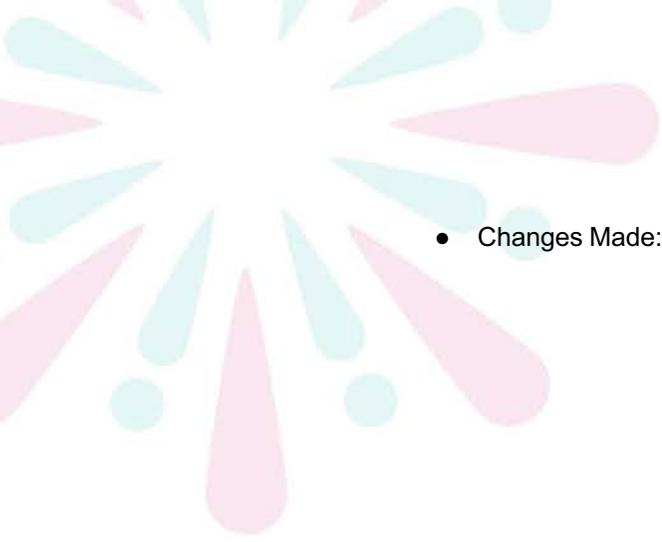
[List or summarize input from local communities, experts, or other stakeholders.]

Assessment Conclusions:

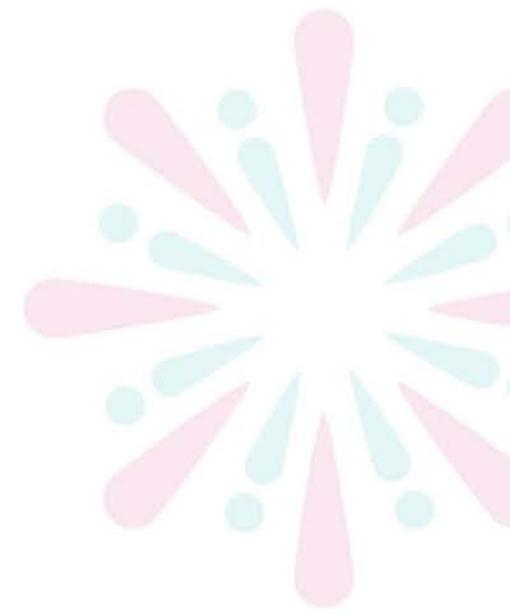
[Overall conclusions about the potential environmental impacts and their significance.]

Review and Update:

- Date of Last Review: [Date]
- Reviewed by: [Name/Role]



- Changes Made: [Summary of changes since the last review]



Checklist: Field Observation Preparation (for observations in wild areas focusing on biodiversity)

This checklist serves as a general guide for preparing for field observations in wild areas focusing on biodiversity. Depending on the specific area, some items may not be necessary, while others might be essential. Always prioritize safety and respect other people and for the environment.

Key Guidelines

- The primary concern when heading into wild areas should be safety. This includes both personal safety and ensuring that actions taken do not harm the environment.
- Understand the specific environment you're entering, the potential risks, and the expected biodiversity.
- Ensure all equipment is functioning, has sufficient power, and is suitable for the expected conditions.
- Always follow leave-no-trace principles, minimizing your impact on the environment.

Field Observation Preparation Checklist

1. Personal Gear:

- Weather-appropriate clothing (e.g., rain gear, sun hat, layers).
- Sturdy footwear suitable for the terrain.
- Personal first aid kit.
- Adequate food and water (plus purification tablets/filters if necessary).
- Emergency whistle.
- Sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Map and compass (and knowledge of how to use them).
- Fully charged mobile phone with emergency numbers saved (consider a satellite phone if going to very remote areas).

2. Observation Equipment:

- Field guidebooks or apps for identifying species.
- Binoculars or spotting scope.
- Notebook and pen/pencil for recording observations.
- Camera with zoom/macro capabilities.
- Voice recorder (optional).
- GPS device for logging exact locations of observations.
- Specimen collection equipment (only if licensed and necessary).

3. Safety Preparations:

- Inform someone of your planned route and expected return time.
- Check the weather forecast and be prepared for sudden changes.
- Familiarize yourself with local wildlife (e.g., know what potentially dangerous animals you might encounter and how to respond).
- Bring a buddy if possible, or at least ensure someone knows your location.

4. Ethical Considerations:

- Familiarize yourself with local regulations (e.g., permits required, areas off-limits, species protected).
- Do not disturb or harm wildlife. Observe from a distance.
- If collecting specimens, ensure you have the necessary permits and only collect what's essential.
- Follow leave-no-trace principles: pack out everything you pack in.

5. Pre-Observation Research:

- Read up on the biodiversity of the area to know what species to expect.
- Understand the topography and layout of the area.

- Familiarize yourself with any recent observations or reports from the area.

6. Post-Observation:

- Clean and store equipment.
- Backup and label any digital data (photos, recordings, GPS logs).
- Write detailed notes about observations while memories are fresh.
- Report any rare or significant findings to relevant authorities or databases.

Checklist: Field Observation Preparation (for observations in rural areas focusing on astronomy)

This checklist serves as a guide for preparing for astronomical observations in rural areas. While rural areas are generally quieter and have clearer skies, always be prepared and respectful of the local environment.

