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MICS (Measuring Impact of Citizen Science)

1. What is the MICS?

The MICS (Measuring Impact of Citizen Science) is a comprehensive framework designed to evaluate the impacts of citizen science projects. Citizen science involves public participation and collaboration in scientific research, often contributing to large-scale data collection and analysis

2. Who developed the MICS?

The MICS method was developed as part of the EU-funded MICS project within the horizon2020 framework coordinated by the organisation Conservation education and research trust.
Specific objectives of the project were:
- Provide comprehensive, participatory and inclusive metrics and tools for citizen science impact assessment.
- Implement an impact assessment knowledge base and tools for method application, information visualisation and dissemination to decision makers, citizens and researchers.
- Improve the effectiveness of NBS through the development of test sites and the validation of citizen science tools.
- Generate new approaches that strengthen the role of citizen science in supporting research and development.
- Promote a citizen science approach to increase the uptake of scientific evidence by policy makers through recommendations and guidelines.

Learn more about the project https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/824711

3. What types of initiatives is MICS useful for?

The MICS (Measuring Impact of Citizen Science) methodology is useful for a wide range of initiatives that involve public participation in scientific research. These initiatives can benefit from the structured impact assessment provided by MICS to evaluate their effectiveness and outcomes across multiple dimensions.
The MICS (Measuring Impact of Citizen Science) methodology is particularly useful for evaluating and enhancing **citizen science initiatives**. These initiatives benefit greatly from the structured impact assessment provided by MICS, which helps to evaluate their effectiveness and outcomes across multiple dimensions

4. What are the main objectives of the MICS?

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The main objectives of the MICS (Measuring Impact of Citizen Science) methodology are to provide a structured approach to evaluate the impacts of citizen science projects. These objectives aim to capture the diverse benefits and outcomes across multiple dimensions, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of citizen science initiatives. Here are the primary objectives of the MICS methodology:

1. Evaluate Scientific Impact

- Objective: Assess the contribution of citizen science projects to scientific knowledge.
- Aim: Determine the quality and significance of scientific outputs, such as publications, data contributions, and discoveries.

2. Assess Societal Impact

- Objective: Evaluate the broader societal effects of citizen science projects.
- Aim: Measure changes in public awareness, community engagement, and societal attitudes towards science and environmental issues.

3. Measure Participant Impact

- Objective: Understand the effects of citizen science on individual participants.
- Aim: Assess learning outcomes, skill development, empowerment, and changes in attitudes towards science among participants

5. How does it work?

The impacts of citizen science are measured through the following domains: (1) Society: impact on society and individuals as well as collective values and understanding; (2) Economy: implications for entrepreneurial activity, and economic benefits derived from data, e.g. for the public good; (3) Environment: impact on the bio-chemical-physical environment, e.g. on the quality or quantity of specific natural resources or ecosystems; (4) Science: impact on the scientific process as well as research more broadly, and the scientific system; (5) Governance: impact on the processes and institutions through which decisions are made.

The MICS platform allows you to:

- Assess the impact of a citizen-science project, through metrics and indicators across different domains
- Look at different projects in the same discipline and compare their impact.
- Evaluate the impact of a project from conception to realisation and beyond, seeing how impact changes over time.
- Produce an impact summary to share with communities, stakeholders, funders and policy makers.

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6. What skills and knowledge are useful for using it?

- Public engagement;
- Participation techniques
- Ethical and legal responsibilities regarding data protection

7. USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

https://about.mics.tools/
https://eu-citizen.science/platform/30
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/824711

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