



Citizen Science in Estonia

Veljo Runnel
University of Tartu
Natural History Museum



Citizens and Science

- There are three multidisciplinary universities in Estonia, dealing also with biology and biodiversity:
 - University of Tartu
 - Tallinn University of Technology
 - Tallinn University
- And one specialized university:
 - Estonian University of Life Sciences



– Estonian Ornithological Society

- More than 500 members
- Forums
- Mailing list
- Providing expertise for national monitoring schemes, environmental assessment etc
- Educational projects
- Professionals and amateurs
- Online observations with cooperation of University of Tartu
- Winter gardenbird count
- <http://www.eoy.ee/talv>

– Estbirding birdwatchers

- Competition
- Birdraces – Estonian Open
- Rariline – sms based rare bird observation network
- Online observations with cooperation of University of Tartu
- <http://estbirding.ee>



Monitoring

- Estonian Environment Information Centre -> restructured to Estonian Environment Agency
 - Governmental structure for collecting and processing data on biodiversity and environmental status.
 - Reports also based on CS observation
 - Online observation system – <http://loodus.keskkonnainfo.ee>

- Estonian Naturalists Society
 - Cooperation with Estonian Environment Agency and others for collecting data, monitoring, educational campaigns etc



Educational citizen science

Learning how to make observations, communicate findings, analyze and present. Networking value. Added value for school education.

– BSP – Baltic Sea Project. International schools.

- <http://www.b-s-p-org/home/programmes>

Estonian Naturalists Society

- Cooperation with Estonian Environment Agency and others for collecting data, monitoring, educational campaigns etc

Nature Education Centers

“Hello spring!” – monitoring program for schoolchildren

<http://tere.kevad.edu.ee>



Citizen Science for fun

- Webcameras
 - Making observations
 - Taking snapshots
 - Discussion in forums

Winter Eaglecam

Estonian Ornithological Society, Kotkaklubi, NGO Fenolo

Report, based on webcam observations:

http://www.eoy.ee/sites/default/files/projektid/estlatkotkad/Eagles%20feeder%202011-12_ENG%20report.pdf



CS – support for research

- Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, UT. Study of city Red Foxes
 - <http://www.eformular.com/usaarma/linnarebane1.html>
- Flush-counting of animals with help of volunteers
 - <http://www.talgud.ee/talgud/2013/ajuloendus>



CS – nature protection, awareness rising

- Estonian Fund for Nature
 - “Frogs on the road” – action by volunteers + data recording. Training, feedback, facebook community
 - <http://www.elfond.ee/konnadteel>
 - <http://facebook.com/konnadteel>



Scale, numbers

- OPAL soil and earthworm survey in UK: 4340 surveys submitted – 0,006 % of population
- In Estonia it would mean 80 persons submitting the survey results