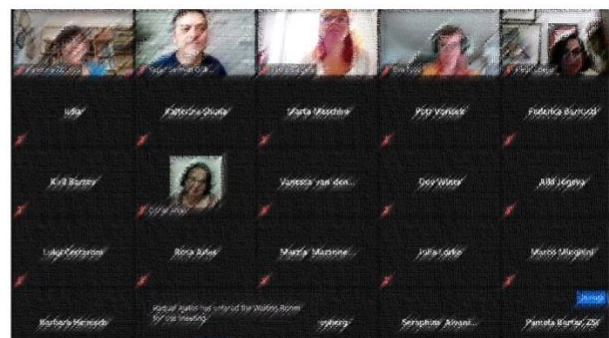


Management Committee meeting 2020

COST-Action Citizen Science to promote creativity, scientific literacy, and innovation throughout Europe

Report

Compiled by Dr. Anne Land, Dr. Katrin Vohland, Sanne Romp and Julia Kaufmann



Universiteit
Leiden

zoom

Action Number:

CA15212

Date:

Thursday, September 3rd 2020, 14:00 – 15:00 pm, Berlin time

Host:

Dr. Anne Land and Sanne Romp. Leiden University, The Netherlands
The meeting was hosted online in Zoom

Imprint

Land, A.; Vohland, K.; Magli, R.;Paleco, C.; Balázs, B.;
Winter, S.; Schade, S.; Tauginiene, L.; Ceccaroni, L.;
Perello, J.; Radichi, A.; Romp, S.; Kaufmann, J.; (2020):
Management Committee meeting 2020 Report, by the
CA15212, Leiden, The Netherlands, 3th September 2020

This article/publication is based upon work from COST
Action 15212, supported by COST (European Cooperation
in Science and Technology).

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DOI: 10.7479/sq4j-w945



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Publication of the documentation: September 2020.

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Museum für Naturkunde, Leibniz-Institut für Evolutions-
und Biodiversitätsforschung – MfN, Berlin,

This report is available online for download:

[https://cs-eu.net/news/closing-mc-meeting-report-leiden-
2020](https://cs-eu.net/news/closing-mc-meeting-report-leiden-2020)

<https://doi.org/10.7479/sq4j-w945>

Executive Summary

On the occasion of the Management Committee (MC) and Working Group Meeting of the COST Action 15212 Citizen Science to promote creativity, scientific literacy, and innovation throughout Europe, an overview of the outcomes, to reflect usability, to enhance update by the community and to discuss and initiate further steps was prepared.

As the COST Action is coming to an end, the results of the work were presented by the leaders of the working groups. The claim to pass on the outputs and findings is secured by two future steps: Firstly, there will be a subsequent COST Action and secondly, the results can be made available to the public in summary form on the new transnational platform EU-Citizen.Science.

Due to the pandemic, the final conference was organised online for a few hours instead of several days with the technical support of Leiden University and the online service zoom.

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1. Introduction and Welcome to participants

Welcome by:

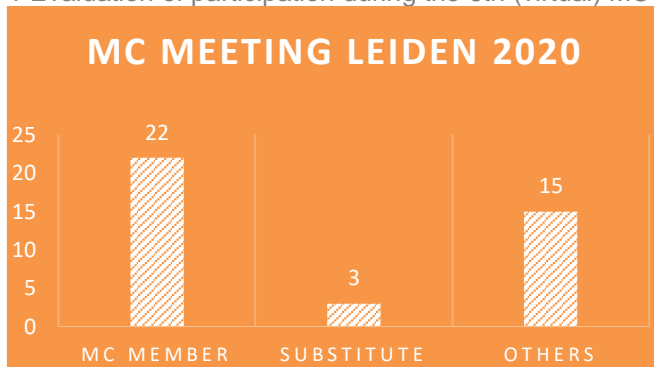
- Dr. Katrin Vohland (as Action Chair) and Dr. Anne Land (as local host and Co-Chair)
- Rossella Magli (as representative from the COST Office)
 - MAGLI is happy to be here, impressed with the outputs of the Action that she saw this morning during the final symposium. Also impressed by the community that was built over the last four years.
 - MAGLI sees the links of this COST Action with many other fields.
 - There will be a conference at COST about policy impact of Actions, this CA will be probably be invited to contribute.
 - MAGLI will miss our action, but may invite some of us for training sessions for new actions.

