



ECSA & EU-Citizen.Science webinar:

Lessons and insights from WeObserve

30 March 2021, 14:00-15:30 CEST



The project WeObserve has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 776740.

WeObserve Communities of Practice

Uta Wehn (IHE Delft), Dilek Fraisl (IIASA)
and Joan Masó (CREAF)



Practice & passion of the WeObserve CoPs

Key challenges to mainstreaming Citizen Science:



AWARENESS

Generating awareness to build and sustain a critical mass to support citizen science initiatives



ACCEPTABILITY

Showcasing the added value of citizen-driven science to decision and policy makers



SUSTAINABILITY

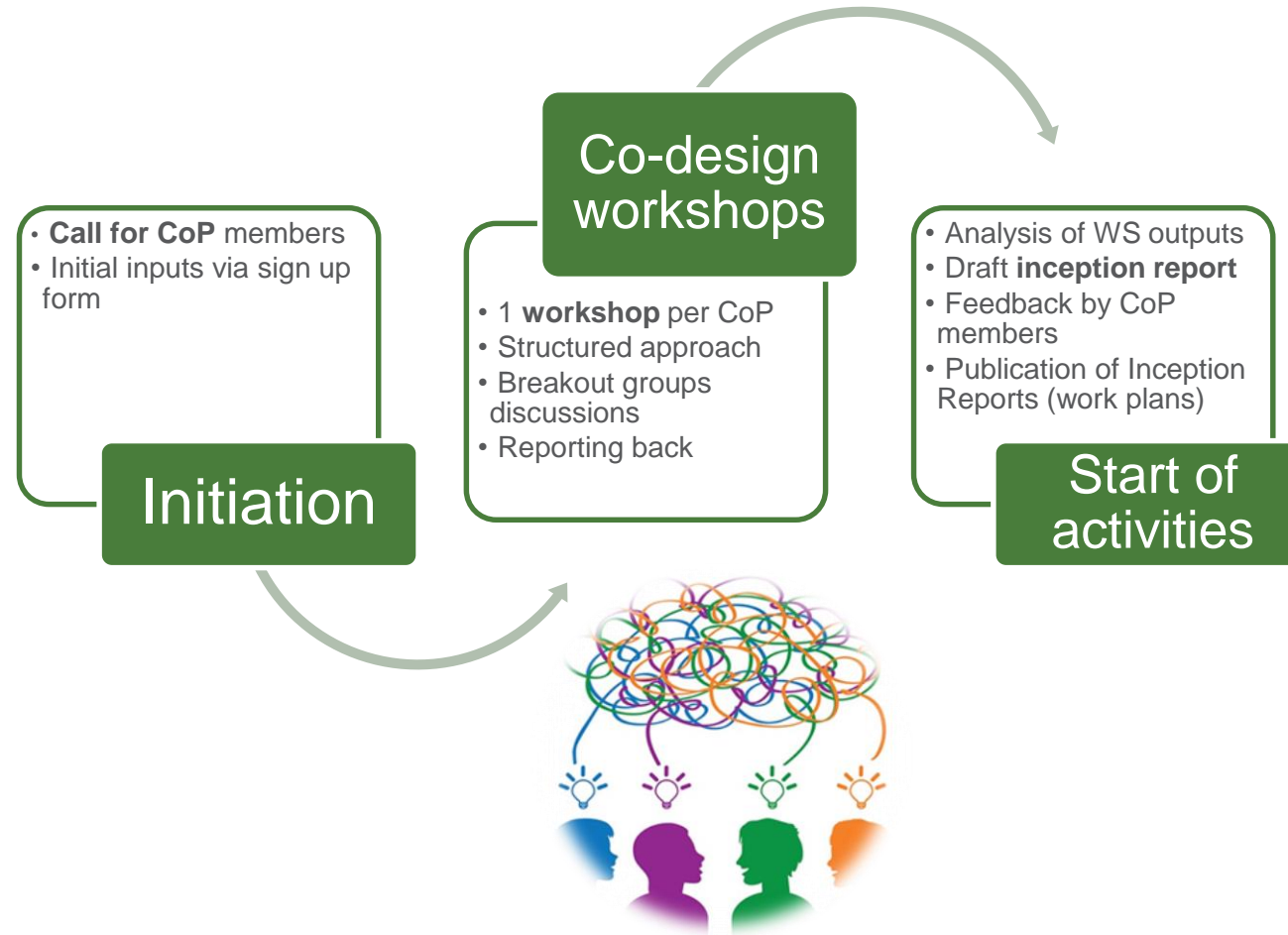
Creating an ecosystem that can support and scale-up citizen science to various sectors



