



EUROPEAN
CITIZEN SCIENCE
ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2014

October 29th 2015

Our Mission is to connect citizens and science through fostering active participation.

Our Vision is that, in 2020, citizens in Europe are valued and empowered as key actors in advancing knowledge and innovation and thus supporting sustainable development in our world. Citizen Science is a recognized, promoted and funded approach to foster scientific literacy and the democratization of scientific expertise, to increase the social relevance and sustainable impact of research and to improve the evidence base for environment, biodiversity and climate change policy in Europe and globally.

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ECSA Foundation and Establishment

After several years of planning, ECSA was formally established as an association under German law on April 1st 2014. It is registered in Berlin, Germany. The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (MfN) supported the institutionalisation and hosts the ECSA Secretariat. Prof. Dr. Johannes Vogel was elected as ECSA Chair, Dr. Katrin Vohland as ECSA Vice Chair. In September 2014 Claudia Göbel was hired by the MfN to work for the ECSA Secretariat.

The first General Assembly was held at April 8th 2014 in Copenhagen, back to back with the “Living Knowledge” Conference whose organisers also supported ECSA logistically. Four working groups were formally established, with Martin Brocklehurst being the speaker for the *Policy, Strategy and Partnerships* group, Jaume Piera for the *Data, Tools and Technology* group, Josep Perello and Poppy Lakeman-Fraser for the *Fundraising, Communication, Marketing and Events* group, and Lucy Robinson for the *Sharing Best Practice and Building Capacity* group.

The second General Assembly, already in the same year, at November 26th 2014, was held at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, back to back with the EU BON *Stakeholder Round Table on Citizen Science*. Most important results were the further development of the constitution as well as filling the open positions of the ECSA Board by elections. The Board was completed by Andrea Sforzi, Aletta Bonn, Ana Casino, Luigi Ceccaroni and Zen Makuch. In addition, it was decided to establish a Steering Committee, which comprises the Executive Board, Board of Directors and the speakers of the Working Groups. For the first of 12 possible positions of the ECSA Advisory Board, Jaqueline McGlade was elected.

Formalizing Membership

In 2014, ECSA membership grew to 37 members from the foundation of the organisation in April until the end of the year. The following two options were available for engaging with the association:

(1) Formal membership – for organizations or individuals

Formal members realize activities through participation in ECSA Working Groups and shape the way the organisation is developing. Membership is coupled to a yearly membership fee (2014: 100€ for organizations including participation of 3 representatives, 40€ for individuals, discount for students, seniors and unemployed available 25€) and offers the following benefits:

- Participating in and voting at General Assembly
- Possibility for representative to be elected to Executive Board and Board of Directors
- Participating in other ECSA events
- Logo on ECSA Website
- Promoting news and events through the ECSA website and newsletter
- Presenting activities on ECSA blog
- Promoting own work through ECSA at events (e.g. Green Week, CSA conference etc.)
- Present own CS activities via ECSA homepage with short description in English (planned)

- Participating in ECSA Working Groups
- Contributing to the elaboration of ECSA documents, e.g. policy papers
- Contributing to the development of open-access resources for the field, e.g. guides
- Carrying out joint European Citizen Science projects (planned)
- Access to members-only internal mailing list for information, grant application requests etc.
- Access to ECSA wiki for collaborative work to discuss and edit documents together
- Access to internal part of homepage with directory of members with contact details (planned)

(2) Joining the ECSA network of supporters

Supporters closely follow ECSA activities and are welcome to participate in activities. Becoming a supporter is open for organizations, free of charge and offers the following benefits:

- Participating in the General Assembly and other ECSA events
- Receiving ECSA newsletter
- Logo on ECSA Website
- Participating in ECSA Working Groups as observer
- Contributing to the development of open-access resources for the field, e.g. guides
- Contributing to the implementation of joint European Citizen Science projects (planned)

ECSA Working Groups

Sharing Best Practice and Building Capacity

This working group aims to promote high quality citizen science by sharing existing examples of good practice, developing practitioner guides and other documents to support the citizen science practitioner community, and bringing together all parties involved in citizen science to develop partnerships, share resources and experiences, and build capacity within the sector.