Key Guidelines

- The success of an astronomical observation is heavily reliant on clear skies, so it's essential to check the weather forecast.
- Rural areas are generally better for stargazing due to reduced light pollution. Ensure that your observation site is as dark as possible.
- All observation tools and equipment should be pre-checked for functionality.
- While rural areas can offer clear skies, they can also bring challenges, from unfamiliar terrains to potential wildlife encounters.

Field Observation Preparation Checklist

1. Personal Gear

- Weather-appropriate clothing (e.g., warm layers for chilly nights).
- Comfortable footwear.
- Flashlight with a red filter to preserve night vision.
- Snacks and water.
- Portable seat or blanket.
- Fully charged mobile phone with emergency numbers saved.

2. Astronomy Equipment

- Telescope with mount/tripod (if using one).

- Additional eyepieces or filters.
- Lens cleaning supplies.
- Star charts or astronomy apps.
- Red-dot finder or optical finder scope.
- Binoculars for wide-field stargazing.
- Camera with tripod for astrophotography (if desired).

3. Safety Preparations

- Inform someone of your planned observation location and expected return time.
- Check the weather forecast, especially for rapid temperature drops or unexpected rain.
- Familiarize yourself with the local rural environment (potential wildlife or domesticated animals).
- Consider bringing a buddy for safety and shared experience.

4. Ethical Considerations

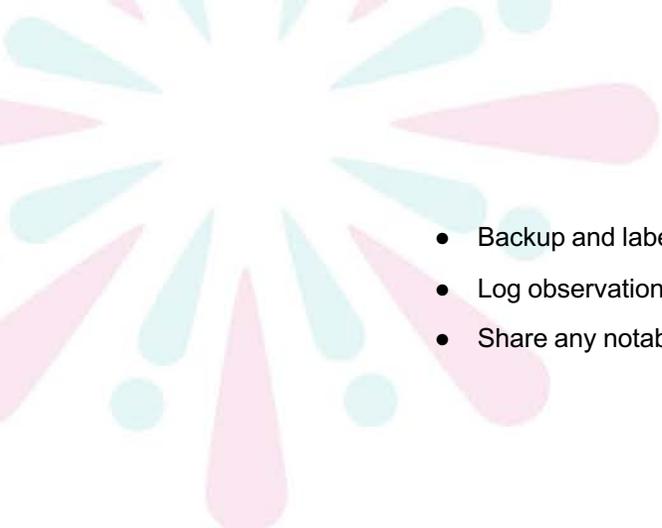
- Ensure you have permissions if you're on private land.
- Keep noise levels down to respect local residents.
- If you bring any lighting, ensure it's minimal and doesn't contribute to light pollution.

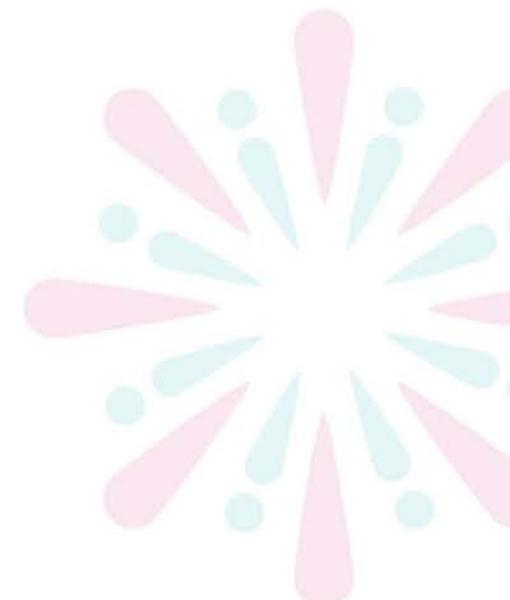
5. Pre-Observation Research

- Plan which celestial objects or events you wish to observe.
- Check the moon phase and rise/set times (a full or brightly lit moon can affect visibility of faint objects).
- Familiarize yourself with the constellations and stars visible during your observation time.

6. Post-Observation

- Store equipment properly to avoid moisture damage.

- 
- Backup and label any digital data (photos or notes).
 - Log observations in an astronomy journal or app.
 - Share any notable observations with astronomy communities or friends.



Gita Rozenberga
(Library of the University of Latvia)

LibOCS Research & BESPOC Model Implementation for Enhancing Academia-Society Cooperation

Gita Rozenberga
Library of the University of Latvia, 2024



UNIVERSITY
OF LATVIA

Agenda

- LibOCS project result: study on memory institutions & citizen science
- BESPOC model at the University of Latvia: starting implementation

Study on memory institutions & citizen science

- **Topic:** the transformative role of memory institutions for citizen science and open science in the Baltics
- **Main aim:** to find out the role changes of memory institutions, especially libraries, in research, especially when they collaborate on research projects or activities with the involvement of citizens

