



This project is co-financed by the European Union

Grant Agreement No.: 824603  
Call: H2020-SwafS-2018-1  
Type of action: RIA  
Starting date: 1/02/2019



## **D 2.14 Workshop Report 1**

**Coordinator: FVB-IGB**  
**Quality reviewer: DRIFT**

<b>Deliverable nature</b>	R
<b>Dissemination level</b>	PU
<b>Work package and Task</b>	WP2, Task 2.7
<b>Contractual delivery date</b>	M18
<b>Actual delivery date</b>	30-07-20

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<b>Abstract</b>	This document is a summary of the workshops carried out up to and including the ACTION Accelerator Round One Kick-off Workshop. It describes the topics covered and the outcomes of the workshops.
<b>Keywords</b>	Co-design, Workshops, Participatory Science

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*Austen, K. (2020), ACTION Workshop Report 1*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report gives an overview of the execution and outcomes of workshops carried out during the ACTION project up to and including the first round of the ACTION Accelerator. It is intended to be of use to ACTION consortium, researchers and practitioners working with the Accelerator model, and those with an interest in running citizen science projects.

The report details activities up to and including the Round 1 kick-off meeting. Activities carried out subsequently in Round 1 of the Accelerator will be reported in D 2.12 Final Review First Round of the Call. The report includes the outcomes of bespoke co-design workshops with ACTION Case Study citizen science projects, and the ACTION Round 1 Kick-Off meeting, at the start of the first round of welcoming Accelerator pilot projects recruited through the first round of the Open Call. It is expected that the structure of the Kick-Off meeting and some of the associated materials will be of use to citizen science practitioners and those conceiving of citizen science projects.

## 1 INTRODUCTION: The ACTION Accelerator

As part of ACTION's work, we work with on-the-ground citizen science projects that address pollution. We engage with our case study projects, which have been with us from the start, and our pilot projects, who are selected through two open calls, through an Accelerator programme.

Over the course of the ACTION we will provide support to a total of 16 citizen science projects from around Europe. Ten projects are recruited through our [Open Call](#), and 6 projects have been with us from the start as [Case Studies](#).

ACTION works with these projects to provide support and expertise through a mentoring programme, which lasts 6 months for all Accelerator projects recruited through the Open Call. We also work together to re-imagine Citizen Science from the bottom up - working closely with ACTION projects to address the most pressing challenges of Citizen Science today.

We work with projects to co-design tools to help overcome hurdles common to citizen science projects, such as data management, creation of surveys, considering diversity and community development. These co-designed tools go on to become part of the ACTION Toolkit, which will remain available to citizen science projects far and wide after the project ends.

Through the Accelerator programme, ACTION is developing a network for Citizen Science projects working on pollution-themed citizen science projects.

A key highlight is the Accelerator Kick-Off Meeting, at the start of the two Accelerator periods. This meeting, held in early 2020 and 2021, gives all ACTION Citizen Science projects the chance to meet, to introduce their projects, to co-design tools and to meet with external experts.

## 2 Bespoke Co-design Workshops

From the start of ACTION, consortium partners have worked closely to develop materials for use in the ACTION Case Studies. There have been numerous bespoke co-design workshops aimed at:

- Generating evaluation questionnaires for use by NILU with students and teachers participating in the Air Quality Monitoring study
- Establishing a workflow for Street Spectra to allow the collection of data by citizen scientists through epicollect and Zenodo

- Designing a community engagement strategy with Tatort Streetlight appropriate for the four diverse communities at their rural sampling sites
- Identifying requirements with Loss of the Night for the updating of the app
- Designing and produce a video tutorial for the Loss of the Night app
- Mentoring the production of video engagement in collaboration with Globe at Night
- Collaborating on competitions to boost participation for Loss of the Night
- Collaborating on surveys of the motivation, engagement and demographics of the long-standing Dutch Butterfly Conservation citizen science community

### 3 Kick-off Workshop

All ACTION citizen science projects joined the ACTION consortium at IGB on the banks of Lake Müggelsee, in February 2020 for the Accelerator Kick-off workshop. The Agenda for the Kick-off Meeting can be found in Appendix 1.

#### 3.1 Workshop design

The meeting design was finalised once the Round 1 Accelerator Pilots had been selected in December 2019, incorporating the projects' requirements and aims, elicited from their application documents and the Project Plans negotiated in January with their mentors. As such, the workshop oriented around a series of participatory sessions that addressed these needs.

Attention was paid to ensuring accessibility and comfort for all participants, and to ensuring sufficient time for orientation, networking and socialising as part of the workshop.

#### 3.2 Workshop delivery

Throughout the workshop, attention was paid to ensure that the timetable of the agenda was maintained, and that sufficient refreshments and fresh air were provided. Ad hoc break-out sessions were facilitated where necessary. An emphasis was made on ensuring presence, attention and participation was both encouraged and comfortable.

The workshop programme included two invited external experts. [Orsola de Marco from London's Open Data Institute](#), helped our teams hone their project design using methods adapted from business design. Introducing the topic of power relations and accessibility in citizen science, [Kathryn Nawrockyi from Improper](#) explained the challenges of including diverse stakeholders from the outset, which can affect data collection, results, and impacts of projects. The barriers to entry for projects were further explored in a "Brainstorming Inclusion" workshop by FVB-IGB's [Kat Austen](#), facilitated by ACTION Partner DRIFT's [Anelli Janssen](#).

The session allowed projects to identify previously neglected stakeholders, such as the polluters themselves - mining companies, shipping companies and dock workers – alongside more expected

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cohorts such as those with a lower level of education, or those without access to technology. On this basis, the projects developed new strategies for reaching out to include more diverse stakeholders on a case by case basis.

