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# Challenges in promotion and dissemination of citizen science idea in Poland

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# In Poland, citizen science projects started in 2008 when first Bioblitz action was organized in Sopot [http://water.iopan.gda.pl/bio\\_bliitz/](http://water.iopan.gda.pl/bio_bliitz/)

Polish maritime institutions became pioneers in citizen science. The first example is The Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences



## Nauka Obywatelska

strona sponsorowana przez Komitet Badań Morza, Wojewódzki Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska oraz Instytut Oceanologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk



Nauka obywatelska (ang. citizen science) to nowy wymiar budowy społeczeństwa obywatelskiego. Polega na zbieraniu obserwacji przez uczestników projektu, którzy za pomocą internetu i pośredniczącej instytucji naukowej tworzą powszechnie dostępną bazę danych. Do najstarszych tego rodzaju inicjatyw należą masowe akcje liczenia ptaków w Wielkiej Brytanii, mapy kwitnienia roślin ogrodowych sporządzane przez tysiące wolontariuszy w Niemczech, czy nowa, włoska akcja na Adriatyku tworzenia map występowania meduz, w której wzięło udział tysiące plażowiczów. W Polsce prekursorska akcja "nauki obywatelskiej" odbyła się w roku 2011, gdy poproszono ludzi, by w czasie dwóch letnich tygodni obserwowali niebo w swojej okolicy i przesłali informację o stopniu widoczności gwiazd. Pozwoliło to na sporządzenie mapy obszarów, gdzie światła miast i zapylenie nie zakłócają obserwacji astronomicznych.



Akcja 1 Projekt "Citizen Science" nad morzem	Akcja 2 Projekt „Ukryta Woda” - 04.2014-03.2015
Akcja 3 Dla żeglarzy i podróżników	Akcja 4 "Ocean literacy" czyli przeciwko analfabetyzmowi morskemu
Akcja 5 Akademia Śmętowska – "Woda w naszym otoczeniu"	Akcja 6 "Water Front"
Akcja 7 "Plastik w rzekach"	

A Polish translation of the term 'citizen science' is 'nauka obywatelska'

**Sense of the term „citizen science” can be lost in translation. The term „nauka obywatelska” has been understood as scientific research for the people, or not understood in discussion with researchers at all.**

**There were also other translations, e.g „open research process” or „participatory scientific research”.**

While „Nauka Obywatelska” (Citizen Science) might hand down the meaning rightfully, there could be problems with the term of „citizen scientist”.

In Poland, there are only a few research papers on citizen science.

In 2013, citizen science was mentioned in EBIB – a professional journal for academic librarians..

The Polish edition of „Scientific American” (pl. „Świat Nauki”) also mentioned this idea.

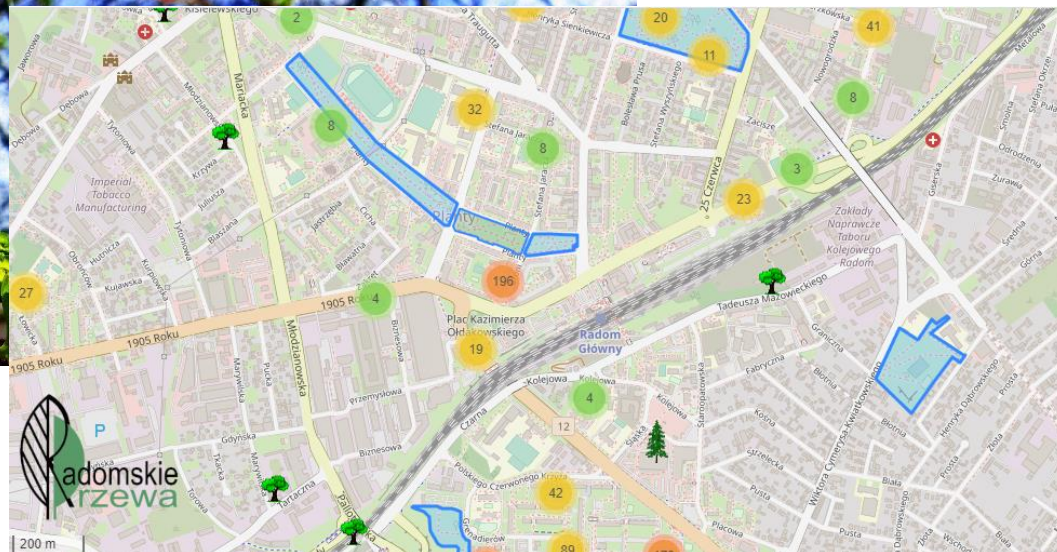
Other scientific articles on this topic dates mostly for years 2022-2023

Citizen Science has been introduced in Poland by researchers working in the field of maritime protection and biodiversity. They conducted small scale projects that involved mostly the students of primary and secondary schools.