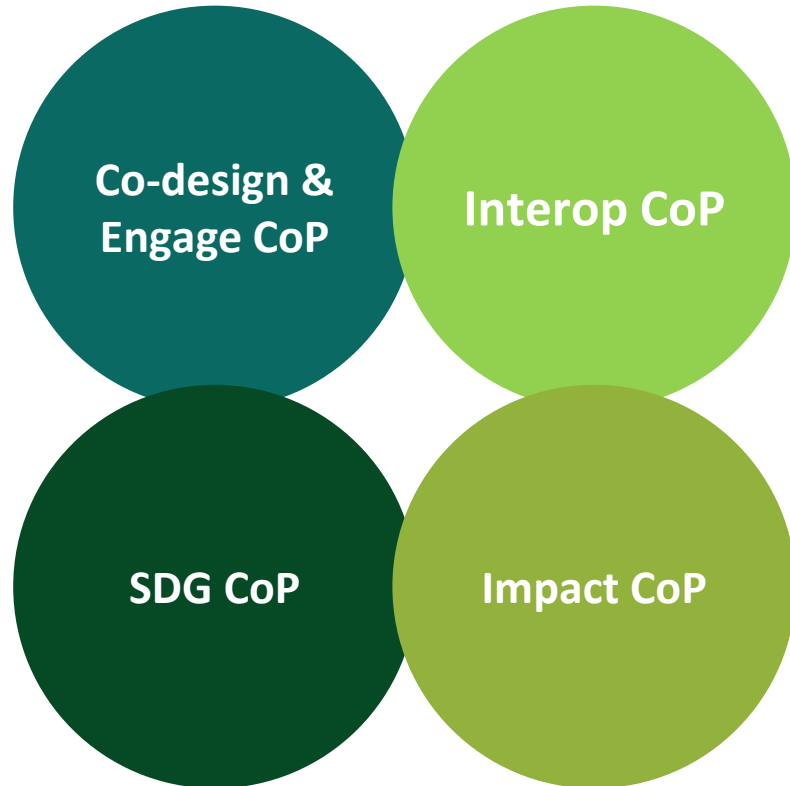
Purpose of the WeObserve CoPs



Co-design of each WeObserve CoP (2018)



