



BioBlitz Working Group meeting: BioBlitz Beyond DITOs

2 April 2019, 10:00-12:30

KC Jean Lebon, RBINS, Brussels

Chair: Matt Postles (BNHC)

Apologies: Gaia Agnello (ECSA), Ulrike Stein (MfN), Dacha Atienza (Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona), Andrea Sforzi (MNM)

Agenda

Over the last few years, there has been an amazing surge of energy behind BioBlitz and related formats of Public Engagement in Biological Recording. Dedicated capacity for this Working Group under the DITOS project has provided the structure and people time to maintain that energy and coordinate activity.

As we move beyond DITOS, and that workload falls back on to the Working Group Members, we need to review and reflect where we want to go and how we want to direct this energy going forwards.

1. **Where are we now?** What is our current reach and capacity?
2. **Where do we want to be?** What are our goals as a working group?
3. **How will we get there?** What cross border collaboration projects could/ should we be working together on to achieve this? Is it one big project or creating a platform for many smaller cross border opportunities?
4. **What do we need?** Which platforms could/should we use to maintain cross border relationships and support the European BioBlitz community of practice?
5. **What funding opportunities** are there to resource both project work and some central coordinating capacity?

Agenda items from the group

1. A Europe-wide BioBlitz event (a suggestion from Veljo Runnel in Estonia)
 - This is something that has been discussed in the past. How would it work? When would it be held (Veljo suggests June).
 - We could do a soft launch of the event in 2019 (with as many places involved as feasible), then a more Europe-wide event in 2020.
2. Connecting our WG activities as much as possible with those that will be developed in the framework of the recently launched EU-Citizen.Science H2020 project (Andrea Sforzi)
3. Evaluating the need to provide some format definitions (Andrea Sforzi):



- The term "bioblitz" is increasingly used (at least in Italy) to indicate activities that are quite far (sometimes very far) from a "regular" bioblitz. That generates confusion among people and put at the same level a simple 2hrs walk and a 24hrs (plus some earlier months needed for the organization) event.
- This might be a starting point to draw "reference lines". At the Geneva workshop last June I suggested a partial amendment to your previous proposal (see picture below).
- It would be nice to collect the opinions of other people and to decide which channels should be used to promote our view. That may also add visibility to the group.

Language

The workshop will be held in English.