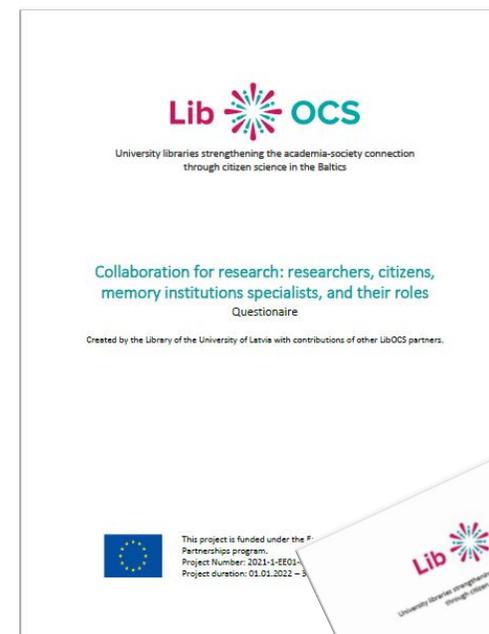
Methodology

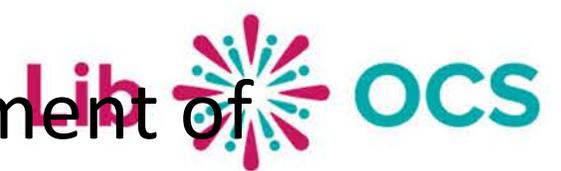
- Surveys

- semi-structured questionnaire (in 2 rounds)
- distributed online
- *QuestionPro* tool
- content analysis for open questions

- Respondents:

- professional researchers,
- amateur researchers / citizens / volunteers,
- specialists from memory institutions (libraries, museums, archives)





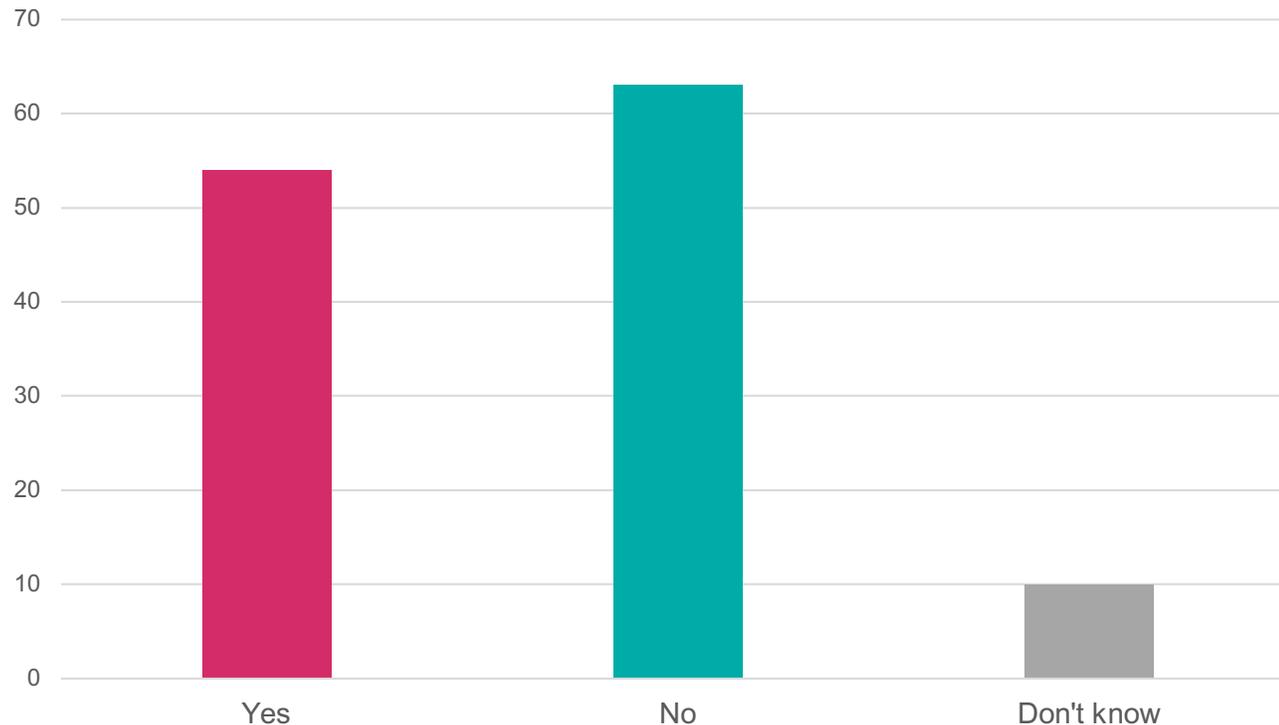
Projects mentioned in the study with the engagement of citizens

The conducted questionnaire was essential in **identifying more than 25 research projects and activities involving citizens held in Baltic countries**, as well as 7 international initiatives.

The data are **mostly similar in all Baltic** countries:

in Estonia, 10 local projects are run and Estonians participate in 4 international projects
in Latvia - 12 local projects are identified while no international ones,
in Lithuania - 7 local and 6 international ones.

Do you know any research activities or project with engage specialists from memory institutions (MIS)?



Unfortunately, it is unclear if along with MIS engagement also citizen scientists were involved.

