Co-Evaluation

Participatory evaluation for Citizen Science

Gender Equality Open Calls

March 2022

Zentrum für Soziale Innovation

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Goal of this workshop:
Leave with a concrete plan for evaluation.

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Structure of the workshop

(preparation: https://archive.org/details/co-act-co-evaluation-webinar-21-excerpt *and slides here:* https://zenodo.org/record/4562898 *)*

1. Short input on (participatory) research project evaluation [ZSI] 10 Min
2. Presentation of the project, including potential evaluation focus [Project representatives] 15 Min + Q&A
3. Work on evaluation plans with support from ZSI [all]

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Research Evaluation

Aim	assessing the achievement of objectives
Implementation	internally / externally
Focus	research process / project results
Responsibility	project management, funders, institutions
Planning	need for careful planning and resources strategies must be ready and implemented from the start
Popular frameworks for evaluation	theory of change logic model

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Evaluation of Research Projects

- scientific dimension, e.g. data quality, …
- non-scientific effects, e.g. socio-economic effects, …
- methodological and organisational issues:
  - appropriateness of the intervention design
  - cost and efficiency of the intervention
  - unintended effects
  - how to use the experience from this intervention to improve the design of future interventions.

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Citizen Social Science

citizen science in the social sciences
or alternatively one that has a specific focus on the social aspects
of citizen science. It can involve citizens in the design and/or
conduct of social research, including engagement in some or all
research processes, such as ideation, research design, data
collection, analysis, dissemination, and impact. (Albert et al 2021)

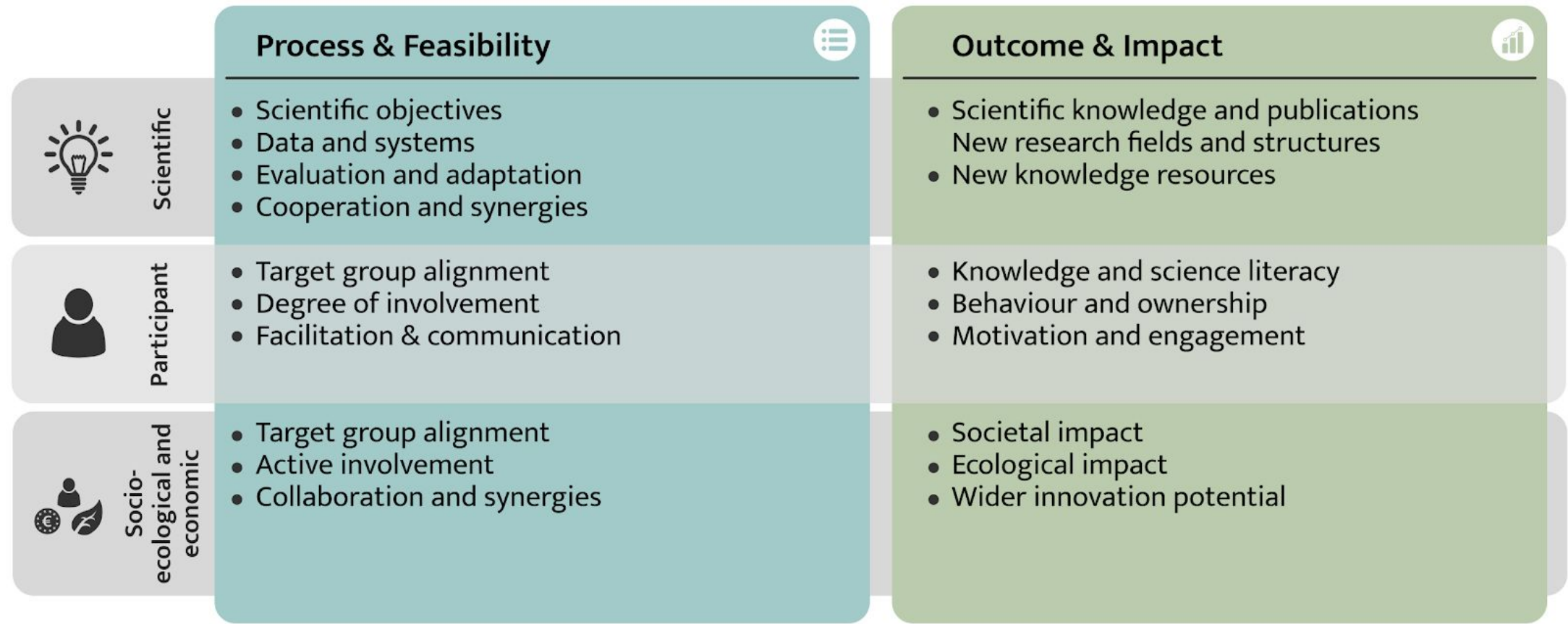ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION | CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

