

Designing citizen science projects

Hands-on workshop:

How to ask the right research question and set up project management for your own citizen science project

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Can you trust me?

- Biotechnologist, scenographer and non profit manager
- Worked in research, PR, mediation, science communication, event organisation
- Set up and coordinated the Swiss citizen science network, was part of ECSCA Steering committee, founded own company for citizen science and science communication

Today's goals

- Know the whole range of citizen science
- Know which topics and research questions are suitable for citizen science
- Know the project management steps to design a citizen science project
- Design your own imaginary or real citizen science project, no matter if natural sciences or humanities

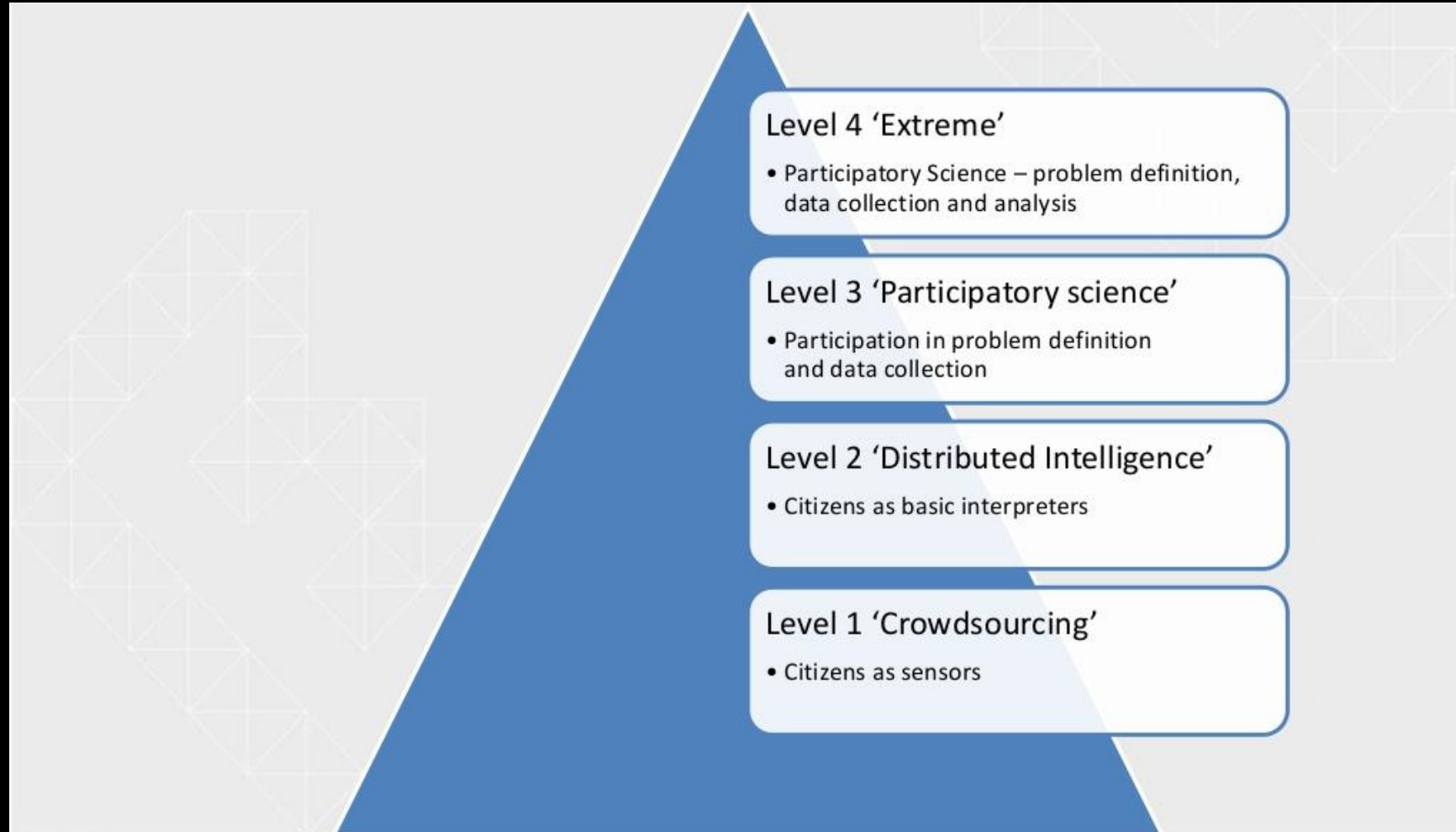
What is citizen science?



