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Citizen Science NOW

NETWORK • TRANSFORM • GROW

Citizen Science NOW:
Network. transform. grow

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1
SEPTEMBER 2022

WWW.CITIZENSCIENCE-NOW.ORG





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Meet Citizen Science NOW Partners

Science Marketing

Science-to-Business Marketing Research Centre

Science-to-Business (S2B),
Münster University of Applied
Sciences, Germany

<https://en.fh-muenster.de/science-marketing>

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

University of Twente, The
Netherlands

www.utwente.nl/en



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

University of Barcelona, Spain

www.ub.edu/web/portal/en

bespoke

Bespoke Copenhagen, Denmark

<https://bespokecph.com>



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ENGAGED UNIVERSITIES

Accreditation Council for
Entrepreneurial and Engaged
Universities (ACEEU), Germany

www.aceeu.org





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WHAT IS CITIZEN SCIENCE NOW:

Citizens Science NOW aims to identify the competencies citizens need to successfully engage in Citizen Science (CS) in the future and explore future opportunities for broader citizen engagement. Our findings will help us develop resources to empower citizens to build their CS capacities!

Citizen Science NOW is an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Adult Education, co-funded by the European Commission. In four European countries, three prestigious universities, a Future Foresight Institute, and a globally-operating quality assurance organisation focused on recognising engagement and entrepreneurship in Higher Education are collaborating to expand citizen participation in Citizen Science (CS). As part of this project, adult citizens will be empowered with essential CS skills and competencies by digitalising their CS training experiences.



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INTRODUCTION TO CITIZEN SCIENCE NOW

CITIZEN SCIENCE NOW: NETWORK. TRANSFORM.
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Through the development of evidence-based guidelines, the establishment of local and regional CS structures and the development and validation of digital Citizen Science training modules, the project aims to make a systematic impact on Citizen Science (CS) across European regions. It is, therefore, essential to achieve these goals through strong leadership and collaboration at the local and regional levels:

- Inspiring regional, international, and European actors with examples of best practice Citizen Science (CS) initiatives via social media, websites, and networks.
- Educators verify the value and relevance of content by demonstrating its contribution to Citizen Science skills. Additionally, educators should recommend the training materials to their circle and use them daily.

With the primary two outcomes, Citizen Science NOW partners aim to explore potential futures in the broader engagement of citizens in Citizen Science (CS) and identify citizen competencies needed to achieve it. Our findings will help us develop digital CS capacity-building resources for and with citizens.



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COLLABORATIVE FUTURE DESIGN METHODOLOGY FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE FUTURES

- WHAT ARE THE DRIVERS THAT WILL CHANGE THE FUTURE LANDSCAPE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE?
- WHAT CURRENT AND EMERGING BEHAVIOURS AND TECHNOLOGIES CAN INFORM THE FIELD'S FUTURE DIRECTION?

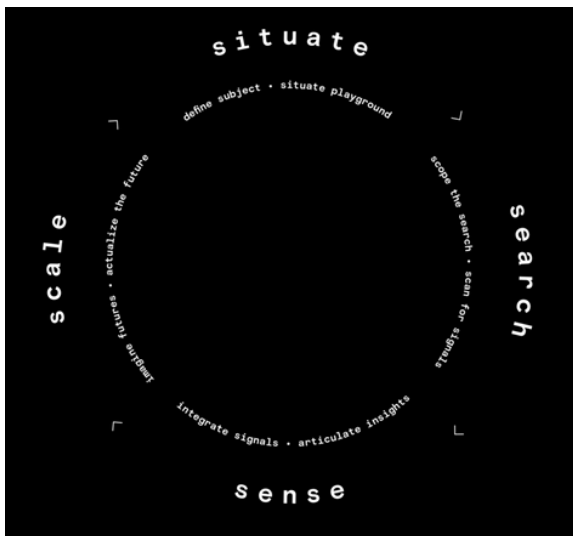


Photo Credit by Bespoke

Those are some guiding questions that the Citizen Science Now consortium seeks to answer to understand the different potential futures of Citizen Science. As a partner in the consortium and a design studio specialising in Futures Design, Bespoke's responsibilities are to share our methodology with the participants and support the research process in developing a future foresight report as the first deliverable in the project. The method is highly collaborative and seeks to harvest collective knowledge and know-how to make a difference in our future.

