

Policy Engagement for Citizen Science

Highlights & learnings from 3 years of DITOs

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DITOs Pan-European Policy Forum
03.04.2019, Brussels
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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 709433



“Policy Engagement”

- Reaching out to engage decision makers at local, national and EU levels
- Decision makers, i.e. persons with the ability to effect change regarding CS and DIY science, e.g. politicians, staff of funding agencies, scientific institutions, civil society organisations, etc.
- Focus: environment & science policy

Aims:

- (1) Raise awareness of CS and DIY science by providing **information & good practice**,
- (2) Stimulate **encounters** for engagement,
- (3) Develop **institutions**.

This translated into a diverse range of events including:

- 6 Discovery Trips
- 17 Stakeholder Round Tables
- 1 Pan-European Policy Forum
- + many additional workshops & events



Target audiences:
science funders

Key Arguments:
 - CS is a way to implement OS
 - Synergies/benefits of combining CS&OS
 - Commons through CS&OS
 - There are costs involved in CS&OS support

Scope:
 - various disciplines + policy fields
 - transdisciplinary civic action

Aim:
 - Funding for CS
 - Mechanisms to support it
 - CS considered 'horizontally' as research approach in

Case Studies:
 - NL: data
 - US: Federal CS & Greenwashing Act
 - DNA: Barcelona
 - Publishing along the research cycle
 - Principles for CS Apps & Platforms
 - AFSOAH

US → FAH
 - academia to become more open, e.g. OA
 - CS are global - dev outside need to be considered

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... as well as **13 Policy Briefs**

- BioBlitzes
- DIY bio
- CS & Open Science
- City Nature Challenge
- RRI indicators
- CS, Education & SDGs
- Business Models
- UK Environmental Policy
- CS in Italy
- CS & Art/Science
- CS for air quality
- Evaluation of science bus



... as well as 13 Policy Briefs



- We developed two formats of Policy Briefs:
 - Basic one presenting entry level information of a CS activity or a linked question
 - Research insight providing targeted research results
- Topics were selected from the dimensions of Responsible Research & Innovation as well as from DITOs public and policy engagement practices



**3 key areas of our activities
can show how these elements
worked together.**



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together
science

1

Anchoring Citizen Science in EU research policy

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EU SHRT
11/2016

ECSA OS WG
01/2017

Policy Brief
03/2017-02/2018

OSPP
2017-...

EU SHRT
03/2018



- In this theme our work focussed on the EU agendas RRI and Open Science, and was led by Claudia Göbel.
- We started with a European Stakeholder Round Table in November 2016 to map CS vis à vis these agendas and identify questions to work on.
- In January 2018, the working group (WG) on CS and Open Science was created at ECSA to address these issues, co-chaired together with Kyle Copas.
- Our 1st activity of the WG was to jointly write a Policy Brief on links and potential synergies between CS and Open Science together with Erich Prem from eutema. For that we brought practitioner from both fields together & worked with them for about a year...

EU SHRT
11/2016

ECSA OS WG
01/2017

Policy Brief
03/2017-02/2018

OSPP
2017-...

EU SHRT
03/2018



- Preliminary results of the policy brief were discussed at a Stakeholder Round Table in autumn 2017 organised together with eutema.
- The final policy brief was presented at another European Stakeholder Round Table in March 2018 in Brussels that was organised together with Tekiu, the Policy working group of the COST Action 15212 on CS and the OSPP - which ECSA leadership had meanwhile started to engage with on a high level.
- The working group then continued by sharing good practice experiences, e.g. through a webinar with Wikimedia Germany.



Main learnings

- It matters how participation & research are conceptualised & done.
- Therefore policy engagement work 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, institutionalisation of CS.

