



CITIZEN SCIENCE

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Note from the editor - EARMA's proposed new structures

With the theme of the Annual Conference “**Negotiating Research: What is the best deal for Europe?**” we look forward to the future of European research as it enters a new era – while EARMA is also entering a new phase. A key indicator here is EARMA's new professional Managing Director and we welcome the opportunity to introduce you to him at this year's Annual Conference in Malta. The members of the EARMA Board – and in particular its treasurer - are delighted to see the addition of managerial support. One of the aspirations is that the Board will soon be able to withdraw from many of its current operational functions and take on a more strategic role for the association. Under the leadership of Jan Andersen and John Donovan a

number of highly committed volunteers in the EARMA Board and Working Groups managed the association successfully and we saw an approximately seven-fold growth in membership since 2010. Thus EARMA has outgrown the structure devised in Ljubljana for a membership of below 200.

With the larger membership, we need to diversify EARMA enabling additional formats for networking and professional training and provide more opportunities for the

DO YOU KNOW OLAF??

EARMA's annual conference is coming up and it is filled with lots of interesting sessions. There is the possibility to organize EARMA's Open Lecture Access Forums (OLAF) in your region.

What is an OLAF?

OLAF is an event when a presenter from an EARMA Annual Conference – or any EARMA event – repeats the presentation, seminar or workshop at a separate event in a local, regional or national research environment.

EARMA subsidizes travel cost of the presenter (max. 1000€);

Want to know more? Please visit <http://earma.org/OLAF>

active involvement of members – all based upon enhanced administrative and support structures. And in line with the current priorities, better communication channels and strategies are essential to keep all members informed on developments.

The Board designed structural changes in EARMA's governance to achieve the above and discussed these with the Working Groups. This concept will be presented at the General Assembly in Malta. We hope that the new structure will further the lively exchange within EARMA, inter-activity between interested members, the shaping of new bottom-up initiatives and interest groups.

An active membership is and will remain the essential basis for EARMA to be the voice for RMAs and a visible stakeholder for the EC in Brussels, a recognised partner for the international sister organisations, and the go-to place for exchange and professional development in the RMA sphere.

Have you planned your participation for the Annual Conference in Valetta, Malta already? It surely will be worth it!

Annual Conference, Malta 2017: Registration is open at:

<http://www.earmaconference.com/>

A Managing Director for EARMA!



My name is Nik Claesen and I am very excited to be the new Managing Director of EARMA starting March 1st. I want to introduce myself in a bit of a different way than usual. People usually introduce what they have done, who they know and where they live and work. I will try to tell you who I really am.

I enjoy my life a lot and am very thankful for the opportunities I have had and taken. What I enjoy most is helping people and seeing people realise that they have huge potential. I have a positive outlook on life. While our focus is often on the more spectacular negative, the positive will shine through if we let it. I also enjoy working and I work a lot. It is my philosophy that I cannot spend most of my life doing something I don't enjoy and don't believe in. I have been lucky to have that in my career up to this point. I also believe in challenging and developing myself and I try to do so at an increasing rate and not a decreasing one. Physical and mental health and fitness are linked. I make sure to be healthy and fit in order to have the energy to act on my potential.

Now you might understand better why I am excited to take on this new job. It is something I believe in (advancing science), something I love (helping and linking people) and I will need to develop myself constantly and learn new things throughout. I will surely have to like working a lot and keep fit if I want to help EARMA achieve all of its ambitious goals!

Now I come to the traditional part. I am Belgian and live in a suburb outside of Brussels. I studied management and history at KU Leuven and started working at Brussels University (VUB) at the European Liaison Office. I became the manager after only a year and nine months and have taken up that role ever since. In 2015 I worked at the Programme Management Office of Imperial College for five months as a bid consultant. I am a very active member of the COST BESTPRAC network and have been a member of the professional development working group of EARMA for three years. My main field of expertise is EU research projects and policy. I have mainly been involved in pre-award support of the EU framework programme for research and innovation.