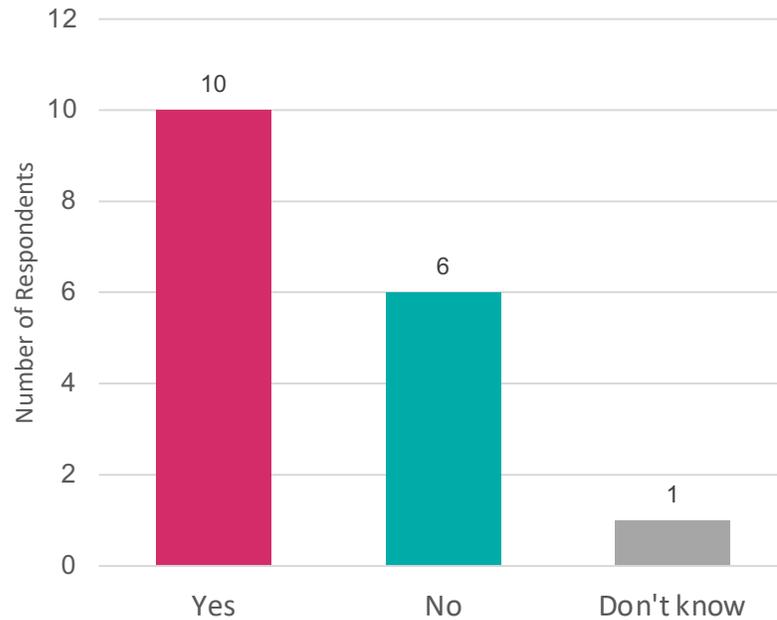
This question was positive with “yes” responded mostly by library staff (27), museum staff (12), researchers (11), and citizen scientists (4).

In what way specialists from libraries and other memory institutions are involved?

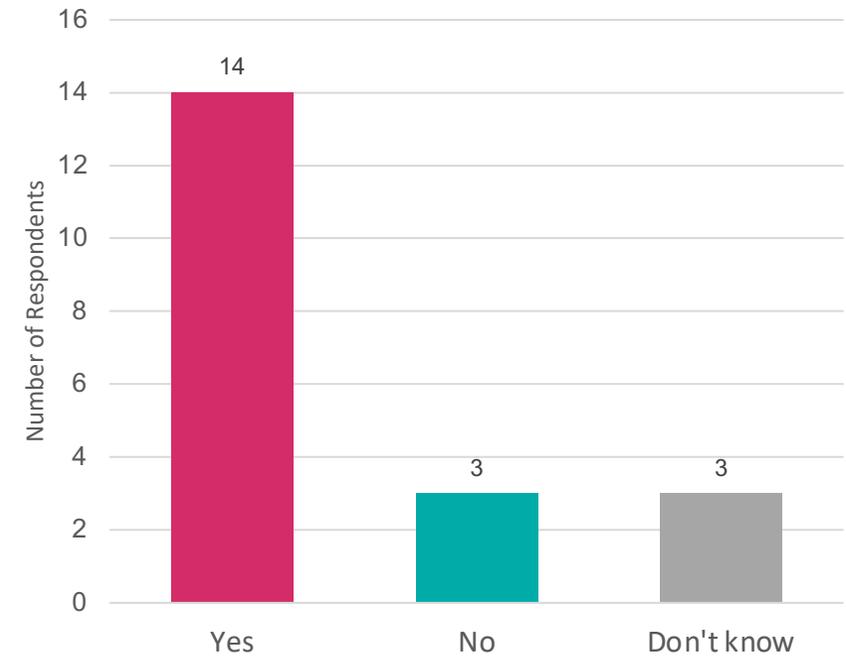
TOP 5

1. They **provide a space and a platform for engaged participants** and like minded people
2. They are research or project **initiators**
3. They assist with **finding relevant information**/theoretical materials
4. They organize **educational events about the research process and CS options**
5. They perform as specialists on **archiving publications, data and other research results**

Did professional researchers participate in the project/activity?



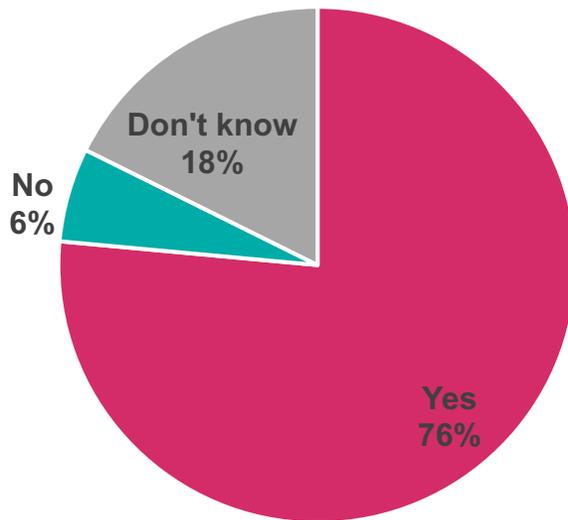
(Answers from memory institutions specialists)



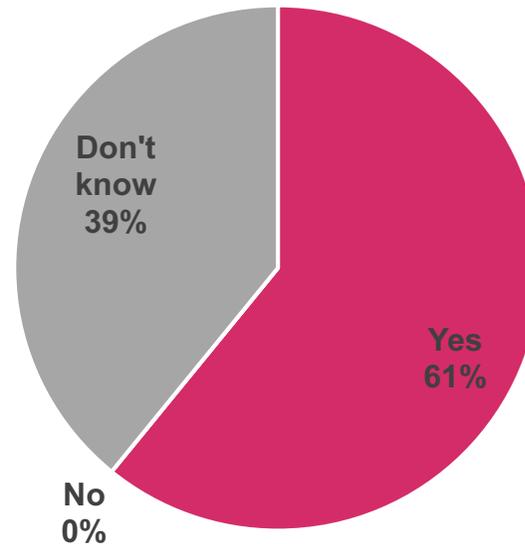
(Answers from citizen scientists)

Would you like to collaborate with memory institutions in research projects/activities in the future?

