How ECSA does policy engagement

Highlights & learnings from the DITOs project

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COST Action Meeting
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Picture: DITOs Policy Briefing at European Parliament, Gaia Agnello

1) Policy engagement at ECSA

2) Three examples from DITOs

3) Impacts

4) What is left

Picture: DITOs Policy Briefing at European Parliament, Gaia Agnello

Some impacts

- CS is **better known**

- Established **communication channels & networks** between CS practitioners & decision makers

- Included in EU research **policy agendas**

- Adopted measures to **promote openness, empowerment, inclusiveness & equity** at ECSA

Picture: DITOs Policy Briefing at European Parliament, Gaia Agnello

"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 **institutional infrastructures**.

>> diverse range of events including:

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

Pictures: Various PE Events, DITOs Partners

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 709433

... 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

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1

Anchoring Citizen Science in EU research policy

Picture: DITOs Stakeholder Round Table Brussels, Kyle Copas

EU SHRT
11/2016

ECSA OS WG
01/2017

Policy Brief
03/2017-02/2018

OSPP
2017-...

EU SHRT
03/2018

>> Policy agendas: RRI & Open Science

EU SHRT
11/2016

ECSA OS WG
01/2017

Policy Brief
03/2017-02/2018

OSPP
2017-...

EU SHRT
03/2018

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Main learnings

- It matters how participation & research are conceptualised & 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, institutionalisation of CS.

2

Building capacity for national Citizen Science networks

Picture: DITOs Stakeholder Round Table Italy 2018, National Academy of Science

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2

Building capacity for national Citizen Science networks

Picture: DITOs Stakeholder Round Table Italy 2019, National Academy of Science

Italian CS Conf.
09/2017

DT & SHRT
04/2018

Agencies RT
12/2018

SHRT
02/2019

Policy Brief
03/2019

>> Environmental policy & extending capacities beyond DITOs partners

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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

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Problem	Solution	Unique Value Proposition	
- CS projects only attracting certain contributors - not sufficient attention to empowerment, inclusiveness & equity - CS disconnected from other practitioner communities > little learning	- collect knowledge & experiences - create space for discussion > joint WG w/ LKN	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
Project Execution **3** esources Required acilitator time & energy		**Contributor Profiles** Contribution types and ideal contributors organisers w/ practical ces of working on EIE hers w/ theoretical	**Contributor Channels** ECSA and LKN mailing lists, national networks, events

3 Developing ECSA into a more open organisation

Product | Community

EU SHRT
11/2016

CRI SHRT
03/2017

ECSA EIE WG
06/2018

EU SHRT
02/2019

ECSA Policy
06/2019

>> Change in organisational cultures

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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Some impacts

Picture: DITOs Policy Brief Writing Workshop Copenhagen, Claudia Göbel
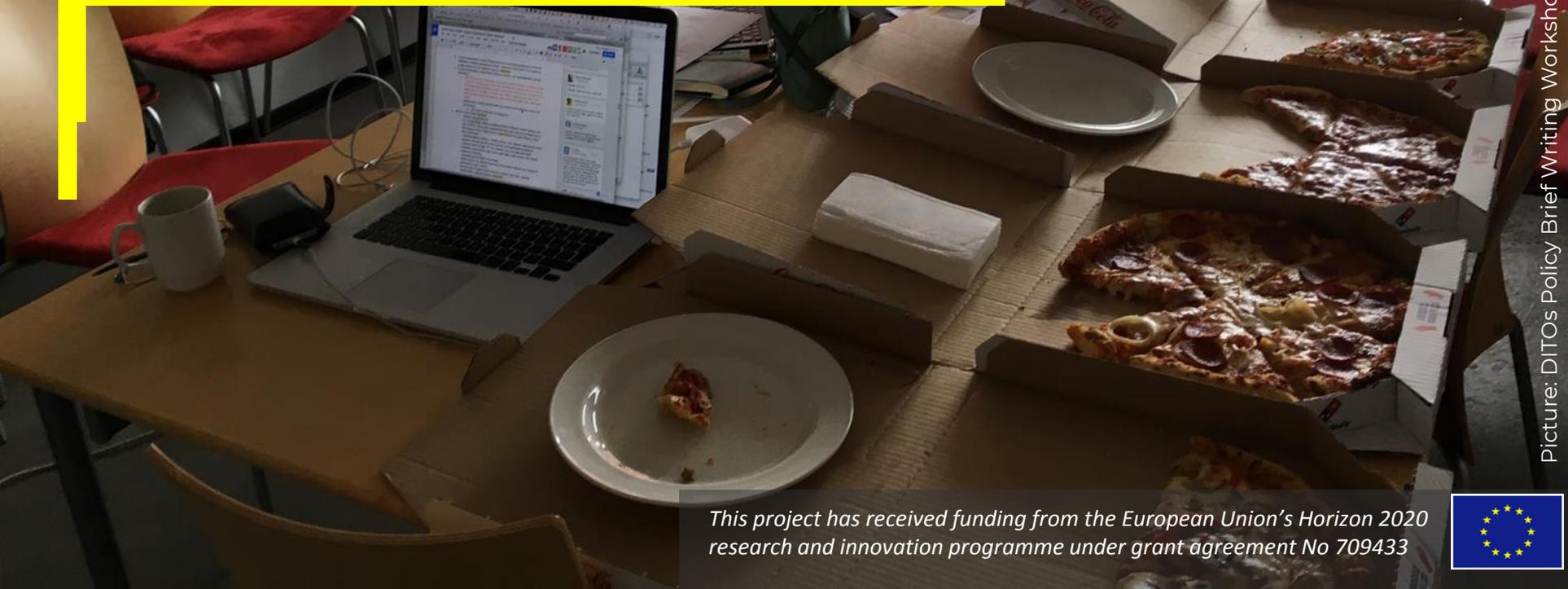
- CS became a **better known approach** to participatory research & PCST in research policy across Europe.

- **Communication channels & networks** between CS practitioners & decision makers were established.

- CS was included in EU research **policy agendas**.

- Openness, empowerment, inclusiveness & equity started as **topics of discussion** in ECSA community.

- **Partnerships** with practitioner communities started to facilitate learning, method development & joint action.

- ECSA is implementing steps to become a more **open organisation**.

DITOs project is over, but much is left ...

Information material

- Policy briefs, reports, books

Methodologies & good practice guides

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

Infrastructures

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

... and a lot of work! ;)

Let's stay in touch:
ECSA: https://ecsa.citizen-science.net/
@EUCitSci

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

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