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Citizen Science Projects (MOOC) 1.12

Woods, Mel; Coulson, Saskia; Ajates, Raquel; Amditis, Angelos ; Cobley, Andy; Domian, Dahlia

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Script	Visuals
[Music]	FutureLearn opening animation
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INIAN MOORTHY: In LandSense, we choose our question by first meeting with a range of stakeholders to find out what land-based information is currently missing. Then we ask, how can LandSense collaboratively develop a solution that is powered by citizens? For example, for our biodiversity theme, we work closely with BirdLife International, local chapters in Spain and Indonesia, and their network of volunteers. We want to understand the main threats to birds and their natural habitats. We quickly learned that BirdLife and its volunteers currently don't acquire real-time digital records of habitat threats. Based on this need, we collaboratively developed a mobile and web application to help BirdLife. Was it challenging? Yes.	
We were trying to meet the needs of local partners in different parts of the world, from Spain to Indonesia, with a single application. So we had to compromise. Good communication was proven to be the key. Now we have a solution that empowers citizens to monitor the state of natural habitats, not just in Spain and Indonesia, but across the entire globe. Ground Truth 2.0 has initiated six citizen observatories, each one with a different theme. During the co-design of each observatory, the first step was to define the central challenge. And then they formed a joint vision, mission, and objectives. For example, the Meet Mee Mechelen Observatory aimed for a sustainable and continuous improvement of local air quality.	
The goal for this observatory was to organise	

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successful air quality campaigns. It developed from a broad wish to have better local air quality information to a more refined research question addressing the impact of road traffic on air quality. And studying the spatial and temporal variations. A key to successful campaigns has been the dialogue between environmental experts and citizens who are experts on their own neighbourhoods. Experts can list criteria for a good campaign, which are implemented by the citizens to fit the local context. So in this case, bike paths were chosen along which cyclists measured air quality. In the context of Scent Citizen Observatories, the data collection needs were developed in a participatory process.	
Stakeholders mapped issues of interest in dedicated workshops, and identified specific scientific objectives to focus on. For example, in Kifisos river basin in Greece, changes in land cover and land use, as well as the passage of floods, were chosen as important aspects to investigate. One of the key elements is to engage local volunteer groups in the process so that they can mobilise citizens in the follow-up campaigns. And link the data needs with immediate concerns of a particular location. Involving a wide range of stakeholders can also strengthen collaboration, leading to shared understanding of the needs and purpose of the observatory.	
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