EUROPEAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

POLICY GROUP

REPORT TO 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MARTIN BROCKLEHURST
HONORARY CHAIR
Policy, Strategy, Partnerships

The Policy Group was defined at an ECSA Workshop in Brussels in the autumn of 2013. Its three main objectives were to:

- To assess the citizen science landscape and develop strategies across countries;
- To approach policy makers and assess how to influence decisions and leverage funding;
- To analyse who the key stakeholders are and who ECSA needs to engage with to bring about changes in sectors.
POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 2016

Martin Brocklehurst Hon Chair Independent Consultant
David Slawson, Hon Vice Chair OPAL, Imperial College London, UK
Björn Huwe, University of Potsdam, Germany Elizabeth Tyson, Woodrow Wilson US
Katherine Mathieson, British Science Association, UK [Resigned]
Hilary Geoghegan, University of Reading UK Marc Lipinski, National Centre Research, France
Micheál Lehane, Environment Protection Agency, Ireland
Roeland Samson, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Simone Branchini, University of Bologna, Italy
Connor Smyth, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
Ed Maklouf, CEO & Founder of Siine Ltd Barcelona Spain.
Fermin Serrano Executive Director of Fundación Ibercivis Spain
Helena Ruiz Fabra EU Public Affiars Freelance Brussels.
Carole Paleco Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences
Soledad Luna ECSA & Museum für Naturkunde Berlin Germany.
Heiner Benking, Advisory Board Member ECSA, Berlin Germany.

FOUR MEETINGS 2016 – JANUARY MARCH MAY NOVEMBER
Key Tasks 2016 - 2017

• Follow up Policy position papers delivered for ECSA on:
  • Citizen Science as part of EU Policy Delivery - EU Directives;
  • The White Paper on Citizen Science for Europe;

• Encourage the EU to recognize the role of Citizen Science in:
  • EU Environmental Monitoring and Reporting;
  • Meeting and reporting on the UN Sustainability Goals; and
  • As an early warning on key environmental challenges

• Building a working relationship with key EU Directorates
Current Environment Policy Initiatives
Habitats and Birds Directives Fitness Review - COMPLETED
Circular economy package – IN ITS FINAL APPROVAL STAGES
Climate change & Invasive Species – MAJOR FOCUS
UN Sustainability goals – MAJOR FOCUS

The Fitness review of Monitoring and Reporting Offers Citizen Science the potential of a new Role in the delivery of the EU Policy Agenda - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS
POLICY GROUP – Exchanging Information with the Commission

BRIEFING FOR MEP’S IN SEPTEMBER 2016

• THREE MEP’S AGREED TO CHAMPION CITIZEN SCIENCE
• Michèle Rivasi French MEP and Vice Chair Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
• Clare Moody UK MEP for the Labour Party in the South West Region of England and Gibraltar; and
• Dario Tamburrano MEP Italy for the Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group and a Member of Movimento Cinque Stelle (Five Star Movement).

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION FOR TECHNICAL & POLICY EXPERTS 2016

• DG ENVIRONMENT; DG CONNECT & DG RESEARCH;
• EU FITNESS REVIEW MONITORING AND REPORTING APRIL/NOV WORKSHOPS;
• EU ENVIRONMENT KNOWLDEGE COMMUNITY DECEMBER WORKSHOP
Support to the Fitness Check of monitoring and reporting obligations arising from EU environmental legislation
ICF in association with IEEP and Denkstatt

30 November 2016
This report presents the draft findings of the contractors, for discussion. It should not be interpreted as reflecting the views of the European Commission

“Research into the role of citizen science. Analysis of the feasibility of citizen science to contribute to, or complement, the existing monitoring and reporting system, including definition of the types of indicator that could be included, as well as the practicalities of combining citizen science with the current reporting process”.
Open discussion has started on the possible role of Citizen Science for democracy and transparent policy making

ECSA NEEDS TO BE PART OF THIS DEBATE AND TO
• PROMOTE A KNOWLEDGE INNOVATION PROJECT ON CITIZEN SCIENCE
• SHOW HOW CS CAN BE USED TO ADDRESS AN EU WIDE GAP IN ENVIRONMENT KNOWLEDGE.
Purpose and objectives

