

MEETING MINUTES

NETWORK MEETING ON COMPETENCIES

Project: TP1 – Network Meeting
Date & Time: 21 September 2022, 13.45 - 17.00
Place: Bern, HdA
Organizer: Science et Cité - Tiina Stämpfli, Jeanne Six, Alessandro Rearte, Simona Schmid

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction round
2. Workshop on competencies
3. Competencies: Best practice examples (BFH)
4. Inputs from the Network & Secretariat for Citizen Science Switzerland
5. Next steps

1. Welcome and introduction round

All participants introduce themselves.

2. Workshop on competencies

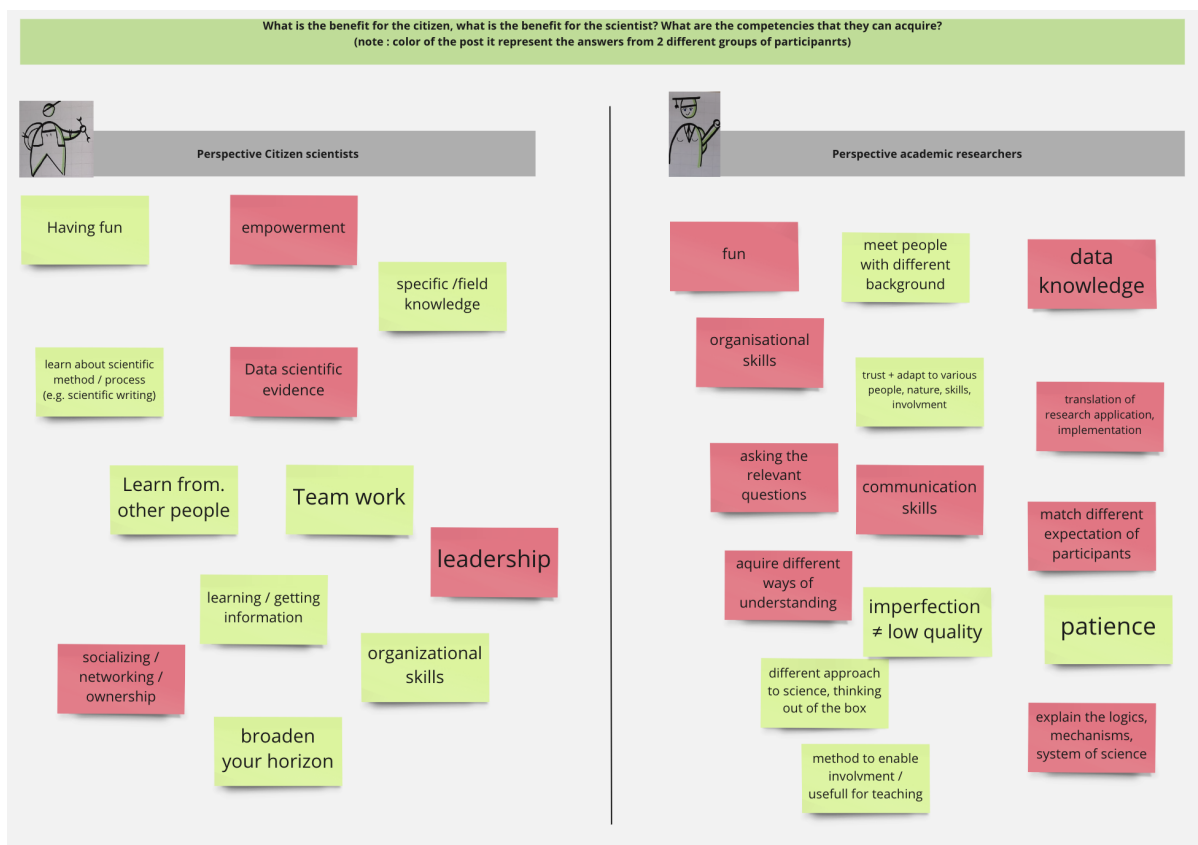
This workshop aims to deepen the topic of competencies and added value, a thematic mentioned in principle number 3 of the [10 Swiss Citizen Science Principles](#), published in March 2022. This workshop has also been given during the OECSK Conference in Dornbirn (June 2022).

Science et Cité and PWA welcome and open the workshop with the following question: «As a project leader, have you thought about competencies for your participants and have you identified and valued them?» The use of a certificate is mentioned, but with little interest from some Citizen Scientists. Another example is given with the production of a report portraying project participants and therefore giving them value and visibility.

a) What is acquired by Academic Scientists and Citizen Scientists within a CS project?

The participants formed into two groups. They discussed and brainstormed the following questions:

- **What can Academic Scientists acquire in a Citizen Science project?**
- **What can Citizen Scientists acquire in a Citizen Science project?**



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Discussion and take-home message:

- It is observed that some competences mentioned are present both from the perspective of Citizen Scientists and Academic Scientists.
- Mutual and social learning (not only online) is utmost important
- Also one can observe that both groups profit from the CS methodology. One can see that some of the benefits mentioned above are not competencies per se (e.g. fun) but are relevant as it leads to the following reasoning: What competencies helped you have fun in the project? How does fun help you acquire more competencies?
- When we talk about Citizen Science, we often focus on scientific evidence. It is also important to reflect of the benefit that Citizen Scientists can get and not to forget about what the Academic Scientists can gain from the project (recalling input from Jan Freihardt, «draussen ist es anders»). We also tend to “train the Citizen Scientists” but not “train the scientists”.
- The thematic of competencies is an important topic in several domains. CS projects require new set of competences, it is important to talk about them, to valorise the work of all project participant
- It is very important to learn openness and humility. A participant states «The involvement of Citizen Scientists in the whole process is required. Citizen Scientists should be more involved in the process of sharing. They are not just there to collect data».

