

JRC Dataset

An inventory of citizen science activities for environmental policies

Description:

Citizen science is the non-professional involvement of volunteers in the scientific process, whether in the data collection phase or in other phases of the research. It can be a powerful tool for environmental management that has the potential to inform an increasingly complex environmental policy landscape and to meet the growing demands from society for more participatory decision-making. While there is growing interest from international bodies and national governments in citizen science, the evidence that it can successfully contribute to environmental policy development, implementation, evaluation or compliance remains scant. Central to elucidating this question is a better understanding of the benefits delivered by citizen science, that is to determine to what extent these benefits can contribute to environmental policy, and to establish whether projects that provide policy support also co-benefit science and encourage meaningful citizen engagement. In order to get an evidence base of citizen science activities that can support environmental policies in the European Union (EU), the European Commission (DG ENV, with the support of DG JRC) contracted Bio Innovation Service (FR), in association with Fundacion Ibercivis (ES) and The Natural History Museum (UK), to perform a "Study on an inventory of citizen science activities for environmental policies" (see the "Publications" section below). The first objective was to develop an inventory of citizen science projects relevant for environmental policy and assess how these projects contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. To this end, a desk-research and an EU-wide survey were used to identify 503 citizen science projects of relevance to environmental policy. The second objective was to assess the conditions under which citizen science can best support environmental policy, through the selection and analysis of a sample of citizen science projects. This was followed by an in-depth analysis of 45 projects along 94 project attributes. Subsequently, this analysis provided the foundation for making a series of recommendations to leverage the contribution of citizen science to environmental policy. We publish here both the citizen science project inventory and the in-depth analysis data that resulted from this study. The inventory will be updated on a regular basis, considering possible additions from the survey that is provided in the "Other resources" section.

How to cite:

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Keywords:

Citizen Science, environmental policy, inventory, policy impact, recommendations

Related resources:

Data access

Selected practices in citizen science for environmental policy

The selected practices in citizen science for environmental policy, in csv format, available in a zip file with a pdf describing the inventory attributes

<http://cidportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ftp/jrc-opendata/CITSCI/datasets/10004/Selected practices in citizen science for environmental policy.zip>

Inventory of environmental citizen science projects

The inventory of environmental citizen science projects, in csv format, available in a zip file with a pdf describing the inventory attributes

<http://cidportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ftp/jrc-opendata/CITSCI/datasets/10004/Inventory of environmental citizen science projects.zip>

Publications

Citizen science for environmental policy

DOI:[10.2779/961304](https://doi.org/10.2779/961304)

Other resources

Citizen Science Project Inventory - Project description form

This page is to collect information about Citizen Science projects to be included in future versions of the Inventory of citizen science activities for environment policies. The inventory will be updated on a regular basis in order to include the replies.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CSProjectInventory>

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