



WG 4 Workshop – Workshop on Lessons learned from volunteers' interactions with geographic citizen science applications

Date: Friday April 27, 2018 | University College London, London

Organising committee:

Artemis Skarlatidou (UCL), Kristien Ooms (Ghent University), María Alonso Roldán (Mapping for Change), Michalis Vitos (UCL), Muki Haklay (UCL), Sultan Kocaman (Hacettepe University), Veljko Pejovic (University of Ljubljana), Addy Pope (ESRI UK), Adel Bolbol Fernández (ESRI)

The COST Action WG4 (on the 'Enhance the role of CS for civil society') organised the workshop on lessons learned from volunteers' interactions with geographic citizen science applications which took place in London, at University College London, on the 27th of April, 2018. The organisation of the workshop was further supported by ESRI, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing WG3 on the Promotion of Regional Collaboration in Citizen science and Geospatial Technology and the International Cartographic Society association on Use, User and Usability, H2020 and the European Research Council. The collaboration of those key organisations and individuals in the field of citizen science and geospatial technologies shows the relevance of the topic and the strong interest to the broader academic community and the private sector.

The workshop was attended by 58 individuals; 17 of those at an advanced career stage, 12 mid-level and 29 at an early career stage; 28 female and 30 male participants; 17 countries which include: Austria, UK, Slovenia, Hungary, Turkey, Malta, Luxembourg, Greece, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Portugal, France, South Africa, Canada, Nigeria and Brazil. Two keynote speakers were invited to talk about their work with indigenous communities in Africa and Brazil, Louis Leibenberg (Executive Director of CyberTracker Conservation) and Vasco van Roosmalen (Executive director and founder "Equipe de Conservacao da Amazonia- Ecam")

Following the call for abstracts the organizing committee reviewed about 50 abstract submissions; 17 of those were accepted as an oral presentation (the timetable of the workshop can be found here). The day was organised in a way that captured the main trends in the field of geographic citizen science and offered to investigate volunteers' interactions in a way that considers in-depth key contextual characteristics. Therefore, the morning session emphasized on the key lessons learned from volunteers interactions with geographic citizen science in areas where volunteers are either non-literate or semi-literate and where access to technology is limited. For example, Dr Julia Altenbuchner and Michalis Vitos presented their work on "Lessons from supporting non-literate forest communities in the Congo-Basin to record their Traditional Ecological Knowledge" and Simon Hoyte his work on using geographic citizen science applications to report wildlife crime with forest hunter-gatherers in Cameroon.

The afternoon sessions then followed on the lessons learned from volunteers' interactions with geographic citizen science in urban settings where volunteers are literate and they do have access to a more sophisticated technological infrastructure including the technical skills that are required to access it. This session, amongst others, introduced the audience to lessons learned from volunteers' interactions with flood crowdsourcing applications (Avi Baruch), cycling applications (Suzanne Maas), as well as lessons learned from interacting with community maps, Mapping for Change's online mapping platform which enables communities and individuals to make a change and improve their environments. Group activities during the workshop also helped participants reflect on the lessons learned from each theme and create visual presentations of key issues addressed which were further presented to all participants and discussed at the end of the workshop in a panel session.

The organising committee is currently working towards publishing a selection of the case studies presented in the workshop in a book.

If you have any questions or you would like to find out more about the workshop please get in touch with Dr Artemis Skarlatidou (a.skarlatidou@ucl.ac.uk).