Workshops

Title of the workshop:	**Science & Society** Apps for environmental monitoring: fostering citizen scientists or just another consumer product?
Date:	5 March 2019 11.45 – 13.15 ROOM 9
Name of organizer/presenter:	UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector and Social and Human Sciences Sector 1. Dr Régine Vignes-Lebbe, Professor of Biodiversity informatics at the Sorbonne Université, Paris, France. 2. Dr Will Logan, Director of the International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM), a UNESCO 'category 2' centre in Alexandria, State of Virginia, USA. 3. Dr Vanessa Nurock, Associate Professor in Political Theory and Ethics at Paris 8 University, France.
Time allotted:	1 hour 30 minutes
About workshop:	Dr. Logan will present several free rainfall and climate applications that can be used by individuals, schools, local governments and national hydrological services alike. Developed by the University of California, Irvine, with the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO's Global Network on Water and Information for Arid Lands (G-WADI), and UNESCO Category 2 center

	ICIWaRM, these apps are based on artificial intelligence (neural networks) but are user-friendly and, in the case of the iRain app, request input from the 'citizen scientist' to improve real-time rainfall estimates. Dr. Vignes – Lebbe will present various applications used to broaden the public's environmental awareness. These connected objects could potentially be replaced by systems using AI components to offer automatic identification of specimens. She will stress the importance of maintaining verbal communication with app users in citizen science and discuss how future applications will combine human active observation and automatic recognition. Dr. Nurock will address the philosophical, ethical and social dimensions of the introduction of AI applications, in general, and the impact on the individual engagement with the technology and the social and environmental issues, in particular. Questions such as enhancing responsibility, trying to understand better what is behind the environmental changes, for example, hence, enhancing the scientific curiosity, or becoming mere consumers of technology and apps.
Activity layout:	The floor will be thrown open to the public at the end of each presentation for a question and answer session.