

A SMARTPHONE APPLICATION FOR A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJET ON SEAFOOD SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

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New Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are playing a key role in Citizen Science outbreak, allowing a wider public participation. The increasingly availability of smartphone can be exploited as a tool for easy and quickly data collection.

The idea of the realisation of a smartphone App arises inside a Citizen Science project on sustainable consumption of seafood, “Il pesce giusto”. In fact, the overexploitation, the employment of destructive fishing practices and unsustainable techniques, as well as the widespread illegal fishing, have led to a loss of marine biodiversity and a food resources decline. A monitoring of marine resources consumption is now necessary.

Our aim has been to design an App that allows to monitor the sustainability of consumers’ purchases through different criteria: size, origin, production and seasonality of the fish species.

This tool can be practically utilised by citizen and can provide us information of the sustainability of marine resources sold in the markets.

The mobile application, available for IOS and Android devices, allows us to record the required information with the easy submission of pictures of the marine species purchased. Moreover, the versatile instrument can be considered also as an educational tool: an immediate feedback to the user about the sustainability of the food choice is provided, and other sections of the app are dedicated to the spread of information about ecology, conservation and sustainability, contributing to the educative goals of the Citizen Science research.