

Milestone MS623

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Second policy/stakeholder round table (M22)

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Co-ordinator: MfN, Museum für Naturkunde - Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science, Germany

Partners: UTARTU, University of Tartu, Natural History Museum, Estonia
UEF, University of Eastern Finland, Digitisation Centre, Finland
GBIF, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Denmark
UniLeeds, University of Leeds, School of Biology, UK
UFZ, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany
CSIC, The Spanish National Research Council, Doñana Biological Station, Spain
UCAM, University of Cambridge, Centre for Science and Policy, UK
CNRS-IMBE, Mediterranean Institute of marine and terrestrial Biodiversity and Ecology, France
Pensoft, Pensoft Publishers Ltd, Bulgaria
SGN, Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung, Germany
VIZZUALITY, Vizzuality S.L., Spain
FIN, FishBase Information and Research Group, Inc., Philippines
HCMR, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece
NHM, The Natural History Museum, London
BGBM, Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Germany
UCPH, University of Copenhagen: Natural History Museum of Denmark, Denmark
RMCA, Royal Museum of Central Africa, Belgium
PLAZI, Plazi GmbH, Switzerland
GlueCAD, GlueCAD Ltd. – Engineering IT, Israel
IEEP, Institute for European Environmental Policy, UK
INPA, National Institute of Amazonian Research, Brazil
NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Sweden
IBSAS, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Botany, Slovakia
EBCC-CTFC, Forest Technology Centre of Catalonia, Spain
NBIC, Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre, Norway
FEM, Fondazione Edmund Mach, Italy
TerraData, TerraData environmetrics, Monterotondo Marittimo, Italy
EURAC, European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano, Italy
WCWC, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, UK

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EU BON

EU BON: Building the European Biodiversity Observation Network
Project no. 308454

Large scale collaborative project

MS623**Second policy/stakeholder round table**

Milestone number	MS623
Milestone name	Second policy/stakeholder round table
WP no.	WP6
Lead Beneficiary (full name and Acronym)	Museum für Naturkunde - Leibniz Institute on Evolution and Biodiversity Science, MfN
Nature	Roundtable held
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Delivered	yes
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Comments	Annex: Minutes of the 2 nd round table

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In case the report consists of the delivery of materials (guidelines, manuscripts, etc)

Delivery name	Delivery name	From Partner	To Partner

Summary of the Milestone

The second EU BON stakeholder round table took place on 27th November 2014 at the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin. The workshop was dedicated to explore ways in which EU BON can support citizen science (CS) activities. As EU BON is building a large integrated biodiversity information infrastructure in order to serve science, policy and administration, citizen science and related projects and networks are important stakeholders. Furthermore, citizen scientists can play an essential role, as they support the increase of knowledge in various aspects, they may debate research questions, most often they collect data, and they may interpret data and publish their results.

At the stakeholder round table in Berlin, various stakeholders from the field of citizen science were invited to discuss possibilities of interactions and the role of EU BON for supporting citizen science on a European scale (with the EU BON data portal, standardization of data and data collection standards, visualization/interpretation of data and guidelines). The discussions and break-out groups gave valuable impulses for the development of the EU BON portal and Citizen Science gateway, for data mobilization from different communities, and the linkage to the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) and its activities.

Introduction

The aim of the second EU BON stakeholder round table on Citizen Science was to explore how and with which means EU BON can support citizen science activities. EU BON may serve citizen scientists in many aspects. For example, EU BON can deliver a data portal tailored for the needs of citizen scientists; the project may provide visualization tools for interpreting the data. In addition, the EU BON Biodiversity Portal may support citizen science projects by supporting the development of appropriate designs of data collection right from the beginning, considering INSPIRE and other data standards.

