

## **EU-Citizen.Science Moodle on Evaluation and Impact Assessment in Citizen Science Projects (<https://moodle.eu-citizen.science/mod/url/view.php?id=547>)**

### **Transcript: Outcomes for individual participants**

Let me introduce you to some outcomes that individual participants might have when they are involved in a citizen science project.

Let's take the example of an air quality-monitoring project that involves citizens who live in regions with bad air quality in the measurement of the air pollution using low cost sensors. The involvement of citizens does not only include the activity of putting up a measurement device on their balcony, they also get some information material about the air pollutants, where they come from and how citizens can protect themselves etc.

So what might be their personal outcomes?

First, the most common outcome documented so is the one of gaining new knowledge:

The citizen scientists might get new knowledge on the air pollutant, on threshold levels, origins of pollution and consequences – we call this the knowledge about the subject under investigation.

Then citizen scientists might learn about the work of scientists, how they take the measurement, calibrate the devices, compare them with other data to guarantee the quality, etc. – so citizens can increase their scientific inquiry skills and knowledge about research processes and instruments.

In addition the citizen scientists might of course change their attitudes towards air pollution and feel more competent to talk about it with others.

And then they might slightly change their behaviour.

So maybe some citizens start to take their car less frequently, or maybe try to protect themselves from the pollution.

Maybe citizens also start to talk about the air pollution problem with their friends and family – thus they start to make the topic better known and raise awareness for it in the local community.

And they might even get more involved in communicating to political decision makers, trying to find solutions to the problem together.

These are only some examples how individual citizens might be impacted by their involvement in a citizen science project. And you might find many more for your specific citizen science project. When we do the evaluation and impact assessment of a project, we try to keep track of these changes in individuals, as they are important outcomes of this cooperation between science and society.

To Learning in how far a citizen science generated these or some other outcomes for individual citizen scientists projects can use the technique of questionnaires, interviews, observations, ... examples of these tools you will get to know in the next chapter of the training module.