



REPORT

Green Foundation Ireland

invites you to an evening online TALK
with **Laura Ribero**

URBAN CITIZEN'S 6.3.2:
*the amazing role of scientists
in monitoring rivers and streams*



Venue: by Zoom (*details given after registration*)

Thursday 4 July 2024 – 19:00 to 20:00

URBAN CITIZEN'S 6.3.2: *the amazing role of scientists in monitoring rivers and streams*

THEME

[Urban Citizen's 6.3.2](#) is a DCU-based citizen science project aimed at monitoring water quality and biodiversity of Dublin's rivers and streams.

Volunteers from the general public and community groups are collecting data on a monthly basis, playing a crucial role in gathering information on the current status of these freshwater bodies, and showing how citizens can become precious allies of researchers and local authorities in tackling environmental issues.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Dr Laura Ribero



Laura is a marine and freshwater ecologist and biologist, currently working at Dublin City University as postdoctoral researcher.

Her work has been focusing mainly on ecology and biodiversity of benthic macrofauna in temperate and tropical coastal areas. In the past years Laura has investigated intertidal marine ecosystems and brackish-freshwater wetlands in the Mediterranean Sea and in south-east Asia, and now she is working on citizen science and freshwater quality in Ireland.

Laura is interested in utilising ecological data to support conservation and restoration efforts in aquatic ecosystems, and she strongly believes that involving the general public is essential to achieve long-term sustainability goals.

ABOUT OUR FACILITATOR

Ciaran Monahan

Ciaran, who is part of our Management Team at Green Foundation Ireland, is a postdoctoral researcher in University College Dublin. His research interests include education, environmental risk assessment, and food safety. He has completed a number of works for GFI, including an analysis of sustainability topics in the Leaving Certificate, as well as event hosting.

ABOUT OUR TALK

Ciaran Monahan welcomed everyone and introduced **Laura Ribero**. Laura began by talking about the project and discussed her background as a marine and freshwater ecologist. The project focuses on using citizen science to investigate data gaps on water quality in Dublin's rivers and streams. Citizen science projects such as this have flourished worldwide in recent years due to increased public awareness of biodiversity topics.

Many volunteers have been trained and are collecting data for the project at present, with many surveys having been completed. Laura detailed the four catchments that are being studied across Dublin, each of which discharges into Dublin Bay. Volunteers participate in examining three criteria:

- visual observations of the river;
- nutrient testing; and
- macroinvertebrate monitoring.

The processes of nutrient testing, and of using macroinvertebrates as indicator species for water quality was explained.

Laura pointed out and discussed the risks to freshwater biodiversity, such as eutrophication. Detecting existing issues allows for improved management of polluted areas.

The talk was attended by approximately 30 people, and engagement was very high. A large amount of the questions asked centred around becoming volunteers with the project. There was talk of a freshwater monitoring volunteer group being established within Green Foundation Ireland for ongoing engagement and this will be looked into.

You can [access our video of the talk here](#).

Ciaran Monahan
Green Foundation Ireland

24 July 2024