I am looking forward to helping EARMA reach its goals and potential. I would like to take this opportunity to ask all of you to help achieve this. EARMA is an association of members and wants to work to benefit those members and the research community. Please do not hesitate to contact me at nik.claesen@earma.org or come and see me at the conference!

Board membership and the role of Treasurer



*By Sharon Bailey, Director Research Finance & Operations, University College Dublin
 EARMA Board Member & Treasurer*

I chose to go for election to the Board after EARMA issued a call particularly for members who had strong financial skills and would be willing to take on the role of Treasurer. I was initially elected to the EARMA board at the General Assembly (GA) in Vienna in July 2013 and was immediately asked to take on the Treasury portfolio. I was re-elected to the Board for a further two years at the GA in Leiden in July 2015.

Being a board member is lots of hard work balanced with equal measures of great comradery and fun. The Board to date is comprised of an elected Chairman and five other elected Board members from our membership across Europe. Each board member takes on a portfolio of work, playing to their own strengths, on behalf of EARMA. The board meets every fortnight for an hour via tele-conference and also meets face-to-face (FtoF) about five times each year. The FtoF's usually last about a day and a half. One FtoF, each year, coincides with our annual GA and conference. The other FtoF's take place in Brussels or one of our board members will host the meeting at their own Institution. The Board is supported in their work by Emma Lythgoe EARMA's Secretary and professional development coordinator.

A call for action

EARMA needs someone who has good financial experience and skills and is willing to take on the exciting and busy board position as treasurer. If you are interested in standing for election as treasurer and would like to discuss the role and commitment further, Sharon can be contacted at treasurer@earma.org

The Board to date has been both operational and strategic. During my time on the Board EARMA has had two strategic planning events (Estoril September 2013 and Tarragona March 2016). These events involved the board and the very active members of EARMA from its subcommittees, working groups and internal auditors. A key outcome of the Tarragona event was the need to hire a full time Managing Director which was subsequently approved by the GA in Lulea. The appointment of Mr Nik Claesen, the new EARMA MD, will enable to Board to be more strategic, bring EARMA to its next stage of development and increase benefits to EARMA members.

EARMA is a not for profit organisation registered in Belgium. Our accountants, external auditors and banks are all based in Belgium. Each year there is a meeting with the Accountants, Internal and External Auditors and Treasurer to review the financial transactions, the accounts and internal controls within EARMA. Outputs from this meeting are reported to members at the GA by the Internal Auditors and the Treasurer.

The Treasurer is also involved in pricing, vat and invoicing in respect of membership, events, workshops and sponsorship. Presently, the Treasurer is also responsible for all payments made from EARMA's bank accounts. Contract negotiation and relationship management with key suppliers (e.g. the conference organisers) are also important aspects of the role. Being a board member also involves ensuring there is good governance within the organisation and that member resources are being used efficiently and effectively to deliver the best member benefits.



I have been very lucky to work with and get to know my fellow board members. I have also been very lucky that throughout my period as Treasurer the board was chaired by John Donovan who fulfilled his role with the upmost integrity.



The Board and the new Managing Director during the Board meeting at the historic University of Bologna, March 2017 (from left: Pasi Sihvonen, Nik Claesen, Doris Alexander, Sharon Bailey, John Donovan, Jan Andersen, Susi Poli, Emma Lythgoe)

Citizens Science – view from Spain



By Fermín Serrano, Ibercivis Foundation, executive director, fermin@bifi.es

Fermín Serrano has worked and collaborates with several institutions including the University of Zaragoza, CERN, European Commission, Sónar+D, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, or the European Digital Art and Science Network. Fermin is the coordinator of Socientize.eu and the Observatory of Citizen Science in Spain. Fermin is part of the Steering Committee of the European Citizen Science Association, working on the linkages of RRI and citizen science communities and participates in several EC funded projects related with citizen science, including the Open Digital Science Study, the COST action Citizen Science to promote creativity, scientific literacy, and innovation throughout Europe on Citizen Science for Innovation. He is external advisor and expert evaluator as well as project reviewer for EU H2020 projects. Fermín has participated as plenary speakers in events such as TEDx, ICT2015 or ESOF2016, the Future Innovators Summit at Ars Elec-

tronica Festival or Los100 de Cotec as citizen science expert.