2. Checking the quorum by participation in the zoom call

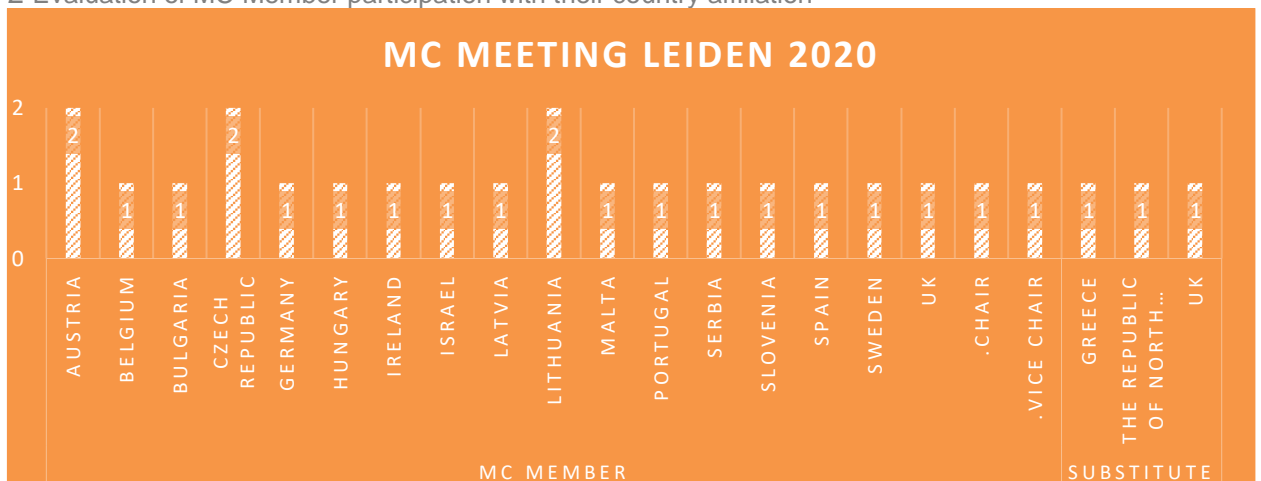
Evaluation of participation during the 6th (virtual) MC Meeting:

- 22 elected MC Members, 3 MC Substitutes and 15 interested CA participants (see Fig 1). After a country evaluation, there was a country representation from **19 countries** and two chair members with a total of 25 MC eligible participants (see Fig 2).

1 Evaluation of participation during the 6th (virtual) MC Meeting



2 Evaluation of MC Member participation with their country affiliation



MC Member participation List

Name	Country	Status
Katrin Vohland	Chair	MC Member
Anne Land	Netherland	MC Member
D. D.	Austria	MC Member
S. W.	Austria	MC Member
C. P.	Belgium	MC Member
K. B.	Bulgaria	MC Member
E. N.	Czech Republic	MC Member
J. T.	Czech Republic	MC Member
C. G.	Germany	MC Member
K. K.	Greece	Substitute
B. B.	Hungary	MC Member
P. M.	Ireland	MC Member
L. L.	Israel	MC Member
B. P.	Latvia	MC Member
E. B.	Lithuania	MC Member
L. T.	Lithuania	MC Member
M. A.	Malta	MC Member
C. G.	Portugal	MC Member
I. L.	Serbia	MC Member
V. P.	Slovenia	MC Member
J. P.	Spain	MC Member
M. P.	Sweden	MC Member
A. K.	The Republic of North Macedonia	Substitute
A. S.	United Kingdom	MC Member
L. C.	United Kingdom	Substitute

3. Adoption of agenda, Selection of a note taker

Adoption of agenda and notetaker:

- Agenda was adopted as is, ANNE LAND will take notes

4. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

Approval of minutes last meeting

- Was done on Loomio

5. Update from the Action Chair

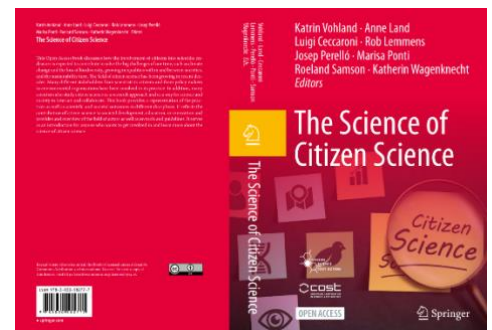
Update from Action Chair

- Definitions and their challenges
- Citizen Science in different disciplines
- Added value for participants and society as a whole
- Description and reflection of Tools (Apps, Platforms, ...)
- Coherent figures from Spotteron
- Authors!
- see powerpoint.slide 5