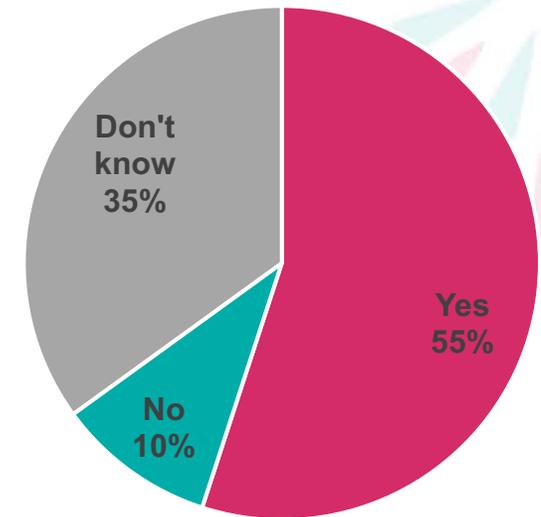
Memory institutions specialists view



Professional researchers view



Amateur researchers view



Recommendations

- Promoting and **strengthening of existing professional knowledge and skills useful in citizen science projects, including communication and citizen engagement skills**
- **Creating the knowledge base** about **citizen science** projects' modeling
- **Creating the knowledge base** about the **research process** and research data management
- **Promoting collaboration** and **exchange of experience** on research projects with civic engagement
- **Invest in** memory institutions **infrastructure** and set memory institutions as the best meeting space **for the community's most effective teamwork** in CS projects
- **Increasing the awareness among MIS** about their various roles in research and citizen science



Citizen Science as tool

*SOURCE: Illustration by
Frits Ahlefeldt,
<https://drawjournalism.com/2022/06/22/citizen-science-as-tool/>*

Frits Ahlefeldt

BESPOC model at the University of Latvia: starting implementation (1)

- BESPOC model **priorities** for the University of Latvia:
 - Community builder
 - Partnership frameworks
 - Templates
- +
- Activities
- Gateway to Society

BESPOC model at the University of Latvia: starting implementation (2)

- Activities for developing priorities:
 - **identification of potential partners**
 - contacts and connections obtained in other library projects
 - contacts obtained during the implementation of LibOCS project activities
 - **initiation, responsiveness and strengthening of cooperation**
 - a particularly **good cooperation** was established **with two CS implementers in Latvia**
 - Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia (ILFA UL)
 - Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Latvia
 - **cooperation with the CS Ambassador** of the ECS project in Latvia
 - organizing an activity **to promote coming together for interested parties**
 - the first conference on CS projects in Latvia (15 presentations in the program)
 - webinars
 - participating in events organized by other organizations

BESPOC model at the University of Latvia: starting implementation (3)

- Activities for realizing priorities:
 - **identification of CS projects** and research activities with civic engagement in Latvia
 - **starting the creation of a contact list** to distribute information related to CS with interested parties who want it and have given permission
 - **preparation of support materials** (general information on CS, CS project in Latvia list, templates etc.)
 - **working on** ideas and identification of **possibilities to organize regular meetings for interested parties at the University of Latvia**
 - working on ideas and identification of possibilities to **organize a solution for a "Gateway to Society"**

Examples of CS projects & activities

Latvia

- [IESAISTIES.LV](#) (public participation in the creation of digital cultural heritage)
- [Simtgades burtnieki](#) (The Wizards of the Centenary)
- [garamantas.lv](#) (enhancing the digital content of the Archives of Latvian Folklore)
- [Zudusī Latvija](#) (old drawings, postcards and photos)
- [Baltijas ceļa stāsti](#) (Baltic Way experience)
- [Gadsimta stāsti](#) (Documenting the daily life of the last 2-3 generations in Latvia)
- [Ciltskoki](#) (genealogy)
- [Archive of Violence](#) (documenting the history of different types of violence in Latvia and let victims safely tell their stories)
- [Historia.lv](#) (history)
- [Vietvārdu talka](#) un [Apvidvārdu talka](#) (collecting toponyms)
- [Balsutalka.lv](#) (collecting of Latvian voice samples for the development of speech technology)
- [One day in Latvia](#) (nature, climate, data by photo and coordinates)
- [Dabas dati](#) (natural observations)
- [Ķeram svešos Latvijas dabā!](#) (dangerous invasive species)
- [Mission – TOAD](#)
- [Mūsu gaiss](#) (air quality monitoring)
- [Latvijas ezeru projekts](#) (Latvian lakes project)
- [Latvijas Mikrobioma Projekts](#) (Latvian microbiome project)
- [Latvijas Pilskalni](#) (collecting information about Latvian hillforts; for history, tourism)
- [Tak-Ugāle](#) (research activities on local history and nature for developing walking trail)
- [Latvijas vēsturisko krogu katalogs](#) (Catalog of historic pubs in Latvia)
- ...

