

Science with and for Society – Project Partner Search Form

CALL: Science with and for Society 2018

- I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a Project
- I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

Topics

Strategic orientation 1. Accelerating and catalysing processes of institutional change

- SwafS-01-2018-2019: Open schooling and collaboration on science education
- SwafS-02-2018: Innovative methods for teaching ethics and research integrity
- SwafS-03-2018: Developing research integrity standard operating procedures
- SwafS-04-2018: Encouraging the re-use of research data generated by publically funded research projects
- SwafS-05-2018-2019: Grounding RRI practices in research and innovation funding and performing organisations

Strategic orientation 2. Stepping up support to Gender Equality in Research & Innovation policy

- SwafS-09-2018-2019: Supporting research organisations to implement gender equality plans
- SwafS-10-2018: Analysing gender gaps and biases in the allocation of grants
- SwafS-13-2018: Gender Equality Academy and dissemination of gender knowledge across Europe

Strategic orientation 3. Building the territorial dimension of SwafS partnerships

- SwafS-14-2018-2019: Supporting the development of territorial Responsible Research and Innovation
- SwafS-22-2018: Mobilising Research Excellence in EU Outermost Regions

Strategic orientation 4. Exploring and supporting citizen science

- SwafS-15-2018-2019: Exploring and supporting citizen science

Strategic orientation 5. Building the knowledge base for SwafS

- SwafS-18-2018: Taking stock of the application of the precautionary principle in R&I
- SwafS-19-2018-2019: Taking stock and re-examining the role of science communication
- SwafS-20-2018-2019: Building the SwafS knowledge base
- SwafS-21-2018: Advancing the Monitoring of the Evolution and Benefits of Responsible Research and Innovation

1) PROJECT INFORMATION

Field of expertise related to the topic:

Short description:

The citizen science working group at BOKU Vienna was established in 2014 and consists of three members. The work of this young group is focused on (I) the establishment and coordination of a

citizen science network in Austria (www.citizen-science.at), (II) the quality management and evaluation in citizen science projects and (III) the application of citizen science and remote sensing methods to collect data on road-killed animals and neobiota on a wide geographic range. In the last years the working group published results in high ranked scientific journals such as BMC Ecology and Remote Sensing.

Summary of the offered skills of the working group:

- Establishment of national citizen science platforms
- Coordination of citizen science networks
- Expertise in citizen science quality management and evaluation
- Experience in planning and conducting of citizen science projects in the field of ecology

Detailed description:

Establishment and coordination of networks:

The citizen science working group established Austria's first and biggest citizen science platform (www.citizen-science.at), one of the first in Europe. Currently more than 50 projects from multiple institutions and disciplines present themselves to an interested public. The working group developed the platform from a purely voluntary project in 2014 to an established network of citizen science actors in Austria, that involves all major players in this kind of research. The annual Austrian Citizen Science Conference is one major achievement of the working group, and is regarded as the most important networking event for citizen science actors in the country.

The working group therefore has big expertise in building up citizen science networks and platforms from scratch. The inclusiveness of all major players in the field of citizen science and the involvement of important stakeholders is the key idea that stands behind this concept. The concept was so convincing that the foundation Science et Cité from Switzerland decided to implement it in their work and use it for establishing their own national platform (www.schweiz-forscht.ch).

Quality management and evaluation of citizen science projects:

Quality management and evaluation of citizen science projects is becoming more and more important, especially with new funding schemes focusing on citizen science emerging all over Europe. With more than 50 projects from multiple research areas, the Austrian citizen science platform (www.citizen-science.at) had to implement quality criteria, that help keeping the quality of research high and give interested citizens the assurance that the time and work they spend on any given project on the platform is used responsibly. The working group as coordinator of the Austrian citizen science platform developed a framework of quality criteria together with citizen science actors from multiple disciplines and interested citizens, that will ensure a maximum of inclusiveness for all kinds of citizen science projects combined with high quality standards. The process of developing these quality criteria was as inclusive and open as possible, combining personal and remote meetings with multiple feedback loops and online consultations. This created ownership and agreement in project leaders, which makes the implementation of the quality criteria smooth and acceptable.