WeObserve CoPs **Members**



Members

120-150 per CoP

Task Forces for specific activities

Geographic spread

>40 countries from Europe
& around the Globe

Type of members

mostly academia/research,
public sector, NGOs



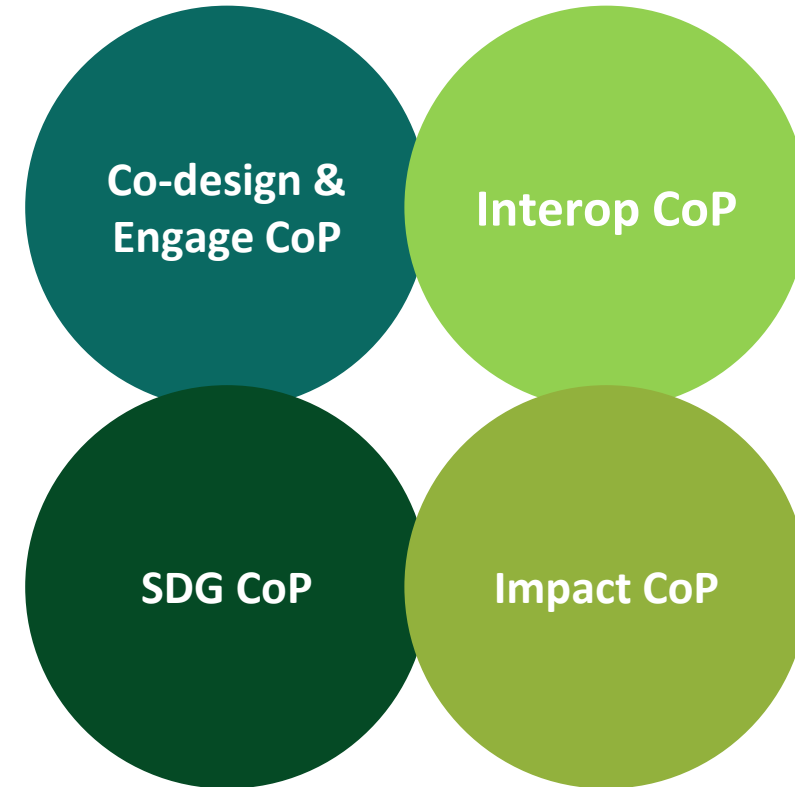
WeObserve CoP Activities

Regular telcos & F2F Forums

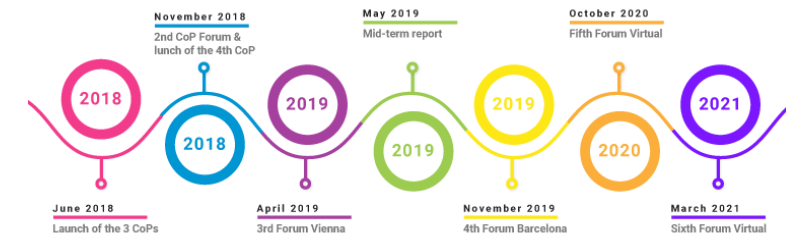
Task Forces produce specific outputs, papers, abstracts; testing of tools & approaches

Joint networking: exchanges on/joint session preparations for events

Reaching out to other communities, NSOs, UN, and broader data and stats communities as well as GEO and standardisation bodies



WeObserve CoPs Forums



Forum #1, Geneva, 2018



Forum #2, Venice, 2018



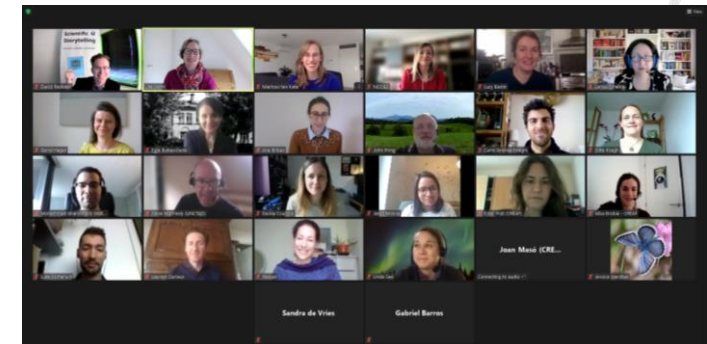
Forum #3, Vienna, 2018



Forum #4, Barcelona, 2019



Forum #5, October 2020, online



Forum #6, March 2021, online



WeObserve CoPs Outputs

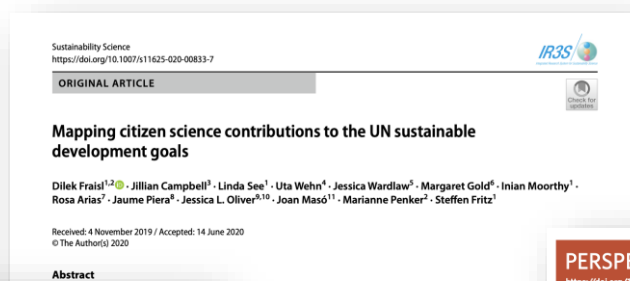
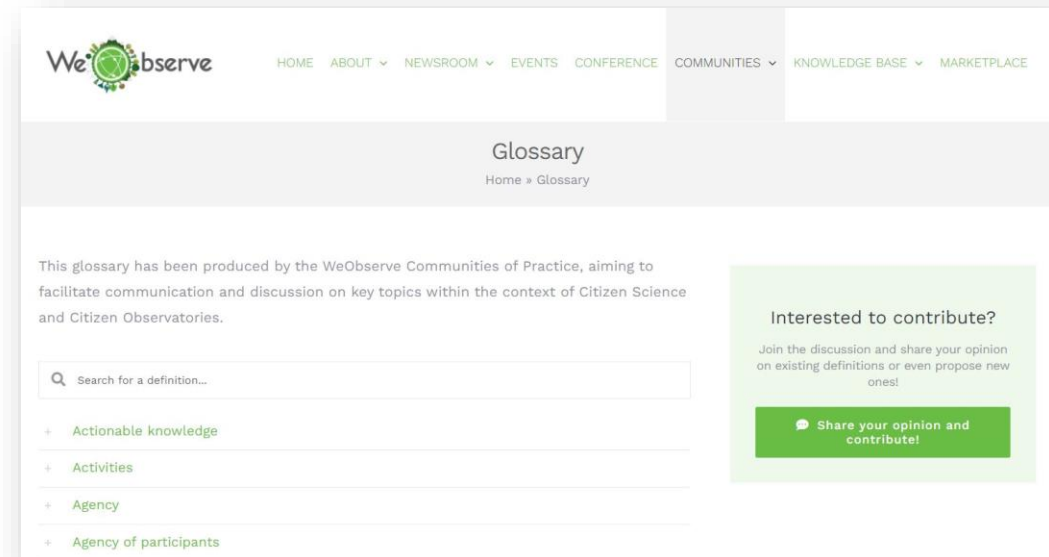
Consolidation of knowledge:

