



Citizen Science: latest trends in citizen science for policy

Muki Haklay - European Citizen Science Association



Citizen science

What is citizen science?

Citizen Science is a container for a number of approaches focused on the involvement of citizens in science, as contributors, where 'contribution' may mean very different commitments to the scientific process and advance of scientific research.

Citizen science refers to the involvement of non-expert volunteers in the scientific process – commonly in data collection, but also in other phases, such as quality assurance, data analysis and interpretation, scientific problem definition and the dissemination of results. The concept has been under constant evolution and provides a rich set of opportunities to engage people from many different backgrounds and demographics for multiple purposes.

STRENGTHS

1. Help with enhancing scientific knowledge production
 - Citizen Science can contribute new scientific knowledge (incl. science for policymaking) and provide research capacities that would not be available otherwise.
 - It also builds trustworthy relationships between the participants (notably not only the volunteering citizen scientists) and provides mutual learning to all.
2. Increase trust in research institutions
 - It is a way to open up scientific processes to citizens, to increase trust in research and scientific institutions, gain access to local knowledge and research capacity, increase scientific literacy, and empower people to conduct research in their own interest.

POINTS OF VIGILANCE

- Any specific application of Citizen Science methods should adhere to well defined and acknowledged underlying principles.
- Citizen science approaches are for the most part contributory; they are project oriented.



WHAT IS CITIZEN SCIENCE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Citizen science can be described as the **voluntary participation of non-professional scientists in research and innovation** at different stages of the process and at different levels of engagement, from shaping research agendas and policies, to gathering, processing and analysing data, and assessing the outcomes of research.

Active engagement with citizens and society has the potential to **improve research and its outcomes and reinforce societal trust in science**. It can increase

- **relevance and effectiveness** by ensuring that R&I aligns with needs, expectations and values of society
- **creativity and quality** by enlarging the collective capabilities, the scope of research and the quantity and quality of data
- **transparency, science literacy and confidence of the public in research**

CITIZEN SCIENCE AS PART OF EU POLICY

Citizen engagement is at the core of the Von der Leyen Commission's **New Push for European Democracy** and more participatory decision-making, and an **integral part of the EU's Open Science policy priority** and the **European Research Area**.

Research and
innovation





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'Citizen science' helping to fight 'dire' levels of sewage pollution in UK rivers

By [Freddie Sandford](#) | Published On 20 07 2023



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How you can help save Britain's rivers by becoming a citizen scientist

As part of New Scientist's Save Britain's Rivers campaign, we've rounded up the best citizen science projects that let you play an active role in improving the nation's waterways

By Jason Arunn Murugesu
17 June 2023



Visit the London Prosperity Board website



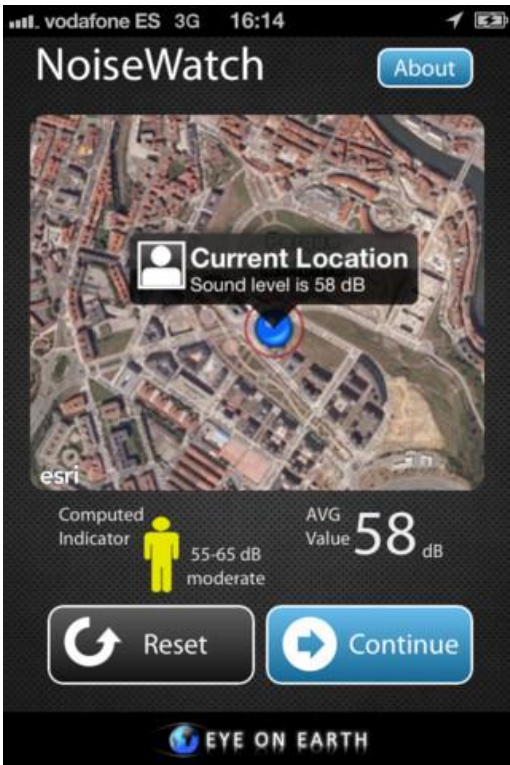
The London Prosperity Board is an innovative partnership between the Institute for Global Prosperity, UCL, London government, public agencies, businesses, the third sector, and local communities in East London.

