

Citizen science

Citizen Science is for everyone, even those who have no previous experience or scientific background. It is a flexible, simple, cost effective and reliable way of gathering evidence to answer a specific question or prove or solve a particular situation. Using the power of the public, observations, monitoring and local knowledge can be collected en masse in a way that would be unfeasible or unaffordable using professional scientists.

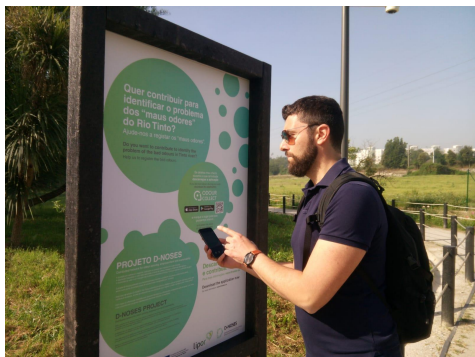
Citizen Science (CS) is a flexible, innovative and effective approach based on the engagement in scientific processes of people who do not work professionally in the relative field of study. Giving the citizens the opportunity to observe their environment and share information, CS projects create scientific knowledge outside institutionalized science.

Citizen Science in Odour Monitoring

The Citizen Science approach to monitoring odour brings together the power of many, using one of the most effective odour sensors - the human nose.

Communities can record the frequency, intensity and type of odour that they experience and combine the individual observations of many to build a clear picture of the issue. As more citizens are involved in sharing their findings, or data, the level of subjectivity is reduced.

Citizen Science (CS) is a flexible, innovative and effective approach based on the engagement in scientific processes of people who do not work professionally in the relative field of study. Giving the citizens the opportunity to observe their environment and share information, CS projects create scientific knowledge outside institutionalized science.



What Can Citizen Science Be Used For?

When scientific standards are observed, CS allows to create large datasets and introduce innovative ideas, fosters the acceptance through transparent procedures and verifies practical applicability in the field. It is an effective instrument to deal with complex social issues and strengthen the research methodology.

Co-creative approaches of CS include citizens at early stages of a project and enable the definition of questions or problems to be addressed, which are relevant for the affected communities. CS often includes a wide variety of stakeholders from all areas, such as the public, policy makers, academics, industrial partners and NGOs. Through this inclusivity, CS allows collaborations without borders and fosters good relationships between citizens, science, governments and industries.

What can it NOT be used for?

CS is a scientific method with advantages and limitations, like every other approach. The inclusion of citizens in research can be difficult when the methods require special training or strenuous work. In addition, individual accuracies can vary, depending on the difficulty of the tasks. The element of variation in data collection and analysis done by citizens needs to be carefully incorporated into the final analysis and interpretation of the data/project. Also, ethical issues may prevent the inclusion of citizens in projects.

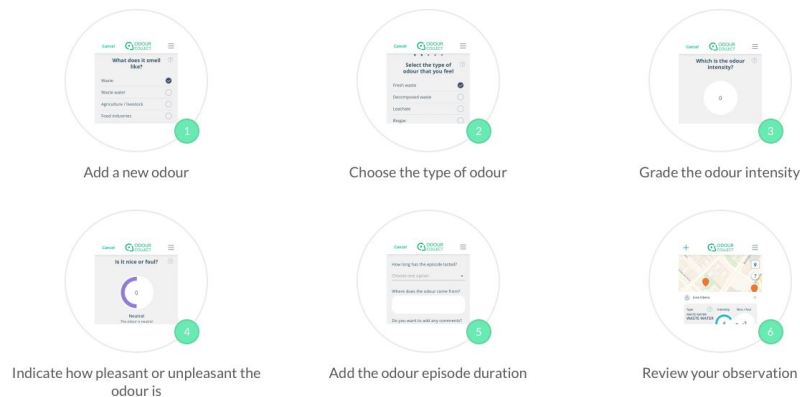


Figure #.