### Project leads

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### Abstract

We organized a two-week workshop in our department with 3 citizen scientists who worked with us, learning from our methods, with the perspective that they would apply the same methods working from their premises. In this way, they could provide valuable scientific data for our research.

### Keywords

Taxonomy, biodiversity, shell collecting, Mediterranean Sea

### Aims of the Third Mission activity

Set up methodologies to involve citizen scientists in research projects

### Cooperation partners outside the university sector

Three citizen scientists

### Cooperation partners from the scientific/research field

None

### Faculty

Department of Palaeontology, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy

### Timeframe

14/10/2019 - 25/10/2019

### Funding

Funds of the Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy

### Research basis

It is 100% based on my research.

### Social/economic relevance

Involving citizen scientists in scientific research enables increasing the workforce for laborious tasks, improving citizen's knowledge and commitment to natural history research, improve the citizen's skills, increase citizen's self-esteem (most are retired people who find in this collaboration interest and motivation).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integration into academic teaching/the curriculum</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact</strong></td>
<td>After the workshop, I involved four more citizen scientists (totalling 6 now) who are actively involved in my research project. Unfortunately, the COVID has slowed down if not halted collaboration, but contacts are still strong and everything will resume (including a further enlargement of the network) as conditions will allow meetings in person, free travel of people etc.</td>
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<td><strong>Transfer aspect of the activity</strong></td>
<td>Knowledge on how to conduct natural history research has been transferred to citizen scientists. This led to writing a written protocol that can be shared with other citizen scientists, slowly creating a dense network of volunteers who support research.</td>
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<td><strong>Future orientation &amp; sustainability</strong></td>
<td>The future-oriented effect is to build a larger network to increase the workforce, augment the cultural exchange with citizen scientists (most are very skilled workers) and thus increase the size of research projects.</td>
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<td><strong>Achievement of objectives</strong></td>
<td>The workshop led to a peer-reviewed scientific publication: <a href="https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10531-020-02063-w">https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10531-020-02063-w</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>Measures to sustain this activity over the long term/expand it</strong></td>
<td>I am actively recruiting new citizen scientists (efforts temporarily paused due to COVID-19).</td>
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<td><strong>Visibility</strong></td>
<td>Scientific publications so far</td>
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