Citizen Science refers to the general public engagement in scientific research activities. Citizens, amateurs or volunteers, actively contribute to science in many ways all along the research workflow, from hypothesis generation to collection and analysis of data. Citizens become valid knowledge generators either with their intellectual effort or surrounding knowledge or with their tools and resources.



This topic is gaining relevance due to the digital transformation of science, and it is a key scenario for open science development. New ranges, in nature and scale, of collaborators are reachable now, and grass roots communities are achieving great outcomes outside academia. Citizen science has therefore direct linkages with responsible research and innovation practices. Also, citizens acquire new skills and learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in a friendly and inclusive way.

We consider society as a new e-science infrastructure to work with, a privileged scenario to find new questions and new approaches. For instance to understand human behaviour, but also for biodiversity, digital humanities, astrophysics, economics, etc. Citizen science methodologies can be applied to any area of knowledge for research purposes.

Ibercivis is a national foundation created in 2011 by the Ministry of Science in Spain to develop, to support and to analyse citizen science practices in Spain. The leading Spanish research centres and governmental institutions formed this single institution to promote synergies and to increase

efficiency. Many people think that crowdsourcing tasks is a way of decreasing costs. This is true in many cases, but it is not free and enormous efforts are required to work openly with a wide range of communities. Trust, transparency, public service and social impact are some of the key pillars of this work. Ibercivis is running tens of projects per year, ranging from actions in the streets to co-creation of scientific agendas regarding public engagement in research. One key project is the Observatory of Citizen Science in Spain (www.ciencia-ciudadana.es) which includes a catalogue of 140 practices after 1 year of existence. This observatory analyses the role and impacts of citizen science in science and society.

Ibercivis is also in charge of the European platform Societize (www.socientize.eu). Funded by the European Commission 2012-2014 it delivered a White Paper on Citizen Science in Spain with a vision and strategic recommendations. Societize identified a number of key issues and potential actions to address these areas in policy actions with hundreds of contributions from individuals and stakeholders of citizen science in Europe. Recommendations covered structural changes, for instance in recognition systems for researchers and citizen scientists. Also resilience to change and mindsets of public servants were addressed in comparison with the great developments that communities of practices, e.g. patients associations, are achieving with or without the support of companies or institutions.



Socientize was marked as a flagship project by the European Commission with high impact for different areas. Its outputs are currently used to refine the Horizon 2020 programme and other future programmes, also at member states level. Currently, public engagement and impact, beyond economics, are key challenges for Europe. Proposals including a clear and meaningful engagement plan are best positioned for positive evaluation in many calls. Also, citizen science may help to create new employment opportunities especially in risk of exclusion groups and isolated areas. I highly encourage readers to challenge themselves to find new approaches to their current scientific questions that can be addressed thanks to the trust-based, digital and open science-society relationship. Promoting citizen science practices for existing research actions but also within new ones may help to promote European values and collective engagement that is needed to address current global challenges.

Citizen science at Universities



By Prof. Daniel Wyler, University Zürich

Daniel Wyler was professor of theoretical physics; his main research topics were elementary particles and in more recent years also their role in the cosmology. His interests go much further; one being to encourage people to be curious about nature, to promote their interest in science and to provide the opportunity to get involved in activities that give them a sense of achievement. He believes that citizen science achieves many of the goals; he has met several people who were deeply satisfied having contributed to new knowledge. Citizen science also contributes to an informed citizenship needed to find answers to modern-day challenges such as the loss of biodiversity or digitalization of the society.

Citizen science as the active participation of non-professional scientists in academic research is gaining momentum worldwide. Traditionally present in fields like archaeology or ornithology, it also spreads more and more to fields where evidence driven decisions may change our lives. Citizen science responds to an increasingly critical public and to political initiatives that aim at educating the general population to close the gap between people and research. The amazing advances in (communication) technology enable sophisticated projects coordinating large numbers of participants. In fact the monitoring work of activist groups after huge accidents like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico 2010 has shown that citizen scientists can produce excellent and highly relevant results.