Experience in the application of citizen science in research projects:

The working group has conducted two citizen science projects, that both are regarded as very successful on a national and international level.

Project "BOKUArion" was one of the first projects in Austria that tested the applicability of citizen science for invasive species monitoring in Austrian gardens. The focus species was the invasive slug *Arion vulgaris*, which is responsible for massive damages each year, both in agriculture and private

gardens. A publication on this project is currently under review at BMC Ecology. Project “Roadkill” (www.roadkill.at) investigates the number of road-killed vertebrates together with concerned citizens on Austrian roads. More than 5000 road-killed animals have been reported by more than 500 participants so far, and three peer reviewed publications have been published on this project. Project Roadkill is often referred to as a best practice example for the involvement of citizens in a research project and for combining citizen science, open data and open access approaches.

Literature:

Kieslinger, B. et al. The Challenge of Evaluation: An Open Framework for Evaluating Citizen Science Activities. Preprint at Zenodo (2017). doi:10.17605/OSF.IO/ENZC9

Heigl, F., Horvath, K., Laaha, G. & Zaller, J. G. Amphibian and reptile road-kills on tertiary roads in relation to landscape structure: using a citizen science approach with open-access land cover data. BMC Ecol 17, 24 (2017).

Heigl, F. & Dörler, D. Public participation: Time for a definition of citizen science. Nature 551, 168 (2017).

Eitzel, M. V. et al. Citizen Science Terminology Matters: Exploring Key Terms. Citizen Science: Theory and Practice 2, 1–20 (2017).

Heigl, F. et al. Comparing Road-Kill Datasets from Hunters and Citizen Scientists in a Landscape Context. Remote Sensing 8, (2016).

Heigl, F. & Zaller, J. G. Using a Citizen Science Approach in Higher Education: a Case Study reporting Roadkills in Austria. Human Computation 1, (2014).

Potential contribution to the project:

The working group offers its expertise in establishing and coordinating citizen science networks and platforms to consortia that want to foster networks all over Europe and are looking for partners with experience in this kind of activity. Specific knowledge in citizen science terminology and experience when working together in a multinational team is also available (see Eitzel et al. 2017).

The working group offers its expertise in quality management and evaluation gained during the process of quality criteria development and also its experience in creating an open and inclusive work space for many different actors with various backgrounds and motivations.

The working group offers its expertise in planning and conducting citizen science projects in the field of ecology to a consortium looking for these skills. Additionally, we offer data sharing and cooperation in project Roadkill (www.roadkill.at/en).

Role in the project:

- Research Dissemination Other
 Training Technology Development

Project idea:

Project description:

Already experience as a Coordinator: yes no
 As a Partner: yes no

If “yes”, which project:

Other partners in consortium already identified (with countries):

2) TARGET COORDINATOR / PARTNER SOUGHT

Organisation details:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Higher education / university	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry / SME
<input type="checkbox"/> Research institution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> NGO	Please specify:
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	
We are looking for following Expertise / Competencies:	

3) CONTACT DETAILS

Contact Person: Name: Florian Heigl <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr
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Organisation web address: www.citizen-science.at / www.boku.ac.at
Short profile of the Organisation: The citizen science working group at BOKU Vienna was established in 2014 and consists of three members. The work of this young group is focused on (I) the establishment and coordination of a citizen science network in Austria (www.citizen-science.at), (II) the quality management and evaluation in citizen science projects and (III) the application of citizen science and remote sensing methods to collect data on road-killed animals and neobiota on a wide geographic range. In the last years the working group published results in high ranked scientific journals such as BMC Ecology and Remote Sensing.

Date: 01.12.2017

The offer is valid until: 2021

I agree with publication of my contact data on "Science with and for Society" network website

YES NO

PLEASE FILL THE FORM AND RETURN IT TO YOUR HORIZON 2020 NATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENCE WITH AND FOR SOCIETY.