

The European Citizen Science Association

# BioBlitz

03.12.21

# Purpose

to connect people, communities and organizations involved in the organisation of BioBlitz, to facilitate the sharing of good practice and to build capacity

# Connecting people Collecting data

- Exploring wildlife and green space on your doorstep
- Introducing citizen science
- Developing skills and knowledge
- Gathering biological data at scale
- Supporting positive action for nature
- Local activity, global story



# Objectives

- Exploring coordination and collaborative approaches for running BioBlitz in Europe and beyond
- Assessing applicability of existing resources for practitioners across Europe, adapt at country level and translate them
- Learning from pioneering initiatives, e.g. UK National BioBlitz Network, City Nature Challenge
- Knowledge exchange and capacity building activities, e.g. training workshops, webpages with resources.



# 2021 Activity

- In 2021, with the support of the ECSA BioBlitz working group, UK based charity the Natural History Consortium were able to join a collaboration with the University of Andrews to include a cross border BioBlitz activity as part of INTERSECTIONS: an international collaboration for European Researchers Night

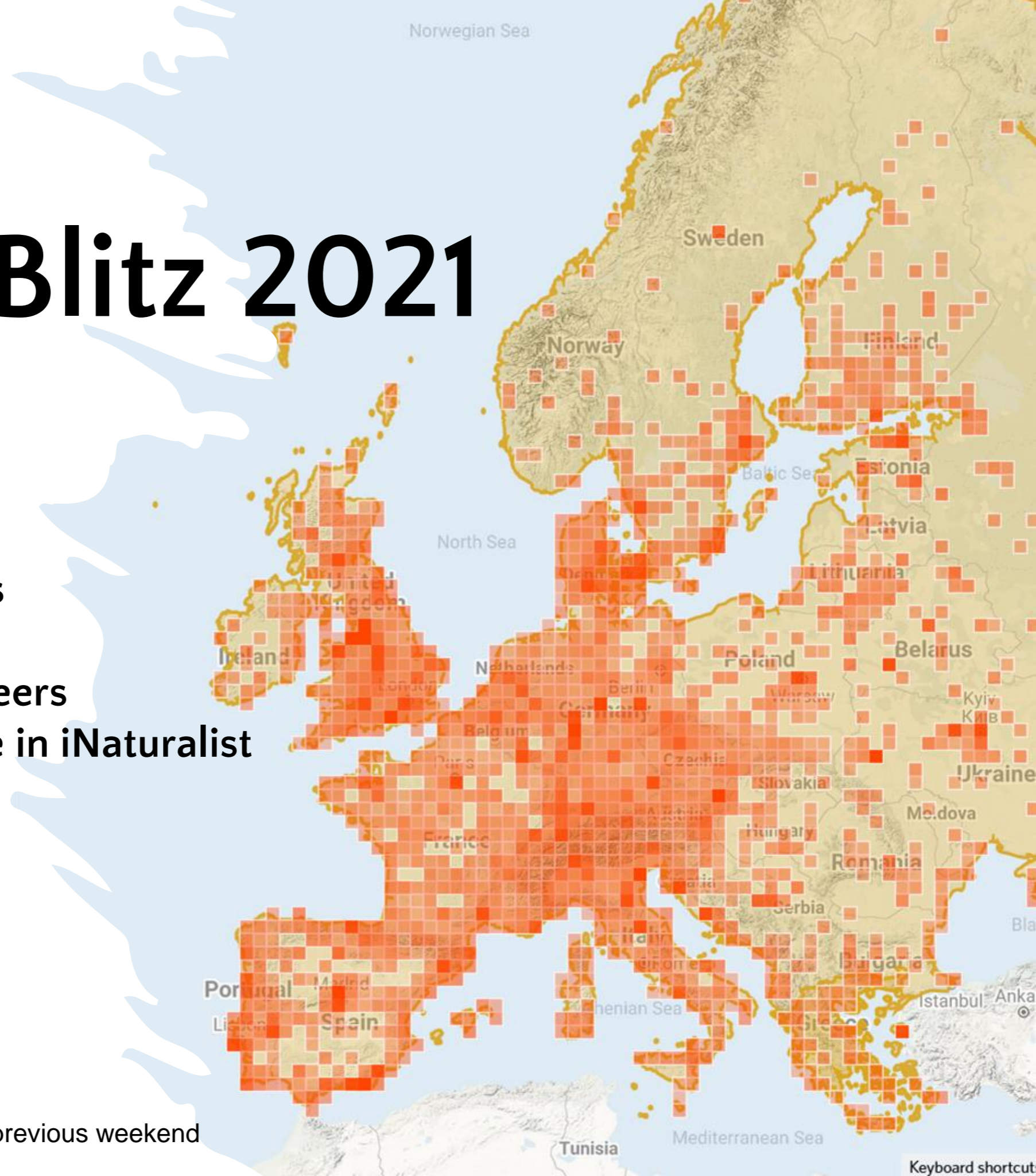
# 2021 EuroBioBlitz

- A race against the clock, working together to put nature on the map across Europe
- The worlds first 48 hour continental BioBlitz
- Part of INTERSECTIONS: an international collaboration for European Researchers Night
  