Universities (and research institutions) with their pivotal role in research must capitalize on these developments and actively shape it. Their professional knowledge, their experience with government agencies, funding organizations and especially the collaborations of different universities at national and international levels add pronounced advantages for carrying out projects at a university.

Indeed, universities are expanding their activities in citizen science projects that can take advantage of the established research culture. Over the last ten years highly productive collaborations developed between different disciplines and institutions in creative and novel interdisciplinary projects. The emergence of multi-purpose platforms at several universities (such as citizen cyberlab, zooniverse, extreme citizen science or OpenSystems) extends the range and possibilities of citizen science projects, thereby opening new areas (such as in medicine) for research.

Nevertheless, citizen science projects often experience reservations regarding the quality of their research, concerns on ethical and legal aspects, and doubts about the degree of participation and influence of citizens. In addition, established funding organizations may lack appropriate instruments to support citizen science projects which often involve long term monitoring, in contrast

Learn more about citizen science projects:

www.socientize.eu

<http://www.citizencyberlab.org/>

<https://www.zooniverse.org/>

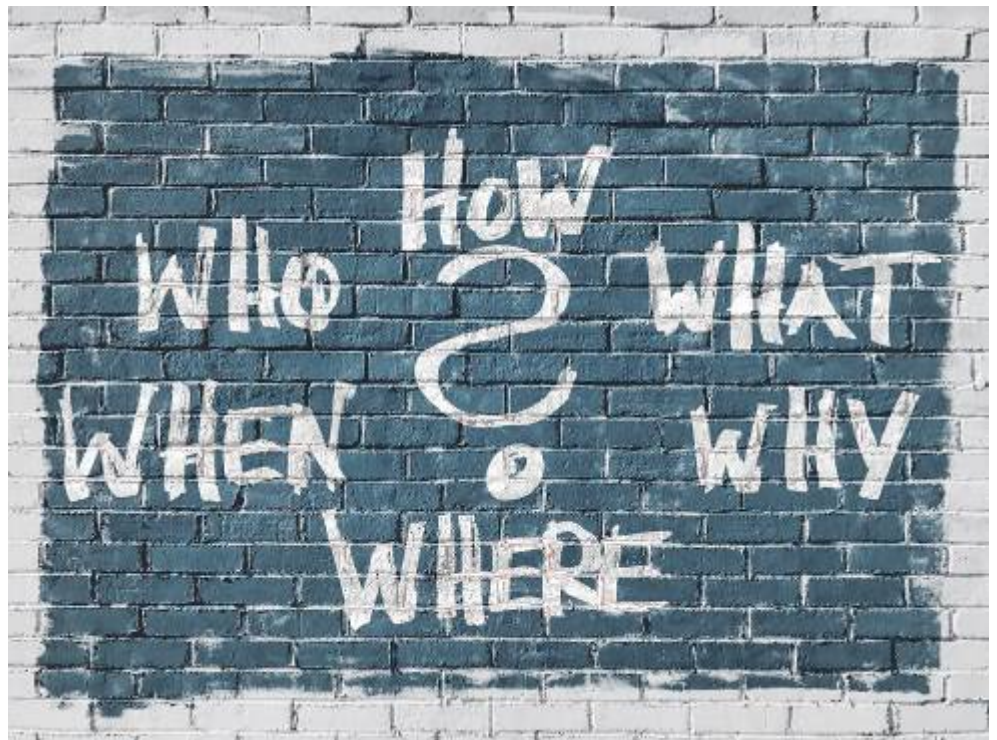
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/excites>



to the project-oriented research at universities. In consequence, citizen science projects so far are often supported by private organizations or sometimes by involved governmental agencies.

