ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION | CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

CoAct
Citizen Social Science

Participatory evaluation in citizen science

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The CoAct project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement No. 873048

Agenda

Min	Section	Description
5	Arrival and Welcome	Short introductory round and welcome
15	Introduction	Very brief introduction to the workshop and participatory evaluation in citizen science
40	Break Out Groups	Participants discuss potential participatory evaluation approaches. We will address challenges and benefits of such participatory formats along the co-evaluation principles.
20	Plenary discussion	Reuniting after break-out groups, each group will report the main points of their debate
10	Feedback and Sendoff	

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CoAct
Citizen Social Science

CoAct - Citizen Social Science

… addressing social global concerns related to mental health care, youth employment, environmental justice and gender equality by engaging citizens as co-researchers.

… understanding Citizen Social Science as participatory research methodology co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups sharing a social concern.

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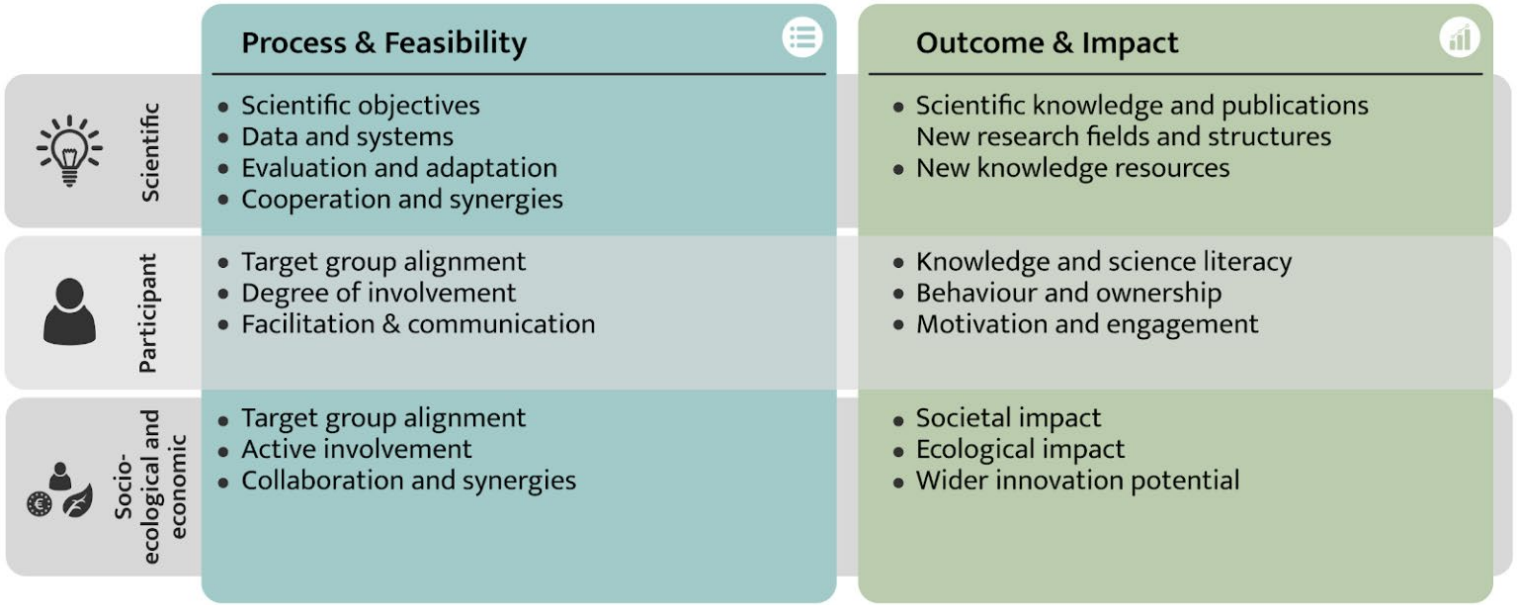
Dimension of Evaluation in Citizen Science



