



## Citizen Science COST Action - CA15212: to promote creativity, scientific literacy, and innovation throughout Europe

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**University of Geneva, June 06 2018  
Minutes of the Fourth MC-meeting**

### **TO 0: Greetings from Dr. Dana Mahr, University of Geneva, as local host**

#### **TO 1: Formalities**

- Karel de Pourcq was confirmed as note taker
- It was assessed that the quorum of 24 countries out of 36 member countries was reached.
- The suggested agenda was adopted; minutes from the MC Meeting in 2017 have been approved via Loomio

#### **TO 2: Update from the Chair**

- Dr. Katrin Vohland gave a short reflection of the last days of the ECSA International Citizen Science Conference in Geneva, with many contributions from the COST scientists. In addition, a proposal for the H2020-SwafS-2018-2020 call Exploring and Supporting Citizen Science (CSA), was written, linking many COST members.
- Currently, the Action has 36 member states  
([http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions/ca/CA15212?parties](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15212?parties) )

#### **TO 3: Election of new vice-chair**

- Dr. Marisa Ponti steps down as Vice-chair. A call is made for candidates to Vice-chair, only one candidate is presented: Dr. Anne Land-Zandstra, from Leiden University. Candidate is approved by large majority.

#### **TO 4: STSMs**

- Concerns are raised about STSMs, efforts to attract more applications are proposed, particularly from under-represented countries. The possibility to propose STSMs with specific goals proposed by Working Groups (WGs) (or by host institutions) to enhance their actions, is proposed. WGs are asked to think about particular objectives for which STSMs could be proposed to attract participants.

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## TO 5: Budgets

Grant Period (GP)	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 �		
Activities					
	MC Meeting Dezember 16 Berlin	MC Meeting October 17 Tartu	MC Meeting June18 Geneva	MC Meeting tbd	MC Meeting tbd
	WG Meetings	Workshops, Summer schools, Conferences, STSMs.... Publications, MOOCs, Guidelines...			Final Conference

Table 1 General overview about budget.

### Grant Period 2:

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT				
COST Action Number and Title	CA15212 Citizen Science to promote creativity, scientific literacy, and innovation throughout Europe			
Period of reporting	from 01/05/2017 to 30/04/2018			
Date of report	14/06/2018			
Grant Holder Institution name	Museum fur Naturkunde - Leibniz Institut fur evolutions und Biodiversitatsforschung an der Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin			
Grant Holder Country	Germany			
Grant Holder Manager name	Ms Magdalena M�LLER			
Financial summary for the Grant Period specified below:				
Grant Period	From 01/05/2017 To 30/04/2018			
Grant Budget			160 931.00	
Grant Amendment			15 035.09	
Total Grant Budget			EUR 175 966.09	
Payments			Total	
Carry Over from last period			5 684.09	
First Instalment			74 781.41	
Total payments			EUR 80 465.50	
Costs		Actuals	Accruals	Total
Total costs until 30/04/2018		134 215.32	0.00	134 215.32
Eligible costs until 30/04/2018		134 215.32	0.00	134 215.32
Cash balance				EUR -53 749.82

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- The final report is approved [update from June 14<sup>th</sup> 2018]. Generally, there is finally some underspending. Not all the money for meetings was used, albeit at the MC in Tartu the working plan was adopted and some more workshops approved and managed, e.g. Citizen Science Strategies in Europe or Citizen Science in Social Sciences and Humanities. Some few workshops overspent.
- We could finance more STSMs than originally planned; the money for ICT-CG was strongly underspent.
- It was discussed to make the big meetings, mainly the MC meeting, earlier in the grant period in order to improve planning options. E.g., for the Tartu meeting it was expected to run above the limit but finally became cheaper than planned. Planning last minute meetings should be avoided. Also, the flat rates should be reduced if necessary on a case to case basis and not in the grant agreement in order to avoid inadequate – and poorly communicated as in case for the Vilnius meeting – resources for participants.
- With regard to the underused ICT-CG grants, it was controversially discussed whether to lower the requirements (e.g. accepted abstract) is a sensitive measure. More important is an enhanced communication; via the working groups but also via the MC Members from ICT countries and respective networks.

### Grant Period 3

- Some concretizations are messing. With regard to the Hackathon, it was agreed to make it in Lugano, Switzerland, in October. Proposals to be presented in Lugano are to be sent by July the 20<sup>th</sup> (<https://www.cs-eu.net/news/house-apps-create-great-apps-citizens>)
- Two training schools will be taking place in Italy. Another one is being organized by Marisa Ponti and Sven Schade, for which further financial support is searched. After paying for the MC Meeting, a new overview about the budget can be provided and discussed by MC Members.

### Remarks from the COST Officer

- Upon comments by participants, COST representative clarifies that organized events should have no fee, but be organized with available funds.
- The subject of unspent fund carryover is raised, and the present COST Association representative agrees to raise the subjects at their headquarters.

