Meeting Minute Citizen Science Network Meeting 14.5.2018

Citizen Science and Universities

Venue: Haus der Akademien, Laupenstrasse 7, 3011 Bern

Date: 14th of May 2018, 10.05 Uhr – 12.00 Uhr

Language: English

Participants:

Alain Kaufmann (AK) – Universität Lausanne
Felix Bänteli (FB) – Actioncy
Maria Mondardini (MM) – Citizen Science Center Zurich
Beda Hoffmann (BD) – Naturhistorisches Museum Bern
Luc Henry (LH) – EPFL
Danièle Martinoli (DM) – SCNAT
Anne Jacob (AJ) – SCNAT
Livia Müller (LM) – Actioncy
Gabriella Zinke (GZ) – BAFU
Marc Dusseiler – Hackteria.org
Olivia Höhener – Stiftung Mercator Schweiz
Tiina Stämpfli (TS) – Science et Cité
Jenny Flück (JF) – Science et Cit

Meeting Minute: Jenny Flück

Leitung: Tiina Stämpfli

1. Welcome and information

Information about and from the Swiss Citizen Science Network

Brief history:
- SeC started with a report about Citizen Science in Switzerland. The report showed that it makes most sense to build a network.
- In 2016 we launched the website schweiz-forscht.ch, which was also a formulated wish from the network. The website makes Swiss projects visible and interested people can see what's going on in Switzerland. The target groups are citizens and scientists/stakeholders who are interested in this topic.
- This year, we organize the Second International ECSA Conference in Geneva from 3rd to 5th June 2018.

Member Survey
In January 2018 we did a survey about the last three years of the Swiss Citizen Science Network to get a feedback about the work in the past. Most of the people are satisfied with the network. We will try to look at critical feedback and take some appropriate measures. Another point is, that we will implement quotes/testimonials on schweiz-forscht.ch from citizens to give them a voice and show why they do Citizen Science and why it's inspiring.

ECSA 2018:
The international conference will take place in Geneva from 3rd to 5th June. The registration is still open till the 22nd of May.
Public festival on Sunday 3rd June: Free festival, for example with a Bioblitz and different DIY projects. www.ecsa-conference.eu

2. Presentation
2.1 Maria Mondardini
The Citizen Science Center Zurich
Discussion:
GZ: Where is the point of data collection?
All projects have a crowd sourcing part. One example is a smartphone application for health. The project targets symptoms of cancer with women in India. The question was: Why not using a tool the women are already using and implement a Citizen Science project?
LH: Already a lot is happening on this topic.
MM: That's the reason why I'm here. To do collaboration. We are open for partnerships.
LH: Is there a clear roadmap how you will do partnerships?
MM: It's not clear now. One partnership we have is with the University of Geneva.
AJ: Will the tool be translated in the three national languages?
MM: First it will be translated into German and English, later on also in French.
BH: Basically the collaboration between citizens and science is people collecting data for science. Where is the citizen in this project? Is the student the citizen or the scientist?
MM: The students are not the scientists. They come from different topics. They are playing the part of implementing the projects. They are the one trying to implement a few questions.
GZ: Just a comment: The idea is great to focus on the SDG's.
LH: Why do you choose students. It would make sense to do this with retired people for example.
RM: In the beginning we did it not with students. We are still developing this challenge. We are definitely open to other target groups with this project.
TS: You focus on the SDG's. The meeting in Zurich was about supporting criteria.
RM: Once per month we have a meeting in Zurich to discuss several aspects. The Center needs criteria to choose the wright projects. The criteria have been send to the community to

discuss them. There will be a third round of discussion. How to collaborate with partnerships? All these questions are discussed in the community before they get fixed.

2.2 Beda Hoffmann
The contribution of Citizen Scientists to the Twannberg meteorite project
Discussion:
AJ: How do you guarantee the quality standard?
BH: Supervising the people in the field is not always possible. They have to fill out a form for the findings. We need the coordinates of the findings. Of course we can't control if they invent the coordinates, but we have trained them before.
AJ: You give them a short training and then you let them go?
BH. The training is obligatory, otherwise they can't join the project. They have to pay 300 CHF for the training.
TS: What is the benefit?
BH: Their benefit is to keep the meteorite.
MD: How did you come up with the curve?
BH: The curve was invented by me.
Marc: What will the citizen get in the end?
BH: Everyone who is working in the field gets a part of the meteorites. This solution guarantees that the people are still motivated.
MD: So, it was a top-down decision?
BH: Yes, another way wouldn't be possible. If we had made that decision with the citizens, we would still be discussing.
MM: Thank you for the presentation, you found a solution for the benefit of the citizen. Let me show, where the center could have helped in this project:
  – Keep the people engaged and that's something the center can help.
  – Try to help with providing tools for the project.
BH: Using GPS is more accurate than the other measurements. Some of the people run around the field, but they don't have smartphones.
AJ: People are retired and so on. If you have a smartphone, you are maybe not able to use it in the wright way.
LH: More and more people will give no more information about their data like GPS tracking and so on.
MM: It's not a must to give all the information.
OH: I'm looking at 10 to 20 citizen science projects a month and most of them have a huge part of their budget for a user-friendly app. A lot of money gets wasted for apps and that's not the way how it should be solved.
BH: We publish a book about the findings and so on. The citizen gets in this way some acknowledgement.
LH: How much are the people interested in the outreach?
BH: It depends on the topic itself. We published a paper last year and one of our citizen found a fault in the paper. Some of the people are mentioned in the paper, sometimes it depends on the amount of people.
TS: Was there something else than a publication?
BH: We had a small exhibition, which was built by the finders. We mentioned the finder for every meteorite. The canton is not interested in light meteorites, so they can keep them. This is an important benefit for the finders.

3. Open discussion:
TS: Are there any other questions?
LH: Facilitation of this interaction is really useful. Any project has a legal aspect. The Swiss context is really specific.
BH: The conditions are different in any canton, which makes it not easy.

LH: It would be interesting to have some sort of representative. That is Citizen Science, these are the aspects we deal with, how are you prepared for these problems?

TS: This would be an interesting topic for a next meeting.

MM: We are very interested in hosting those problems and share the knowledge. This is part of our mandate.

OH: Another point are questions about the insurance. In one project a citizen had an accident and the insurance said it was a work accident, so they won't pay. But the citizen is not employed by the project he's just a volunteer.

BH: Do you have contracts with the citizens?

LH: We are really interested in this information. People don't care about those things, but it has to be there.

OH: Maybe that's also a reason why scientists are not interested in that, because they do not want to have those problems