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Typical (quantitative) KPIs

	Process & Feasibility	Outcome & Impact
Scientific	• Scientific objectives • Data and systems • Evaluation and adaptation • Cooperation and synergies	• Scientific knowledge and publications New research fields and structures • New knowledge resources
Participant	• Target group alignment • Degree of involvement • Facilitation & communication	• Knowledge and science literacy • Behaviour and ownership • Motivation and engagement
Socio-ecological and economic	• Target group alignment • Active involvement • Collaboration and synergies	• Societal impact • Ecological impact • Wider innovation potential

# of co-authored papers
# of presentations
# of data sets
# of scientific tools

# of people engaged
# of active contributions from citizens
# of people continuing scientific engagement

engagement with policy makers
# of policy briefs
# of action plans

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Participatory Evaluation in Citizen Science

- An approach that aims at giving voice and benefit to the stakeholders of an intervention in its evaluation design, process and results
- Organised bottom-up with a focus on inclusion and empowerment
- Gives participants more control over decision-making
- Strengthens community building
- Facilitates better action on results
- Requires time, continuity and diligent coordination as well as training/skills of participants

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Conventional vs. Participatory Evaluation

	Conventional evaluation	Participatory evaluation
Who	External experts	Community people, project staff, facilitator
What	Predetermined indicators of success, principally cost and production outputs	People identify their own indicators of success (which may include production outputs)
How	Focus on 'scientific objectivity'; distancing of evaluators from other participants; uniform complex procedures; delayed, limited access to results	Self-evaluation, simple methods adapted to local culture; open, immediate sharing of results through local involvement in evaluation processes
When	Usually upon completion; sometimes also mid-term	Merging of monitoring and evaluation; hence frequent small-scale evaluations
Why	Accountability, usually summative, to determine if funding continues	To empower local people to initiate, control and take corrective action

Source: Narayan-Parker 1993, p.12

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Co-defining expectations/KPIs

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- New scientific methods
- New leading questions for further research
- New collaboration amongst societal actors

- Personal impact, literacy, recognition
- Expected change at individual level
- New knowledge, skills and competencies

- Societal goals, social change, social capital
- Resilience, political participation
- Responsibility for natural environment

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Co-Evaluation

is a form of participatory evaluation that initiates the conversation on expectations, objectives and impact already at the start of the project, either when the research design is co-created with different stakeholders, or at least, when the participation of actors is negotiated. The main difference between co-evaluation and conventional types of research evaluation is that participants are also involved in the decision on project goals and evaluation instruments.

… for an evaluation that matters!

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Co-Evaluation Principles

Participant ownership	Evaluation is oriented to the needs of the participants in an inclusive and balanced way. Participants take certain actions and responsibilities for project outcomes and their assessment.
Openness and reflexivity	Participants meet to communicate and negotiate to reach a consensus on evaluation results, solve problems, and make plans for the improvement of the project, evaluation approaches, and impact measures; input should be balanced and representation should be guaranteed for all involved stakeholders
Transformation	Emphasis is on identification of lessons learned, improvement of benefits and wellbeing, for all participants.
Flexibility	Co-evaluation design is flexible and determined (to the extent possible) during the group processes. The mix of formats and methods used should reflect the project aims and potentially empower marginalised perspectives.
Documentation and transparency	Whenever possible and ethically desirable, evaluation procedures should be documented and made accessible to participants, or even the wider public.
Timing	Co-evaluation has to start as early as possible, but latest during the negotiation of research questions and design of methodology.

Main characteristics of co-evaluation, adapted from (Patton, 2008)

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Co-Evaluation Steps Across The Co-Research Process

- Co-design of evaluation strategy
- Monitoring: tools for continuous observation and discussion
- Interpretation: feedback cycles, adaptations, reporting and structured analysis
- Valuation: Assessing the value of the outcomes and lessons learned

Adapted from https://civitas-sunrise.eu/

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Participatory Evaluation / Co-Evaluation Tools

Qualitative data	Interviews, focus groups Cultural probes, photovoice Experience sampling, story telling, Mappings, network maps, biographical sketches, diaries, participant led surveys, checklists, Card Visualization Impact Drawings, capacity inventories, Historical Timeline Trend Analysis Force-field Analysis Content Analysis
Quantitative data	Experience sampling Questionnaires Rating Scales Scoring tools (matrix scoring) Ecograms Cost-Benefit Analysis