[UCL Home](#) » [The Bartlett](#) » [UCL Institute for Global Prosperity](#) » "Rethinking what prosperity means for London": a new film for the London Prosperity Board

"Rethinking what prosperity means for London": a new film for the London Prosperity Board

15 March 2019

The Institute for Global Prosperity's London Prosperity Board has produced the short film, "Rethinking what prosperity means for London", presenting our work in East London and citizen science-led approach to research. Film credit: Matt Ballard



The European Citizen Science (ECS) project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation under grant agreement No. 101058509.





Susanne Hecker



UKEOF
ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATION FRAMEWORK

You are here: / Home Our Work Citizen Science (Working Group)

Citizen Science (Working Group)

- CSWG Chair: Rob Grew (EA)
- UKEOF CSWG Secretariat Lead: Michael Pocock
- UKEOF CSWG Secretariat Support: Victoria Barlow

Citizen science can broadly be defined as the involvement of volunteers in science. It has a vital role in scientific research and education, and the potential to help meet some of the challenging demands of environmental monitoring at the national scale. This gives citizen science a clear relevance to government policy across the UK, and puts citizen science firmly on the agenda for UKEOF.

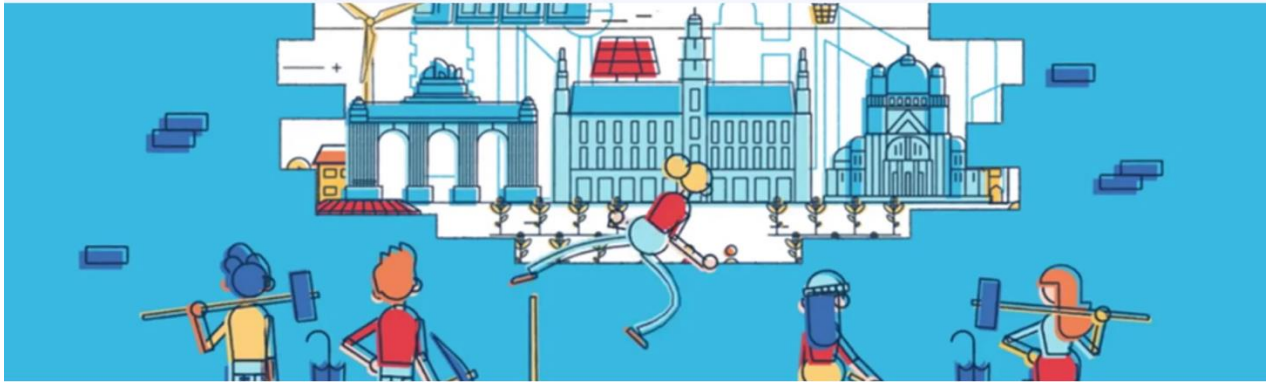
The UKEOF Citizen Science Working Group aims to provide a forum where member organisations can share good practice and discuss future needs and plans for working with volunteers to provide high quality, environmental observation data.

As part of regular citizen science working group, members provide updates about their organisation' initiatives to inform the wider community of areas of work or planned events.



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Co-Create



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Get involved in exploring new paths for societal transitions

This program is aimed at Brussels residents looking to get involved in exploring new avenues for societal transitions. Whether active in public institutions, businesses, research organisations, associations, or simply living in Brussels, these people are those who are faced with the risk of change, those who will have to adapt their practices, who want to, are able to, or will have to lead, commit to, or carry out transitions, adapt, experiment, risk going off-course. These are the "agents of change" and the program aims to support them in the risks of these explorations.

The Co-Create program supports research and experimental development program led co-creatively with agents of change, aiming to meet the challenges of societal transitions serving the Brussels Capital Region's sustainable development.

Working on a project and looking for funding?



Xavier Hulhoven
 Scientific Advisor



Building bridges for better citizen science

As the Flemish knowledge center for citizen science, Scivil is a catalyst and matchmaker, bringing together all parties and required tools for strong citizen science projects. Scivil promotes, connects, supports and innovates citizen science.

READ MORE ABOUT SCIVIL



How can we help you?



The platform to share, initiate and learn citizen science in Europe

<https://eu-citizen.science>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the European Citizen Science Platform. At the top left is the 'eu citizen science' logo. At the top right is a search bar with the text 'Search...' and a dropdown menu showing 'en-gb' and a 'Menu' icon. The main content area features a large blue and green graphic with the text 'Welcome to the european citizen science platform.' Below this is a call to action box that says 'Join the community and participate!' with 'Create account' and 'Login' buttons. At the bottom right, there is a 'What?' link with a dropdown arrow.

european citizen science

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