Providing a set of guidelines and regulations to make sure that citizen science projects are carried out with strong attention to quality, sustainability, citizens' participation and transparency, would simplify the integration of such projects into universities' research, and would further enable funding bodies to properly recognize and assess and support them. In a recent paper, LERU proposed guidelines for universities and recommendations to their governing bodies and funding agencies to enhance the recognition and development of citizen science at the same level as the more conventional academic projects. Areas of major benefit to universities include:

- Projects with large and varied data sets, for example in sociology, astronomy or biodiversity, where existing automated data analysis tools may not reveal aspects that humans can perceive.
- Studies that rely on knowledge and experience of individuals, such as health studies (healthy aging), linguistic studies on distributions and history of languages.
- Research that exploits simple sensors, smartphones and untapped computing power in laptops and other devices to aggregate volunteer sensor or computer networks.
- Research requiring large geographical areas and distributed observations to provide evidence about the movement of a species, the evolution of natural phenomenon or the impact of a disease.



Citizen science projects will most likely remain a limited fraction of the academic research activities. However, the societal relevance of many of its topics (health, environment, biodiversity) will attract attention by the public and policy bodies. In fact it is an important part of the EU drive for open science, and its programme for science with and for society. It is therefore imperative that universities bring their expertise and standards to citizen science. On the other hand, citizen science may become an influential stakeholder in the general discussion on the role of universities in society. While universities are well advised to keep their lead, intellectually and in terms of recognition by political bodies, an active, visible and influential citizen science, possibly synchronized with similar activities by other groups, is a strong ally.



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As a delegate of the EARMA Conference, we would like to invite you to book a free-of-charge 30 minute consultation with us, to discuss your research communication challenges and explore a range of creative solutions.

To take advantage of this exclusive offer simply email [Laura Stanley](mailto:Laura.Stanley@researchmedia.com), Head of Marketing (Lstanley@researchmedia.com), stating your preferred date (25th or 26th April) and time during the conference.

To help you prepare, why not download our whitepaper which offers valuable hints and tips for marketing your research. Download [here](#).

We look forward to meeting you!

International

“I may as well do a project” = „Ich mach mal ein Projekt“

6th Annual Conference of the Netzwerk Wissenschaftsmanagement e.V.:



By Susanne Rabner, YGGDRASIL Rabner, Berlin, Trainer, LEAR, Project Coordinator

I participated in the Annual Conference of the Netzwerk Wissenschaftsmanagement e.V. (German Network of Science Management) in Leipzig, 16th – 18th November 2016, mingled with the network’s active members and also contributed to the programme with a practical workshop on Project Design Instruments. The new format turned out to be very spontaneous and inspiring for both the participants and for me.

The Network is a non-profit platform founded in 2011. Its mission is to professionalise Research Management, to contribute to the self-concept of the profession, and to further sharpen the job profile of Research Management by bringing together professionals in the diverse fields (www.netzwerk-wissenschaftsmanagement.de).

The principle of the Netzwerk is “Learning by Networking” and it is aimed at all actors in the field, seniors, juniors, leaders, and new professionals from all different aspects in science management. It is a network where all are welcome for active contributions and participations, in order to extend and sharpen the professional offers, opportunities and services for the Network Members in the German Language Regions. Currently the Netzwerk Wissenschaftsmanagement e.V. counts 300 members.

„**Project work is the core business for Research Managers**“ said Dr. Andreas Mai, past Netzwerk chair and Conference Organizer „We consciously chose the floppy conference title “I may as well do a project” to emphasize that many projects are simply started “ad hoc” and without proper preparation.

The Conference Programme for the 200 participants was packed and challenging:

- **Institution Visits** at several scientific institutions in Leipzig were initiated in a pre-conference day,
- **Cooperative Case Consulting Services** in a new interactive format were offered,
- **A podium discussion and several key presentations started into dense discussion right from the beginning.**
- **Fora and workshops** facilitated the topics in depths and sparked active participation. Specific activating formats were the
 - Do It Yourself Open Space with around 10 topics, people could offer their own topics and select for participation
 - Workshop on Project Development
 - Speed Dating Exercise

All actors emphasized the challenges of project management in the science management business. The characteristic focus in this environment are the conflicting aspects of the management at Universities vs. Research Institutions, of third party funding and basic institutional budget, of the dilemma between teaching, scientific research and third party proposal writing and long term scientific projects or short term projects following actual work programmes and policies. Other topics were the strategy development for systematic talent search and personnel recruitment, for

career paths and professional development. And last but not least the communication in projects was an ever important issue.

