

- **No.34**
- **Establishing a Science Shop in Crete, Greece: progress, future plans and lessons learned**

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- **Abstract:** The first Science Shop in Greece has been established during 2008 in Heraklion, Crete by the Science & Technology Park of Crete (STEP-C). STEP-C participated as a partner in the project TRAMS (Training and Mentoring of Science Shops) during 2005-2008. One of the goals of the project was to introduce the idea of Science Shops and train new Organizations to establish and run Science Shops. The main work of Science Shop of Crete was collaboration between STEP-C and the Technical University of Crete (TUC) to help the local community from South of Crete to assess the social-economic impacts in relation the development and operation of an international container port. The project was promoted by Greek Government and its aims were to facilitate economic growth and social welfare in the region. In the framework of this collaboration, STEP-C supported a student from TUC to prepare his diploma thesis on this issue in collaboration with the local community in South Crete. The idea was presented in a regional student conference (Annual Conference of Cretan Students Associations) and discussed with the local people. Following this development, Technical University of Crete participated in the successful PERARES call and established a Science Shop in the city of Chania, named "EPILYON" where it has been running for the past two years. Starting it up was challenging and after significant effort CSOs of the area were mobilized together with students and professors of the University. A methodology has been developed for enacting both CSOs and professors which primarily involved face to face contacts and promotion of the project idea supported by successful examples from established Science Shops shared within PERARES project. Nineteen projects have been identified so far of which six were matched to interests of students and professors and started implementation. We present the type of the projects, the CSOs involved and the approach taken by the professors and students in tackling these projects. We evaluate the methodology followed and suggest means of overcoming difficulties encountered and suggest new strategies for involving more people in such activities. Finallyweshareourvisionofthefuture EPILYON.