online glossary of terms & definitions

7 papers

2 reports

7 joint conference sessions/ presentations



The role of combining national official statistics with global monitoring to close the data gaps in the environmental SDGs

J. Campbell^{a,*}, J. Neuner^b, L. See^c, S. Fritz^c, D. Fraisl^d, J. Espey^b and A. Kim^a
^aUN Environment Programme
^bSustainable Development Solutions Network TReNDS
^cInternational Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Abstract. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have elevated the profile of the environmental dimension of development – and how we monitor this dimension. However, they have also challenged national statistical systems and the global statistical community to put in place both the methodologies and mechanisms for data collection and reporting on environmental indicators. According to a recent analysis, there is too little data to formally assess the status of 68% of the environment-related SDGs [1]. Many environment-related indicators were not part of the purview of national statistical systems and did not have a methodology or data collection system in place prior to the adoption of the SDG indicator framework [2]. Moderate improvements have been made, as evidenced by the reduced proportion of environment-related SDG indicators classified as Tier III between the original classification in 2016 and May 2019 – dropping from 50% to 28% [3]. As of March 2020, there are currently no Tier III indicators;

Goals (SDGs) are a vision for achieving a sustainable future. Reliable, timely, and consistent data are essential for measuring progress towards, and ultimately achieving, the SDGs. Data from a wide range of sources, including citizen science, can contribute to the SDG indicator framework. However, identifying and mapping potential contributions of citizen science to the SDG indicator framework and work plans of the 244 SDG indicators, as well as the identification of past and potential contributions of citizen science to the SDG indicator framework. The paper presents a methodology for identifying and mapping potential contributions of citizen science to the SDG indicator framework. The paper presents a methodology for identifying and mapping potential contributions of citizen science to the SDG indicator framework. The paper presents a methodology for identifying and mapping potential contributions of citizen science to the SDG indicator framework.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Citizen science - SDG indicators - Tier classification for SDG indicators - Community-based monitoring

PERSPECTIVE
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-019-0390-3>

Citizen science and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Steffen Fritz^{a,*}, Linda See^b, Tyler Carlson^c, Mordechai (Muki) Haklay^d, Jessie L. Oliver^{e,f}, Dilek Fraisl^g, Rosy Mondardini^h, Martin Brocklehurst^{i,j}, Lea A. Shanley^k, Sven Schade^l, Uta Wehn^m, Tommaso Abrateⁿ, Janet Anstee^o, Stephan Arnold^p, Matthew Billot^q, Jillian Campbell^r, Jessica Espey^s, Margaret Gold^t, Gerid Hager^u, Shan He^v, Libby Hepburn^w, Angel Hsu^x, Deborah Long^{y,z}, Joan Masó^{aa}, Ian McCallum^{ab}, Maina Muniafu^{ac}, Inian Moorthy^{ad}, Michael Obersteiner^{ae}, Alison J. Parker^{af}, Maïke Weisspflug^{ag} and Sarah West^{ah}

Traditional data sources are not sufficient for measuring the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. New and non-traditional sources of data are required. Citizen science is an emerging example of a non-traditional data source that is already making a contribution. In this Perspective, we present a roadmap that outlines how citizen science can be integrated into the formal Sustainable Development Goals reporting mechanisms. Success will require leadership from the United Nations, innovation from National Statistical Offices and focus from the citizen-science community to identify the indicators for which citizen science can make a real contribution.

CITIZEN SCIENCE AND DATA INTEGRATION FOR UNDERSTANDING MARINE LITTER

Jillian Campbell^[1], Anne Bowser^[2], Dilek Fraisl^[3], Metis Meloche^[2]
1: United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya.
2: Wilson Center, Washington DC, USA
3: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Vienna, Austria
4: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria

Abstract: Protecting the ocean is essential for the sustainability of the planet. Oceans provide food and livelihood for human populations, host vast biodiversity and ecosystems and provide climate regulatory services. However, due to the vastness of the oceans, monitoring ocean pollution and health is logistically challenging and expensive. This is particularly true for plastics. In the last 50 years, global production of plastics has increased more than 22-fold, and only an estimated 9% of plastics produced have been recycled¹.