- The proof of competencies would be nice to be developed in a participatory way. Instead of using a paper proving the participation to the project, other format could be used, for example an online video clip that could explain the project, or invite the participant to mention his/her participation on linkedin (connecting to the project website)... It is good to clarify and ask the Citizen Scientist why he*she* wants to participate? It would also give information on the reward / recommendations they would like to receive at the end.
- To ease the organisation of these competencies, one can use an existing tool called the [Kompetenzraster](#), it categorises the competencies as such:
 - action and capacities competencies
 - implement knowledge and skills
 - social communicative competencies - interaction / engage with other
 - methodological competencies- expertise and knowledge within their field

b) Presentation of examples of tool to value competencies acquired within CS projects in Switzerland

Several tools and formats exist in Switzerland to value the competencies acquired within volunteer work. They can be used and adapted for Citizen Science projects. For example, [Benevol](#), an umbrella organisation for 3000 organisations which aim to make volunteering and volunteer work visible. Benevol was invited 4 years ago during a Networkmeeting and presented their different tools.

Benevol provides templates ([Benevol Dossier](#)) to valorise and acknowledge volunteer works. It is suggested to complement the dossier with elements exactly which competencies the participant has acquired: e.g. "person xy acquired competencies in...".

c) Recommendations and experience when reporting competencies acquired through CS

The group is now invited to share what are the important elements to keep in mind when reporting competencies acquired through CS.



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Inputs from the participants:

- Crowdfunder organises a meeting, where the Citizen Scientists can exchange about their learning and the challenges. This could be very inspiring, as the Citizen Scientists often have interesting and surprising experiences and ideas. It is good when Citizen Scientists can talk about what they need, before you plan something as a project leader (e.g. not everyone likes to fill out forms).
- It would be also interesting to plan the acquisition of competencies from the beginning and not just check them at the end of a project. In this way also the Citizen Scientists could “monitor” their development and acquisition of competencies continuously. This might help them to reflect more on what they have learned. Regular bilateral exchanges between Citizen Scientists and project leader would be valuable.
- Writing a personalised dossier is not necessarily very time-consuming if a format has been developed.

d) Conclusion comparing workshop to workshop in Dornbirn, Austria

As the workshop had already been given in June 2022 at the OECSK conference in Dornbirn, it was possible to note the differences and similarities between the feedback from the participants in Austria and the feedback from today. Through the workshop of the network meeting, the results of the workshop in Dornbirn could be enriched, with which we could gain new inputs. Many thanks! [The inputs from the Dornbirn workshop is available here.](#)

3. Competencies: Best practice examples (BFH)

After the workshop on competencies, our guest Chantal Britt shared about her Citizen Science project from Long Covid Citizen Science Board. Including Citizen Scientists with particular needs (long covid patients).

→ Find presentation [here](#).

4. Inputs from the Network & Secretariat for Citizen Science Switzerland

a) PWA

→ Citizen Science P2P Learning Lab

Peer to peer coaching: You can benefit from talking to like-minded people

Part 1: 11. Oktober 2022, 13.30 - 17.30 Uhr

Part 2: 1. Februar 2023, 13.30 - 17.30 Uhr

Universität Zürich, RAA-E-30, Rämistrasse 59, 8006 Zürich

→ Citizen Science Modular Research Course

Basis-Module am 18.10. (online) oder 15.11.2022, 13.30 - 17.30 Uhr

Universität Zürich, RAA-E-30, Rämistrasse 59, 8006 Zürich

You have the possibility to select from seven different modules.

For further information or registration contact pwa@citizensciencecenter.uzh.ch

b) Secretariat for Citizen Science Switzerland

DACH Region

Different activities are going on: Currently, we are working on giving an overview about the training possibilities in this region. The Secretariat for Citizen Science in Switzerland (Tiina Stämpfli) together with other Swiss representatives (Susanne Tönsmann, Stefan Wiederkehr) was involved in the [strategic process in Germany \(Weissbuch\)](#). At the moment, we are also involved in publishing a handbook next year on different topics: Citizen Science in museum, archives etc. We will inform you about the activities and various papers at a later stage.

Swiss parks

A survey about Citizen Science projects is currently running. Find more Information [here](#).

Swiss museums

Museums in Switzerland have taken «participation and *Citizen Science*» on their agenda as well and their annual meeting was dedicated to this topic. The Secretariat for Citizen Science (*Tiina Stämpfli*) was able to give a short talk.

CitSciHelvetia'23

The second national conference on Citizen Science will take place in Solothurn on the 29-30 of March 2023. Save the Date!

<https://www.citscihelvetia.ch/>

Citizen Science in Switzerland: Contextual analysis

Together with the Swiss Expert Group for Citizen Science, the Secretariat for Citizen Science is currently running an analysis on the needs, gaps of CS in Switzerland. This will lead to a report composed of recommendations at different levels.

We are happy to hear about your feedback, needs and questions connected to the 4 thematics: CS Added value and Impact, CS Education, CS communication and CS funding. Will keep in touch! [The Project webpage is available here.](#)

Next steps

- All participants are invited to share their news for the newsmail to be published in October (email: cs@science-et-cite.ch).

- Our next meeting will take place in 2023.
- CitSciHelvetia'23 (29 & 30 March 2023): Registration opens in January.

Bern, 20 October 2022