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 in a nutshell

Gerid Hager (IIASA)

WeObserve

H2020 CSA, 2016-2021

VISION

Citizen Observatories are an integral component of managing environmental challenges and empowering resilient communities

MISSION

To move citizen science into the mainstream by building a sustainable ecosystem of Citizen Observatories and related activities

WeObserve “sister” projects

VIEW

scent

Citizen-driven land cover use monitoring for efficient flood management

VIEW

GROW OBSERVATORY

Soil and food cultivation management

VIEW

groundtruth2.0

Environmental knowledge discovery of human sensed data

A new approach to citizen observatories

VIEW

LandSense

A Citizen Observatory and Innovation Marketplace for Land Use and Land Cover Monitoring

Earth observation through Satellite imagery for urban landscape dynamics, agricultural land use and forest and habitat monitoring

Horizon 2020

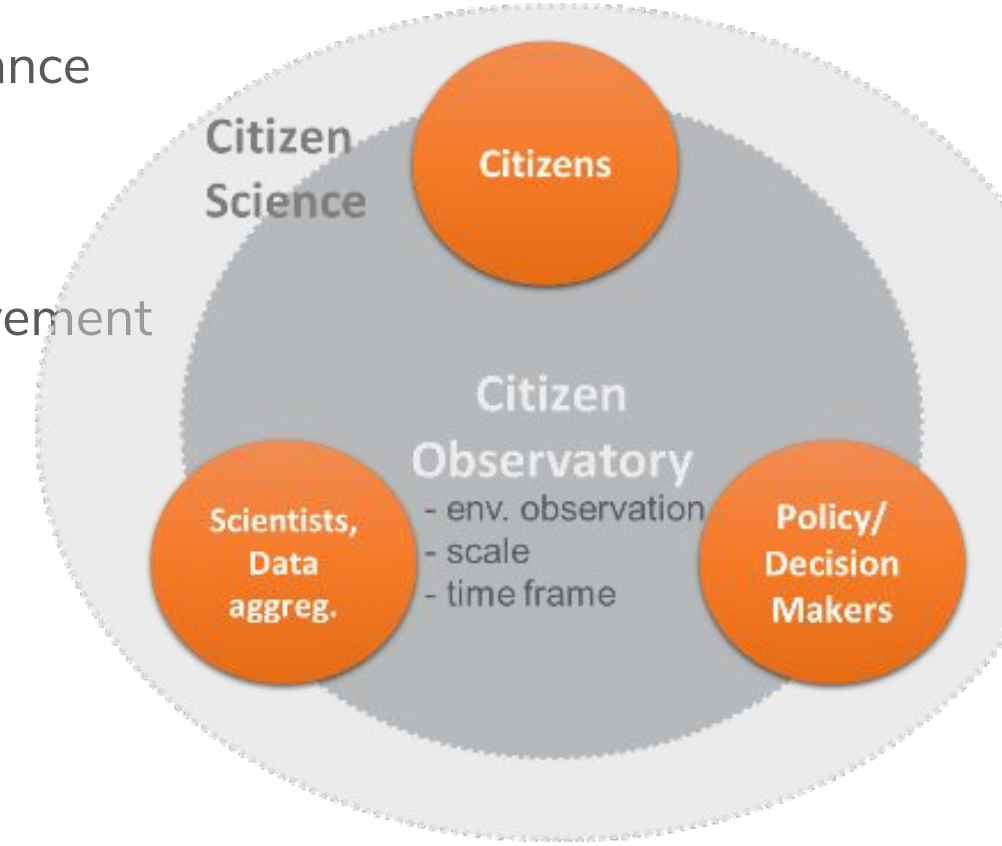
Citizen Observatory for flood risk management in the Brenta-Bacchiglione river basin in Italy

Alto Adriatico Water Authority

FP7 - WeSenseIt

Evolution of Citizen Observatory concept

- COs as particular form of citizen science
  - Environmental monitoring, management and governance
  - Place-based participation of citizens
  - Societal relevance beyond science
  - Actions across a network of stakeholders and involvement of policy makers and authorities
  - Use of web and mobile applications
  - Multi-directional flow of data and information
  - Longer-term, or defined timeframe to address a specific issue/situation
  - Range of CO models: contributory, collegial, or collaborative, co-designed



Source: Engage and Impact CoP Inception reports (2018)

WeObserve Objectives

1. Develop **communities of practices** around key topics to **assess the current CO knowledge base and strengthen it** to tackle future environmental challenges using CO-driven science.
2. **Extend the geographical coverage of the CO knowledge base to new communities** and support the **implementation of best practices and standards** across multiple sectors.
3. **Demonstrate the added value of COs in environmental monitoring mechanisms** within regional and global initiatives such as **GEOSS, Copernicus and the UN SDGs**.
4. Promote the **uptake of information from CO-powered activities** across various sectors and **foster new opportunities and innovation** in the business of in-situ Earth Observation.

