

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Calling Planet Earth: Large Engagement and Communications Initiatives (6)

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BEYOND BOUNDARIES: ENGAGING THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IN SPACE EDUCATION AND
OUTREACH THROUGH CITIZEN SCIENCE

Abstract

For emerging space countries such as Serbia and countries of the Balkan region, which do not have established space programs, national space agencies and space education curricula, it is essential to communicate the benefits of space for life on Earth and engage the general public. With today's technology and data collected by space-based technology, such as data from Earth Observation (EO) satellites, we are able to better understand and address scientific challenges. However, even with this information and available data, the general public is still struggling to become a part of the solution to the issues that we are facing - environmental issues, climate crisis and socio-economic issues.

To be able to overcome the lack of engagement of the general public, we should have a new approach to space outreach and education activities. Citizen science, along with open science and open data, could play a crucial role in educating and involving the general public to contribute to the scientific community. This collaborative approach allows ordinary people to contribute to scientific projects, collecting and analyzing data, and aiding researchers in solving complex problems. Citizen science holds particular promise for developing countries, offering numerous benefits for scientific research, environmental monitoring, and community engagement. By implementing citizen science initiatives in non-spacefaring countries we can enhance space education and outreach. This will allow the creation of opportunities for public participation, fostering collaboration, contributing to scientific research, and inspiring a new generation of space enthusiasts and scientists. The citizen science approach bridges the gap between the scientific community and the public, making space exploration and the space industry more accessible and inclusive.

In this paper, the author will explore and analyze good practices of citizen science and communication approach, with particular emphasis on developing countries. This work will provide a framework for engaging emerging space countries in the field of space education and outreach.