

Highlights & learnings from 3 years of DITOs

Claudia Göbel & Gaia Agnello, ECSA DITOs Pan-European Policy Forum 03.04.2019, Brussels CC BY 4.0

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"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.







... as well as 13 Policy Briefs



BioBlitz: Promoting cross border Research and collaborative Practices for Biodiversity Conservation

Advances in Citizen Science the Bullitz Approach

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Case study 1 - UK Retional Network and Delta

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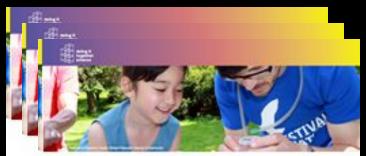
- BioBlitzes
- DIY bio
- CS & Open Science
- City Nature Challenge
- RRI indicators
- CS, Education & SDGs
- Business Models
- UK Environmental Policy
- CS in Italy
- CS & Art/Science
- CS for air quality
- Evaluation of science bus

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- 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.









- In this theme our work focussed on the EU agendas RRI and Open Science, and was led by Claudia Göbel.
- We started with a <u>European Stakeholder Round Table</u> 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 <u>Policy</u>
 <u>Brief</u> 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...







- Preliminary results of the policy brief were discussed at a <u>Stakeholder Round Table</u> in autumn 2017 organised together with eutema.
- The final policy brief was presented at another <u>European Stakeholder Round Table</u> 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 <u>webinar with</u> <u>Wikimedia Germany</u>.







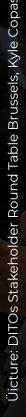






Main learnings

- 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.







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 <u>Italian CS conference in September 2017</u>
 provided the starting point for capacity building work.
- We followed up by a national <u>Stakeholder Round</u> <u>Table in April 2018</u>. 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.
 This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2













- 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 <u>Italian Round</u>
 <u>Table followed in February 2018</u>. One result is a
 <u>Policy Brief</u> with the recommendations for how CS
 can be supported in different sectors and at various
 governance levels. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020





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

Developing ECSA iences of working on EIE archers w/ theoretical

Contributor Channels

mailing lists,

into a more open organisation sevents

Product



Mozilla Foundation Open Leaders Program 2018 CC Template from

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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 un stimulate such developments in an authentic manner, ECSA should act as a role model in this regard. This is no nice-to-have. ...

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- ... 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 ECSA at the European Stakeholder Round Table in

November 2016 and the European CS Forum organised by Imane Baiz at CRI in March 2017.



- The ECSA 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 ECSA 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.



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.

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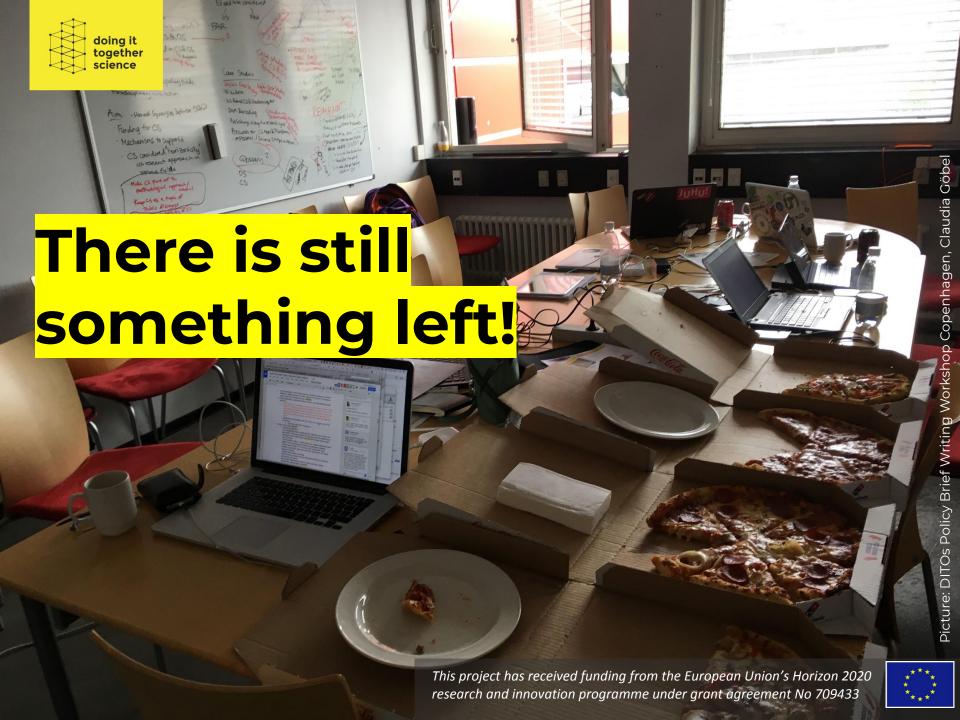


Main learnings

- 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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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, ...

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... 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