A subsequent session worked on participant engagement, run by Anelli Janssen and facilitated by Kat Austen, which made use of the ACTION Participatory Science Lifecycle to help with mapping communication and engagement strategies to different points in the projects' development. [Gefion Thuermer](#) ran in parallel a session to co-design strategies for decision-making in different types of communities, including an active listening exercise and looking at the appropriateness and success of different types of decision-making.

The principles of Open Data were introduced to the workshop participants by [Oscar Corcho](#) to set the stage for co-design sessions on using Coney to develop a data management plan and for discussions on impact. The Open Data session laid the foundation for considerations of outputs from the projects, for example: whether projects wish to publish their data as part of peer reviewed publications, the importance of providing data sets with appropriate metadata so that they can be reused by others. These discussions dovetailed with the business design and stakeholder mapping exercises and community engagement and inclusion sessions previously carried out.

The Impact session that followed, delivered remotely by [Antonella Passani](#), introduced the principles and motivations of assessing the impact of citizen science projects, identified different modes of transformative potential of these projects and introduced the ACTION Impact Assessment Canvas, with which the Citizen Science projects will work over their course of their engagement with ACTION.

### **3.2 Feedback Questionnaire**

The feedback questionnaire was delivered using [Coney](#), the CONversational suVEY toolkit developed by ACTION partner [Cefriel](#). From 30 attendees, only 4 respondents gave complete feedback via the questionnaire, perhaps because its completion was not presented as obligatory. Nevertheless, these responses were overall positive to the Kick-Off meeting. The most positive results were with respect to the usefulness of the networking and building of an ACTION community, the sessions on diversity and participant engagement, and the data sessions. One obvious highlight, mentioned on multiple occasions in the feedback responses and also in-person, was the cohesive nature of the workshop, with all the elements working synergistically to give a holistic introduction to best practice in participatory science. The main critical feedback was that one respondent did not find the Business Design session useful. While the content of this session was pertinent to the citizen science projects, there was a conceptual leap necessary in applying the business design strategies presented to citizen science projects that in a future iteration could be made more explicit.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

It is the intention of the ACTION Accelerator workshops to carry out rapid prototyping and co-design in order to develop detailed understanding of ACTION Citizen Science projects' plans and potential outcomes, which will inform the work in WPs 4 and 5. By synthesising sessions on business design, diversity and inclusion, data management, impact assessment, open data, community engagement and decision-making for citizen science projects, these workshops allowed the pilots to achieve a plan for a minimum viable product-version of their projects, and created an environment of exchange where it was clear how their work fed back into and are supported by WPs 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The ongoing support of Case Study projects has resulted in a series of tailored tools that increase the projects' reflectivity, reach and workflows. The tools developed through all the workshops in co-design with the ACTION projects not only benefit the projects themselves but also shape how they will be included in the ACTION Toolkit.

Furthermore, the mode of engagement with the projects and attention to networking has helped to set the foundation of an ACTION alumni network of citizen science practitioners tackling the crucial contemporary topic of pollution.

## Appendix 1

# Accelerator Kick-off Meeting Agenda

17th - 19th February 2020

FVB-IGB Berlin

## Schedule

17th February, Monday

Day 1: Orientation / Getting to Know You

Time	Activity	Who
10:00-10:45	Arrivals and welcome activities	
10:45 - 10:55	Ice Breaker	Kat Austen (IGB)
11:00 - 11:10	Introduction to Event and IGB	Kat Austen and Franz Hölker (IGB)
11:10 - 11:30	ACTION introduction	Elena Simperl (KCL)
11:30 - 13:00	Accelerator Project presentations (10 minutes each, 5 minutes questions)	Presenters: Accelerator project partners
13:00 - 13:45	Lunch	
13:45 - 14:30	Guided Walk around IGB	Franz Hölker (IGB)
14:30 - 15:00	Presentation of ACTION Toolkit: Overview	Gefion Thuermer (KCL)
15:00- 16:00	Business Design Workshop	Orsola de Marco (ODI)
16:00 - 16:30	Tea Break	
16:30-17:00	Business Design Workshop	Orsola de Marco (ODI)
	Break	
19:00 - 21:30	Dinner	Location: Braustübel Restaurant, Friedrichshagen

18th February, Tuesday  
Day 2: Community and Data

Time	Activity	Who
9-9:30	Inclusion and Intersectionality / Invited lecture	Kathryn Nawrockyi (Improper)
9:30 - 10:30	Brainstorming Inclusion	Facilitator: Anelli Janssen (Drift) Set-up: Kat Austen
10:30	Coffee Break	
11:00 - 12:30	Parallel Co-design Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decision-making and communities (Gefion)</li> <li>- Keeping a community engaged (Anelli)</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Kat Austen Set-up: Gefion Thuermer, Anelli Janssen
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:00	Citizen Science Data Challenges and Open Data presentation	Oscar Corcho (UPM)
14:00 - 15:30	Data Management Plan Group Session with Mentors	Set-up and facilitation: Oscar Corcho / Esteban González Guardia (UPM) + Irene Celino/Damiano Scandolari (Cefriel)
15:30 - 16:00	Tea Break	
16:00 - 17:00	Free Co-working and Discussion	

19th February, Wednesday  
 Day 3: Impact and the Future

Time	Activity	Who
9:45	Arrivals	
10:00 - 10:30	Impact Assessment (remote lecture)	Antonella Passani (T6ECO)
10:30-11:00	Group work with Mentors on Assessment and Support document	
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30-13:00	Feedback	Facilitator: Kat Austen
13:00	Lunch and Departures	