Key Challenges

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

What are COs and how can I participate? What is the use and why should we support it?

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

What value can we gain and does it help us to tackle problems? Can we trust the data? Are the methods suitable and ethical and do they comply with regulation?

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

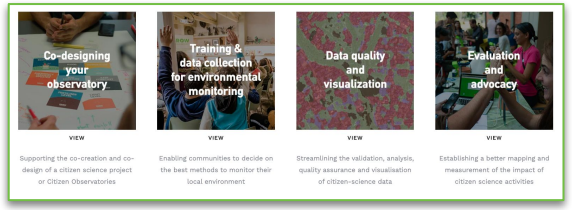
How can a CO be sustained? What is required for tech maintenance, community building, transition governance and ongoing funding?

WeObserve activities

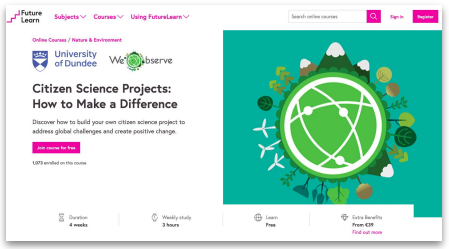
4 Communities of Practice

Citizen Observatory Landscape

Topical workshops, Roadshow events and WeObserve conference

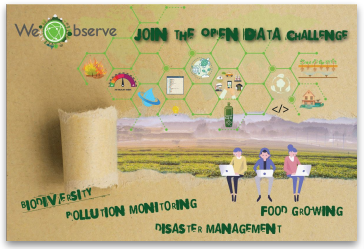


WeObserve Toolkit

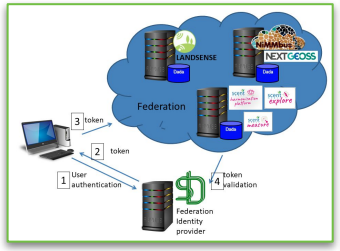


WeObserve MOOC (Online course)

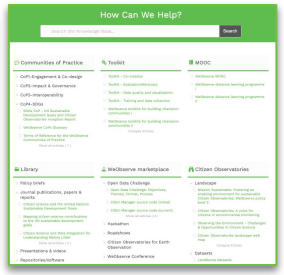
3 Challenges at INSPIRE hackathon



Interoperability experiment



Open Data Challenge



WeObserve Cookbook

WeObserve Publications

WeObserve Roadmap

WeObserve Knowledge base

Webinar today

- **WeObserve Communities of Practice: how to 'do' CoPs and some reflections -** Uta Wehn (IHE Delft), Joan Maso (CREAF), Dilek Fraisl (IIASA)
- **Accelerating the uptake of Citizen Observatories through MOOCs and open data challenges -** Mel Woods (University of Dundee)
- **Data interoperability and standardisation: using interoperability experiments and hackathons to address data-related challenges in citizen observatories -** Joan Masó (CREAF), Valantis Tsiakos (ICCS)
- **WeObserve key outputs and achievements -** Gerid Hager (IIASA)
- **Q&A session -** Margaret Gold (Citizen Science Lab, Leiden University)

Key achievements and outputs

Gerid Hager (IIASA)

Key achievements

- **Improved coordination between existing environmental COs at regional, European and international levels.**
- **Largely expanded geographical coverage and uptake of the CO knowledge base as well as data management and preservation strategies.**
- **Improved collaboration with SMEs and achieved greater awareness and use of COs by environmental, disaster risk and emergency managers and decision makers.**
- **Enhanced the integration and uptake of citizen science and Citizen Observatories in GEO/GEOSS and into the SDG framework.**

Key achievements in numbers

- **4 CoPs**, **500+ sign-ups**, **~70 active participations**, **6 CoP forums** and **~40 individual presentations** during regular CoP meetings
- **2000+ MOOC learners**, **~110 countries worldwide**, **750+ downloads** of open source tools and resource; Open for another full year on FutureLearn, soon available on EU-Citizen.Science platform
- **Publications**
  - **14 journal publications** (5 published, 1 in press, 3 submitted, 5 in preparation): **30k+ article accesses, 100+ citations**
  - **20+ policy documents, conference papers and posters, other reports** and more: **900+ unique views, 600 downloads** (WeObserve Zenodo)
- **60+ WeObserve events, conferences and invited presentations**, including at EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF), Americas Symposium, UN World Data Forum, UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment (in the second project half alone)

Officially launching today...

