

# Citizen Science Projects with Alien Species in Europe

This survey relates to COST Action CA17122 - Alien CSI - Increasing understanding of alien species through citizen science (see <https://alien-csi.eu/>). The main aim is to collect information on Citizen Science projects involving Alien Species in Europe.

For simplicity we use the term 'project' in the questionnaire, but any type of initiative or activity can be included.

Please fill in this form only if the project refers to ALL of these: 1) Citizen Science AND 2) Alien Species AND 3) Europe. The project may not have a sole focus on alien species, but should at least have a partial focus (so please do not enter projects such as national biodiversity networks collecting data on all species).

Definitions used:

'Citizen Science' - Citizen Science projects actively involve citizens in scientific endeavour that generates new knowledge or understanding. Citizens may act as contributors, collaborators, or as project leader and have a meaningful role in the project. Please check [https://ecsa.citizen-science.net/sites/default/files/ecsa\\_ten\\_principles\\_of\\_citizen\\_science.pdf](https://ecsa.citizen-science.net/sites/default/files/ecsa_ten_principles_of_citizen_science.pdf) for more information.

'Alien Species' - any live specimen of a species, subspecies or lower taxon of animals, plants, fungi or micro-organisms introduced outside its natural range; it includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs or propagules of such species, as well as any hybrids, varieties or breeds that might survive and subsequently reproduce. Alien Species include those that are invasive and those that are not.

'Invasive Alien Species' - an alien species whose introduction or spread has been found to threaten or adversely impact upon biodiversity and/or related ecosystem services.

'Europe' and other COST Members - please check the list at <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/members/>. Section 2 of this questionnaire also includes this list.

Where a field has been searched and there is no information available please use 'Not Applicable', 'Not Available' or 'Unknown'. When selecting the option 'Other', please add brief details.

This survey is quite long and may take perhaps 20-30 minutes to complete, but the information collected is very important to improve the use of Alien Species Citizen Science initiatives in Europe. We greatly appreciate your efforts in completing this form UNTIL AUGUST 16TH 2019. Data collected may be used for further analysis and publications, in which all people filling in the form will be acknowledged.

Please do not give up! Because there is no option to 'save and continue later', we encourage you to check the questions in the PDF attached in the email, before filling this form, in order to have all the information you need at hand. Otherwise, you can submit the form and edit it afterwards, as this option is available.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [alienCSIWG1@gmail.com](mailto:alienCSIWG1@gmail.com). If you want to contact us about the project information entered, please include the exact name you entered in the 'project name' field. Thank you very much for your collaboration!

\* Required

## 1. Email address \*

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## 2. Responsible person \*

Name of person completing this form. Email address should be entered above. This information is necessary should we need to contact the person filling in the form.

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## 3. Project name \*

Short name or title of the project. E.g., KORINA, VespaWatch, etc.

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**4. Do you lead this project? \***

Does the person completing this form lead the project?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

## General characterization of the project

**5. Web site of the project \***

URL to an external web site for the project.

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**6. Project host contact \***

The contact details for a party responsible for the project, ideally an e-mail address.

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**7. Project description \***

Short description of the project (1 or 2 sentences, in English).

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**8. Geographic extent \***

Geographic/spatial scope of the collection sites of data records within the dataset. Sub-national is used as a generic category for projects for which the sub-national scale is unknown (i.e. regional, or city, or neighbourhood). All regional, city and neighbourhood projects are also sub-national projects.

*Mark only one oval.*

Global

Macro-regional (i.e. multiple countries)

National

Sub-national

Regional

City

Neighbourhood

Unknown

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Country \***

Country(ies) where the project is carried out.

*Check all that apply.*

- Albania
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Language \***

What language(s) is the website/ guideline information available in? Do not include ability for Google Translate.

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**11. Project host \***

Name of the primary organization responsible for hosting or implementing the project (not the funding organisation).

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**12. Organisation type \***

What type of organisation is the host organisation?  
*Check all that apply.*

- Governmental Organisation (GO)
- Non-governmental Organisation (NGO)
- University (U)
- Public Research Organisation (PRO)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. **Start year \***

In what year did the project start receiving data?