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

1. started dialog
2. positive feedback and expressed willingness to cooperate
3. organized networking activity in person

Weaknesses

1. information fragmented
2. insufficient knowledge and experience
3. development was slowed by the consolidation processes in the University and the Library

Opportunities

1. received feedback gives directions
2. CS is also mentioned on the Open Science policy documents in University, as well as in Latvia
3. experinece and cooperation in LibOCS gives a greate chance for development

Threats

1. uncertainty about the future because of consolidation processes
2. team breakup

Thank you!

Lib  OCS



Contact details:

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gita.rozenberga[[@](mailto:gita.rozenberga@lu.lv)]lu.lv

Tuuliki Tõiste
(TalTech University, Tallinn)

Project number 2021-1-EE01-KA220-HED-000031125



Towards BESPOC implementation in TalTech

Tuuliki Tõiste and Kaarin Birk
Tallinn University of Technology Library

Starting point

- Low awareness about citizen science and the library's role
 - Mapping the situation and knowledge level
 - Challenges finding CS projects
- Existing experience of library staff with open science
 - Eager to deploy new resources and information to librarians for OS/CS practices
- Seeing BESPOC as an opportunity for us

BESPOC module: Policy and development plans

- Opportunity to link new topic to open science principles
 - Creating OS policy, including CS
 - Adds credibility to the role of librarians
 - Think about library as trustful info hub
 - Foster cooperation

BESPOC module: Connector to Research & Administration Office

- Research management office is a crucial partner to library
 - Shortcut to researchers
 - Connector to university management
 - Area of Vice-Rector for Research
 - Cooperation for further developments
- Library staff's experience with OS/CS adds valuable input to research office's workflow

How do researchers feel about central service?

- Researchers are neutral or positive
 - Would be nice to have a support centre
 - There is demand on introducing the concept of CS
 - Suggestion to map the needs of scientists from the point of view of CS project

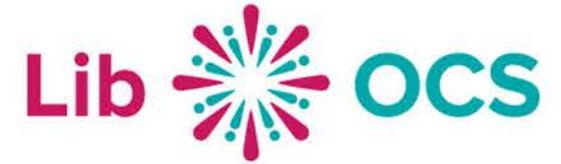
Future plans and challenges

- Mapping the library's opportunities and capabilities
 - Continue educating the staff; add knowledge and skills
 - Focus on implementable modules in library
- Information dissemination and distribution, constant advocacy
 - Spreading the word
 - Adding information about CS to user trainings
 - Adding CS to templates
 - Working towards adding CS to university's curricula
- More cooperation with public libraries
 - Volunteer options

Project number 2021-1-EE01-KA220-HED-000031125

<https://taltech.ee/en>

Aiste Pranckutė
(Kaunas University of Technology)



BESPOC Implementation at Kaunas University of Technology

Aistė Pranckutė, Kaunas University of Technology Library

LibOCS project multiplier event: "Speaking BESPOC with Research Libraries", April 17th, 2024

- **CS at KTU before BESPOC implementation**
- **Implementation steps**
- **Challenges**
- **Achievements**
- **Plans**

CS projects at KTU

- The Citizen Science Cost Action **CA15212** (2016-2021)
- National project "Citizen Science as an Innovative Form of Citizen Participation for the Development of a Welfare Society" (**CS4Welfare**) (2020-2021)
- Supporting Sustainable Institutional Changes to Promote Citizen Science in Science and Technology (**TIME4CS**) (2021-2023)
- University libraries strengthening the academia-society connection through citizen science in the Baltics (**LibOCS**) (2022-2024)
- **SMART-ER, YOUCOUNT, PRO-BLEU, ENHANSE, AGILE, Baltics4UA...** (2020 onwards)



CS competence needs



<https://www.libocs.ut.ee/>

Citizen Science for Librarians
Self Paced Learning Course

<https://tinyurl.com/LibOCSonline>



5 open access
modules



Self-paced learning course “Citizen Science for Librarians”