Chair: **Lucy Robinson** - Citizen Science Programme Manager at Natural History Museum London, UK

Members:

Ana Casino, Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities, Belgium

Bart de Lathouwer, Open Geospatial Consortium

Aletta Bonn, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research/German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research, Germany

Chris Higgins, COBWEB – Citizen Observatory Web, UK

Gregoire Lois, Musee National d'Histoire Naturelle, France

Muki Haklay, University College London, UK

Sarah West, Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York, UK

Alison Dyke, Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York, UK

Rachel Pateman, Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York, UK

Malte Timpte, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany

Key activities in 2014 included drafting Ten Principles of Citizen Science, to draw together what the ECSA community collectively believes represents good practice in Citizen Science. The draft version of the Ten Principles was presented at the ECSA General Assembly in Berlin in order to gather the input of a wide constituency of members and other stakeholders. At this same meeting, a draft summary list of existing best practice guides was presented to the group, based on a short research project undertaken by the Natural History Museum London to draw together known good practice guides relevant to the field of Citizen Science. This work was funded by ECSA through a grant from SEPA. The input from all stakeholders at the General Assembly was invited to ensure this list was as comprehensive as possible. Further developing these resources was continued throughout 2015.

Data, Tools and Technology

This group is trying to formalize a common understanding of interests in the Citizen Science data space, analysing problems that Citizen Science projects face regarding data, such as *interoperability*, *data reliability* (e.g. how Citizen Science data can be trusted and plugged into environmental regulation and monitoring requirements from governments), *privacy*, or data intellectual property rights. To do so, the group is establishing collaborations with other technical organizations (such as the Open Geospatial Consortium –OGC-) or other Citizen Science Associations (CSA, ACSA).

Chair: **Jaume Piera** - Researcher at Institute of Marine Sciences at Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain

Members:

Arne Berre, Sintef, Norway

Benjamin Dauth, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria

Bernat Claramunt, CREA, Spain

Christos Arvanitidis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

Elzbieta Woloszynska-Wisniewska, UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre, Poland

Emmanouella Panteri, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

Florian Heigl, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria

Hai-Ying Liu, Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Norway

Israel Peer, GlueCAD Ltd – Biodiversity IT, Israel

Jamie Williams, Environment Systems, UK

Jari Silander, Finnish Environmental Institute (SKYE), Finland

Johann Zaller, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria

Linda See, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria

Luigi Ceccaroni, 10000001 Labs, Spain

Stratos Arampatzis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Thanos Dailianis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

Veljo Runnel, University of Tartu, Estonia

Vita Lanfranchi, University of Sheffield, U

Activities:

- Talk on Citizen Observatories and DIY technologies at 6th Living Knowledge Conference, Denmark (Jaume Piera)
- Participation on the EU BON stakeholder round table on Citizen Science. Presentation IT tool to track the use of the data provided by citizens (Jaume Piera)
- Creation of a Google+ private group of “Data Tools and Technology ECSA WG” for information exchange
- Talk on “Citizen Science in Environmental Research and Education”, presenting ECSA. Open Science Days 2014, Berlin (Jaume Piera)
- Participation on the International Ocean Research Conference “One Planet One Ocean” promoted by UNESCO. Barcelona Nov 2014. Introduction to DIY (Technologies) (Jaume Piera, Luigi Ceccaroni)
- Participation on the conference “Citizens’ Observatories: Empowering European Society” (Jaume Piera, Luigi Ceccaroni). Dec 2014, Brussels. European Commission. Panel session on Challenges of Citizens’ Observatories (Jaume Piera)

Policy, Strategy, Partnerships

The Policy Group was defined at an ECSA Workshop in Brussels in the autumn of 2013. Its three main objectives were to:

- To assess the citizen science landscape and develop strategies across countries;
- To approach policy makers and assess how to influence decisions and leverage funding;
- To analyse who the key stakeholders are and who ECSA needs to engage with to bring about changes in sectors.

