



## **Engaging the public in hydrological observations – first experiences from the CrowdWater project**

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The project CrowdWater ([www.crowdwater.ch](http://www.crowdwater.ch)) explores opportunities for citizen scientists in hydrological observations. For data collection in CrowdWater, we use a “geocaching” type approach with the help of a smartphone app. Citizens can participate in the collection of hydrological data using the smartphone app, which allows both the submission of observations for existing sites and to set up new sites.

A crucial challenge in any citizen science project is finding ways to connect to enough people who want to participate and to keep them motivated to contribute to the project. Here, we present the approaches that will be used in the CrowdWater project and discuss our first experiences. To connect to the public and recruit participants we use publications in traditional media, social media and a MOOC (massive open online course). In order to keep participant motivated the collected data is immediately shown in the app and online and gamification elements are used in the app.