*Mark only one oval.*

- 2019
- 2018
- 2017
- 2016
- 2015
- 2014
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2009
- 2008
- 2007
- 2006
- 2005
- 2004
- 2003
- 2002
- 2001
- 2000
- 1999
- 1998
- 1997
- 1996
- 1995
- 1994
- 1993
- 1992
- 1991
- 1990
- Before 1990
- Unknown

**14. End year \***

If the project is finished, when did the project stop receiving data?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Still running
- 2019
- 2018
- 2017
- 2016
- 2015
- 2014
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2009
- 2008
- 2007
- 2006
- 2005
- 2004
- 2003
- 2002
- 2001
- 2000
- Before 2000
- Unknown

**15. Funding \***

Is the project funded?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Partially
- Unknown

**16. If funded, by what type of funding entity?**

General description of type of research program(s) or funding initiative(s), i.e. what type of entity(ies) funds the project

*Check all that apply.*

- Public
- Government
- Private
- NGO
- Mixed
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Information on project scope**

**17. Target Citizen Scientists \***

Please specify the target audience. Are there any specific groups of people targeted for the project or is it for anyone?

*Check all that apply.*

- Anyone (general public)
- Fishermen
- Land managers
- School students
- University students
- Scientists, e.g, biologists, etc.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Target taxonomic group \***

What is the target taxonomic group?

*Check all that apply.*

- All
- Plants
- Mammals
- Birds
- Crayfish
- Insects
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**19. Alien-focused? \***

Is the main target of the project to record/investigate alien species?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No (alien data received but this is not the main target)
- Partially
- Unknown

**20. Aim of the project \***

Primary aim(s), goal(s), or objective(s) of the project

*Check all that apply.*

- Mapping of alien species
- Prevention
- Monitoring or surveillance
- Early warning
- Effectiveness of management
- Engagement
- Education
- Awareness raising
- Testing scientific hypothesis
- Fun
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**21. Type of data collected \***

What type of data on alien species are being recorded/collected?

*Check all that apply.*

- Species presence and/or abundance
- Changes in abundance
- Collecting lists of species
- Measuring impacts
- Evidence of impacts on biodiversity
- Early detection
- Rate of spread
- Experimental data
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**22. Environment type \***

What type of environment is the project concerned with?

*Check all that apply.*

- Freshwater
- Marine
- Terrestrial
- Urban
- All
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Policy-related information

**23. Policy relevance \***

Is there a main phase of the policy cycle potentially impacted by the project actions? E.g. prevention, early-detection, surveillance, etc.

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**24. In you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please provide brief details.**

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**25. Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern \***

Does the project include species on the list of Alien Species of Union Concern (Regulation no 1143/2014)? To view the list see - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:02016R1141-20170802>

Mark only one oval.

- Yes = this is the direct focus of the project
- No = not at all
- Indirectly = general invasive alien species focus so may find some species of Union Concern
- Included = species of Union Concern included amongst other species
- N/A = question not applicable
- Unknown

## Information on engagement

**26. Design \***

Please specify if the project was designed only by scientists/experts or whether Citizen Scientists were consulted or have a forum where suggestions can be made to advance the project.

Mark only one oval.

- Contributory = scientists only
- Collaborative = Citizen Scientists input possible
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**27. Engagement method \***

What methods/approaches are used to get Citizen Scientists to engage with the project?

Check all that apply.

- Newsletters
- Social media
- Website
- Exhibitions
- Live training, e.g., courses or workshops
- BioBlitzes
- School engagement
- Hooker model
- Gaming
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**28. Social media \***

Which social media sites are used to engage Citizen Scientists with the project?

Check all that apply.

- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Instagram
- None
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

29. **Skills / knowledge needed** \*

What level of skills or expert knowledge do participants need in order to participate?

Mark only one oval.

- None
- Limited
- Advanced
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

30. **Contribution frequency** \*

How often do participants need to be active in the project? Only once or at multiple points in time? In the latter case, we distinguish between regular and irregular opportunities to participate.

Mark only one oval.

- One-off
- Irregular
- Regular
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Information on feedback and support

31. **Species ID materials** \*

Are identification materials provided, i.e. to assist with identification of target species?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Partially
- Unknown
- Not applicable

32. **Guidelines** \*

Are guidelines for participants provided by the project, i.e. explaining how it works?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

33. **Training** \*

What type of training (if any) is provided to the Citizen Scientists?

Check all that apply.

- BioBlitz
- Group training, e.g., workshops, courses, etc.
- Online training
- None
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**34. Sightings map \***

If applicable, is there a map where records from the project can be viewed?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Available on request
- Not applicable
- Unknown

**35. Active informing \***

Are Citizen Scientists informed about how their records will be used & by whom?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Partially
- Not applicable
- Unknown

**36. Feedback \***

Is feedback provided after participation, to promote engagement? E.g. recognising or thanking for participation.

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable
- Unknown

**37. Support \***

Is support available upon request? E.g. if participants have questions.