### TO 6: Inclusiveness targets – and related data issues

- So far, the Action performs well with regard to young-career and gender targets; reaching ICT targets is more difficult, and partly numbers are missing. Assaf Schwartz suggested to publish a list of participants in the meetings as part of the minutes. It was discussed that this could create an issue with privacy-related laws. How does the Action adapt to this? Asking for information about participants thus becomes a reason for concern; providing anonymous data can be a solution. In this respect it was discussed that it is unclear how we have to apply the new privacy regulation in the case of our Action. In case of a burning question, COST Association may provide some help. For internal communication matters only, a more flexible approach is expected to be acceptable.
- A workshop on Citizen Science and Gender is planned.

### TO 7: Report of the Working Groups (for details see Appendix)

#### WG1: Ensure scientific quality of Citizen Science | (Balint Balazs & Peter Mooney)

- WG1 is looking to organize a Workshop in September, with location to be determined.
- An issue is raised about the ownership of deliverables created by the work of the WGs. That has to be clarified the next weeks.

### WG2: Develop synergies with education | (Silvia Winter & Laure Kloetzer)

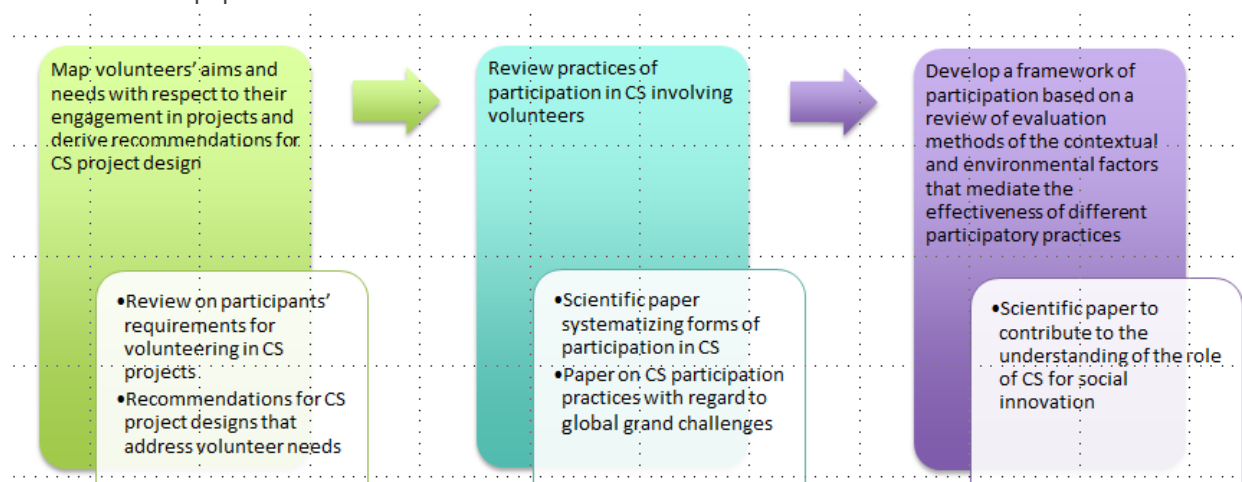
- Paper deriving from Lisbon Workshop on “Citizen Science Meets Education and Learning: Converting Tensions into Synergies” will be submitted to journal: „Citizen Science: Theory and Practice” in July.
- At the Berlin Workshop, reflection on a Roadmap to consolidate and expand the knowledge base on participation and learning in citizen science were exchanged and will lead to the development of a proposal
- The Leysin workshop brought together scientists and practitioners (<http://alpineinstitute-las.org/science/cost-workshop-2018>)
- Planned workshop: WG2 and WG4: **Human Learning and Machine Learning** in CS (preliminary schedule 12.11.2018-12.11.2018) in Italy
- Planned workshop WG 2: Identification of **training needs for CS** linked to formal and informal education (preliminary schedule 20.11.2018-21.11.2018) in Riga, Latvia

### WG3: Improve society-science-policy interface | (Katrin Vohland, Sven Schade plus Claudia G bel)

- WG 3 performed a workshop on the linkages between citizen science and open science with participation of members of the Open Science Policy Panel (OSPP) of the European Commission.
- WG 3 is analyzing citizen science strategies in Europe. A first meeting in Tartu was followed by a meeting in Lisbon and at this occasion in Geneva.
- WG 3 analyses Citizen Science in Social Sciences and Humanities. A draft will be expanded to a review.

