



University of Dundee

Citizen Science Projects (MOOC) 2.5

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Video - 2.5 Community-level Indicators

In this video, we heard from Professor Mel Woods at the University of Dundee, who explained community-level indicators and other measurements that can help you to understand sensor data.

Community-level Indicators help to make the invisible, visible. They give complementary information to the data collected. They focus on shedding light on cause and effect surrounding the environmental issue. These indicators are chosen by the community and reflect the aims of the campaign.

In the video, you can find out about an interesting citizen science campaign that was part of the [Making Sense](<http://making-sense.eu/>) project in Barcelona. The campaign brought residents of a plaza in the Gràcia neighbourhood together to work on a shared concern: noise pollution. Living around one of the busiest squares in the city, they were often kept up until late at night with people loitering and drinking in the square.



As part of the Making Sense project, they used the [Smart Citizen Kit](<https://smartcitizen.me/>) and [Platform](<https://smartcitizen.me/kits/>) to record the level of noise in their homes through the day. They also discussed and selected other indicators they could gather that would help them understand the issue and build a more significant case for change. This included

monitoring the number of people who were in the square at different times and how they moved throughout the public space. They also kept a record of opening times of local cafes and shops that sold alcohol.

Residents used this information to build a more durable case to explain the causes of noise pollution that they were afflicted by. Their insights were used to develop solutions. The council decided to change the time when the square was cleaned and washed down to later in the evening and this would move people on and away from the square. The residents also campaigned for making the square more family-friendly with outdoor play areas and they led quiet activities, like meditation and group yoga.