- **Who decides?**
- **Who owns the methods?**
- **What is the intent and purpose of methods?**
- **Are the methods relevant to culture of the participants?**
- **Do the methods facilitate learning?**
- **How is the methods used-for data collection; to generate interest; to mobilise participants in evaluation?**
- **Are methods inclusive: e.g. focus and highlight gender specific issues?**

Mandakini Pant (UNESCO Course
https://aladin.uil.unesco.org/paldin/pdf/course01/unit_09.pdf)

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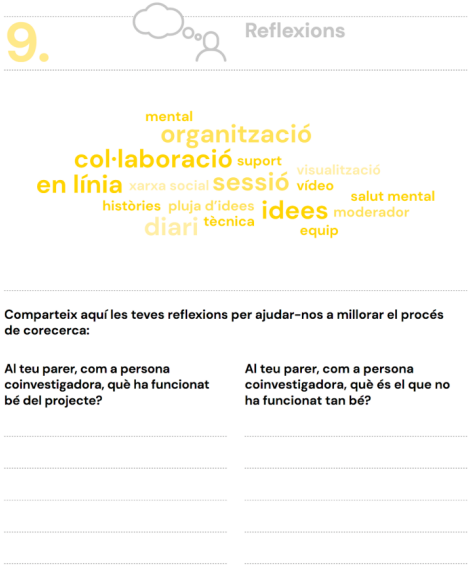
Co-Evaluation Instruments: Examples from Co-Act

Individual reflection sheets as part of the research diary



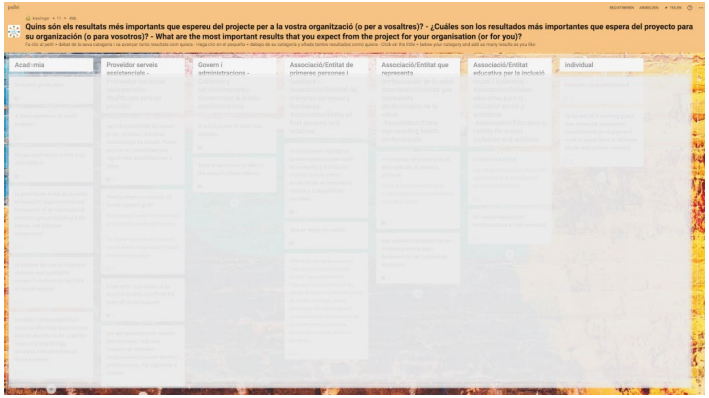
9. Reflexions

mental organització col·laboració suport visualització en línia xarxa social sessió vídeo salut mental històries pluja d'idees idees moderador diari tècnica equip

Comparteix aquí les teves reflexions per ajudar-nos a millorar el procés de corecerca:

Al teu parer, com a persona coinvestigadora, què ha funcionat bé del projecte?

Al teu parer, com a persona coinvestigadora, què és el que no ha funcionat tan bé?



Reflections on project expectations as part of workshops

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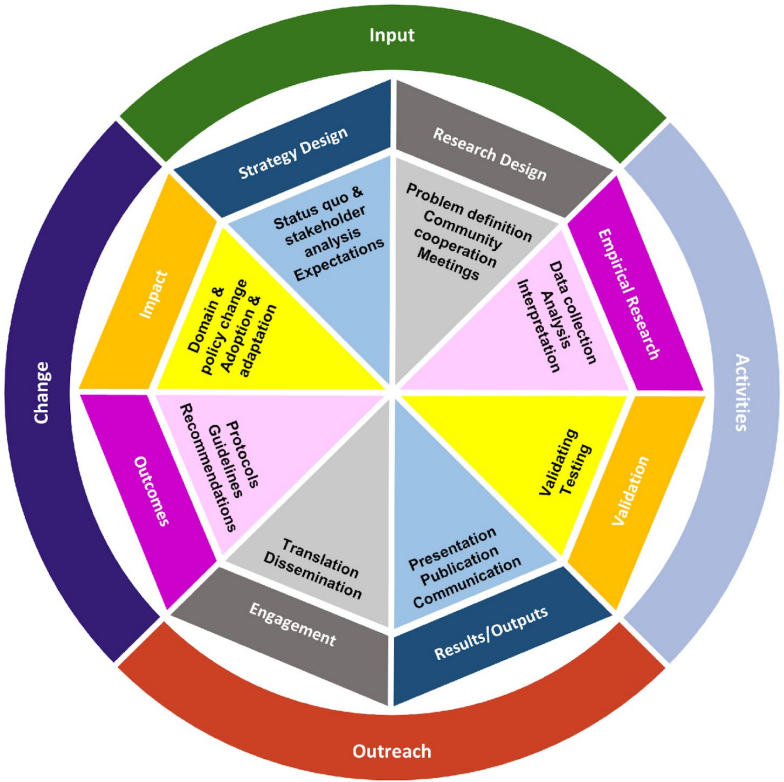
Citizen (Community) Science Elements



