groundtruth2.0

Environmental knowledge discovery of human sensed data

Newsletter #1

July 2017

Project Coordinator's note

Dear reader,

Welcome to our very first Ground Truth 2.0 newsletter!

The Ground Truth 2.0 project is setting up and validating six Citizen Observatories, in four European and two African Demonstration Cases. Citizen observatories enable citizens (and not just scientists and professionals) to collect and share data and knowledge about the environment. Ground Truth 2.0 will strengthen the feedback-loop in the information chain: **from citizen-based data collection to knowledge sharing for joint decision-making and cooperative planning**.

We look forward to keeping you informed and up-to-date about our activities and progress with quarterly newsletters from now on.

In this first newsletter, we **feature the co-design sessions that have been taking place this spring** in each of the six Demonstration Cases. These sessions are key for designing the respective Citizen Observatories to ensure that they are aligned with the local stakeholders' needs, requirements and experiences.

We also look back on **some notable events during the first year of Ground Truth 2.0**, such as the latest plenary partner meeting in Stockholm and the Mapathon at IHE Delft in The Netherlands.

In the **upcoming events** section, you can find out when and where you can meet Ground Truth 2.0 partners.

For daily updates, follow us on Twitter @GroundTruth20.

All the best,

Uta Wehn

Third plenary partner meeting. From co-design to enabling technologies

From **22-24 May 2017, Stockholm** set the stage for the third Ground Truth 2.0 plenary partner meeting. It focused on transitioning from co-designing Citizen Observatories (COs) to their enabling technologies. All partners were present and very committed to make this next phase a success. Over the past months, the Demo Cases have begun work 'on the ground', doing several rounds of co-design sessions with stakeholders. The COs are expected to be launched at the end of summer 2017.

Read more>

Past GT2.0 partner meetings: Second plenary meeting – Kick off meeting

News from the GT2.0 Demo Cases

Co-designing citizen observatories in Africa and Europe

Citizen observatories enable citizens (and not just scientists and professionals) to collect and share data about the environment. **According to the Ground Truth 2.0 philosophy, the stakeholders of the respective citizen observatories, such as citizens, policy makers and decision makers, are involved in the citizen observatory design and creation.** Therefore, interactive co-design sessions are organized to capture the stakeholders' needs, requirements and experiences, following a coherent methodology developed by IHE Delft. **The stakeholders are asked to identify the central challenge, to articulate vision and mission statements and to agree on a common vision for their observatory.** The overall objective is to customize the citizen observatory in such a way that it will have the envisaged, case-specific societal and economic impact, taking into account local governance goals, cultures, customs and languages.

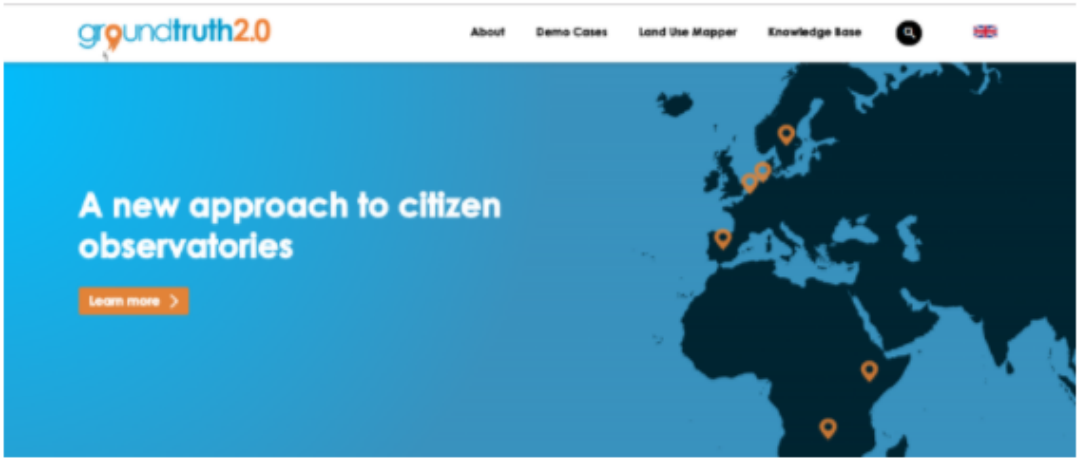
The co-design phase in all six Demo Cases started in 2017 and co-design sessions have been happening in Belgium, Sweden, Kenya, the Netherlands, Spain and Zambia.

Citizen science for mapping the world

On 13 February 2017, IHE-Delft organised a **Mapping Party ("Mapathon") for the Mara River Basin** (Kenya). More than 200 volunteers enthusiastically mapped an area that is currently suffering from famine due to persisting drought.

Read more>

Blog posts from Ground Truth 2.0 partners



If Ground Truth 2.0 were a person

Imagine Ground Truth 2.0 as a person. Who would it be? And what if it were a city? With these rather amusing questions, we started our work session with our web developer earlier December. He got the point. www.gt20.eu **is our new website**.

Read more>

Are we all environmental experts?

If we look at cities on a neighbourhood level, it is obvious that the **citizens know their own environment better than anyone else**. The Belgian Demo Case builds on this local knowledge to improve the quality of environmental data and enhance the discussion between all stakeholders in Flanders.

Read more>

In the DNA of Ground Truth 2.0

The Spanish Demo Case in Ground Truth 2.0 has its origin in the #FenoDato project. In 2015, CREAF coordinated a local citizen science project designed to help scientists in the study of the effects of climate change on plants and animals. In Ground Truth 2.0, the work done in #FenoDato has found its natural continuity and the possibility to evolve to a more ambitious initiative.

Read more>

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH GT2.0 PRESENCE

Resilience 2017. Resilience Frontiers for Global Sustainability
August 21-23, Stockholm, Sweden
- SU presentation -

Stockholm World Water Week
August 27 - September 1, Stockholm, Sweden
- IHE-Delft, EarthWatch, SU presentations -

Geospatial Sensor Webs Conference 2017
August 28-30, Munster, Germany
- CREAF presentation -

Management of municipal watersheds in mountain regions (FAO Workshop)
September 4-6, Prague, Czech Republic
- EarthWatch keynote -

Ground Truth 2.0 Advisory Board meeting
October 11, Delft, Netherlands
- GT2.0 meeting -

EXTERNAL NEWS

Video: The Role of Water in Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change (IISD ENB+)
UN Water has developed a set of guiding principles on water and climate change for experts and decision makers to consider when preparing development plans and related investments.

Global Mosquito Alert to fight mosquito-borne diseases
A new alliance of citizen science organizations and UN Environment has been launched to escalate the global fight against mosquito-borne diseases: Global Mosquito Alert.

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