Short Term Scientific Missions

STSM approved in 2018-2019- 2020

- Anna Berti 01.01.2020 - 29.02.2020 (Ispra, Italy)
- Maria Aristeidou 18.11.19 - 06.12.19 (Kiel, Germany)
- Jose Barron 01.05.19 - 31.07.19 (London, UK)
- Alexandar Petrovski 29.07.19 - 19.08.19 (Bratislava, Slovakia)
- Duccio Rocchini 05.07.19 - 27.07.19 (Berlin, Germany)
- Nora Salas 03.01.18 - 01.03.19 (London, UK)
- Rosa Arias 02.09.18 - 30.11.18 (London, UK)



Further list of approved STSM is found <https://cs-eu.net/stsm/people>

→ see powerpoint slide 5. By Maria Attard. The list of STSMs will be updated on the website.

Update from the Action Chair

Update from Grant Holder

General Overview

Grant Period	I	II	III	IV	V
Duration	6 month	1 year	1 year	1 year	6 month
Time	1.11.16-30.4.17	1.5.17-30.4.18	1.5.18-30.4.19	1.5.19-30.4.20	1.5.20-20.9.20
Resources	70.500 €	175.966 €	222.306 €	184.011 €	62.388

→ see powerpoint slide 7ff.

Approved GP 4 Budget:

Networking Expenditure	Grant budget (a)	Expenditure			Delta (g=d-a)
		Actuals (b)	Accruals (c)	Total (d=b+c)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Total Meetings	112 990.00	81 067.85	0.00	81 067.85	-31 922.15
Total Training Schools	16 720.00	12 634.65	0.00	12 634.65	-4 085.35
Total STSM	15 000.00	11 190.00	0.00	11 190.00	-3 810.00
Total ITC Conference Grants	10 000.00	23 522.00	0.00	23 522.00	13 522.00
Total Action Dissemination	5 300.00	5 325.00	0.00	5 325.00	25.00
Total OERSA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Networking expenditure	160 010.00	133 739.50	0.00	133 739.50	-26 270.50

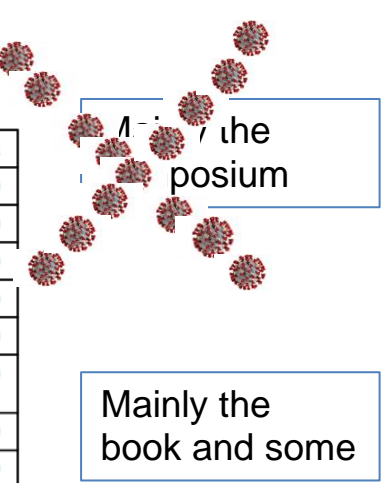
Eligible Networking Expenditure	Grant budget (a)	Expenditure			Delta (g=d-a)
		Actuals (b)	Accruals (c)	Total (d=b+c)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Eligible Networking expenditure	160 010.00	133 739.50	0.00	133 739.50	-26 270.50
FSAC (max 15%)	24 001.50	20 060.93	0.00	20 060.93	-3 940.57
Total eligible expenditure	184 011.50	153 800.43	0.00	153 800.43	-30 211.07

- In **GP4**, not the whole budget could be spent. The position meetings was underexplored, for ICT CG we spent more than planned. The report was submitted and approved.

Work and Budget Plan for the Grant Agreement Period

Work and Budget Plan Summary

A. COST Networking Tools	EUR
(1) Meetings	11,250.00
(2) Training Schools	0.00
(3) Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)	3,000.00
(4) ITC Conference Grant	5,000.00
(5) COST Action Dissemination	34,500.00
(6) Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	500.00
B. Total Science Expenditure (sum of (1) to (6))	54,250.00
C. Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) (max. of 15% of B)	8,137.50
Total Grant (B+C)	62,387.50



GP 5 Overview

- In **GP5** we will also be under budget because many meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19.

