

The Baltic States on the Road to Citizen Science: Researcher and Citizen Engagement

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Introduction

Citizen science has been taking an increasingly stable place among the components of open science in recent years. Citizen science activities allow interaction between various interested parties, which is an essential prerequisite for the well-being of society, scientific progress, and solving global problems. For more powerful progress, in addition to collaboration between researchers and citizens, it is good to attract specialists from other fields or use their services.

In 2022, a study was conducted in the Baltic States, which revealed various aspects of cooperation between scientists, amateur researchers, library and museum specialists in the context of citizen science.

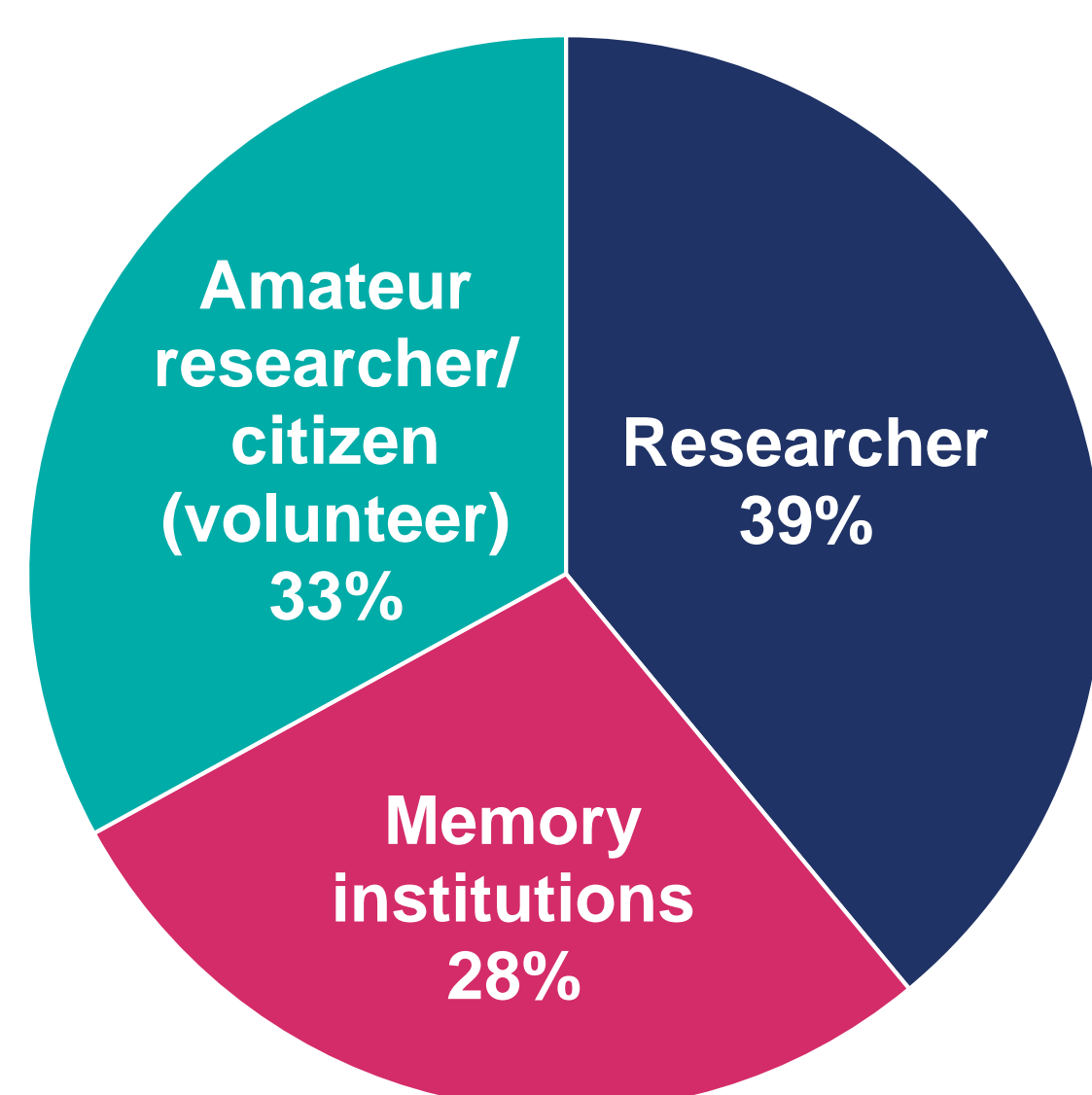


Research Objective

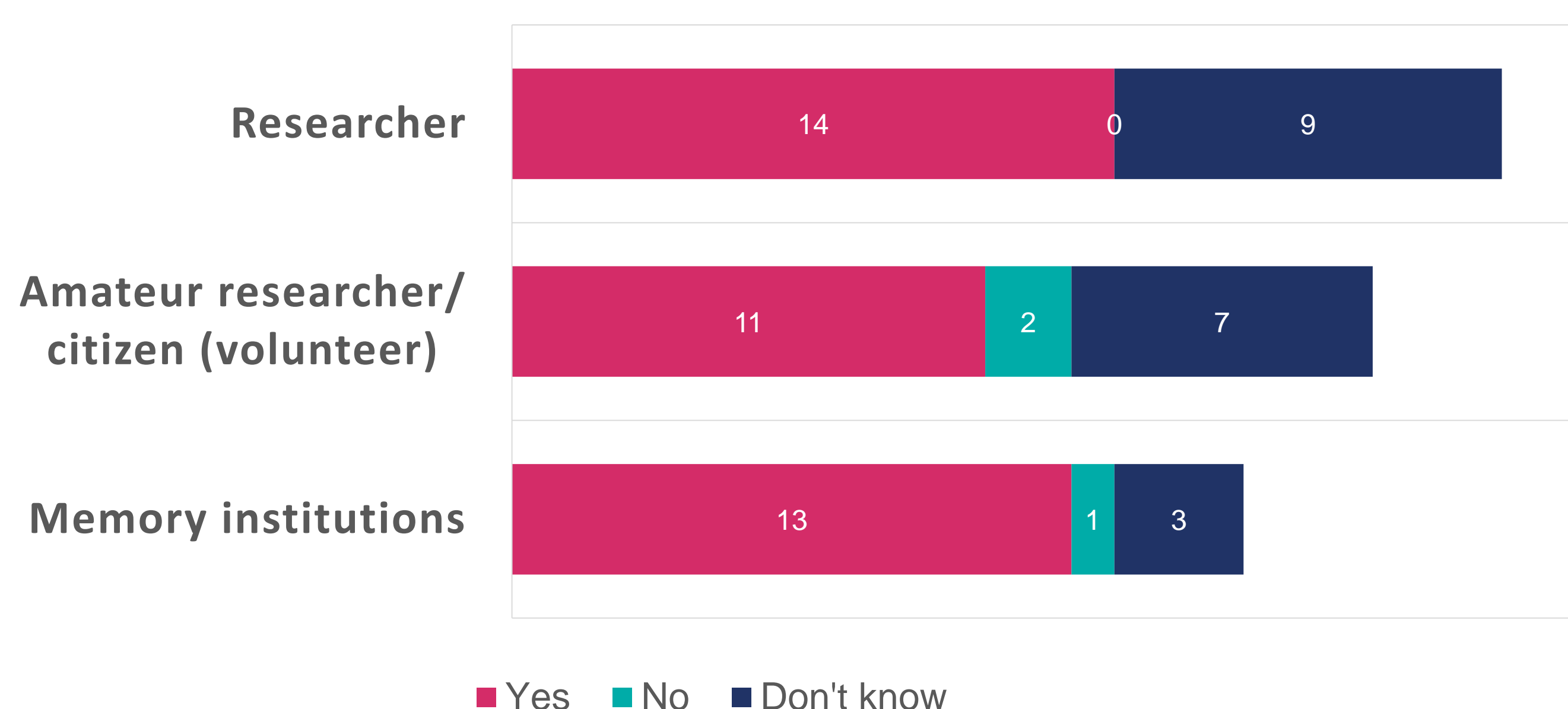
During the study, the experience of all three parties involved in the citizen science projects and activities: scientists, librarians and specialists of other memory institutions, amateur researchers was learned. The study also explored the general situation and understanding of citizen science, as well as the collaboration among the parties involved. The research focused a lot on the role of memory institutions, especially libraries, in promoting citizen science.



Results & Discussion



Respondents by occupation



Would you like to collaborate with professionals from memory institutions (libraries, museums, archives) in research projects/activities in the future?

The responses received from the three groups of respondents lead to the conclusion that citizen science is perceived positively, it is closely related not only to support science but also to society's welfare and education. Respondents were able to both give examples of such activities and confirm their participation in citizen science projects. Respondents express their desire to collaborate, and appreciated the memory institutions support service with the ability to perform the tasks related to the organization of research projects and activities, the research progress, including data management, community gathering, promotion of knowledge sharing and skills and others.



Conclusions

The knowledge expansion on citizen science projects would promote the collaboration in research in general as well as constitute the interest in giving feedback among researchers and society, and vice versa.

Memory institution's role in research and citizen science in particular is expanding.

The results and conclusions of the study have highlighted the significant potential of citizen science for research, society and sustainability.



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More information is available in the LibOCS project material collection on Zenodo.

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