Counting on The World to Act

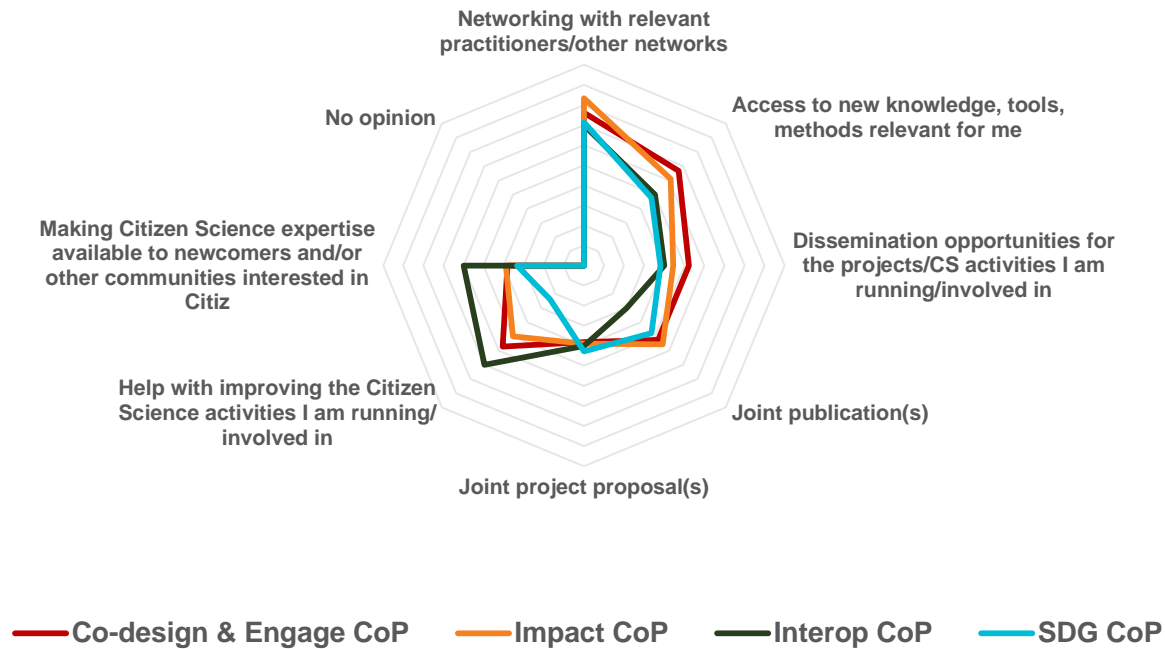
A Roadmap for Governments to Achieve Modern Data Systems for Sustainable Development

A REPORT BY THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK'S THEMATIC RESEARCH NETWORK ON DATA AND STATISTICS (SDSN TRENDS)