6. Update from the COST Association, Rossella Magli, COST Office

7. Monitoring of the Action. Rossella Magli, COST Office

Update from COST office

See welcome words of ROSELLA MAGLI

8. Implementation of COST policies in Chair

Implementation of COST policies on gender balance, ITC countries, early-career scientists

Fairly equal gender balance within the MC, and among participants of different types of events. 54% ITC countries in MC; ITC participation is lower in workshops than MC meetings and training schools.

Inclusiveness and Equal opportunities by CAROLE PALECO, → see powerpoint slides 11ff

1. Gender Balance
2. Early Career (ECI)
3. Inclusiveness and Excellence

Key participants, contributors and supporters!

- Doina Ballahur, Center for Gender Equality in Science, University of Iasi, Romania
- Julia Kaufmann, Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany
- Sabina García Peter, Margherita von Brentano Center for Gender Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- Nora Salas Seoane, Fundación Ibercivis & Science for Change, Spain
- Panagiota Argyri, Evangeliki Model High School of Smyrna, Greece
- Katrin Vohland, Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany
- Carole Paleco, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium
- Justine Jacquemin, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium
- Assaf Shwartz, Israel Institute of Technology, Israel
- Quentin Groom, Meise Botanical Garden, Belgium

Implementation of ITCs and Gender equality in CA15212

ITC	Female	Male
Yes	19	18
No	16	16
Total	35	34

- In total, 37 countries participated in this Action, from which 20 were characterised as ITC (54%). This is reflected in the Management Committee's (MC) constitution, where from 68 MC members, 37 were from ITC (54%).
- In terms of gender, the balance is rather equal, there were 35 female and 34 male MC members. Also the distribution of gender within ITC members is rather equal.

Number of Events	Event Type	Number Participants	Number Females	Percentage Females	Number ITC	Percentage ITC
5	MC Meeting	209	106	50,72%	86	41,15%
4	Training School	78	38	48,72%	29	37,18%
41	Workshop	512	265	51,76%	128	25,00%
50		799	409	51,19%	243	30,41%

- Number of events, type event, and number of participants by gender and ITC (data from 2017 until April 2020) There were two specific events to discuss inclusiveness of citizen science:

Special Events

- **3 March 2019: Workshop "Citizen Science and Gender"** (WG4 & WG6) at the University of Iasi, Romania - 12 participants from the COST Action, and 100 students!

- **3 - 4 March 2020 : Workshop “Citizen Science and Inclusiveness”** at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium - 8 participants from 5 countries. Professional trainer Daniëlle Jansen (NL), expert in Wikimedia projects (Wikipedia, Wikidata and Wikimedia Commons), inclusiveness and gender.

Summary: Globally, the ITC were enthusiastic in attending training rather than workshops. 2 Events about gender: 3 March 2019 and 3 - 4 March 2020, to get women to science. First one had 100 students. Encourage younger and females to science.

Globally, we learned from these activities that it was needed to identify the knowledge gaps (gender/educations), encourage them to meetings, and a collaborative environment is needed to ensure quality of research.

Key messages & learnings

- **Identify knowledge gaps** due to gender, educational level and geographical situation providing networking conditions favoring more participation.
- Give value to what people have to share and encourage them through **trainings and meetings with scientists** to move up and down depending on their current resources, as proposed by the DITOs Escalator Model, as well as to inform them that the scientific processes to be implemented are at their reach.
- The achievement of inclusiveness and diversity in citizen science projects need a **collaborative environment** that provides learning and development opportunities in order **to ensure the quality of research**. However, evaluation criteria of gender and diversity aspects in citizen science projects are still needed.

9. Follow-up of MoU objectives: progress report of working groups:

Updates on working groups → see powerpoint slides 19-33

WG 1: Ensure scientific quality of Citizen Science (BÁLINT BALÁZS)

Data Quality in Citizen Science- Key contributors

- **Eva Nováková**, Department of Environmental Geography, Institute of Geonics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic
- **Lucy Bastin**, Department of Computer Science, Aston University, UK; Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, Italy
- **Jamal Jokar Arsanjani**, Geoinformatics Research Group, Department of Planning, Aalborg University, Copenhagen
- **Peter Mooney**, Department of Computer Science, Maynooth University, Ireland
- **Bálint Balázs**, Environmental Social Science Research Group, Budapest, Hungary

5 Events and Learnings:

- Broad and complex topic – a contested arena: projects and stakeholders aspire to different levels of accuracy.
- Challenge - ensure the validity and reliability of data.
- Quality: an essential methodological question, broad spectrum described by nearly 200 terms.



