

# Science Citizenship: the case of Citizen Science NOW

Even though there are many citizen science initiatives, the competencies, knowledge and skills needs of citizens, involved scientists, citizen science facilitators, and others among them have often been left unnoticed. When citizens are involved, they usually get roles assigned to them. The question is: how to get citizens pro-active in involving the universities in their own challenges? What competences do they need in order to do this? Activating the citizen scientist! Bringing these competences into the picture has been the goal of Citizen Science NOW. We offer a workshop in which we will explore these questions. Based on the identified competence needs in citizen science, which empowers citizens to not only be active participants, but also lead in their own challenges. Moreover, what would 'science citizenship' mean for researchers? The main questions are:

1. How to find the balance as researchers in working together pro-active citizen scientists and citizen activists?
2. Which competences do citizen scientists need to not just participate, but lead responsibly in citizen science?

## **Our presentation**

Our intention is to present Citizen Science NOW and its results. We will present the Future Design methodology, the main competencies that are critical for citizen scientists, and the learning resources created to activate citizen science. It empowers citizens to participate and lead in their challenges.

## **Intended methods**

We intend to organize a presentation of the project, followed by two discussion moments, each containing a task. In the first task, we will ask the participants to form groups of four persons and explore the balance between active citizen scientists and citizen activists. In the second task, the participants explore the citizen competences to become active and leading. In between, the results of the first group discussion will be shared with everyone. This will also happen after the second group discussion.

## **What will the participants achieve?**

The participants get to explore the competencies that are important for active citizen scientists. As many of the researchers that will participate are into citizen science projects themselves, it will create awareness. They will deepen their understanding of the way in which they can balance working with active citizen scientists and citizen activists. It is specifically relevant for researchers involved in citizen science in the health domain, since many citizens have a vast interest in dealing with health care (problems).

The Citizen Science for Health conference would be a great opportunity, both for us and for the participants, to think about what it means to have active citizenship. To think about the future development of citizen science and the implications that democratization brings with it.

**Presenters**

Jeroen Vonk

Chloë Gerritsen

Robert Marinescu-Muster

Sjoerd de Vries

**Structure**

Workshop introduction (5 min)

Citizen Science NOW introduction (10 min)

Question #1 (5 min)

First discussion moment (20 min)

Sharing the results (10 min)

**Small break (5 min)**

Question #1 (5 min)

Second discussion moment (20 min)

Sharing the results moment (10 min)

Finalizing the workshop (10 min)

[Citizen Science NOW](#)