- Identify three policy areas where an existing CS project could be demonstrated at European Scale (not mosquitoes)
- Develop and recommend monitoring techniques and common data/meta data systems (ECSA Data Tools and Technology Working Group help needed to deliver)
- Prepare an EU LIFE Bid (?) for a demonstration of one of these CS project for September 2017
- To secure appropriate funding from commercial, public and other sources

Modus operandi

- Minimum of five members
- Members to contribute time at no cost to ECSA
- Meet “virtually” (support of ECSA secretariat)
- Upload outputs onto ECSA webpages (support of ECSA secretariat)
- Report jointly to the Policy and Data Tools and Techniques working groups (Martin & Jaume Piera to oversee work)
- Work closely with Mosquito CS Task and Finish Group
EU Wide CS Project Task & Finish Group
David Slawson - david.slawson@imperial.ac.uk

Types of Expertise Required
• Programme managers (expert at the design and implementation of large scale Citizen Science programmes)
• Scientists who run CS programmes
• Facilitators and communicators (help to problem solve and communicate the results)
• Data and IT experts (advise on data handling systems)
• Legal and commercial experts (advise on legal, funding and IP issues)

Confirmed members
• David Slawson (UK)
• Małgorzata Grodzińska-Jurczak (PL)
• Andrea Sforzi (IT)
• Alessandro Campanaro (IT)
• Gaia Agnello (DE)
• 16 other people invited but have not responded

Oversight
• Martin Brocklehurst
• Jaume Piera
EU Wide CS Project Task & Finish Group

David Slawson - david.slawson@imperial.ac.uk

Criteria

- **POLICY**: meets a need evidence/data/awareness etc.
- **SOCIETY**: concern to public
- **METHODOLOGY**: builds on a proven approach/existing dataset
- **CAPABILITY** and **CAPACITY**: exist in the ECSA network
- **FUNDING**: Funding streams exist/builds on an existing funding relationship, National/international support likely etc.

Potential topics

- **Pollination**: policy interest; high public concern; good methodology
- **Tree Health**: Directive; patchy public concern; good methodology
- **Air Quality**: Directive; huge public concern; crowded ‘market’ already?
- **Species protected under Habitat Directives**: Directive; some public concern; good methodology
- **Urban Biodiversity**: policy interest; some public concern; good expert methodology
- **Other**: Bioblitzes, water, soil, invasive species etc.
GROWING SUPPORT FROM POLICY MAKERS

POLICY CHALLENGES FOR 2017-18

CHALLENGES – THE ROLE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE IN DELIVERING THE UN SUSTAINABILITY GOALS FOR THE EU

WE ARE BUILDING ECSA WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH UNEP

INVITED BUT UNABLE TO ATTEND
Harnessing Citizen Science to Tackle Mosquito-Borne Diseases: Towards a Local to Global Monitoring Platform

Mosquito Task & Finish Group
Elizabeth Tyson, Program Associate
Science and Technology Innovation Program
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Passive Mosquito Monitoring Projects – European Union

Germany, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Spain, France, Portugal

“Approaches to passive mosquito surveillance in the EU” Kampen, Medlock, et. al.”
Passive Mosquito Monitoring Projects – United States

NASA GLOBE & USDA
Mosquito Task Force Group

- One passive surveillance system w/ public input
- Passive mosquito monitoring toolkit
- Common data & metadata system
- Demonstration program in EU & US
Work Plan

March 2017:
• First working group meeting – Sponsored by UNEP – Geneva, Switzerland

April 2017:
• Report out and next steps for expanding network

Fall 2017:
• Pilot demonstration program talks – EU & US

• If you would like more information, or would like to join the working group, please email me at: Elizabeth.Tyson@wilsoncenter.org
OUR FUTURE CHALLENGES

• RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF THE EU MONITORING REPORTING FITNESS CHECK – FOLLOW UP TO COMMITTEE REPORT

• DELIVERING EU WIDE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAMMES

• BUILDING POLICY AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAMMES – GROW OUR MEP PARTNERSHIP

• SUPPORTING THE EMERGENCE OF A COMMISSION LED CITIZEN SCIENCE PLATFORM

• PROVING CITIZEN SCIENCE WORKS FOR EU POLICY MAKERS

• BUILDING OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNEP

• FINDING SPONSORS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK
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WILL YOU GET INVOLVED

MARTIN BROCKLEHURST
HONORARY CHAIR

WE NEED YOU