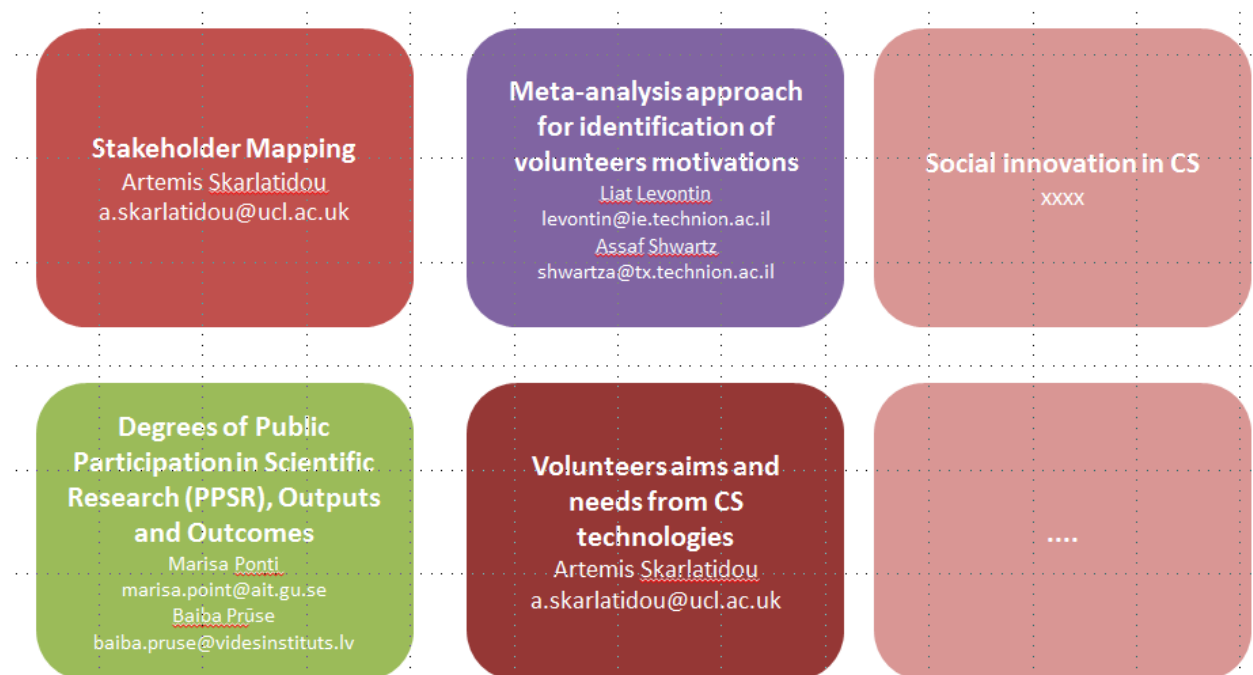
### WG4: Enhance the role of CS for civil society | (Loreta Taugiene & Artemis Skarlatidou)

- WG 4 makes systematic progress in scientific analyses of the volunteers needs and aims and derives papers from it.



- For example, a [questionnaire for motivation to participate in CS was created by WG4](#). It is encouraged that COST Action participants help by translating this to their local languages. It is relatedly mentioned that DITOs has created a hub for CS material translation.
- WG4 is looking for more contributions regarding the “Mapping public participation, outputs and outcomes in citizen science”.
- WG4 is looking for a volunteer-leader for a sub-output related to social innovations in CS. Ms Egle Butkeviciene (Lithuania) expressed her interest to move from WG6 with her suggested topic of social sciences and humanities in CS and to transform it into social innovations in CS.

In order to organize the work in WG 4 more efficiently, the group has been divided in subgroups:



- Several STSMs are linked to WG 4.
- Conference in Vilnius, June 2019 on Ethical concerns in CS. Proposed that people from the Action volunteer participate as speakers.

#### **WG5: Improve data standardization and interoperability | (Luigi Ceccaroni & Imre Lendak)**

The objective of WG5 is to develop a metadata-concepts vocabulary and an ontology to support data sharing among citizen-science projects. WG5 is coordinating with activities on data and service interoperability carried out in Europe, the USA and Australia, and is taking into account existing standards, namely Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards, W3C standards (semantic sensor network/Linked Data), and existing GEO/GEOSS semantic interoperability.

Deliverables:

- Deliverable 1: Downloadable version of the ontology code via Action website (Task 1)
- Deliverable 2: Standardization of the ontology as sensor web enablement profile for citizen science by OGC (Task 2)

Progress in October 2017 – June 2018:

- Ontological model improved iteratively at the meeting in Milano
- Refinement of the identification of core ontology classes and associated relations by drawing on previous research, existing vocabularies and instantiations (not only in biodiversity)

Plan for June 2018 – March 2019:

- Development of a plan for further refining core requirements, ontology classes and associated relations with input from the larger citizen science community (not only in biodiversity)
- Mapping and documentation of meetings/workshops/conferences on standardization and interoperability in citizen science to be able to build on previous work, to synchronize efforts, and not to repeat efforts
- Definition of a plan on how to disseminate/standardize results, beyond papers
- Contribution to the [“Geneva Declaration on Citizen Science Data and Metadata Standards”](#)

