FOOTPRINTS-CITSCI - General Progress Summary

Please provide a public summary of the progress of the project (the summary will be used in dissemination activities by TETTRIs on the 3PP):

Summary Requirement	Description
Context and overall objectives	We are launching a new citizen science program to partner with the public in monitoring wildlife by collecting photos of animal tracks in the snow. The program collects biodiversity data while opening a new way for participants to experience biodiversity. Within this program, we develop and test technological innovations that aim to improve both data quality and participants' experience. We are developing machine learning image recognition models to identify species from track photos and spatial models to identify areas where new data collection is needed. These technologies will make citizen science data more useful by allowing the public to collect data on species that may be hard for many to participants to observe directly or identify without the help of an identification model. They open opportunities for better participant experiences, more structured data collection, and focusing citizen science effort in areas where it will have the greatest impact.
Work performed and main achievements	We have achieved good progress in the image recognition and spatial models, and in pilot citizen science program development and implementation. Main achievements include model development and testing, development of citizen science protocols and communications platforms, identification of additional citizen science locations, and establishing collaboration with stakeholders. This progress in the first half of the project leaves us well prepared for the second half of the project, which will focus on extended citizen science implementation and evaluation, as well as further testing and validation of the technological innovations.
Outlook for the remaining activities in the project	We look forward to the upcoming project activities. We will carry out several citizen science activities in the upcoming winter, which will be accompanied by evaluation to assess and improve the impact of our project. Alongside these activities, we will continue to develop and validate the model outputs, communicate our results with participants and stakeholders, and craft guidance to support open sharing and transferability of our project results and tools for further application and development by others.
Images attached to support the summary for publication	Please see attached.

! This general progress summary should not contain any confidential information as it will be shared publicly !