Access the Cookbook

Explore the WeObserve Cookbook

Start using the Cookbook by selecting a topic that you are interested in

Find out more about the Cookbook here!

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 776740

WeObserve Cookbook

- **Groups or individuals** who **are leading or will lead Citizen Observatory** projects and initiatives.

- Provides **best practice examples** and **guides users through resources** such as tools, scientific papers, training materials and networks. Includes **key references and additional resources**, to dive deeper into topics and application of tools.

- Covering around **30 pages and topics** within **four overarching themes:**
  - **Getting to know and understand Citizen Observatories**
  - **Creating and running a Citizen Observatory**
  - **Achieving impact with Citizen Observatories**
  - **Ensuring sustainability of Citizen Observatories**

www.weobserve.eu/weobserve-cookbook

ROADMAP for the uptake of the Citizen Observatories' knowledge base

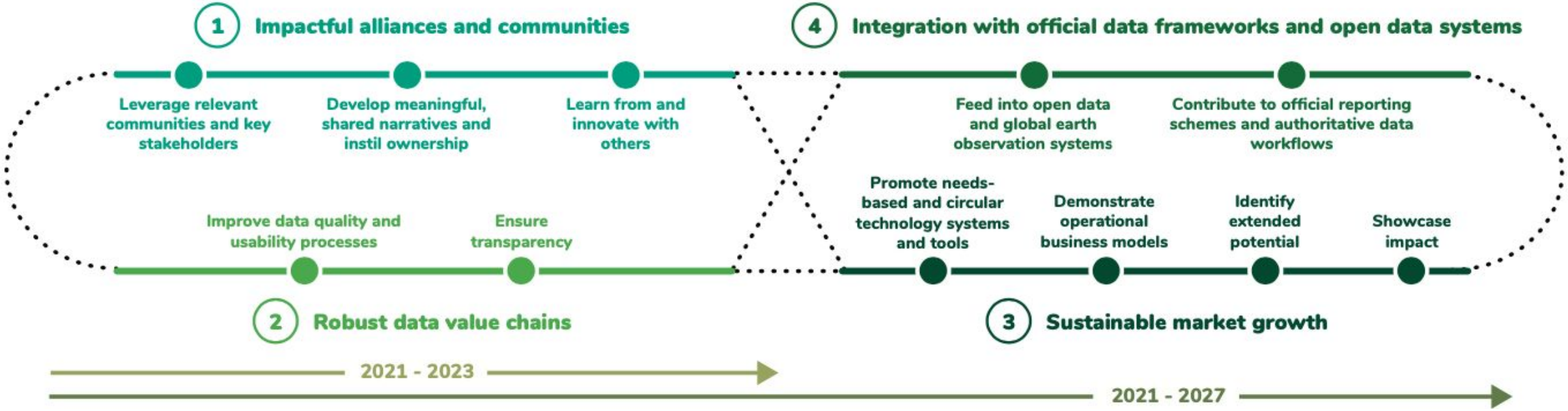
Outline the dynamic landscape of Citizen Observatories and provide actionable pathways for research and innovation to further advance their capabilities and impacts in the future.

WeObserve Roadmap

- **Practitioners** (research institutions, civil society organisations, public authorities and others) for conceptualising and directing key aspects and R&I plans for future Citizen Observatories and related projects;
- The **European Commission**, to support shaping Horizon Europe funding calls under the European Green Deal agenda;
- **National funding agencies** of EU member states to learn about Citizen Observatories and identify suitable scenarios for funding Citizen Observatories nationally.

