

Script Video Fourteen: An overview

The citizen project was at its end. Nora was very happy and proud of all the good things she has learned. She kept an infrequent diary and when she looked in it she was amazed to find that most of her notes included legal takeaways.

They were as follows

- Volunteers have both rights and obligation, regardless the fact they are not paid
- Volunteers are associated with the science project which creates specific legal status they enjoy (non-paid associates)
- Ethical and legal constrains levied on the project are equally binding for the volunteers
- There are special provision (legal obligations) for gathering data about human beings, personal data, human tissues.
- Recognizing sensitive data is important
- How to store and handle sensitive data is usually guided by the project (though publishing sensitive information on Instagram is never a good idea)
- The project owns the data collected by the citizen-scientist
- Different methods of analysis provide different legal result for ownership of the analysis (degree of novelty, technology used for the analysis, public/private data)
- If data anonymity is breached it is important to report the breach as soon as possible
- If analysis mistake is noticed report the problem to the project coordinator and to the backing institutions (whichever comes first to your mail list)
- There is a right to be mentioned as an acknowledgement in a research paper, however that would depend on the individual contribution to the overall novelty/work in the paper
- There is a right to expect proceeds share, but there are specific issues on the difference between copy-right (automatic right) and patent rights (granted right)

Well, that would be a nice blueprint for a basic course in Basic Regulations and Ethics for Citizen Scientists, Alice thought to herself.

She closed her diary with a smile.