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable
- Unknown

## Data quality and data management

**38. Validation \***

Are the records validated (checked), i.e. for quality control?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Partially
- Unknown

**39. Validators \***

If applicable, who validates the records?

*Check all that apply.*

- Experts
- Peers (citizens)
- Automated systems
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**40. Registration type \***

How do participants register to participate?

*Check all that apply.*

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Google account
- Direct project registration (e.g. website)
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**41. Method of recording \***

If applicable, how are observations recorded?

*Check all that apply.*

- App (Android, iOS, Windows)
- Online form
- Sent by email
- Sent by mail (paper sheet)
- Facebook
- Other social media
- Samples
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

42. **Open Data** \*

Where is the data archived during / after the project?  
*Check all that apply.*

- GBIF
- Zenodo
- Dryad
- DataONE
- OBIS
- National repository
- Institutional repository
- Hard drive of project organiser
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

43. **Citizen Scientists' access to data** \*

Do Citizen Scientist participants have access to their own (contributed) data?  
*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

44. **Data form** \*

What is the type of form used to store the data?  
*Check all that apply.*

- Excel
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

45. **Data standards** \*

What data standards are used with the dataset? (This refers to the structure and terms used to standardize data; and description / additional information on the source and ownership of the dataset.)  
*Check all that apply.*

- Darwin Core
- ABCD
- Dublin Core
- IUCN Standards
- Inspire Directive
- Ecological Metadata Language (EML)
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**46. Data management plan \***

Is there a public data management plan/policy available? If yes, please provide a link to where it is available in option "Other"  
*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**47. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please upload the file**

Files submitted:

**48. License \***

License applied to the dataset, i.e. if the project makes available its licensing information, please specify.

*Mark only one oval.*

- CC BY
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**49. Origin of organism(s)**

If applicable, specify the vocabulary used in the project for expressing an organism's origin

*Check all that apply.*

- Cryptogenic
- Introduced
- Alien
- Non-native
- Non-indigenous
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**50. Occurrence status of organism(s)**

If applicable, specify the vocabulary used in the project for expressing the occurrence status of an organism

*Check all that apply.*

- Present
- Absent
- Established
- Invasive
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**51. Degree of establishment of organism(s)**

If applicable, specify the vocabulary used in the project for expressing the degree of establishment of an organism

*Check all that apply.*

- Established
- Casual
- Naturalized
- Invasive
- Transformer
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**52. Pathway of introduction of organism(s)**

If applicable, specify the vocabulary used in the project for expressing the pathway of introduction of an organism

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## Performance indicators

**53. Usage of App \***

If applicable, specify the approximate percentage usage once App has been downloaded (many Citizen Scientists download an app and never use it or use it only once or twice).

*Mark only one oval.*

- 0
- 1-5%
- 6-10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- 76-100%
- Not applicable
- Unknown

**54. Number of participants \***

If applicable, specify how many individual recorders there are  
*Mark only one oval.*

- 1 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 1000
- 1001 - 2000
- 2001 - 5000
- 5001 - 10000
- > 10000
- Not applicable
- Info not available

**55. Number of alien or invasive alien species records \***

How many alien or invasive alien species sightings have been reported? If the project is not alien or invasive alien species-dedicated, please include only the number of alien or invasive alien records  
*Mark only one oval.*

- 1 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 1000
- 1001 - 2000
- 2001 - 5000
- 5001 - 10000
- 10001 - 50000
- 50001 - 100000
- 100001 - 500000
- 500001 - 1000000
- > 1000001
- Not applicable
- Info not available

**56. Learning assessed \***

Are the learning outcomes assessed, e.g. are participants learning to identify the target species and their progress is assessed?  
*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable
- Unknown



**57. Number of publications \***

How many publications linked to the project were published? If any and available, please add the reference list in the Next question.

*Mark only one oval.*

- 0
- 1 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 50
- 51 - 100
- > 100
- Not applicable
- Unknown

**58. If there are publications using data from (or related to) the project, please add the list of publications here.**

Files submitted:

**59. Publication type 1 \***

What type of publications have been published?

*Check all that apply.*

- Scientific peer-reviewed
- Scientific not peer-reviewed
- Science communication (i.e., aimed at the general public)
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**60. Publication type 2 \***

Are the publications descriptive of the project or based on data from the project?

*Check all that apply.*

- Engagement
- Descriptive
- Data
- Mixed
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes / Observations

**61. Follow-up survey \***

Are you available for a follow-up survey, i.e. that may provide more information on the project?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

**62. Notes / observations**

Please add any additional useful information about the project.

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A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provided

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