Research Evaluation in Citizen (Social) Science

- CS includes different participants with different interests and goals →
    - How to fairly and inclusively evaluate?
    - Who is a project accountable to?
- CS is a highly participatory approach
- BUT traditionally excludes participatory approaches from evaluation and impact assessment

→ explore approaches that involve participants

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Evaluation Framework

Process & Feasibility

Scientific
- Scientific objectives
- Data and systems
- Evaluation and adaptation
- Cooperation and synergies

Participant
- Target group alignment
- Degree of involvement
- Facilitation & communication

Socio-ecological and economic
- Target group alignment
- Active involvement
- Collaboration and synergies

Outcome & Impact

Scientific
- Scientific knowledge and publications
  New research fields and structures
- New knowledge resources

Participant
- Knowledge and science literacy
- Behaviour and ownership
- Motivation and engagement

Socio-ecological and economic
- Societal impact
- Ecological impact
- Wider innovation potential

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Typical (Quantitative) KPIs

Process & Feasibility

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# of co-authored papers
# of presentations
# of data sets
# of scientific tools

# of people engaged
# of active contributions from citizens
# of people continuing scientific engagement

engagement with policy makers
# of policy briefs
# of action plans

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Participatory Evaluation:
Collective Impact Assessment of Research Projects

→ assessing the significance and reach of effects of research
  ○ positive and negative
  ○ intended and unintended
  together with (all/some/any) participants

See for further information: Reed, M.S., Ferré, M., Martin-Ortega, J., Blanche, R., Lawford-Rolfe, R., Dallimer, M., Holden J. (2021). Evaluating impact from research: A methodological framework. *Research Policy 50 (4)*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2020.104147

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Co-Evaluation: Learning from Participatory Evaluation

- participatory evaluation

- initiating the conversation on expectations, objectives and impact already at the start of the project

- when the research design is co-created with different stakeholders OR

- when the participation of actors is negotiated

- involves participants in the decision on project goals and evaluation instruments

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Co-Evaluation Principles

Participant ownership	Evaluation is oriented to the needs of the participants in an inclusive and balanced way. Participants take certain actions and responsibilities for project outcomes and their assessment.
Openness and reflexivity	Participants meet to communicate and negotiate to reach a consensus on evaluation results, solve problems, and make plans for the improvement of the project, evaluation approaches, and impact measures; input should be balanced and representation should be guaranteed for all involved stakeholders
Transformation	Emphasis is on identification of lessons learned, improvement of benefits and wellbeing, for all participants.
Flexibility	Co-evaluation design is flexible and determined (to the extent possible) during the group processes. The mix of formats and methods used should reflect the project aims and potentially empower marginalised perspectives.
Documentation and transparency	Whenever possible and ethically desirable, evaluation procedures should be documented and made accessible to participants, or even the wider public.
Timing	Co-evaluation has to start as early as possible, but latest during the negotiation of research questions and design of methodology.