1

Citizen science and the role of libraries

2

Skills for librarians involved in CS
projects

3

Project management skills for CS

4

Engagement and communication in CS
projects

5

Research and data management skills
for librarians involved in CS projects

Implementation process



Challenges

Finding partners for supporting CS activities and establishing a BESPOC

Persuading research administration to the benefits of CS

Convening stakeholders for CS seminars and discussions



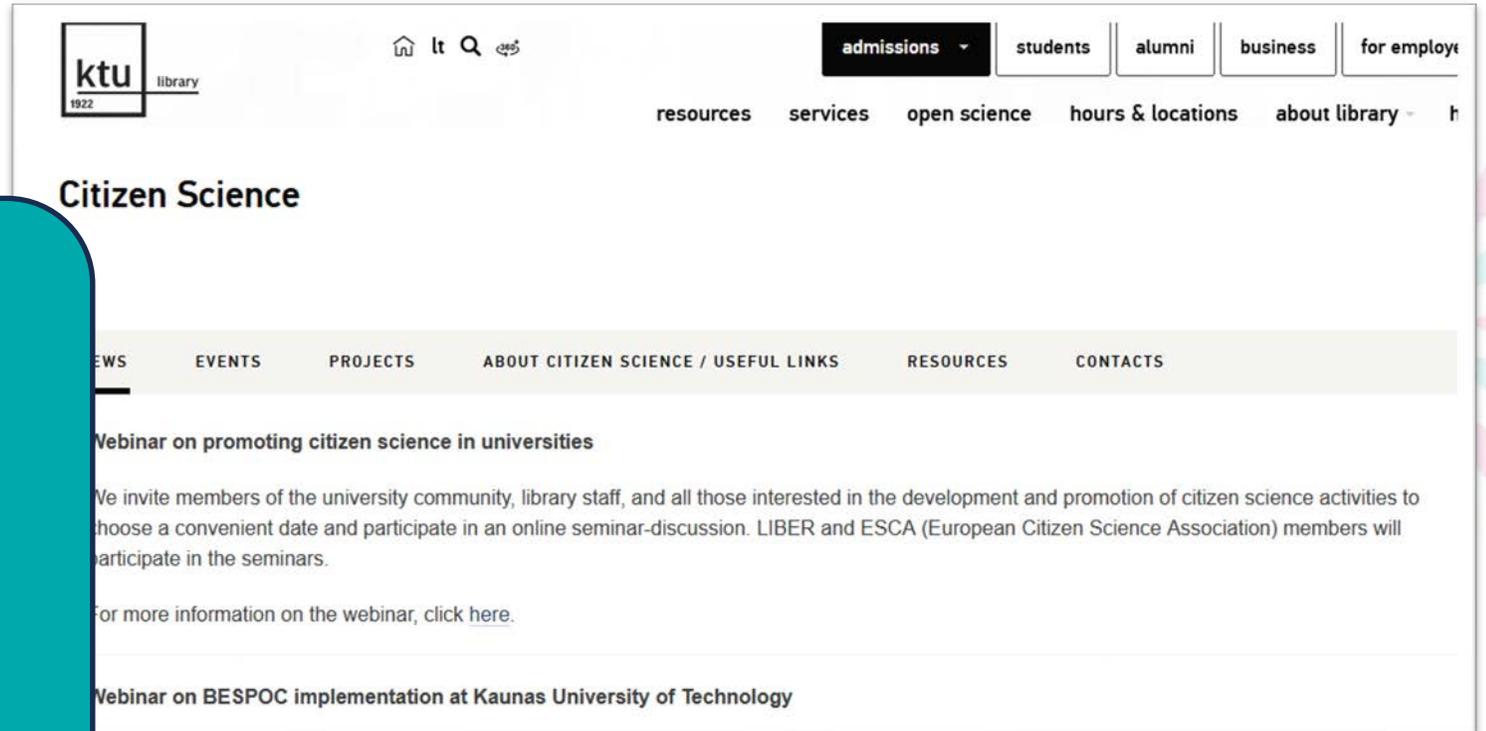
The Library have become an ambassador for CS at the University

Library is involved in ECIU network and FOR-EU Library Group activities

connections with Public Libraries

What's done:

- CS portal established in collaboration with FSSAH and Library
<https://library.ktu.edu/citizen-science/>
- Library is responsible for disseminating information about CS for the community and public
- Library initiated collaboration with public libraries
- *Guidelines for the Initiation and Conduct of Citizen Science Projects* approved at KTU
- 2 project applications submitted



The screenshot shows the ktu library website with a navigation menu including 'admissions', 'students', 'alumni', 'business', and 'for employe'. Below the navigation, there are links for 'resources', 'services', 'open science', 'hours & locations', and 'about library'. The main content area is titled 'Citizen Science' and features a sub-menu with 'NEWS', 'EVENTS', 'PROJECTS', 'ABOUT CITIZEN SCIENCE / USEFUL LINKS', 'RESOURCES', and 'CONTACTS'. Two news items are visible: 'Webinar on promoting citizen science in universities' and 'Webinar on BESPOC implementation at Kaunas University of Technology'. The text for the first webinar mentions inviting members of the university community, library staff, and those interested in citizen science activities to participate in an online seminar-discussion, with LIBER and ESCA members also participating.

What's next:

- Developing CS Portal; updating information
- Making CS events for society in collaboration with public libraries
- Encouraging the University's academic community to initiate CS projects





THANK YOU!



Funded by
the European Union



Lib OCS

**Lilian Neerut
(Tartu University)**

Implementing BESPOC at the University of Tartu

(Citizen Science) LibOCS BESPOC Implementation
Multiplier event, 11 April 2024

Lilian Neerut, Svea Kaseorg
University of Tartu Library



Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships program
Project number: 2021-1-EE01-KA220-HED-000031125



Funded by
the European Union

Overview

Estonia (45 227 km²; 1,3 million inhabitants)

University of Tartu (founded 1632; 4 faculties;
14 000 students; 3500 employees)

The University of Tartu Library (founded 1802;
4,2 million items in collections; the open science
promoting centre in Estonia)

Purpose of the presentation: Discussion of the implementation
of the BESPOC model at the University of Tartu



Located in Northern Europe.



