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Hello & Welcome

... to this spring newsletter edition. We hope this E-mail finds you well! In this challenging times, people think of many ways to cope with the special situation that the pandemic and #stayathome puts them in. We believe that Citizen Science can be one option to stay connected and to collaborate in meaningful projects that serve all of us. Curious? You can find some ideas below.

Take care and stay healthy,
Your Citizen Science Zurich Team

NEWS AND UPDATES

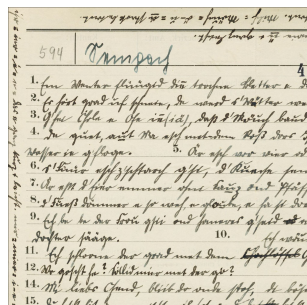
Hacking COVID-19 with AI and Citizen Science

Over two weekends in April, thousands of enthusiastic hackers collaborated online to find solutions to the pandemic crisis in Switzerland, Europe, and beyond. The [VersusVirus](#) (supported by a broad range of both public and private sector actors in Switzerland) and [EUvsVirus](#) (supported by the European Commission) hackathons proposed different challenges in fields such as economics, health, education, social cohesion, and more.



The Citizen Science Center Zurich joined **CrowdvsCovid**, a team of citizens and scientists aiming at providing health experts and policy makers with timely and relevant information, extracted from the multitude of available data by using a combination of Artificial Intelligence and crowdsourcing. [Learn more about the results in our new blog](#). To achieve this, the team has been “beta testing” the upcoming [Citizen Science Project Builder](#), a DIY crowdsourcing platform developed by the Center that will be released soon.

Stay tuned for more info about it next week!



Citizen Science on swiss dialects - Getting closer to our goal

The linguistics project [Wenker: Swiss German 1930/2020](#) in its new shape has been online for almost a year - time for a short interim assessment:

- 380 contributors
- 207 completely transcribed sheets
- 11,096 sentences transcribed

Thank you to all contributors!

You can find further interesting background information in the blog article [Neues aus den dialektologischen Untiefen](#) (in German).

Citizen-controlled data for research on MS

Thanks to the MitrendS Citizen Science app healthy citizens can contribute to research on Multiple Sclerosis (MS) from their home.

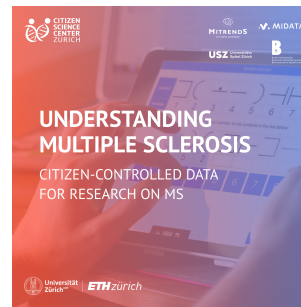
The tablet app provides innovative and interactive exercises aimed at collecting cognitive and motorics related parameters.

The collected data will be then used in anonymized form as a comparative baseline that will contribute in the discovery of new information about symptoms and physical limitations in patients

with MS. This work could enable effective and personalized treatments that will help affected patients.

The MitrendS app has been developed as part of a research study, by the Bern University of Applied Sciences BFH and MIDATA in cooperation with the University Hospital Zurich USZ, ETH Zurich and the Swiss Data Science Center.

More information on the [project page](#).



NEWS FROM THE PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE ACADEMY

Workshops at the Volkshochschule Zurich

From April 2020 on, the Participatory Science Academy offers courses at the Volkshochschule Zurich. The online-course «Bürgerwissenschaften - Erste Schritte in den partizipativen Forschungsprozess» on 23.4.2020 provided an introduction to the topic of Citizen Science using practical examples. In the course «Historische Bilder erschliessen (Crowdsourcing)», Nicole Graf, Head of the Image Archive, provides insights into the image archive of the ETH Library (18.6.2020, 19.30-21.00). At the workshop «Partizipation in der Wissenschaft – Vertiefung» (8. & 15.10.2020, 17.30-20.00) participants develop their own research project. The courses are held in German. Further information and registration [here](#).



Save the date - Workshops for PhD candidates, postdocs and practitioners

In autumn semester 2020, the Participatory Science Academy offers two courses as part of the Graduate Campus program on transferable skills. The workshop "Citizen Science Introduction: First steps in a participatory research process" (29.10. & 5.11.2020) offers an

introduction to relevant questions and methods.

