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VOLUNTARY MONITORING HAS CHANGED

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ABSTRACT

Earlier, a typical citizen monitoring system was top-down oriented and stable. Trained volunteers were given their tasks to make observations and forms to fill and they reported when agreed. The same observers volunteered for years. Making observations was their hobby or probably they got a small premium for their services. Today, the operational models differ from those of earlier times. E.g. most of the volunteers do not commit to long periods of time. Instead they prefer in campaigns and short term missions. Also, different kind of competitions and gaming are measures that are used to recruit new groups of volunteers. In this presentation, we will briefly describe the change in the voluntary monitoring that has happened during the last twenty years. We will compare three traditional monitoring practices with systems that have been built for monitoring today and in the future. We will show that there are strong processes challenging the traditional systems and giving way to new solutions. These processes are driven by changes in population structure in the society. They are also results on globalization and the change of interest in geographical scale. Rapid development in technology is one of key processes supporting new ways to organize the citizen monitoring.



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