

# Capacity Building Workshop for BioBlitz Organisers

Sapienza University of Rome, Biology Department, Sala Marini-Bettolo, Nov 22, 2017

## Objectives of the workshop

- Strengthening the Europe-wide network of Bioblitz organisers.
- Comparing different approaches for organising a BioBlitz.
- Discussing potential of BioBlitz to become more structured biodiversity monitoring schemes (i.e. long-term repeated monitoring in the same site).
- Identifying limitations and opportunities of BioBlitz with regards to the different applications (public engagement, science, environmental management, policy).

## Expected outputs

- Outline future capacity building activities such as exchanges visits.
- Guidelines to enhance the potential of BioBlitz to become a more structured biodiversity monitoring scheme.
- Road map of actions to mobilize BioBlitz data.

## Tentative agenda

### 11:00 Welcome and Introduction

By Andrea Sforzi, ECSA Board of Directors

*Session 1. Approaches to BioBlitzes.*

### 11:10 Lightning Talks

Case study - Organising a BioBlitz: balance between public engagement, science education and scientific outputs. Matt Postles, Bristol Natural History Consortium

Case study - Citizen Science tools and educational technologies that support participants in BioBlitzes - the example of [www.iSpotnature.org](http://www.iSpotnature.org). Janice Ansine, The Open University

Case study - BioBlitz engaging different target audiences. Patrícia Tiago, Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes

Case study - BioBlitz in marine and coastal habitats. Jack Sewell, Marine Biological Association

Case study - Successes stories on volunteer retention: BioBlitz participants share their experience on how they approached biological recording through participation in BioBlitzes. (TBA)

### 11:50 Coffee break

## **12:00 Breakout Groups**

Group 1 - Reflections on The 10 Principles of Citizen Science: to what extent BioBlitzes can be considered Citizen Science and how we can implement the Principles within BioBlitzes? Lucy Robinson, Natural History Museum London

Group 2 - What are the characteristics / standards for a biological surveying event being considered a BioBlitz? How to ensure a balance between public engagement, science education and collection of good quality data? (Chair TBA)

Group 3 - What are the existing standards for data quality assurance and how can these be adopted? Should we develop new ones? (Chair TBA)

## **13:00 Lunch break**

## **14:00 Presentation of results from breakout groups and discussion**

*Session 2. How to mobilise data for science and policymaking.*

## **14:30 Lightning talks**

Case study - Verifying and sharing data post-BioBlitz - current practice vs best/ideal practice? Lucy Robinson, Natural History Museum London

Case study - BioBlitz organisation in Tuscany: lessons learnt and future perspectives. Andrea Sforzi, Maremma Natural history Museum

Case study - Repeat BioBlitz in the same site to monitor change over time. (TBA)

Case study - Data quality assurance during a BioBlitz. (TBA)

Case study - Making Bioblitz data accessible through GBIF. (TBA)

## **15:00 Coffee break**

## **15:10 Breakout Groups**

Group 1 - Mapping data collection tools and repositories for BioBlitzes in Europe. (Chair TBA)

Groups 2 - Reflecting on standards and opportunities for BioBlitz becoming more structured biodiversity monitoring schemes. In which ways a BioBlitz is not comparable to long-term scientific studies? What are the limitations? And what are the opportunities? What is the scientific output we can aspire to? (Chair TBA)

Group 3 - Brainstorming future capacity building activities. (Chair TBA)

## **16:10 Presentation of results from breakout groups and discussion**

## **16:40 Closing remarks and identification of next steps.**

Gaia Agnello, ECSA Project Officer in Doing It Together Science (DITOs).