Main characteristics of co-evaluation, adapted from (Patton, 2008)

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Co-Evaluation Steps

Adapted from
https://civitas-sunrise.eu/

- co-design of evaluation strategy

- monitoring: tools for continuous observation and discussion

- interpretation: feedback cycles, adaptations, reporting and structured analysis

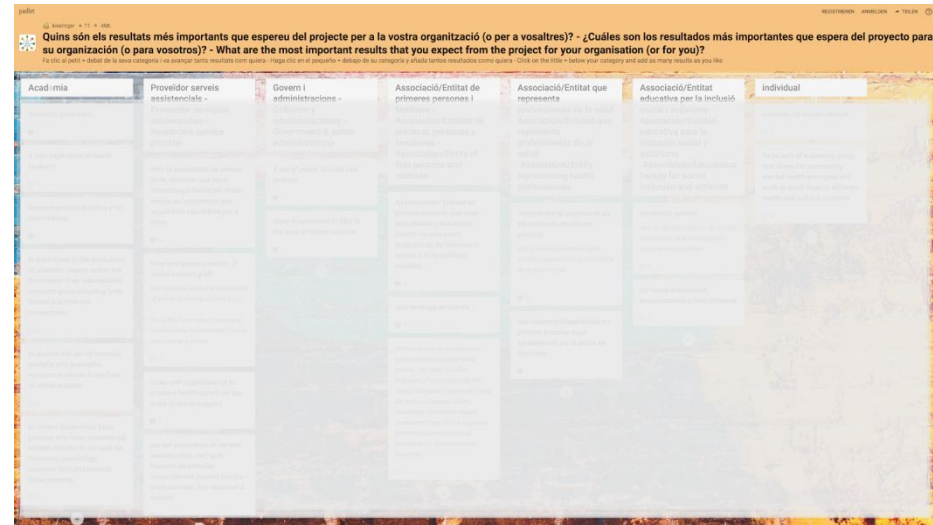- valuation: assessing the value of the outcomes and lessons learned

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Co-Evaluation Instruments
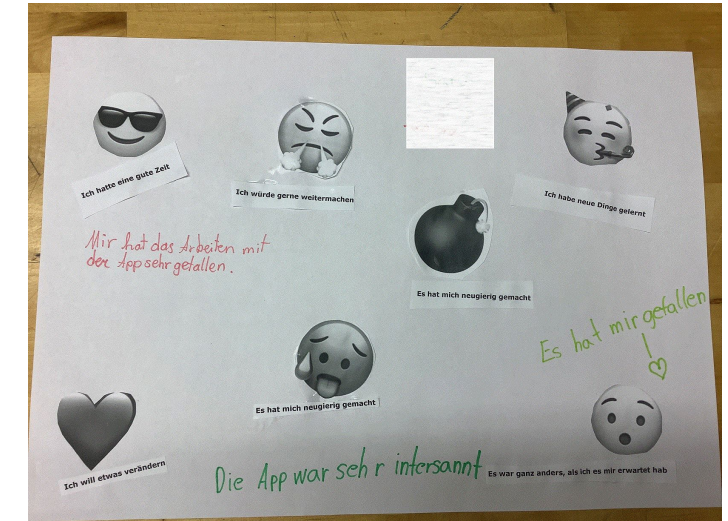… examples

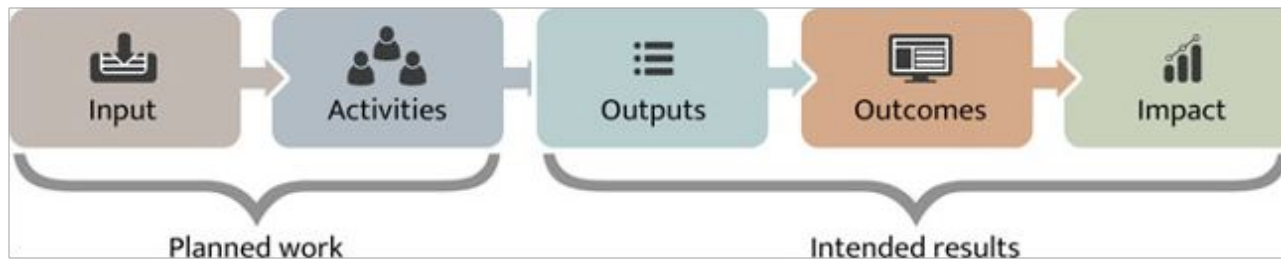individual reflection sheets as part of the research diary

reflections on project expectations as part of workshops

group reflection with young people using emojis

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Logic Model of Evaluation

What would you like to focus on?