Funded by
the European Union

Background

- [Open Science](#) in University of Tartu ([ENLIGHT Open Science Principles](#))
- Citizen Science in University of Tartu ([University of Tartu Natural History Museum and Botanical Garden](#))
- No central support from the University

Implementation

- Trainings for the library team (2)
- Workshop with stakeholders (grant office, researchers, science communication manager, library, project managers)
- Workshop with stakeholders – deep dive into modules the stakeholders found most useful (Activities Portal (AP), Specific Citizen Science Communication (SCSC), Legal & Safety Office Connector (LS-C))

Benefits of BESPOC

- Strengthening the libraries leading role in OS activities
- Preparedness to help researchers
- Better awareness of CS activities in our University
- Centralized system for researchers

Challenges and Considerations

- Hard to find people who want to discuss the topic
- Poor awareness about CS
- Lack of funds and personnel

Future Directions

- Templates and checklists for CS projects
- Estonian Open Science webpage - <https://www.avatudteadus.ee/>
- Creating awareness – organizing seminars
- Starting our own project

Thank you!

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svea.kaseorg@ut.ee

Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships program
Project number: 2021-1-EE01-KA220-HED-000031125



Funded by
the European Union

**Dr Floor Keersmaekers
(Vrije Universiteit Brussel)**



ONDERZOEK
RESEARCH



A COMPASS FOR A CITIZEN SCIENCE HUB

HOW THE BESPOC MODEL HELPED SHAPE OUR CONTACT POINT

Floor Keersmaekers
Citizen Science Contact Point – Outreach & Communication

BESPOC Workshop – 17/04/2024

THE CITIZEN SCIENCE CONTACT POINT AT VUB

HISTORY, STRATEGIC GOALS AND FIRST OUTCOMES

- Part of policy plans for Research 2021-2024 + 2022-2026
- Soft launch in October 2022
- Intertwined with EUTOPIA TRAIN project
- **STRATEGIC GOALS**
 1. Promoting a culture at VUB in which citizen science is considered a fully-fledged research method
 2. Stimulating the number of funded projects at VUB that apply a citizen science approach
 3. Structural embedding of the Contact Point within the VUB vice rectorate of Research
- **First outcomes:** project call – Citizen Science Starter Kit – QC's – training – CoP

STARTING THE JOURNEY

HOW WE PREPARED

- RESEARCH (Jan-March 2022)
 - Available literature and frameworks
 - E.g. LERU-paper (2016)
 - Support initiatives for citizen science in universities
 - Research Groups e.g. ExCiteS (UCL)
 - CS Labs/Centers/Portals/Hubs: connection with society/community e.g. Leiden Citizen Science Lab, Citizen Science Center Zurich
 - Centers of expertise e.g. SDU Citizen Science Knowledge Center
 - ...



THE CHOSEN PATHWAY

HOW WE CONTINUED

- **WORKSHOPS** (April-June 2022)
 - Quality Criteria for Citizen Science
 - Criteria applied by Citizen Science Center Zurich
 - 10 principles of Citizen Science (ECSA)
 - Collaboration with other departments
 - Community Engaged Research & Learning (CERL)
 - Open Science & Data Management, Grant Officers, Legals, TechTransfer ...
 - Definition of main services of the CSCP < BESPOC



AND ... ACTION!

THE BESPOC MODEL AS A COMPASS



1. Institutional policy for citizen science and executive plans / policy platform” updated report on how to collaborate on citizen science between different departments at the university
2. “Activity platform”: information about citizen science activities and projects at the university
3. “Partnership framework”: partnerships between departments at the university, or with external stakeholders from the projects
4. “Templates”: checklist for data management, privacy, training materials, guidelines, evaluation forms, etc.
5. “Communication and dissemination tools”: increase the dissemination of research, and stimulate recruitment for citizen science projects
6. “Scouting and proposal writing”: scouting for grants, editing proposals, etc.
7. “Gateway to society / desk”: identification of needs and questions from society
8. “Legal office connector”: connecting the citizen science projects with the right departments at the university who are in charge for the legal matters
9. ~~“Community platform”: building a community of participants (could be the same as the activities portal)~~

MAIN SERVICES OF THE CITIZEN SCIENCE CONTACT POINT

BASED ON THE BESPOC MODEL

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|--------------------------------|-----|---|
| 1. Institutional policy | >>> | Collaboration Framework + Advisory Board |
| 2. Activity platform | >>> | Internal SharePoint – External webpage |
| 3. Partnership framework | >>> | Science Shop; mapping (WIP) |
| 4. Templates | >>> | Module 4 of the Citizen Science Starter Kit |
| 5. Communication tools | >>> | Support package; Plan with RCO + MarCom |
| 6. Scouting & proposal writing | >>> | Ongoing, in collaboration with GO's |
| 7. Gateway to society | >>> | Science Shop; Project Call |
| 8. Legal office connector | >>> | Collaboration Framework |



THANK YOU



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Questions and Answers
Open Dialogue