Chair: **Martin Brocklehurst** - KempleyGREEN Consultants, UK

Members:

David Slawson, OPAL, Imperial College London, UK

Katherine Mathieson, British Science Association, UK

Katrin Vohland, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany

Hilary Geoghegan, University of Reading

Micheál Lehane, Environment Protection Agency, Ireland

Patricia Tiago, University of Lisbon – Biodiversity4All, Portugal

Poppy Lakeman Fraser, OPAL, Imperial College London, UK

Simone Branchini, University of Bologna, Italy

Members from 5 different EU countries volunteered to take part in the working group or to act as key links to the European Environment Agency and EU Environmental Regulators. The group held three formal virtual meetings during the year with support from the European Environment Agency and one face-to-face meeting at the General Assembly in Berlin. The group agreed on: Terms of Reference; Budgets for the year; Work plan for 2014 and 2015; Key issues and inputs to working meetings with the European Commission; and inputs to the ECSA EU Funding bid to the Life+ administered NGO programme.

Discussions with Graham Watson MEP & President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) and correspondence with the European Union Environment Commissionaire Janez Potočnik led to agreement on a formal point of contact with the Commission through which dialogue on Citizen Science and its role in the Policy Process could begin. Nicholas Banfield Head of Knowledge Risks and Urban Environment, European Commission was nominated and scoping meetings took place that laid the foundation for further discussions and exchanges of key documents about Citizen Science and its possible role in the European Commission during the year. Discussion covered the best way to ensure that Citizen Science was developed as a key component of future EU Directives. The Commission confirmed critical topic issues where Citizens could have a key role were air pollution, waste and resource management and Invasive Species.

During the year two key documents were reviewed that influenced the work planning of the group:

- Science Communication Unit, University of the West of England, Bristol (2013). Science for Environment Policy In-Depth Report: Environmental Citizen Science. Report produced for the European Commission DG Environment, Issue 9 - December 2013; and
- Green Paper on Citizen Science. Citizen Science for Europe. Towards a better society of empowered citizens and enhanced research. Societize Project to the European Commission's Digital Science Unit as part of the activities carried out under contract number RI-312902

These two documents were used to map out a work plan for the group going forward and the need for two key policy papers to guide ECSA were identified. Papers were proposed on:

- Citizen Science as part of EU Policy Delivery – Outlining our ideas on how we would like to see Citizen Science made an integral part of EU Policy delivery; and
- ECSA Policy Position on the Societize White Paper on Citizen Science for Europe.

In support of these papers a budget was agreed for a screening study of all EU Environmental Directives to review the current obligations for monitoring and the opportunity for Citizen Science to be part of the formal EU monitoring programmes was identified. A scope of work was prepared and potential contractors able to undertake the project agreed with the aim of completing the work during 2015.

The group reviewed the Inputs to the ECSA EU Funding bid to the Life+ administered NGO programme and in particular the key elements of work included in the bid document concerning, proposed EU wide Citizen Science Projects, details on ideas for EU Policy Engagement, best practise exchange, communication programmes and meta-data systems that were all included in the bid.

Communication, Membership, Marketing, Fundraising and Events

Chairs: **Poppy Lakeman-Frazer** and **Josep Perelló**

Members:

Monique Luckas, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany

Muki Haklay, University College London, UK

Simone Branchini, University of Bologna, Italy

Susanne Hecker, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany
Thorsten Witt, Science in Dialogue, Germany
Aletta Bonn, iDiv/UFZ

One focus of the activities of the Working Group was to give inputs for refining the governance structure of the organisation. For this purpose, a survey on membership benefits as well as a review of the governance structures of other organizations was conducted. A second focus was to improve the communication of ECSA. For this purpose, a rudimentary website was set up by Sven Benthin, sponsored by the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin; Imperial College London offered to use the SISWEBS software. The Working Group also conducted discussions to define the target audience of ECSA to first and foremost be Citizen Science practitioners, and secondarily policy makers, Citizen Scientists and other stakeholder groups, such as researchers. Regarding events, a workshop of the Communication Working Group was proposed for 2015, and an international Citizen Science conference to be held in Europe in spring 2016. A first outline for the conference was developed at the Copenhagen meeting in spring and presented at the GA in Nov 2014. It was discussed to develop the programme further with the conference committee in 2015 and develop a funding road map.

