

CitSci4All



Social Inclusion and the Participation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults in Citizen Science for Climate Change



The Project

The CitSci4All project focuses on the inclusion and active participation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) in matters of climate change. This is facilitated through citizen science, the practice of the public's involvement in scientific research practices and enquiry. The public in this setting usually participates in data collection, observation and recording activities. By bringing together “experts” and “non-experts” citizen science creates avenues of communication and interaction to democratize knowledge and provide better solutions.



How our project is in line with the 2030 Agenda using an inclusive approach

The effects of climate change in recent years are significant. Some of the recorded changes are:

- Snow and ice have decreased and the sea level has risen;
- The oceans have warmed;
- The global average temperature has increased.

Considerable institutional and technological change may offer a great chance of not causing a further increase in global temperature (predicted at 1.5°C).

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its program of Action for People, Planet and Prosperity was signed by the governments of the 193 Member States of the United Nations (2015). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) outlined in the program represent common targets on a number of important development issues, including combating climate change (SDG 13).

Within this framework, the CitSci4All project, aims to make its contribution to the fight against climate change using an inclusive approach. The goal of including the D/deaf community in climate change actions is important in two aspects in particular:

- Providing everyone with **equal rights of access** to information on the development of our planet;
- Being able to **actively involve** the majority of the population.



Meet out Team

Founded in Marseille, IRSAM is an organization which supports children and adults who have a sensory disability. IRSAM manages 25 institutes and services.



ISTITUTO DEI SORDI
DI TORINO

The Turin Institution for the Deaf is an institution providing a wide range of services and learning programmes for Deaf, hard of hearing and other linguistic and cognitive impaired children and adults, while training teachers to deal with this kind of disabilities in their classrooms.

Founded in Greece, IASIS NGO focuses on vulnerability. The main objective is to provide psychosocial support, to combat the social exclusion of marginalized social groups, to provide psychological and counseling services as well as to create equal opportunities and new perspectives for every citizen.



Web2Learn is an enterprise that offers high-quality digital learning and professional training solutions and services. Web2Learn develops services and products related to openness in education, while promoting digitally enhanced social networking through social media and gaming applications.



Citizens In Power NGO takes action in the fields of global education, social innovation, entrepreneurship, STEM and sustainable growth. Recognizing diversity as a congenital feature of modern societies, CIP works to inspire and transform communities by endowing citizens with innovative tools and solutions.



Founded in Cyprus, Research Institute for Technological Evolution (RITE NGO) aspires to contribute to the conduction of scientific and applied research aiming to reinforce innovation, technology transfer and knowledge consolidation as main catalysts for the production of social value.



Project Result 1: Guide on DHH Population's Engagement in Citizen Science for Climate Change

The partnership, in order to gather specialist information on inclusive strategies and methodologies, that would assist in the creation of a “Guide on DHH populations' engagement in citizen science for climate change” approached both DHH Trainers and Citizen Science Experts.

Here are some thoughts from two of the project partners:



For **Web2Learn**, the CitSci4All project marks the beginning of a colorful journey that expands knowledge on climate-specific citizen science for an underrepresented group, the DHH.

From February to April 2022, Web2Learn conducted a series of interviews with **three citizen science professionals and researchers** on the topic of DHH inclusion in climate change activities by using citizen science methodologies. All three interviewees are experts in the field of citizen science, having worked many years in fostering citizen engagement projects for the benefit of vulnerable populations.

The three interviewers were:

- **Mr. Tiberius Ignat**, Scientific Knowledge Services, Germany; expert in citizen science (incl. disadvantaged populations) for more than 15 years.



- **Mrs Alexandra Angeletaki**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway; expert in civic engagement, citizen science and open innovation (also for disadvantaged groups), for more than 15 years.



- **Mrs Mariana Ziku**, Biennale of Western Balkans, Greece; expert in grassroots participation, bottom-up civic engagement through various technologies for more than 10 years



A total of nine citizen science experts were consulted by the partnership.

As a recently established non-for-profit Research and Development organization, **RITE** is given the opportunity to showcase its expertise in sustainability, innovative solutions, and knowledge consolidation through the CitSci4All project.

In the **two interviews with DHH Trainers** conducted by RITE:

- One DHH trainer suggested that one crucial impediment to inclusion, is inaccessibility of important information about Citizen Science and climate change as well as the lack of provisions with regard to communicating this information to the DHH community.
- The second DHH trainer added that it is often the case that there is not proper interpretation of the language and terminology of Citizen Science projects and climate science to sign language.

A total of **13 interviews** and **64 surveys** were conducted by all partners with **DHH Trainers**.

Overall, DHH trainers interviewed by all partners were in agreement that:

- inaccessibility to important information,
- the lack of provisions to ensure proper communication of this information
- and the impact of these in the learning experience of DHH adults are **crucial points to address and tackle throughout the development of the project**.

First Transnational Meeting: *in Nicosia, Cyprus*

The partners were able to meet face-to-face at the first transnational project meeting, held on 4-5 April 2022 in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Representatives from each organization attended the meeting.

It was necessary for everyone to put a face to the people who have been working together remotely for weeks. This will greatly facilitate contacts. The first meeting took place in a very good atmosphere, leaving plenty of room for knowledge sharing, discoveries and conviviality between professionals motivated by the objectives of the project.



The first part of the meeting aimed at clarifying the missions of each partner on the first expected result, the Guide. The partners shared the drafting of the guide according to their respective competences. The first guidelines were completed together in order to launch the reflection in a collective manner.

PR2 The customized toolkit for DHH Trainers, was also presented at the meeting. After the creation of the guide, the partnership under the leadership of W2L will move on to the creation of the Toolkit. Related activities such as Project Management, Quality Management and Evaluation of Content, ICTs and Innovation Management, Management of Events/Training Activities, Dissemination, Exploitation and Sustainability, were also presented and exchanged between the partners in order to lay a solid foundation on the responsibilities and stakes of each one, in order to guarantee an efficient collaborative team work.



The **professionals of CIP**, the Cypriot hosts, organized a very pleasant stay for each partner and invited them to visit their premises. Thanks to them for this great organization which will leave good memories to all participants.

What's Next

The project aims to create accessible methodologies for DHH trainers and adults to enable their participation in citizen science initiatives for climate change.

As a first step, we will offer:

1. A **Guide** on DHH populations' engagement in citizen science for climate change.

This will be made available on our website in **July 2022**.

We will then create and make available:

2. A **customized toolkit for DHH trainers**

3. A **report on citizen science project implementations** by DHH adults for climate change.

4. A **reflective report on the lessons learned** and gained through the inclusion of DHH adults and trainers in citizen science projects for climate change.



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Coming Soon