Bespoke has led a couple of activities to start building those collective futures. The first session aimed at introducing the consortium to our future design methodology and defining the scope of the research project. This kickstarted the research process by collaboratively identifying topics that should be researched or explored. Next, the university partners, experts in the field of Citizen Science, shared their critical points of interest in relation to the study while underlying the relevance of those for the project and the related questions that needed to be answered by the research process.

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In the second activity, Bespoke facilitated desk research with all partners. During this phase, the participants sought to create a library of signals, depicting the current status quo of existing practices with Citizen Science in different cultural contexts. This process, named Scanning, serves the purpose of gathering, interpreting, and synthesising signals. Signals are concrete examples of something emerging, changing or impacting the relevant field or citizen science. Besides this, partners also researched best practices for inspiration and reference.

The next step in our journey will be interpreting those signals during a sense-making session in early September. At that point, the consortium will focus on defining the major trends relating to CS and develop insights shining a light on their potential impact on the future of the research scope.

FH-MÜNSTER RESEARCHERS PRESENT THE SCIENCE-SOCIETY TOOLBOX

A COLLECTION OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY METHODS
FOR AN IMPACTFUL ENGAGEMENT

Recently Dr Kerstin Kurzhals and her team publicised a toolbox that has been created as part of and in collaboration with the [münster.land.leben](#) project in a digital format.

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münster.land.leben revolves around promoting health and well-being in rural areas of Münsterland and is the biggest transdisciplinary transfer project at FH Münster University of Applied Sciences. This is achieved through 13 sub-projects that concern themselves with different facets of health through a participatory research approach.

The toolbox combines operative and strategic tools to make them available for scientists and social actors that engage in science/society projects. Science/society refers to projects that involve parties from science and society backgrounds working together to contribute toward social development. The idea for a toolbox comes from the need to overcome various transfer barriers encountered in transdisciplinary cooperation projects.

Do you want to learn more about the collection of methods? Then, please visit the [Citizen Science NOW website](#) to read the complete article!

INTERVIEW WITH A CLIMATE COACH

“KLIMASCHUTZ GEMEINSAM WAGEN” IS A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT FROM KARLSRUHE THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER TO DISCOVER HOW CITIZENS COULD ENGAGE IN A SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE AND MORE INTRINSIC MOTIVATION FOR CLIMATE-PROTECTING BEHAVIOUR IN A COMMUNITY.

*“I love this blue planet more than anything.”
-Monika Seelmann*

Climate coaches act as intermediaries between scientists from the Karlsruhe Institute for Technology and citizens that are no experts yet. Monika Seelmann is one of those climate coaches and gave us an interview about her job and perspective on Citizen Science.



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How about introducing yourself to our readers? What is your role in sustainable research projects as a Citizen Scientist?

I am Monika Seelmann, 72 years old, art therapist & climate coach. My experience in climate protection work is that many people find the topic of "CO2 savings" too abstract. I live in a district built in the middle of the forest about 60 years ago. Three years ago, 3,000 trees had to be cut down here due to the effects of climate change. That touched people and drove them. And that was my hour to realise to combine my just finished education as a climate coach (KIT) with my profession of creative design processes for self-awareness. As consciousness-raising work.

Through the dying trees, people directly experience what climate change means. I have conceived an open-ended project: "Tears of the TREES of Hope". In the centre are the trees; they cry. But from this centre, they can also draw hope, as in my project, for example, through tree planting campaigns. Otherwise, I go with people into the forest; we create small objects from the wood of fallen trees. I just finished a year-long project with a group of students; we "planted" a future forest out of recycled material as an art object for the final project. In the fall, I start a new year group; I want to create a mindfulness path with 16 stations in the school park.