The Citizen Science round table started with a "Setting the scene" session where a welcome address was given by Katrin Vohland from the Museum für Naturkunde (MfN). In a brief introduction from a biodiversity data perspective, some gaps in current biodiversity data were shown, for example the large data gaps in Eastern European data in plant datasets and the restricted access to many datasets. Christoph Häuser from the MfN outlined EU BON and its main activities in the field of Citizen Science.

As a representative from DG Research and Innovation from the European Commission, José-Miguel Rubio-Iglesias showed the possibilities of Citizen Science as one option to improve the science-society bridge. Lucy Robinson (ECSA/NHM London) focused on Citizen Science in Europe, its impact and development.

The next session targeted the question of how EU BON can possibly support data mobilization of and for citizen scientists. Antonio García Camacho from CSIC Donana showed, with a colleague from IBM, the prototype of the future EU BON data portal, to integrate biodiversity data/metadata sources into a single user interface. In another talk, Jaume Piera (ICM Barcelona) pointed out the requirements that exist in a CS portal, e.g. with regards to the role of citizen collaboration, the social media channels, and particularly the

conceptual requirements. Important aspects here are for example that data access tracking has to be guaranteed, for giving credits to data producers and for keeping track of data use. Simao Belchior of the SME Simbiotica showed successful ways of visualizing georeferenced data, e.g. the mapping of pan-tropical forest clearing.

In the following session called "A spotlight on some (meta)data provider" was started by Veljo Runnel (UTARTU) who presented an assessment of Citizen Science involvement in biological research. Nils Valland (NTNU-NBIC) described in his talk key success factors for citizen science and species occurrence data in Europe. Dirk Schmeller (UFZ) informed the audience about Volunteer Species Monitoring in Europe. He pointed out the need that governments should invest more to support and expand current monitoring initiatives.

In the "Synergies of European Citizen Science projects" session, presentations outlined of the main aims of several EU funded Citizen Science projects (Citclops, COBWEB, Societize). Pierre-Philippe Mathieu from the European Space Agency (ESA) highlighted the new era for Earth Observation and links to Citizen Science projects. Siro Masinde (GBIF) showed the Citizen Science activities of GBIF, which is one of the largest data providers of species occurrence records.

Progress towards objectives

Many partners and interested stakeholders participated in the stakeholder round table (46 persons), coming from different European research institutions, Natural History Museums, SMEs or representatives from European Institutions like European Commission DG Research & Innovation, the European Environmental Agency or the JRC and EU-funded Citizen Science projects.

During the course of the round table, there have been intensive discussions from EU BON partners with CS Stakeholders in various fields, from policy, CS networks and European research institutions. CS activities of EU BON were presented and important insights from the participants will also improve the current plans of the project with regards to its CS activities. Main points have been the acknowledgement of valuable impulses for the development of the EU BON portal such as Digital Query Identifiers or the different visualization opportunities. ECSA is seen as a key possibility for data mobilization from different communities, and ECSA may also support the link to support especially environmental policy.

Achievements and current status

The stakeholder round table intensified the dialogue with policy and stakeholders of citizen science and citizen science research. As there are many cross-cutting issues between EU BON CS activities and ECSA, a working group has been established where members of both networks will exchange ideas. Additionally, there were many recommendations obtained for how EU BON could improve activities in order to empower citizen science initiatives.

Challenges and further/future developments

It was agreed that further work will be needed to include the user requirements of the stakeholder (like citizen scientists) in the EU BON Portal. User needs will be defined, there will be also a focus on some main stakeholders to meet their demands together with an improved effort on visualization of these datasets to integrate, among other datasets, citizen science data in the portal.

Also for the Citizen Science gateway there will be also further work coming up in the next months, particularly to implement the current plans for the citizen science gateway and test the approach for different projects and with different kind of datasets. A physical meeting in spring 2015 will be held for further elaborating the EU BON Citizen Science gateway.

Generally, the internal EU BON follow-up showed the importance of involving all the different tasks and working groups (WPs) for EU BON Citizen Science gateway and that an intensified communication with other WPs on that issue is needed.