In the break-out session we will focus on the INPUT elements:

- Strategy Design
- Research Design

And more general (cross-cutting)

- Management and governance issues

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Case Simulation #1: Hog Farm Community Science

- Residents near a hog farm
- Concerned with air, water & odour pollution
- Terrible working conditions

→ community building & activist experiment to monitor & collect information on the situation

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Case Simulation #2: Setting and Methodologies

Involved people:

- ~25 resident activists
- ~3 researchers
- Several community college students & teachers

Concerns:

- Pollution
- Environmental justice
- Animal welfare
- Worker rights
- ...

Methodologies:

- Biographical interviews
- Systematic monitoring (environmental justice diaries)
- Collective data analysis & interpretation
- Translation of results for different stakeholders
- Process documentation & creation of an association (receive funding & become a legal entity)
- Creation of a logic model for evaluation (understand input, process, outcomes, outputs & potential impact; strategy alignment)

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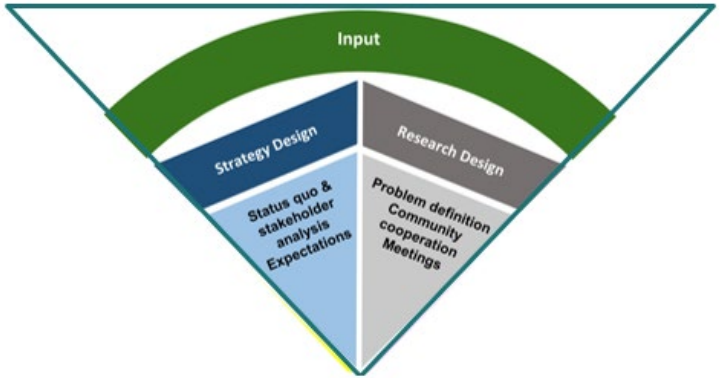
Break Out Groups



1. What approaches do you think are most promising for designing a robust and participatory evaluation here?
2. Which tools/settings could be used?
3. Which of the 6 co-evaluation principles are particularly important to consider in this case?
4. **Who would have been the most important stakeholders to involve from the beginning?**
5. **How could the different expectations and needs be better included throughout the process?**
6. **Which channels for reflection and feedback could have been implemented from the beginning?**

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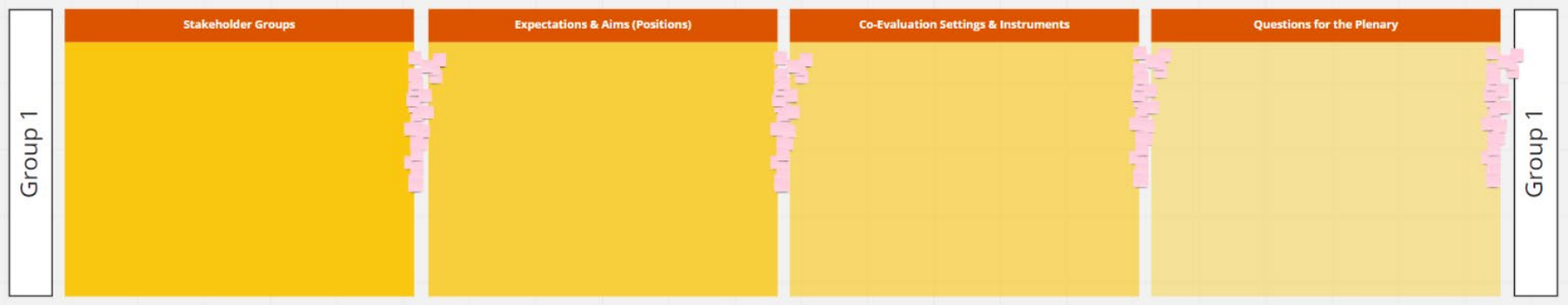
Breakout Groups

