

# Citizen science, its benefits and bottlenecks/challenges for its uptake

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Webinar | Opening Research Infrastructures - How citizens can play an active role in the advance of ground-breaking research?

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# About citizen science

- Citizen science actively involves the public in scientific research
- Potential to bring together science, policy makers, and society
- Citizens may act as contributors, collaborators, or as project leader and have a meaningful role in the project
- Participate in many stages of the scientific process

# Examples of citizen science in research infrastructures

- **RI:** OPERAS - open scholarly communication in the European research area for social sciences and humanities; **Project:** COESO, Collaborative Engagement on Societal Issues (2021-2023)



<https://coeso.hypotheses.org/>

- **RI:** EOSC - European Open Science Cloud; **Project:** Cos4Cloud, Co-designed Citizen Observatories Services for the EOS-Cloud (2019-2023)



<https://cos4cloud-eosc.eu/>



# Some benefits/added value of citizen science

- Scientists get data from places they wouldn't otherwise reach
- Effort from citizen scientists in collecting and analysing data (enlarged quantity and quality of data collected or analysed)
- Access to resources such as a weather station in a private home

# Some benefits/added value of citizen science

- Citizens learn about a topic (informal learning)
- Better understanding about scientific processes
- Contribute to science
- Ability to provide evidence (e.g. odour pollution, noise in an area) to inform policy making
- Develop valuable skills, depending on the activity

Democratisation of science and produced knowledge, mutual learning, trust of society in science

# Some bottlenecks/challenges for the uptake of citizen science in research infrastructures

- Lack of awareness of the benefit/potential/added value of citizen science to the scientific process (and to inform policy)
- Capacity building and training needed to conduct (*good*) citizen science
- Data quality and interoperability standards
- Attribution of scientific research and results
- Engagement of citizens and dialogue

# Thank you!

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