Citizens' Observatories for environmental monitoring

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European Commission

Citizens' Observatories Workshop
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Open collaboration tools create new knowledge crucial for humanitarian and emergency response

Commissioner Moedas at the "Opening Up to an ERA of Innovation" Conference

Nepal Earthquake Kathmandu Living Lab

2015 Nepal Earthquake – OpenStreetMap

SOURCE: wiki.openstreetmap.org
The collaborative power of the new ICT tools is enormous!
Citizens' Observatories - Opportunities

- Complement official monitoring systems while reducing running costs

- Improve evidence for decision making building on local knowledge

- Empower citizens, increasing transparency, accountability

- Bring about behavioural changes, awareness raising, responsibilities

- Social innovation, new businesses and markets: Open Innovation
Citizens' Observatories - Challenges

Social aspects:
- Public sector readiness to accept a more active role of citizens
- Engagement of broader spectrum of society
- Recognition of scientific value
- Guarantees for action on findings

Technological issues:
- Quality of data, data integration
- Security concerns (privacy)
- Data ownership
Citizens’ Observatories projects (I)

Five research (FP7) projects started in late 2012, covering different thematic areas:

1. **CITI-SENSE** "Development of Sensor-based Citizens' Observatory Community for Improving Quality of Life in Cities", [http://citi-sense.nilu.no/](http://citi-sense.nilu.no/)
2. **WeSenseIt**: "Citizen Observatory of Water" [http://www.wesenseit.eu/](http://www.wesenseit.eu/)

Cluster website: [www.citizen-obs.eu](http://www.citizen-obs.eu)
Citizens’ Observatories projects (II)

Four new (H2020) Innovation Actions will kick off in Autumn 2016, with a focus on land cover and land use:

1. LandSense "A Citizen Observatory and Innovation Marketplace for Land Use and Land Cover Monitoring"

2. GROW "The GROW Observatory"

3. GroundTruth2.0: "Environmental knowledge discovery of human sensed data"

4. SCENT: "Smart Toolbox for Engaging Citizens into a People-Centric Observation Web"
Coordination and Support Action

SC5-19-2017: Coordination of citizen observatories initiatives

To bring citizens' observatories and related communities together to:
- Highlight best practices, identify barriers and create synergies,
- Promote standards and facilitate integration,
- Foster its gradual uptake by public authorities.

Social innovation opportunities, sustainability approaches, data management and interoperability to be addressed

Consortia to include a broad range of stakeholders (public, private, citizens)

Call open: **08/11/16**
Deadline: **07/03/17** [single stage]

Suggested size **1 Mio**, only **one** project to be funded
Final reflection

Loss events worldwide 1980 – 2014
Number of events

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Citizens observatories can play a key role in adaptation strategies against climate change effects.
Thank you for your attention

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