WeObserve Roadmap

- **Citizen Observatory landscape** overview (past, present and future)
- **Research and innovation roadmap**: four main areas, 11 pathways and 35 actions, short-term (2021-2023) and medium-term (2021-2027) time horizon
- **Recommendations** to future funders of Citizen Observatories



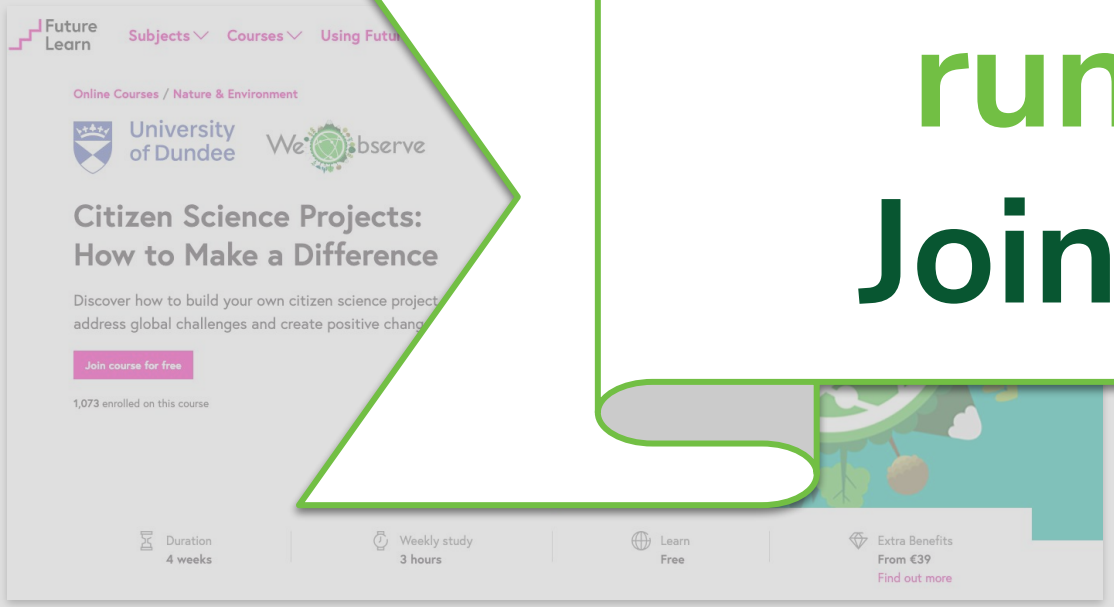
WeObserve Zenodo

WeObserve MOOC

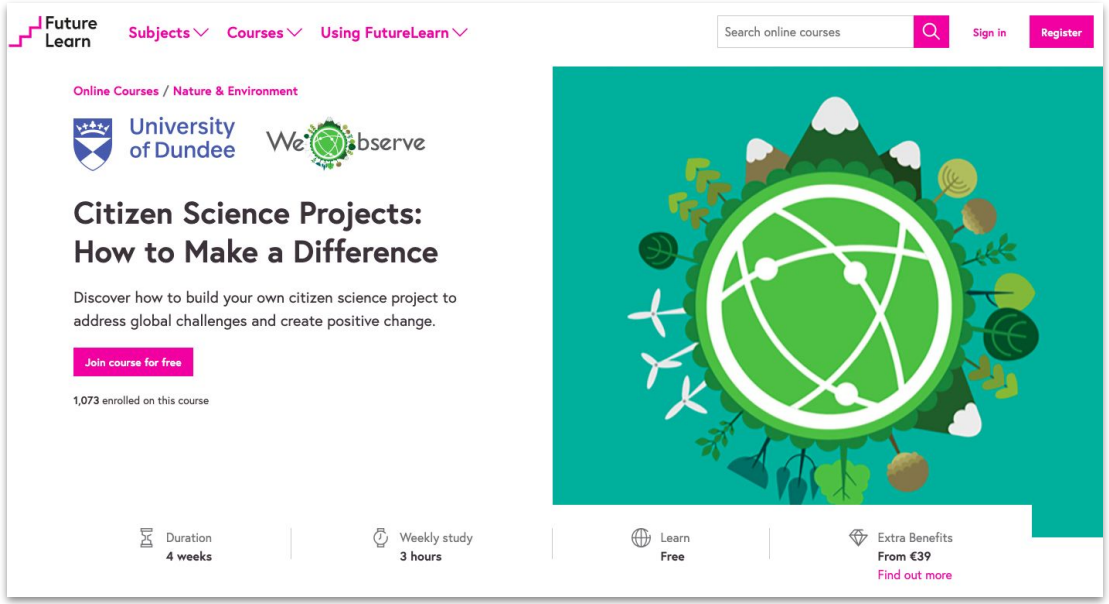
Communities of

Still up and running

Join now!



WeObserve MOOC



Communities of Practice

weobserve.eu

WeObserve Zenodo

Thank you!

weobserve.eu

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