- **Input:** resources available for project/activities

- **Activities:** actions planned to achieve desired outputs

- **Outputs:** products or services resulting from activities, such as data points collected, workshops conducted

- **Outcomes:** effects of outputs on target group, such as behaviour change, knowledge or skills

- **Impact:** long-term changes on a societal level; progress made towards high-level goals; typically achieved beyond project or programme lifetime

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Part 2

Presentation of the project, including potential evaluation focus

Have a Nice Break!

See you in 10 minutes

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Part 3

Evaluate what is valued

for an

Evaluation that matters

Impact Vision

Common goals and expected impact beyond August

Co-evaluation opportunities

Activities and Outputs of 2022

| Project leads | Co-reseachers | Wider stakeholder community |

Concrete interests and expectations

What does success look like in August?

Design adapted from Nyangala Zolho, The Innovation Growth Lab

Work in Miro

Design adapted from Nyangala Zolho - The Innovation Growth Lab

https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVOKBAqDU=/?invite_link_id=587032691627
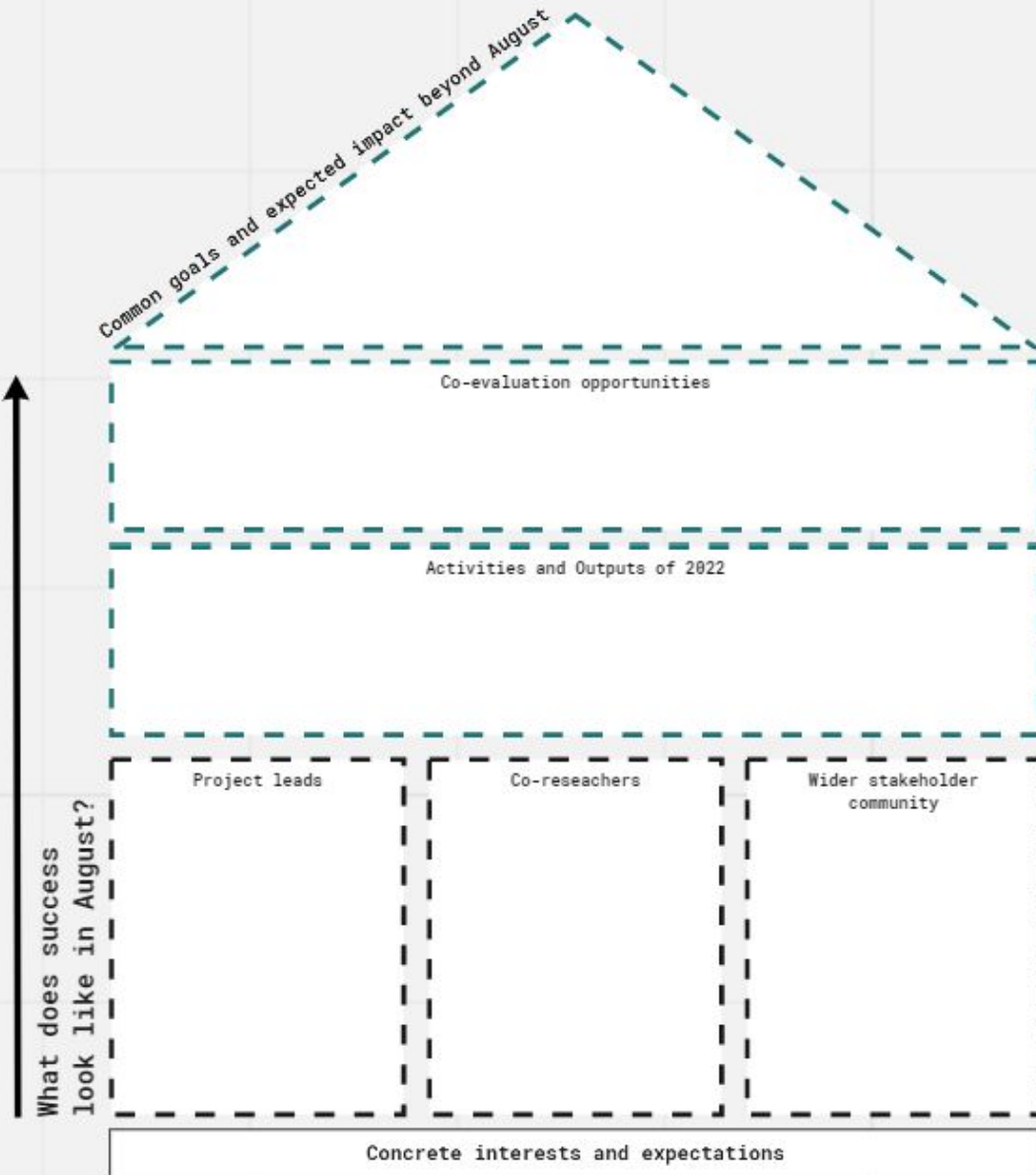
Thanks!
coact@zsi.at

