

1H.3 | ***Mapping and the Citizen Sensor – Understanding and Influencing Contributors*** (#1481)

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Mapping, in its many shapes and forms, is increasingly benefiting from the contributions of volunteers. While the roots of citizen science and volunteered geographic information go back many decades, only more recently have such contributions been recognized as valuable in mapping efforts traditionally dominated by professional organizations. This has resulted in intensive research predominantly on issues of information and map accuracy. The COST Action *Mapping and the Citizen Sensor* aims at a more comprehensive evaluation, including the understanding and influencing of volunteer contributors (addressed by one of 4 working groups). A review currently being done by this group covers a range of questions, including (i) what distinct groups of volunteers exist, and what characterizes them, (ii) how those volunteers are recruited, instructed, and their contributions screened, validated and used in the map product, (iii) how a specific behavior to maximize map quality and accuracy can be fostered, (iv) how contributions can be sustained for long-term and routine mapping efforts, including the effectiveness of incentive and reward schemes to attract and retain contributors, and (v) ethical and legal issues of working with volunteers. One example being evaluated more closely relates to collaborative post-disaster damage mapping based on remote sensing imagery. While recruiting and motivating contributors after disaster events has been less of an issue, in particular problems relating to appropriate instruction of the volunteers and use of their contributions persist. In particular insights from the cognitive psychology community on how best to engage with diverse volunteers appear relevant and are seen as a useful means to arriving at a more robust and reliable mapping setup. The aim of this contribution is to provide a detailed overview of the ongoing review effort.