- Checklist to improve quality and insights on how to avoid data practice failures.
- Realisation that it is a gold standard for credibility, reputation, and sustainability to citizen science projects.

Summary: 75 members, all members contributed to some degree. They came into a flow, leading to better discussions. 5 people signed up to summarize what they achieved. 5 events left. Main learning is that it is a broad and complex topic. Challenge is how to ensure the validity and reliability of the data. There are checklists to avoid failures. It needs to be a standard for credibility and sustainability.

PETER MOONEY: Took some time to find an equilibrium, but the diverse set of workshops helped with it.

WG 2: Develop synergies with education (SILVIA WINTER)

Overview

- **76 members from 27 countries**
- **Most** active countries: UK, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, Ireland, Israel, Germany.
- Events organized (around 2 per year) in Riga, Sevilla, Lisbon, Leysin, Berlin + Tartu, Geneva, Brussels...
- Continuous connections with ECSA WG Learning & Education

Key learnings

- Focus of our reflections:
 - Connections with schools
 - Training requirements for CS
 - Connecting human and artificial intelligence and learning
 - Organizing communication at the intersection between Citizen Science and Education
- Outputs:
 - One scientific paper (submitted)
 - One report on training needs available for download on the Internet
 - Inspirational video-recordings online
 - Website "Teaching Climate Change through Citizen Science" (work ongoing)
 - Identifying, connecting and strengthening the community
 - Opportunities for junior researchers through meetings and STSM
- Challenges:
 - Heterogeneity of the field
 - Communication
 - Sustainability of actions

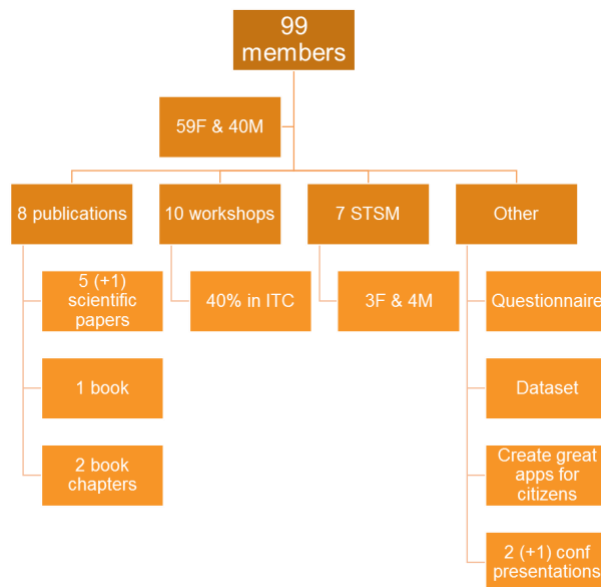
Summary: Large working group with 76 members and 8 working groups organized. Focus was the connections with schools, with a lot of working groups related to this topic. Training requirements was another topic, as well as human and artificial intelligence. One report was submitted and one available on the internet. Of the working groups of Switzerland there is a video available. Several STSMs connected. Communication was a challenge, as well as heterogeneity of the field and sustainability of actions.

WG 3: Improve society-science-policy interface (SVEN SCHADE)

- Extra output: an accepted article on policy making and CS
- This working group had several “spin offs” in Rubicon and Marie Curie grants
- Collaborations were established also outside of Europe.
- Comment of Daniel Dörler: some of this work will continue in the ECSA working group on CS Networks
- 53 Members

Summary: Existing with so many people with many backgrounds and perspectives. Benefit from this. Interconnect people. One of the biggest experiences was the training school across different working groups. One week in Toskana with students. Was an intense week. Challenges, we progressed over the past three years quite well, but better understanding about the networks between countries.

WG 4: Enhance the role of CS for civil society (LORETA TAUGINIENÉ)



WG 5: Improve data standardization and interoperability (LUIGI CECCARONI)

Progress – WG 5 (Interoperability)

1. Total number of members (active at some point during the project): **47**
2. All output is **open access**.
3. Four specific workshops: Serbia + Italy + Netherlands + Czechia
4. One paper as formal output of the Action
5. A second, more comprehensive paper in the making
6. Coordination of efforts with existing networks and groups working on standardisation in citizen science
7. European reference in the international efforts to reach interoperability in citizen science
 - Transfer of ownership to ECSA WG “Data, Tools & Technology”

8. Definition of a conceptual model to represent information in citizen science
9. Consolidation of the European network of scientists working on interoperability in citizen science

Summary: Small group (47). One paper as output of Action. Important part was the coordination with links outside. Another output is the definition. The consolidation will help to go further as a group.