- Stakeholder Groups
- Expectations & Aims
- Co-Evaluation Settings & Instruments
- Questions for the Plenary



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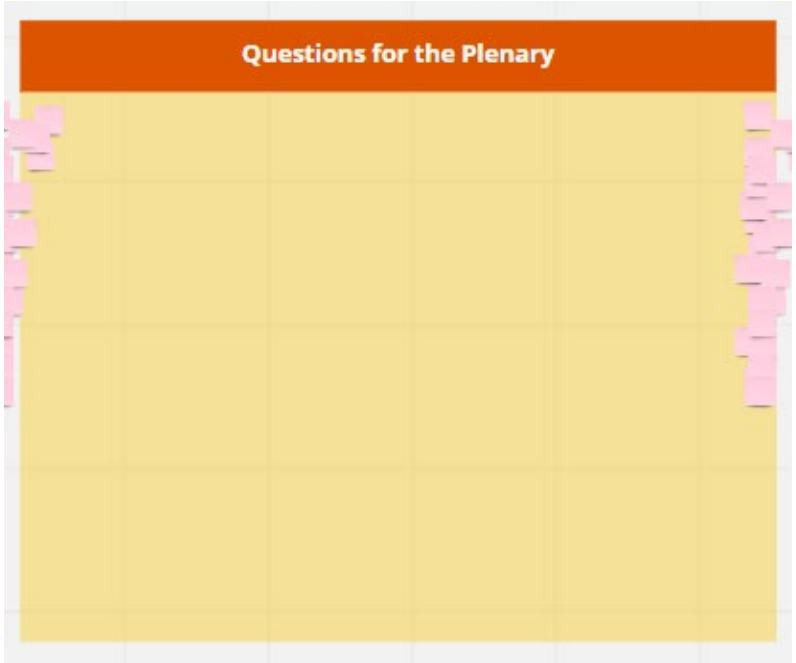
Plenary Discussion



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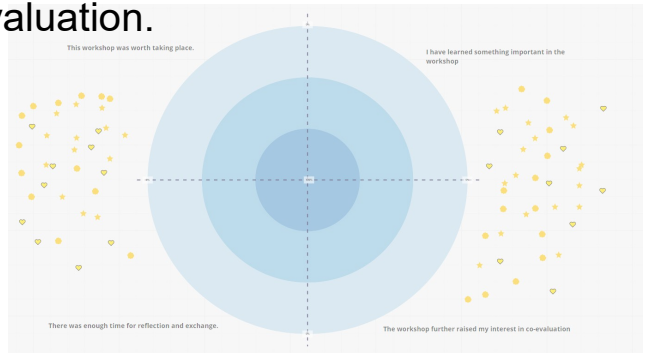
Feedback

Please share:

- Which concrete inputs and insights do you take from the workshop?
- What was surprising?
- What have you missed? What should we improve?
- What should be next steps or future focus areas in co-evaluation?

Please rate:

- The workshop was worth taking place.
- I have learned something important in the workshop.
- There was enough time for reflection and exchange.
- The workshop further raised my interest in co-evaluation.



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Let's CoAct

Thank you

www.coactproject.eu

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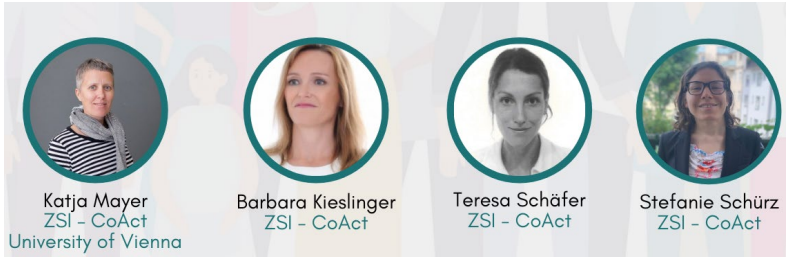

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