The workshop "Citizen Science Advanced: Designing and facilitating participatory research processes competently" (25.11. & 2.12.2020) is aimed at researchers who have already gained experience and want to learn more about the design of Citizen Science projects. The courses will be held in English. [More info](#)

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

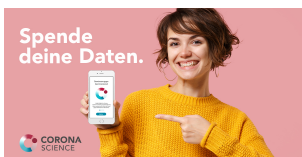
Latest news from CrowdWater

Did you miss the fully remote and successful PhD defences of Simon Etter and Barbara Strobl? You can watch the presentations on YouTube ([Simon](#) & [Barbara](#)). It was very nice to see that some of our citizen scientists joined as well!

If you want to support CrowdWater in times of #stayhome you can help us with the quality control of the app submissions by playing the [CrowdWater Game](#). There are daily rounds and different prizes to win each month.

The [SNSF](#) funded two new PhD positions for the CrowdWater project.

We hope that the new PhD students will join the project in fall. We also developed an [open online course](#) about CrowdWater, and there will be new features and categories in the [CrowdWater app](#) soon. Stay tuned!



Help fight the virus now with the Corona Science app

With the Corona Science app, citizens can actively help fight the pandemic – by collecting and anonymously contributing data. With these data, the course of the pandemic and the emotional strain of life

under lockdown can be tracked more precisely. Scientists and politicians gain information they need to better plan the return to normality. Developed jointly by Bern University of Applied Sciences BFH and MIDATA Cooperative, the app is supported by the Citizen Science Center Zurich, the Cantons of Bern and Neuchâtel, eHealth Suisse, opendata.ch and other partners. Unlike contact-tracing apps, Corona Science aims to enable citizens to collect urgently needed data on COVID-19 as well as on their life situation in lockdown. Anyone can make an active contribution with this app by donating their data anonymously. The data entered by citizens is not analysed by the Corona Science team itself, but is made available to all interested parties in anonymised and aggregated form – in line with the ‘open data’ principle. www.coronascience.ch

Citizen Science - "Schweiz forscht" offers an overview

[Schweiz forscht](http://Schweiz.forscht) and [tous scientifiques](http://tous.scientifiques) respectively is the platform for Citizen-Science-Projects in Switzerland. It makes projects visible, so that more people become aware of Citizen Science and actively participate in very concrete projects themselves. The project platform also aims to inspire and encourage: perhaps there are already projects that are doing research in a similar field or that deal with similar topics? Why not exchange ideas for once? Registering a project is very easy and free of charge. [More info](#)



Proceedings of the Austrian Citizen Science Conference 2019

In summer 2019 the 5th Austrian Citizen Science Conference took place in Tyrol. From the rich conference program, 11 papers have now been published in the Conference [Proceedings of the Austrian Citizen Science Conference 2019](#), which are freely available in the Proceedings of Science. The contributions provide a nice insight into the past conference and shorten the waiting time towards the next Austrian Citizen Science Conference. An overview of the contributions (in German) can be found [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



Brown Bag Lunches Spring 2020

6 May 2020, 12:15 - 13:15

Carsten Østerlund, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University:
The Future of Citizen Science: Inter-Stitching Human Learning and Machine Learning?

This event will happen via video call. Please register via info@citizenscience.ch to receive the link.

17 June 2020, 12:15 - 13:15

Sibylle Studer, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, Network for Transdisciplinary Research:
Exploring the method repertoire of transdisciplinary research for Citizen Science

[Further details on all events](#)

Coming soon: Call for ideas for the 1st Swiss Citizen Science Conference

From 14 - 15 January 2021 "CitSci Helvetia 2021 - Connecting Citizen Science in Switzerland" will take place in Zurich. The aim of the conference is to bring together communities of practitioners in order to discover and connect the different traditions of Citizen Science in Switzerland. Stay tuned, further details coming soon.

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