Noresund Citizen Science Group Activity

Design a feasible project in a group of 3-4 people

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Use the hypothetical Noresund case study and the approaches, methods and typologies reference. Agree one small project and record your choices on the next two pages. You have 20 minutes for group design. Afterwards, each group gives a one-minute pitch, followed by a five-minute whole-room debrief.

Total time depends on the number of groups: 20 minutes + one minute per group + five minutes. The facilitator will announce the speaking order. This is a classroom design exercise; no field data collection or personal disclosure is required.

Work together

Choose a timekeeper, a note-taker and a spokesperson. In a group of three, combine the timekeeper and spokesperson roles if useful. Everyone should have an opportunity to contribute. These are meeting tasks, not stakeholder identities; the group designs one proposal together.

Design minutes	Your task
0-3	Choose one main issue and a useful question. Separate classroom assumptions from facts that would need checking.
3-7	Identify affected people and decide who should help make decisions. Choose a participation model and explain the fit.
7-12	Choose the research design, 1-2 methods, sites or participants and recording tools.
12-16	Check quality, safety, access, consent and data responsibilities. Address one likely barrier.
16-20	Agree resources, feedback and limits. Complete the worksheet and rehearse a one-minute pitch.

Keep the proposal realistic

There is no required participation ladder and no single best model for every project. State the decisions participants can actually make, including any limits. A mobile app or sensor is a tool; explain the observation or measurement method it supports. Do not promise ecological recovery, policy change or universal accuracy.

Group name and members

Project worksheet

Write short, specific answers. Use the reference to name your choices. Leave uncertainties visible rather than filling gaps with invented local facts.

1 The issue and question

What is your main issue? Write one question that your proposed observations or accounts could answer. What assumption needs checking first?

2 The people and purpose

Who is affected, who might contribute and who might be missing? What would make the project useful to them? Avoid assuming that one person speaks for a whole community.

3 The approach and participation model

Choose a broad lens and one participation framework. Name the model and framework, then state who decides the question, design, analysis and sharing. Explain why this arrangement fits the question and available time.

4 The research design and methods

Describe where, when and with whom the study would take place. Choose 1-2 methods and practical tools. What counts as one record, and how will you record observation effort or missing information?

Project worksheet continued

5 Quality and limits

How will people learn the method and practise it? Which records will be checked, by whom and against what? What could your sample show, and what could it not show?

6 Access safety and consent

Who could find the activity difficult to access? Offer a practical alternative. State voluntary participation, safe access and the permissions needed. What personal or sensitive information can you avoid collecting?

7 A barrier and a change

Choose one likely barrier such as time, trust, transport, digital access or disagreement. Explain why it matters. Change one design decision, name who would help and record any remaining uncertainty.

8 Resources return and next action

Who supplies time, training, equipment and data care? How will participants receive and discuss results? Name a realistic next discussion or decision and its possible owner; do not promise that an authority will adopt the findings.

Prepare your one minute pitch

Choose a spokesperson and use your worksheet as the source. Aim for approximately 110-130 spoken words. Other group members can help prepare the pitch; the spokesperson presents it within one minute.

- Our question is ... and it matters to ...
- Our approach is ... and our participation model is ... from ... because ...
- Our main method is ... with this quality check ...
- One ethical, access or power challenge is ... so we would change ...
- We would return the findings through ... and our next step would be ...

Pitch notes

Five minute debrief

- Which choice made the project more feasible, and what did it leave unanswered?
- What could participants decide? Where did researchers or institutions retain control?
- Which barrier changed the design? Who would still be missing?
- What quality check supported your claim, and what limit remains?
- What must be agreed locally before anyone begins?

Related reading

European Citizen Science Association (2015). Ten Principles of Citizen Science. European Citizen Science Association, Berlin.
https://ecsa.citizen-science.net/10-principles/

Shirk, J. L.; Ballard, H. L.; Wilderman, C. C.; et al. (2012). Public participation in scientific research: a framework for deliberate design. Ecology and Society, 17(2), Article 29.
https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-04705-170229

Haklay, M. (2013). Citizen Science and Volunteered Geographic Information: Overview and Typology of Participation. In D. Sui, S. Elwood and M. Goodchild (Eds.), Crowdsourcing Geographic Knowledge: Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) in Theory and Practice, pp. 105-122. Springer, Dordrecht.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-4587-2_7

Wiggins, A.; Crowston, K. (2011). From Conservation to Crowdsourcing: A Typology of Citizen Science. 2011 44th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences, pp. 1-10. IEEE.
https://doi.org/10.1109/HICSS.2011.207

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