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Additional optional slides

Focus on participation

"*Participation is the answer, but what is the question?*"

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In any citizen science project, researchers and project leaders are "making a promise" to the participants about the level of participation and power in decision making they are willing to share with them.

→ Expectations and interests
→ Ensuring informed participation, trust and motivation
→ Provision of the right design and tools for informed consent, sharing of information, recognition and privacy
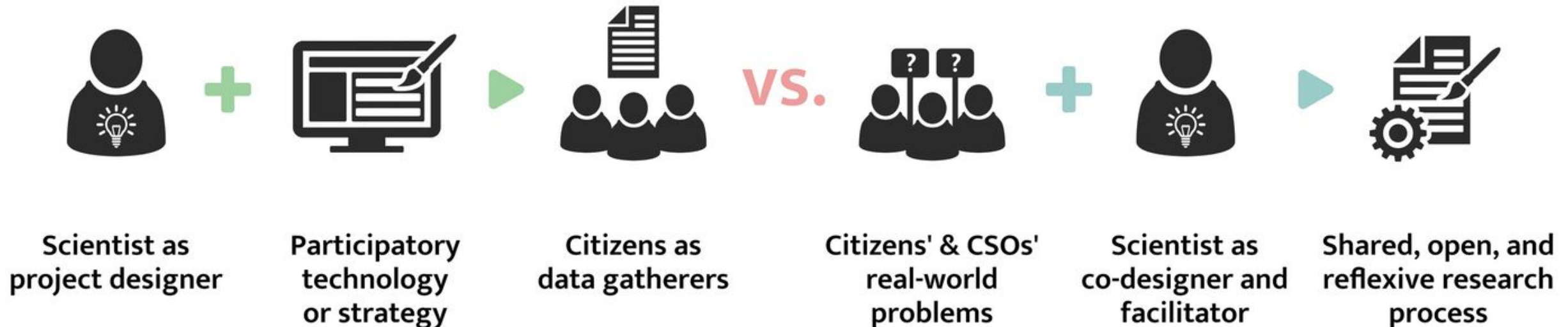
Eleta, I., Galdon Clavell, G., Righi, V., & Balestrini, M. (2019). The Promise of Participation and Decision-Making Power in Citizen Science. *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*, *4*(1), 8. DOI: http://doi.org/10.5334/cstp.171

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Types of Participation ?

Contributory citizen science
(Majority of early online citizen science projects)

Scientist as project designer + Participatory technology or strategy ▶ Citizens as data gatherers

VS.

Co-creation & participatory approaches
(Citizen social sciences, AR, science shops)

Citizens' & CSOs' real-world problems + Scientist as co-designer and facilitator ▶ Shared, open, and reflexive research process

Senabre Hidalgo E., Perelló J., Becker F., Bonhoure I., Legris M., Cigarini A. (2021) Participation and Co-creation in Citizen Science. In: Vohland K. et al. (eds) The Science of Citizen Science. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-58278-4_11

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