Within the “**Do it Yourself Open Space**”, I delivered a 90-minute workshop on a structured approach for moulding rough project ideas into a concept fit for designing project proposals and fit for writing the “Impact of the proposal”. The impact chapter is often the weak part in project proposals, not only in Horizon 2020 and other EU Funding, but also in national or bilateral projects. Most proposals fail here. With 25 participants the workshop was full. After a short introductory input, groups formed and fed their topics and ideas into the structured format that could well serve as an initial proposal and impact draft template. After a slow warm up, the groups caught fire and could complete their ideas in a sound project draft.

Participating in the **workshop: “Professional Development”** I had the opportunity to talk about EARMA, the mission, opportunities and networking and especially about the Fellowship Programme. A lot of interest and questions ensued and hopefully sparked further interest in EARMA membership.

Outcomes, Issues of the Research Management Challenges:

- Dilemma between Institutional Budget / strategic institutional orientation vs. individual projects and heterogeneity/non-strategic orientation
- Dilemma between power structures at central university vs. project groups
- Dilemma between long term university strategy and short term project and programme strategy
- Dilemma between dwindling basic funding (less work force available) and growing and increasingly complex work load.
- Dilemma between top down approach (university level) and bottom up approach (project level)
- Dilemma of a continuous power move from university leadership (=strategic orientation) to the project based leadership (heterogeneous, maybe not yet strategic orientation (“get as many projects as you can get”))

Potential Mitigation Strategies discussed:

- More powerful project management and communication: form regional networks in addition to the global networks
- Become more proliferate in Project Management (trainings, professional development)
- Improve the communication (define your target groups sharply)
- Watch for top down AND for bottom up approach at the institutions, since top down is not enough.



Speed dating in Leipzig, courtesy of Guenther-Alavanja, Netzwerk Wissens-schaftsmanagement e.V., Jahrestagung 2016

The Guild - Unleashing the potential of Europe's universities

Recommendations for Horizon 2020 and FP9 from the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities



The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities shares its nine propositions for how Horizon 2020 and its successor programme could further strengthen excellence in research and innovation across Europe. Through its position paper, the Guild challenges the European Union significantly to increase spending on frontier-led science and on innovation, and in this way strengthen the added value of the EU to its citizens.

To optimize synergies with the Horizon 2020 and its successor programme, the Guild also demands more targeted spending of structural funds on research and innovation. It also calls for the creation of a high-level expert group to identify barriers to excellence in low performing regions, to articulate where national reforms are needed and how EU funding mechanisms can be improved correspondingly.

The Guild emphasizes the need for enhanced funding for collaborative research across Europe to better realize the potential of new knowledge creation across boundaries. And it points out the need for improved success rates for applicants to ensure the best researchers and innovators continue to engage with European funding across the EU. Find the Guild's [propositions for H2020 and its successor programme](#) online.

Research management, funding, and policy in the news

Under this headline, you will find links to RMA-related issues—for example, research funding, management and administration, ethics and data management, etc. Do you have a suggestion for this section? Please mail the newsletter editor.

Open Access – its cost and fights, and consequences

<http://www.nature.com/news/scientists-in-germany-peru-and-taiwan-to-lose-access-to-elsevier-journals-1.21223>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/deal-impasse-severs-elsevier-access-some-german-universities>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/04/whos-downloading-pirated-papers-everyone>

State of science in the US, What is to be expected, Things to look for:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/trump-administration-seeks-big-budget-cuts-for-climate-research/>

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/science-is-americas-foundation-and-our-future/>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/01/president-trump-and-science-ten-things-look-and-fear>

Science Advice to policy, an article by AAAS president Barbara Schaal:

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/355/6324/435.full>