Rick Bonney (2009)

- **Contributory projects**, which are generally designed by scientists and for which members of the public primarily contribute data
- **Collaborative projects**, which are generally designed by scientists and for which members of the public contribute data but also may help to refine project design, analyze data, or disseminate findings
- **Co-created projects**, which are designed by scientists and members of the public working together and for which at least some of the public participants are actively involved in most or all steps of the scientific process.

Muki Haklay (2013)



We all start with the same tools



https://www.ted.com/talks/adam_savage_how_simple_ideas_lead_to_scientific_discoveries#t-427031



1:03



Find topics for your citizen science projects

Formulate a research question

- Choose a topic
- What is your project goal?
- Who is participating in your project?

-> formulate one question where topic and goal are introduced in a language that everybody involved understands

Participants and roles:

Experts



- Academic researcher (which field?)
- Practitioner
- Affected person, patient
- Public (School? Broad public? Interested public? People with a special hobby?)

What role does each of them play?

Participants and roles:

Funders



- Foundations?
- Private industry?
- Other scientific institutions?
- Federal offices?

What role does each of them play?

Participants and roles:

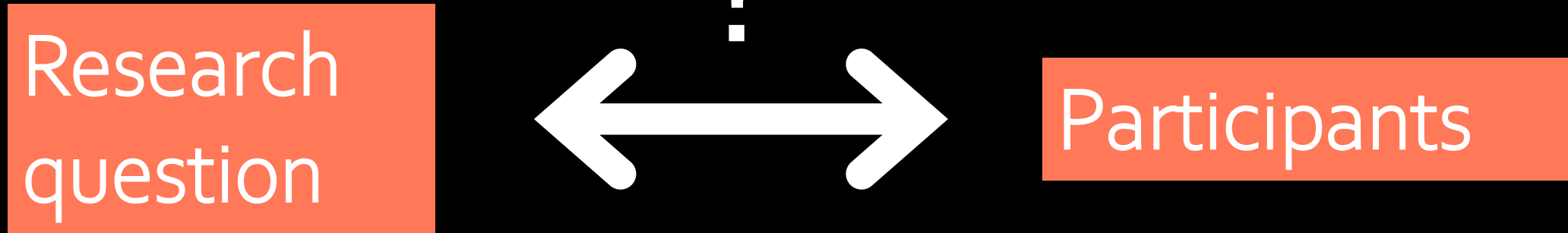
Communication partners



- NPO, NGO, associations
- Museums
- Other public institutions

What role does each of them play?

Setup and material



Setup

Material

Online or offline?	Website? Social Media? Maps? Checklists? Handouts?...
Long-term or short-term?	News-feed? Newsletter? Goodies for diligent participants? Food and drinks for personal meetings? ...
Local, national or international?	Common platform?
Self-explanatory? Specialist knowledge needed?	Video-Tutorial? Courses? Online-Tutorials? Trainers? ...

Communication

- To find participants
- To keep participants interested
- To spread the results of your project



part of
tomorrow's
workshop

Risks and outcome

- Think about possible risks of your project
- Think of possible project results
- Choose a project title

Let us know about your thoughts and produce a news report by acting.

- Interview with an involved person, your enemy, your funder
- Live report from the nobel price ceremony
- Residents complaining about your activity in their neighbourhood
- ...