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- Contribution to the publication of a simple and short article describing our work and decisions to the wider citizen science and standardisation community
- Submission of a formal proposal with WG5's latest results to the CSA International WG on Citizen Science Data and Metadata (deadline: July 13, 2018)
- Discussing the alignment of the next version of the *Project Metadata Model* (PMM) and the *Dataset Metadata Model* (DMM) to the proposal of WG 5 (deadline: August 2018)
- Collaboration with the approved Open Geospatial Consortium Interoperability Experiment
- Presenting a member to the Model Governance Committee, or MaGiC, within the CSA International WG on Citizen Science Data and Metadata during the next meeting of the CSA International WG on Citizen Science Data and Metadata
- Contribution to the publication of the current version of the Common Conceptual Model on GitHub
- Contribution to the publication of an updated version of the PMM and DMM on GitHub (deadline: August 31, 2018)
- Contribution to the planning for using and testing the proposed models (e.g., in context of Earth Day 2020, and the OGC CitSci Interoperability Experiment)

### WG6: Overarching – Cross-WG-Synthesis and overarching measures | (Roeland Samson & Josep Perello)

- WG 6 is working on a paper linking citizen science and the sustainability transformation.
- Roeland Samson suggested to collect contributions from all WGs, offering a synthesis of all the materials. Each partial synthesis would have to be provided by the rest of WGs. This could result in a book to be published in May 2020. Considering review and correction processes involved, all the materials should be collected by September 2019. It was discussed to first provide a conceptual outline of such a publication, and to sharpen the tasks and role of this working group.

### TO 8: Communication

- Karel de Pourcq gave an overview about his outreach activity, mainly using social media
- Concerns are raised about visibility of Working Group activities. The chair asked: what would COST action members like to have more from the Berlin HQs regarding communication? Participants are invited to reflect on this.
- A proposal is made from an Austrian participant to try to leverage national associations from each country. For that, those would have to be identified. It is suggested that local members could attempt to do this.
- Communication should be enhanced. Communication officer calls on Working Group coordinators to communicate actively with the Comm. Officer of the Action helping to improve communication planning. Providing updates and possible materials for creating contents, and using the action Twitter handle when appropriate is proposed.

### TO 9: next MC meeting

- Time and location of next MC meeting is discussed. Baiba Pruse, from the Latvia Institute for Environmental Solutions raises interest to organize this either in Riga or Cesis. This is voted on-site, and accepted. Further discussions on this event need to take place [addendum: Baiba Pruse cannot offer support for Riga, only for Cesis. Please come back to the chair if you do not accept Cesis or have another suggestion until August 15<sup>th</sup> 2018].

### TO 10: AOB

No more decisions, concerns or calls to action.

Minutes Karel de Pourque and Katrin Vohland, with additions from Luigi Ceccaroni, Sven Schade and Loreta Taugiene; final 27.6.2018

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### Appendix: List of Participants (who signed)

Daniel D�rler	MC Member	Austria
Silvia Winter	MC Member	Austria
Roeland Samson	MC Member	Belgium
Rahman Nurkovic	MC Member	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Kiril Barzev	MC Member	Bulgaria
Eva Novakova	MC Member	Czech Republic
Pavel Taraba	MC Substitute	Czech Republic
Jakub Trojan	MC Member	Czech Republic
Juhani Kettunen	MC Member	Finland
Juha Oksanen	MC Member	Finland
Senka Anastasova	MC Member	fYR Macedonia
Claudia G�bel	MC Member	Germany
Vyron Antoniou	MC Member	Greece
Balint Balazs	MC Member	Hungary
Peter Mooney	MC Member	Ireland
Assaf Shwartz	MC Member	Israel
Andrea Sforzi	MC Member	Italy
Baiba Pruse	MC Member	Latvia
Egle Butkeviciene	MC Member	Lithuania
Loreta Tauginien�	MC Member	Lithuania
Karl Arthur Pickar	MC Member	Luxembourg
Suzanne Gauci	MC Member	Malta
Anne Land	MC Member	Netherlands
Johan Barstad	MC Member	Norway
Hai-Ying Liu	MC Member	Norway
Cec�lia Galv�o	MC Member	Portugal
Bogomil Breznik	MC Member	Slovenia
Luigi Ceccaroni	MC Substitute	Spain
Jaume Piera	MC Substitute	Spain
Marisa Ponti	MC Vice-Chair	Sweden
Laure Kloetzer	MC Substitute [CA15212 CH]	Switzerland
Dana Mahr	MC Member	Switzerland
Esra Per	MC Member	Turkey
Lucy Robinson	MC Member	United Kingdom
Rossella Magli	COST Officer	
Katrin Vohland	Chair	