WG 6: Cross-WG-Synthesis and overarching measures (JOSEP PERELLO)

1. Cross-working group synthesis (periodic meetings and book preparation meetings):
 - Open access edited book on CS and innovation (almost there!)
 - A final article for the edited Book on CS focused about the past, the present and about (speculative) futures of CS (roadmap).
2. Capacity building
 - STSMs – M. Attard
 - Workshops and training schools – across WGs but also others such as Citizen Science Training School Barcelona: Improving urban environmental health by aligning civic participation and policymaking (Nov 2017).
3. Internal and external communication plan including webpage.
 - Open call for a logo
 - Web implementation

10. The future

Future

- A new COST action about citizen science and SDGs is being developed. The proposal is almost finished and there is already a large network established. Anyone interested can contact DILEK FRAISL for details: fraisl@iiasa.ac.at.
- The platform EU-Citizen.Science will host many of the outcomes that were developed during this COST action. Reports, papers, videos, and other resources will be put into their repository. The platform will also host community forums for this COST action and possibly for separate working groups. By the new project manager ANTONELLA RADICCHI

11. AOB

Other topics

- Will there be funding available for some of the paper that are being published open access after the formal end of the COST action (September 20, 2020)?
 - ROSELLA MAGLI: No, there will not be any funding available after the end date. So if you need funding for open access fees, be quick.

12. Closing

Closing

Words of thanks to ROSSELLA MAGLI for her support of the action in all the ways that she could within the rules. To KATRIN VOHLAND, MARISA PONTI and CLAUDIA GÖBEL for writing up the proposal that started this action. And to KATRIN VOHLAND, MARISA PONTI and Anne Land for their leadership during the action.

ANNEX

Zoom-Chat Notes compiled by Sanne Romp and Julia Kaufmann

- Grazie Rossella, you have been a great officer for us (*M. P.*)
- Agree! Thanks for all the support! (*J. P.*)
- Do you think the indicators you used for monitoring inclusiveness are useful for CS projects or associations? @Carole (*C. G.*)
 - Yes sure ! These were driven from practices and association experiences. (*C. P.*)
- I'm not sure if we can speak in general to the audience... but WG1 was a success in that we had a very diverse (*P. M.*)
- I'm sorry I can't speak right now... but thanks a lot for the opportunity to work with you all... I'm looking forward to research more about the invisible Citizen Science and Data Quality. (*E. N.*)
- there is the ECSA WG on citizen science networks, that is connecting different networks in the COST countries, so this work will go on. :-) (*D. D.*)
- indeed :) i would be excited to discuss how this also connects to EU-Citizen.Science but I am use that you are already on it (*S. S.*)
- Excellent - to transfer the existing work to the WG in the association which is actively working (*B. P.*)
- Thanks Luigi for your leadership! (*R. L.*)
- How to deal with publication in 2022? (*L. T.*)
 - With the COVID avoiding meetings there have been activities cancelled aren't there any adjustments in these special circumstances? (*C. P.*)
 - Publication will take some time. Once the Action is finished, there are no more activities. For the acknowledgement, Not directly funded by the European?? When the contract is finished, you cannot retain funds. Unspent funds go to the pot for ongoing Actions. We are bound to the contract, clear cut. Try now to push to the fourth year, but limitation is that the output needs to be finished at the end of the Action (*R. M.*)
- Dear Colleagues, I have to leave for another meeting. Looking forward to work with you in the future also, warmest regards, Kostas (*K. K.*)
- Dear all, I am sorry but I have to leave now - see you in the future! It was a pleasure working with all of you! (*S. W.*)
- Thank you all! (*K. S.*)
- Thanks to everyone! It was a pleasure and a great way to connect with many of you for future work! (*C. L.*)
- thks Julia, Sanne, Marisa, Anne, and Katrin (*J. P.*)
- Thank you proposal writers! Without your work - this would not have been possible! We need to learn from you! (*B. P.*)
- Thank you very much for all your dedication!! (*C. P.*)

END: 15:13