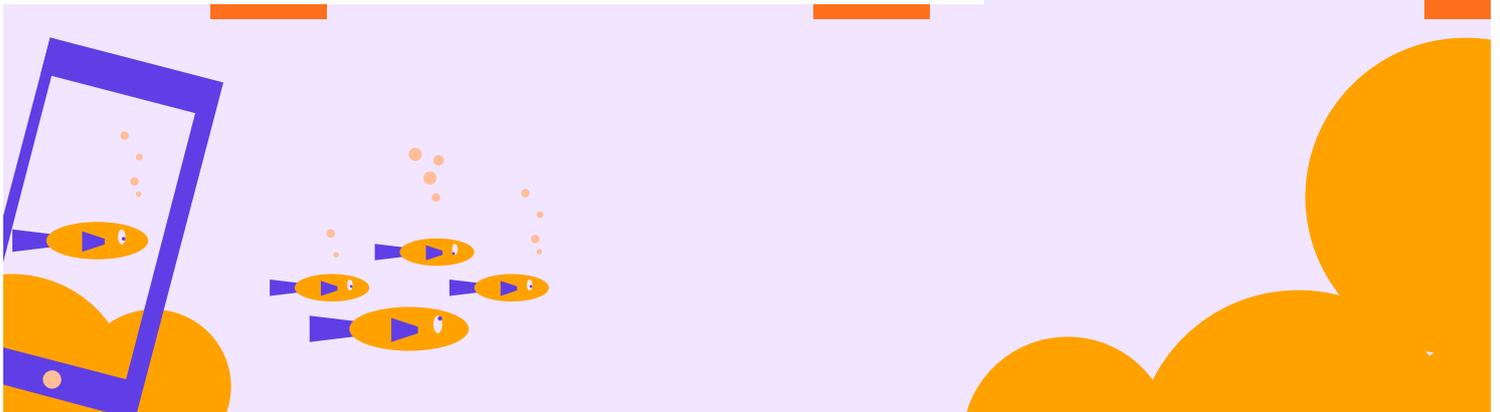




# Citizen Science Summer School 2026

Co-Creating Knowledge: Transforming Research Through Citizen Science

7 - 12 June 2026  
Zurich, Switzerland



# Citizen Science Summer School 2026

## Co-Creating Knowledge: Transforming Research Through Citizen Science

### Research for whom? Whose knowledge counts? And how can we make research more inclusive?

Citizen Science invites us to rethink whose voices are (un)heard in research and how diverse perspectives shape the production of knowledge. Knowledge emerges in many places and forms – so how can we integrate different bodies of knowledge to co-create research practices and drive meaningful societal change? And what role does Citizen Science play in this?

By challenging the notion of expert knowledge, Citizen Science has the potential to foster genuine inclusion of voices that are too often unheard. In doing so, it has the potential to help transform research practices, redefine who research is for, and contribute to relevant societal challenges.

### What Is Citizen Science?

Citizen Science refers to scientific research processes in which members of the public (“citizens”) actively participate at different levels and for different purposes. It can be found across many disciplines – from linguistics to public health – and often takes place in inter- and transdisciplinary settings.

You may have heard related terms such as Community-Based Research, Participatory Action Research, Civic Science, or Public and Patient Involvement (PPI/E). Citizen Science is an umbrella concept that encompasses these and many other approaches. Projects can look very different: Some work closely with communities on issues that directly concern them, fostering empowerment along the way. Others use participatory methods to gather or analyze large or hard-to-access data.

Activities range from small, local projects with defined groups to large-scale international initiatives where anyone can take part. Still unsure about what Citizen Science is? [Read more here](#).

### Goals

At this summer school of the University of Zurich, you will develop the skills and mindset needed to plan and carry out a Citizen Science project – whether you are an academic researcher, practitioner, or citizen scientist. The program not only introduces methods and tools but also challenges you to reflect on whose knowledge counts, who research is for, how inclusion can be fostered, and how Citizen Science can contribute to societal change.

By participating, you will:

- **Immerse** yourself in current debates around Citizen Science and its role in shaping knowledge.
- **Explore** different approaches, methods, and tools – along with their possibilities and limitations.
- **Reflect** on how Citizen Science can challenge the notion of expert knowledge and foster inclusion of diverse voices.
- **Evaluate** how participatory approaches can enrich your own research or practice.
- **Gain** insights into local Citizen Science initiatives.
- **Learn** criteria for planning and conducting high-quality projects.
- **Develop** your own project plan.
- **Connect** with like-minded participants and learn with and from them in peer-settings.

### Facts

Dates: Sun, 7 June – Fri, 12 June 2026

Place and format: Zurich, Switzerland, in-person

ECTS: 2 ECTS

## Who Can Apply

- Master students
- Doctoral candidates and postdocs
- Practitioners or citizen scientists

Whether you are developing a project idea or are already further along in planning and implementation, and whether your project is participatory in nature or you aim to make it (more) participatory, you are warmly encouraged to apply.

We welcome researchers from all research institutions and disciplines as well as Citizen Science practitioners to apply for this Summer School. We strive for a diverse group of participants with different disciplinary backgrounds who are interested in research with social relevance and new ways to interact with (non-academic) citizens. To learn more about the selection criteria, please visit [our website](#).

## How to Apply

Applicants are asked to submit:

- A motivation letter (max. 1 page) outlining your interest in the Summer School and the experience and skills you bring.
- Your current CV.
- A short abstract (max. 350 words) describing your project or project idea and its status, written in accessible language for people from other disciplines.
- Apply here: <https://www.apply.csz.uzh.ch/positiondetails/15433728>

## Application Period

Open from Mon, 17 November 2025 – Sun, 15 February 2026.

## Participation Costs

The registration fee is 300 CHF (including tax). This fee covers access to the course program (four and a half days of on-site lectures and practical sessions), accommodation in a shared room\*, catering (lunch and coffee breaks; dinner is provided on all days except Wednesday and Friday), and a public transport ticket within Zurich\*. In cases of special financial burden, we offer a registration fee reduction of 100 CHF for a limited number of applicants.

The registration fee must be paid by Fri, 17 April 2026. Participants will be responsible for managing any reimbursement from their institution, if applicable.

\*Only for participants living outside the canton of Zurich. We ask participants living in the canton of Zurich who do require extra accommodation and/or a public transport ticket to indicate this in their application.

## Disclaimer

The participation fee is non-refundable, including in cases of personal cancellation, illness, or external events (e.g., pandemics or travel restrictions). We reserve the right to modify the program content, schedule, or format. Such changes do not entitle participants to a refund or fee reduction.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.citizenscienceschool.uzh.ch](http://www.citizenscienceschool.uzh.ch)

**Publishing information**

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