- International call to action: “Add your wildlife sightings to iNaturalist and help put nature on the map!”
- Social media showcase of wildlife research across Europe
- Programme of online “Meet a wildlife researcher” interviews



# EuroBioBlitz 2021

- 48 hours
- 43 Countries
- 53,236 Observations
- 7,028 Species
- 8,270 Digital Volunteers
- Over 400% increase in iNaturalist activity\*



\*compared to same parameters for previous weekend

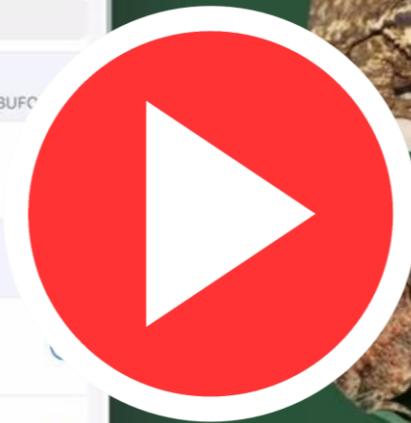
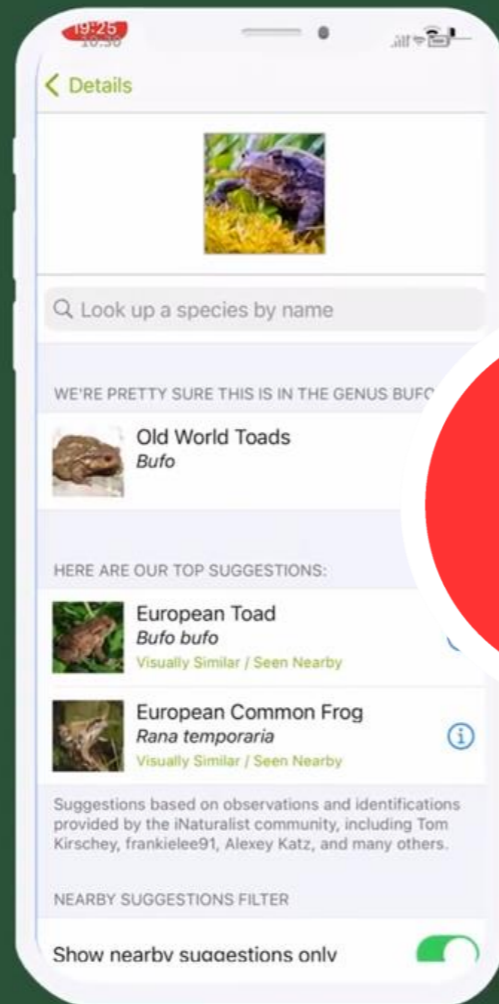


# 2021 EuroBioBlitz

**NHC produced resources in 7 languages to support BioBlitz practitioners to promote participation among their communities:**

- **iNaturalist** project platform
- **Communications pack** – text for websites and newsletters, photos, logos, [film](#), suggested tweets and social media posts.
- **Community pack** – invitation template, photos, logos, film, suggested tweets and social media posts.
- **Schools pack** – lesson plans for schools and youth groups, invitation template

# What have You found?



Old World Toads



European Toad



European Common Frog

# Learning

- EuroBioBlitz has provided a much needed platform and central capacity for galvanising cross border collaboration
- Digital volunteering and remote formats for community science can thrive in ‘post lockdown’ society
- iNaturalist is a useful cross border, multilingual platform BUT collaborations would benefit from improved compatibility between other platforms
- Appetite for this kind of activity is high when appropriately resourced



# Plans for 2022

- The Natural History Consortium have submitted a bid to European Researchers Night 2022 to repeat EuroBioBlitz and, if successful, are keen to work with the ECSA working group to:
- Build on learning and resources from the 2021 EuroBioBlitz pilot activity
- Collaborate on additional funding bids to grow local participation and support Working Group members
- Translate resources into more languages to broaden participation across more of Europe