

PRESS RELEASE

ENFORCE Contributed to Key Discussions at ECSA 2026 Conference in Oulu, Finland

MARCH 2026 | The ENFORCE project actively participated in the [6th European Citizen Science Association \(ECSA\) conference](#), held on 3-6 March 2026 in Oulu, Finland. Over the four-day event, ENFORCE partners contributed to a series of sessions focused on **citizen science, living labs, biodiversity monitoring, data readiness levels**, and in general on strengthening the contribution of **citizen science in policy and enforcement procedures**.

ENFORCE Contributions to the Conference Programme

Reflecting its interdisciplinary approach and strong engagement with citizen science communities, **ENFORCE was represented in several key sessions:**

- **Tuesday, 3 March (12:45–14:30)**
ENoLL et al. – [The relationship between Living Labs and Citizen Science](#)
- **Wednesday, 4 March (09:00–10:45)**
A Sud et al. – [Biodiversity monitoring and enforcement across centre and periphery: Exploring the interplay between citizen science, technology, law and policy](#)
- **Friday, 6 March (09:00–10:45)**
CSIC and M4N et al. – [Bridging the citizen science data-to-policy gap: Leveraging data readiness level frameworks to create pathways for actionable environmental insights](#)

The sessions explored **how Living Labs and citizen science relate to each other, as well as how citizen science can support biodiversity monitoring and environmental enforcement**, and how the quality of citizen-generated data can be improved and validated to assure its usability for enforcement. The sessions drew on experiences from Europe and around the world, from North and Latin America to Southeast Asia and beyond, engaging partners from EU-based and international institutions. Discussions highlighted key challenges around ethics, stakeholder engagement, behavioural attitudes, and the readiness of both data and authorities to integrate citizen-generated evidence. Participants also emphasized the need for policy recognition and stronger frameworks to enable citizen science to contribute effectively to environmental compliance across Europe and beyond.

In addition, **commentaries reflecting on the ENFORCE-related sessions presented at the conference will be soon published on [Zenodo](#)**, providing further insights and reflections on the discussions held during ECSA 2026.



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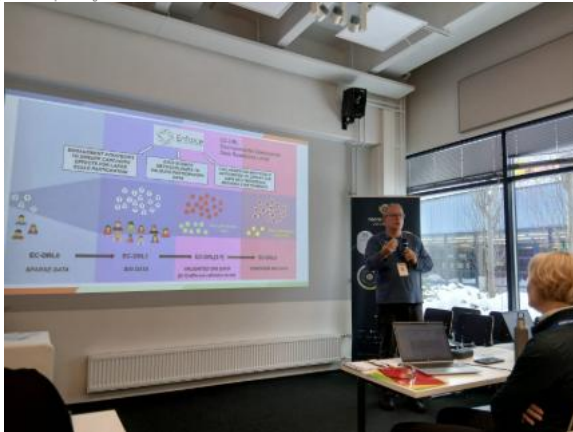


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Through these contributions, the ENFORCE project highlighted how **citizen-generated environmental data can be aligned with regulatory frameworks**, demonstrating innovative pathways to support environmental compliance and evidence-based policymaking.

About the 6th ECSA Conference

[ECSA2026](#) was hosted by the University of Oulu during a year in which Oulu was crowned one of [the European Capitals of Culture](#).

The ECSA2026 conference was framed around the notion of *Citizen Science bridging Centre and Periphery*. This theme explored the diversity of contexts in which citizen science unfolds — from urban metropolitan hubs to remote northern and southern spaces — and emphasised its role as a link between centre and periphery.

In addition to the scientific programme, the conference included a pre-conference day dedicated to ECSA Working Group meetings (2 March) and a day for excursions (7 March).

The event brought together researchers, policymakers, and community representatives from across Europe and beyond, reinforcing the growing importance of citizen science in advancing inclusive and effective environmental governance.

Notes to the Editor

PROJECT SUMMARY

The **ENFORCE project** aims to enhance environmental compliance by integrating citizen science with innovative technologies. This initiative seeks to bridge the gap between local environmental data and the requirements set forth by regulatory authorities, fostering collaboration among grassroots organizations, researchers, and local governments. Through a tailored, interdisciplinary approach, Enforce is committed to empowering communities to play an active role in environmental governance and enforcement.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Duration: 48 months | Starting from 1 September 2024

EU funding: €6,365,498.75 | **Grant Agreement ID:** 101134447

Coordinator: G.A.C. Group (France)

Website: join-enforce.eu | **LinkedIn:** [@ENFORCE_EU](https://www.linkedin.com/company/enforce_eu) | #ENFORCE_EU

ENFORCE CONSORTIUM

G.A.C. Group ([GAC](#)), Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigacion ([CSIC](#)), The University of Exeter ([UNEXE](#)), Universitaet Bielefeld ([UNIBI](#)), University of Crete ([UOC](#)), Universiteit Hasselt ([UH](#)), International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis ([IIASA](#)), 52 North Spatial Information Research GmbH ([52N](#)), Institutul National de Cercetare Dezvoltare in Silvicultura Marin Dracea ([NIRDF](#)), SingularLogic ([SLG](#)), IDC Italia ([IDC](#)), Evisights ([EVI](#)), Amaranthus Social Cooperative Enterprise ([AMRN](#)), Business Development Group ([BDG](#)), Westcountry Rivers Trust ([WRT](#)), European Network of Living Labs ([ENoLL](#)), European Association of Remote Sensing Companies ([EARSC](#)), European Citizen Science Association ([ECSA](#)), A Sud Ecologia e Cooperazione Onlus ([ASUD](#)), Heraklion Bar Public Body ([HBA](#)), Centro Internazionale di Altistudi Agronomici Mediterranei ([CIHEAM-IAMB](#)), ENRICH Global ([ENRICH GLOBAL](#)), Waag Futurelab ([Waag Futurelab](#)), Barcelona Cicle de l'Aigua ([BCASA](#)), Digital for Planet ([D4P](#))

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