Memorandum of Understanding

Between:

the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) and the RRI Tools Project.

I. PARTIES

This non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into 20.05.2016 by and between ECSA and the RRI Tools Project, hereafter jointly referred to as the “Parties”.

II. PURPOSE

This MoU promotes the stability of the collaboration between the Parties. It is mean as a follow-up of the background activities to further define joint actions and potential shared initiatives. The MoU and collaboration is explicitly done in a non-exclusive basis, so the freedom of the parties is not limited. The collaboration is done in good faith and both parties will try to maximize the stability and collaborative possibilities. Both Parties will make sure that the mutual collaboration follows each party’s rules and regulations as specified in the respective consortium agreements.

III. UNDERSTANDING

A. MUTUAL INTERESTS AND PLANNED ROLES OF PARTIES

Both Parties have mutual interest in supporting each other in their goal to promote public engagement in science and to strengthen Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in Europe both on a conceptual and on an implementation level – for ECSA this is true with special emphasis on Citizen Science, for RRI Tools in a more comprehensive perspective equally addressing all aspects of RRI.

Therefore, both Parties agree to take the following steps:

1. RRI Tools is glad to provide visibility through its website and social media to events by ECSA and ECSA members related with RRI, as well as to resources developed by others added to the RRI Toolkit.

2. ECSA is glad to provide visibility through its website and social media to events by RRI Tools that could be of interest to ECSA members, such as the RRI Training Workshops organized during 2016 by the 19 Hubs of RRI Tools across 30 countries.
3. ECSA and RRI Tools will collaborate for joint events where they see mutual benefits, such as a working session on common points between RRI and Citizen Science for the international ECSA Conference, to be held in Berlin 19th-21st May 2016.

4. ECSA seeks among its members a volunteer to act as an RRI liaison for all matters regarding RRI. This person would be RRI Tools natural contact point within ECSA. This liaison person will be offered a chance to attend one of RRI Tools’ Train the Trainers workshops free of charge.

5. The liaison person will work with relevant ECSA Working Groups and members to elaborate a case study on ‘How to apply RRI into Citizen Science / what Citizen Science can offer to RRI’, to be incorporated on the RRI Tools website, as well as an ECSA Policy Paper on RRI.

B. GENERAL

1. This MoU sets forth the current intentions of the parties with respect to the activities described herein, but in no way gives rise to any legal obligations and does not create legally enforceable rights or obligations for any Party, other than the obligations set forth in this Section B.

2. The MoU is established between ECSA and RRI Tools on a consortium level, so it is not limited to any single consortium member nor does it impose any specific action to any single consortium member.

3. There will be named liaison persons from each party to allow coordination and planning of the further steps.

4. It is agreed between parties that Press Releases related to the collaboration will be handled together in the collaborative and suitable manner for both parties benefit, and within the respective requirements of the application consortium agreements. Both parties are willing to make their collaboration public by giving a press release on this MoU but neither party shall make any public announcement or otherwise publicly disclose this MoU or the contemplated association without the other party’s prior written approval.

5. This MoU expires with the end of the support period granted by RRI Tools. This MoU may be terminated by either party for any reason, subject to a 30 day notice, which may be through email to the appropriate consortium coordinator of the other party.

This MoU has been signed by the Parties in two identical copies of which each party has taken one.

Katrin Vohland, ECSA Vice Chair

(on behalf of)
Ignasi López Verdeguer,
RRI Tools Coordinator
Berlin,