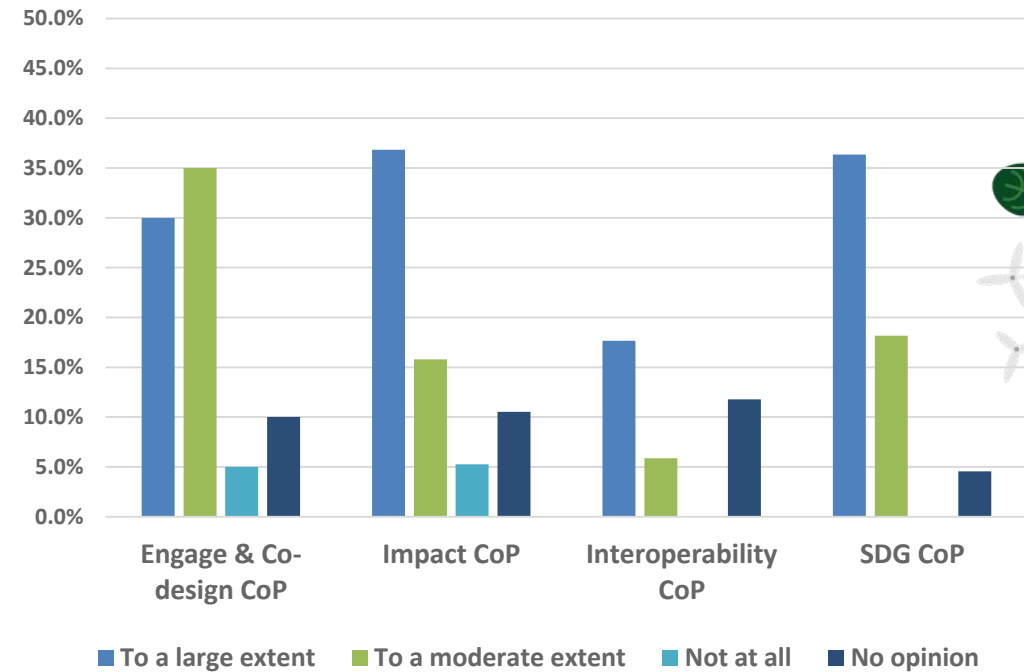
2019

WeObserve CoPs Evaluation

Main expectations from participation in the WeObserve CoPs



To what extent have your expectations for participating in the WeObserve CoP(s) been met so far?



WeObserve CoP **Ways of Functioning**



Demand-driven approach: co-design of CoP objectives and Action Plan

Create an **atmosphere** where everyone feels comfortable with their **contribution and time** they could allocate for this and to share what was done in different projects and **experiment** with combining data and services



Practice what we preach re. engagement:

Balancing diverse incentives, e.g achieving CoP Action Plan vs. fresh content via topical discussions with guest speakers



Consolidation of knowledge: online glossary of terms & definitions, papers, reports



Joint networking: exchanges on/joint session preparations for events



Reaching out to other communities NSOs, UN, and broader data and stats communities as well as GEO and standardisation bodies

Funding for CoP Chairs, F2F meetings and specialized workshops

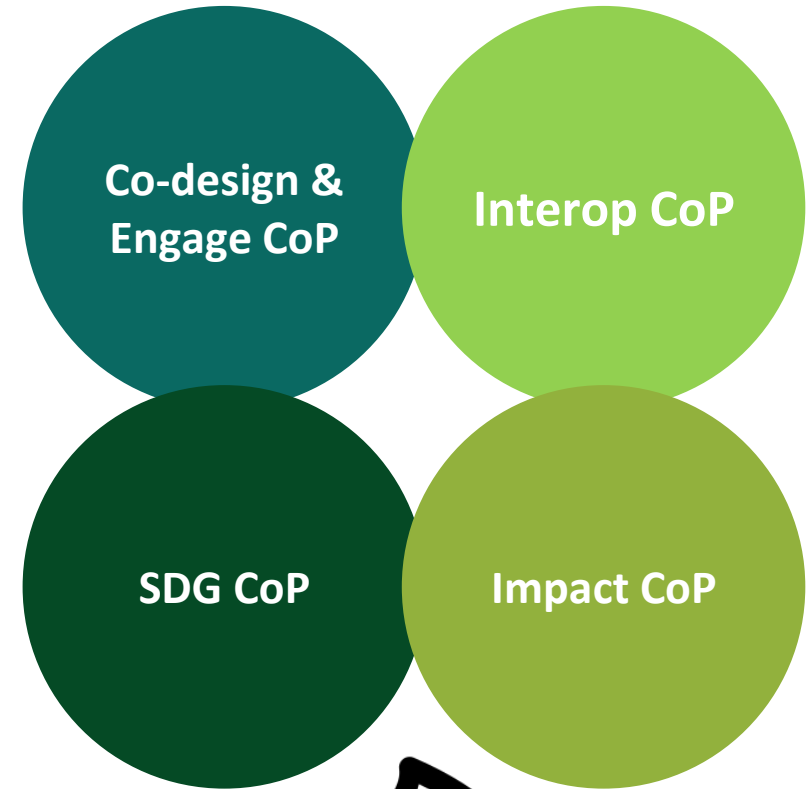


WeObserve CoPs Sustainability

“Not planning is planning to fail”

Sustainability strategy:

- **CoPs premise:** exist for as long as they provide value for their members
- **Gauged & confirmed interest** among CoPs members
- **Close links** to relevant umbrella initiatives
- **Proposals** for follow up funding submitted
- **Links to EU-citizen.science** to curate CoPs outputs in the long run



Key messages

Practice what we preach ...

CoPs need to be carefully set up and run - same as Citizen Science and Citizen Observatories!

WeObserve approach to CoPs ... paper coming up!

WeObserve CoPs ...
now well-established,
reference point and here to stay!





Thank you

weobserve.eu



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