Activities that could be used for research purposes have been introduced by local activists since the beginning of 2019.



<https://drzewa.radom.pl/>



But probably, these activists might even never heard about citizen science and they did not consider themselves as citizen scientists.

**In Poland, the recognition of the citizen science approach is still low, according to, so far, the best study on citizen science (Roszczyńska-Kurasińska & Wróblewska, 2023).**

It was a study conducted among NGOs that could be an example of disseminators of citizen science movement.

Environmental organizations were asked whether they support their activities with some software and citizen science methods. The study revealed a technological gap in using citizen science software and tools.



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### Summary of citizen science current state in Poland:

- Researchers are still not familiar with the idea of citizen science. Those who involve this approach, do it in case of small-scale projects that have mostly education purposes.
- At universities information about citizen science can be found mostly in scientific libraries
- NGO's and activists organize some activities but they might be unaware about the citizen science movement.
- There is no institutional support from any state or self-government authority.
- There are no traditions of massive empirical research and people participation is low.
- There are local projects that probably don't know about other initiatives and don't collaborate with others.

**Many countries from the Eastern Europe or from other parts of the world may face similar problems. The creation of national citizen science organizations that could work on these issues could be a solution.**

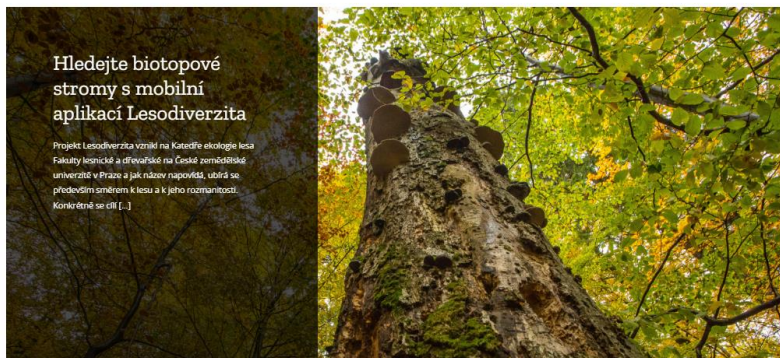
The solutions could be mostly top-down. The EU partnership could consider creating or supporting the citizen science umbrella organization e.g.

1) National citizen science association that unites all citizen science activities in one country. (like in Czech Republic)

2) Widely known big project that could be appropriate for every citizen. (like in Latvia)



BLOG DATAŪZE PROJEKTŪ O CITIZEN SCIENCE KOPIJŅOVINA ODĀKZY FŌRLUM KONTAKTY Q



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Atrodī savu projektu!

**Joma**

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- literatūra
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**Materiāli**


- manuskripti
- literatūras dati
- attēli
- zīmējumi
- atmiņas
- dienasgrāmatas
- audio ieraksti
- nošu pieraksti
- kartes
- informācija par personām

**Uzdevums**










**WORK PACKAGE 1:**

**OPEN CALLS**

The overall objective of this WP is to implement three open calls to award a total of 100 kick-starting and 25 sustaining grants to CSI pilots.

Led by KCL




**WORK PACKAGE 2:**

**ACCELERATOR**

This WP will set up an impact-driven citizen science accelerator to support the CSI selected in the open calls of WP1 (pilots), empowering them to maximize their scientific, social, economic, democratic, and environmental impacts towards the SDGs and the GD targets.

Led by SIC




**WORK PACKAGE 3:**

**EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE**

The overall objective of this WP is to implement the annual European Union Prize for Citizen Science to award outstanding CSIs.


Led by Ars Electronica



**WORK PACKAGE 4:**

**POLICY WITH AND FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE**

The overall objective of this WP is to improve the evidence base for making CS-related policy, strengthening the capacity of the CS community to achieve policy impact.




**WORK PACKAGE 5:**

**IMPACT & EXPLOITATION**

The overall objective of this WP is to assess the impacts of the pilots, and of the Impetus project.


Led by TE ECOSYSTEMS



**WORK PACKAGE 6:**

**DISSEMINATION & COMMUNICATION**

The main objective of this WP is to raise awareness on the Open Calls and Prize, communicate the activities and outcomes of IMPETUS and its pilots, provide promotional material, and cooperate with



**WORK PACKAGE 7:**

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The main objective of this WP is to ensure smooth performance and delivery of the results, at all project stages.

Led by Zabela

IMPETUS project supports citizen science projects in Europe, creates better citizen science policies, and raises awareness about the projects' results.

**We need such a projects, but also new module would be useful here – the creation of national and transnational umbrella citizen science organizations.**

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Thank you!

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