2

Building capacity for national Citizen Science networks

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Stakeholder
Round Table
02/2019



2

Building capacity for national Citizen Science networks

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Italian CS Conf.
09/2017

DT & SHRT
04/2018

Agencies RT
12/2018

SHRT
02/2019

Policy Brief
03/2019



- Our work with the Italian CS community, led by Gaia Agnello, exemplifies how at ECSA we used DITOs to tie in and strengthen emerging initiatives beyond the project (no DITOs partner in Italy).
- The Italian CS conference in September 2017 provided the starting point for capacity building work.
- We followed up by a national Stakeholder Round Table in April 2018. It was organised back-to-back with a Discovery Trip facilitated by Aleksandra Berditchevskaia (Tekiu) and hosted by Andrea Sforzi, Maremma Natural History Museum, a founding member of ECSA.

Italian CS Conf.
09/2017

DT & SHRT
04/2018

Agencies RT
12/2018

SHRT
02/2019

Policy Brief
03/2019



- These events brought stakeholders in Italian environment and research policy together with CS practitioners from Italy and abroad. Ideas for how to support CS in Italy were gathered in addition to learning on each others views, aims and needs.
- We were invited to present this roadmap process at a Round Table organised by Italian Environmental Protection Agencies in December 2018.
- To use the momentum, a second Italian Round Table followed in February 2018. One result is a Policy Brief with the recommendations for how CS can be supported in different sectors and at various governance levels.

Italian CS Conf.
09/2017

DT & SHRT
04/2018

Agencies RT
12/2018

SHRT
02/2019

Policy Brief
03/2019



Main learnings

- Support **emerging national communities**.
- **Providing targeted recommendations** for various stakeholders has been chosen over single national strategy to continue an inclusive and participatory process carried by the practitioner community.
- **Local organisers** had major role in selecting content & dissemination. Key partners: National Academy of Sciences, Maremma Natural History Museum.

Open Canvas

ECSA & LKN Working Group on Empowerment, Inclusiveness & Equity

Problem - CS projects only attracting certain contributors - not sufficient attention to empowerment, inclusiveness & equity - CS disconnected from other practitioner communities > little learning	Solution - collect knowledge & experiences - create space for discussion > joint WG w/ LKN	Unique Value Proposition Join other project organisers to learn from and share experiences on: - how to make your CS and CBR projects more empowering, inclusive and equitable, and - how to build more open organisations.	
	Key Metrics - no. working group members & activity - resources collected	User Profiles Target audience and early adopters CS and CBR project organisers, researchers, network builders - Engl. speaking - European & smaller projects	User Channels Webinars, ECSA conferences, EU projects, workshops, national networks, COST Action
Resources Required - facilitator time & energy	Contributor Profiles Contribution types and ideal contributors CBR organisers w/ practical experiences of working on EIE researchers w/ theoretical		Contributor Channels ECSA and LKN mailing lists, national networks, events

3

Developing ECSA into a more open organisation

Product

Community

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EU SHRT
11/2016

ECSA OS WG
01/2017

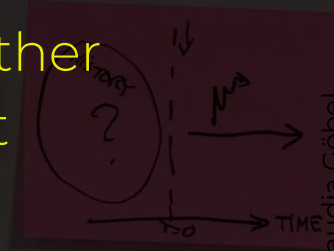
EU SHRT
03/2017

ECSA EIE WG
06/2018

EU SHRT
02/2019



- This 3rd theme of developing ECSA into a more open organisation has a foundational role for other policy engagement activities. Inward-looking, it reminds us that we need to practice what we preach: Doing Citizen Science and other forms of participatory research requires profound cultural changes in how we work both inside our organisations and with external partners. To stimulate such developments in an authentic manner, ECSA should act as a role model in this regard. This is no nice-to-have. ...



DIRECT
EMPOWERMENT
- KNOWLEDGE
- ...

RESEARCHERS
GIVE UP POWER
OVER THE
RESEARCH
PROCESS

EMPOWERMENT
AS ZERO SUM
GAME ?