ECSA Participation in Events

- April 2014 - Talk about ECSA at Living Knowledge Conference (Katrin Vohland)
- Dec 2014 - Presentation on ECSA at conference “Citizens’ Observatories: Empowering European Society”, Brussels, European Commission (Claudia Göbel)
- Dec 2014 - Contribution to Open Science Consultation Workshop DG Research, Bucharest (Claudia Göbel)

ECSA Communication

ECSA developed a simple webpage (<http://ecsa.citizen-science.net/>) which provides key information. For the second General Assembly, Wiki has been created and linked to the webpage for members to discuss and elaborate documents together.

In addition, Katrin Vohland, and from October 2014 on Claudia Göbel, sent out monthly newsletters giving information on ECSA as well as on other developments in citizen science. Currently, the newsletter reaches 605 persons throughout Europe and beyond.

International Cooperation

Co-operation with international Citizen Science Associations

Members of the Board of Directors met in October in London with representatives of CSA (USA) and Australia (via skype). A Memorandum of Understanding was suggested and approved by the ECSA GA in October 2014.

Journal Citizen Science: Theory and Practice

Katrin Vohland and Muki Haklay are members of the inaugural board of the emerging journal.

ECSA Finances

ECSA Budget 2014

According to the Constitution, ECSA has an annual budget. It is administered by the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. The plan was decided by the General Assembly at 8th April, 2014 in Copenhagen.

PLAN	Date: 8.4.2014		Date: 28.9.2015
	Plan		
Expected Income	12.000,00 €		15.221,94 €
SEPA-Donation	11.000,00 €		11.923,21 €
other			558,73 €
Memberfees	1.000,00 €	25 org. member	2.500,00 €
		6 ind. Member	240,00 €
Expenses	12.000,00 €		9.731,60 €
Travel Secretariat & Gremia	3.000,00 €		5.673,15 €
WG Communication Committee	1.500,00 €		
WG Policy Committee	1.500,00 €		
WG Principles Committee	1.500,00 €		1.518,13 €
WG Technology Committee	1.500,00 €	via 1000001Labs	1.500,00 €
Fees for registration etc.	500,00 €		174,73 €
Webpage development	2.000,00 €		
Flyer, printed material	500,00 €		315,59 €
		GAs Catering	550,00 €
Balance	0,00 €		5.490,34 €

Comments: Main donation came via the SEPA Network which donated 11.923,21 € in order to support the work of ECSA. The money was spent according the plan which was decided at the General Assembly in April 2014, although there are minor deviations. Not all the money dedicated to the Working Groups was spent in time. The main reason is that the Working Groups, except the one on *Data, Tools and Technology*, did not send their bills in time. We had to spend less for the registration of the association, but more costs occurred due to travelling activities of the Board members and the Secretariat in order to promote ECSA. Additional costs concerned the catering at the two ECSA General Assemblies in 2014.

In-kind contributions

In addition to the monetary expenses displayed in the table, many member organisations contributed high in-kind contributions thus assuring the functioning of the association. We are grateful to: Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, MHNM Maremma, NHM London, iDiv/UFZ, 1000001 Labs, ICM – CSIC, Imperial College London – OPAL, Kempey Green, RBINS, UCL, Open Systems - University of Barcelona and others.

ECSA bids

Horizon 2020

The bid initiated by Muki Haklay, UCL, was meant to support the idea of Citizen Science, to bring together different communities, especially DYI, to test various new formats of Citizen Science and public engagement. ECSA was asked to take the lead for the work package supporting policy and to contribute to capacity building and communication. ECSA was notified early in 2015 that the bid did not succeed although it scored very high.

EASME Life

On initiative of Martin Brocklehurst, a submission was made for a LIFE Operating Grant for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) primarily active in the field of environment and/or climate action. A bid was completed and submitted and met eligibility criteria under the programme. This was the first ECSA bid made to the Commission since its formation under German law as an NGO. It laid out a programme for EU wide Citizen Science Projects, arrangements for exchange of best practice on Citizen Science, the establishment of a potential EU wide Citizen Science met-data base with the support of United Nations Environment Programme, a communication programme on Citizen Science and arrangements for policy engagement with the European Commission. The funding bid was for a programme of work costing €439,590 and a grant of €303,810 for the 2015 financial year. ECSA were notified in April 2015 that the bid failed to secure high enough scores to be successful and were provided with copies of the overall scores and assessments.

Contact

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