So my work is predominantly awareness and education work. My city supports the project, and I regularly exchange with the scientists of KIT/KAT (Karlsruhe Transformation Center for Sustainability and Cultural Change).

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Another project I am outlining is intended as a combined photo-info event on forest fires. I would like to establish networking between a forester and wall fire researcher I know in Turkey, his son who photographs burned forests, the forest, environmental and nature conservation and the forest fire research of the KAT in my city, with the first forest fires this year. Here I see my role in networking with a wide variety of actors on a current issue, where international experiences made before us can serve and, at the same time, inform the population, which can feed into forest fire prevention, e.g. through citizen engagement.

Do you think it is important to involve citizens in research projects as lived in citizen science? If yes, why?

Absolutely. We recently had the MobiLab of the KAT on the topic of energy and climate on site. It brings scientific research to the people, who can situate the experience in their everyday lives and, in turn, feed it back to research with coordinated feedback. This creates a mutually beneficial cycle with a high level of efficiency.

In what ways can citizens contribute to research projects? How can they participate? What was your experience?

I have launched a networking project this year: Wald.Stadt.Klima - AktionsRaum for mindful & sustainable living. It relates to our district: Waldstadt. The forum can be "played" by different actors, experts, and citizens. This way, a flow of information and experience can be created that connects citizens and experts



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For example, we have organised the climate puzzle scientifically developed in France and allowed laypersons to experience the topic. These experiences flow back to the scientist who moderates the climate puzzle.

Another vision is a "Schwätzbankle" that I initiated at an urban gardening project I supervise. It serves the communication "about God & the world". But, I also want to use this as a "Science Bench". In this way, scientists can come into an exchange with citizens formally and informally, which can fertilize both sides.

What skills and competencies do you think citizens need to do this?

Interest in the subject, a committed desire to make a personal contribution, enjoyment of responsibility, and self-efficacy. Everything else can be accompanied.

What will citizen science's future look like in the next ten years?

When I became acquainted with the idea of "Citizen Science", I felt that my very committed but voluntary lay work, which takes place in close cooperation with scientists, was valuable and appreciated. I am excited about this concept. I think it puts citizens in their area of maturity and takes them seriously in that. "Sapere Aude" - enlightenment in action. At the same time, it appeals to social responsibility for shaping our possible futures. I see this as a promising way to motivate and support citizens interested in getting involved in a high-quality manner. That's what makes engagement fun.



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To conclude: I am often asked why I am tirelessly active at 72. Because I love this blue planet more than anything. But, I also know about the vulnerability of all life. I also reckon that humankind might not make it. The following motto serves me, and in the possibility of failure, it comforts me to contribute everything at my disposal to the "Reverence for Life" (Albert Schweitzer) and "Preservation of Creation". Networking with like-minded people and knowing about the solidarity that unites everyone in these challenges is the foundation of everything I do.

Monika likes to end her interview with a quote from F. Steffensky that expresses how hope helps to find meaning in one's aspirations:

"Perhaps hope is not even the belief in the good outcome of the world and the avoidance of its destruction. No one guarantees that life on earth will not collapse in the foreseeable future. But we can pretend to hope. One also learns to hope by acting as if salvation is possible. Hope does not guarantee a good outcome. To hope is to trust that what we are doing is meaningful."

COMING UP NEXT

The partners of the project are currently developing the Foresight Report. Thus, more details about it will be described soon in the second issue of our newsletter.

Additionally, the consortium will meet offline at the beginning of November in the city of Münster, Germany, to discuss the upcoming outcome of the project "Digital Citizen Science Capacity-Building Program". The purpose of the meeting is to incorporate insights from the Final Report into the design of a digital and certified Citizen Science training program. Finally, as we work together to achieve the project's objectives, we hope to engage all partners to foster commitment and dedication in the future steps.





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