CONTINUITY
OF PROCESS
CRUCIAL

EU SHRT
11/2016

ECSA OS WG
01/2017

EU SHRT
03/2017

ECSA EIE WG
06/2018

EU SHRT
02/2019



- ... For continuing policy engagement and advocacy work for such vibrant communities making up the field of participatory research, it is essential to become a more open organisation by increasing transparency, inclusiveness and diversity. Claudia Göbel was happy to use DITOs for planting first seeds in this regard.

- With practitioners from CS and Do-it-Yourself science we worked out tasks to become more inclusive for academic research institutions and ECSCA at the European Stakeholder Round Table in November 2016 and the European CS Forum organised by Imane Baiz at CRI in March 2017.

EU SHRT
11/2016

ECSCA OS WG
01/2017

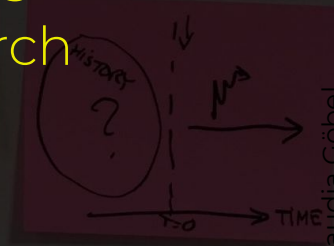
EU SHRT
03/2017

ECSCA EIE WG
06/2018

EU SHRT
02/2019



- The ECSCA WG on CS & Open Science gathered good practice and recommendations for open research and organisational cultures in their Policy Brief focusing on data & knowledge infrastructures.
- To better explore dynamics of participation and power structures for open organisations, we founded the ECSCA WG on Empowerment, Inclusiveness and Equity in cooperation with the Living Knowledge Network. Together with Michael Soogard Jorgensen we work with practitioners from CS and Community-Based Research to exchange experience, collect good practice and improve participatory research methodologies.



Picture: DITOs Stakeholder Round Table Paris, Claudia Göbel



EU SHRT
11/2016

ECSA OS WG
01/2017

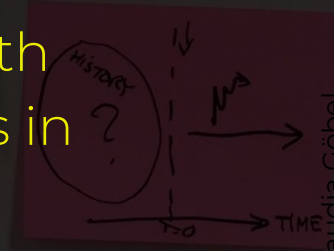
EU SHRT
03/2017

ECSA EIE WG
06/2018

EU SHRT
02/2019



- Our last European Stakeholder Round Table in February 2019 was organised in cooperation with LISIS and ALLISS and explored the role of NGOs in participatory research activities and different approaches to empowerment.



SCIENCE SHOPS
SPACE
COMM. BASED RESEARCH

SEED NETWORK
PROTECTION
COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING

DIRECT EMPOWERMENT
- KNOWLEDGE
- ...

INDIRECT EMPOWERMENT
NEW RESEARCH & TEACHING AREAS EMERGES

NEW AND OLD FARMING METHODS

RESEARCHERS GIVE UP POWER OVER THE RESEARCH PROCESS

EMPOWERMENT AS ZERO SUM GAME?

CONTINUITY OF PROCESS CRUCIAL

EU SHRT
11/2016

ECSA OS WG
01/2017

EU SHRT
03/2017

ECSA EIE WG
06/2018

EU SHRT
02/2019



Main learnings

- CS requires a **deeper cultural change** in our organisations & how we work together.
- ECSA should act as a role model** – need for more transparency, inclusiveness & diversity.
- To increase impact and sustainability we adapted our strategy **from doing advocacy work directly to building capacity and alliances** with related communities of practice – DIY science and community-based research.



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**There is still
something left!**

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Information material

- Policy briefs, reports, books

Methodologies & good practice guides

- Discovery trips, stakeholder round tables, co-creation, working (more) openly

Institutional infrastructures

- DITOs partners, ECSA & working groups, COST Action, national networks & strategies, international partnerships, follow-up projects, ...



... and a lot of work! ;)

**Thank you for being part
of this journey!!**

Let's stay in touch:

ECSA: <https://ecsa.citizen-science.net/>
@EUCitSci

New project: EU-Citizen.Science
Will continue: @TogetherSci