

The Story of the Czech „Science in Action“ website - tools of enhancing the cooperation among CSOs and science

Katerina Ptackova

Green Circle, association of Czech environmental NGOs,
Institut of Sociological Studies, Charles University

the 5th living knowledge conference 2012



5th living knowledge
conference 2012



věda v akci
burza výzkumných témat

Outline of the story

- ▶ Who is who in the story, when, where and why it took place
- ▶ Research background
- ▶ Main research outcomes – structural and non structural factors shaping the form of NGOs and science cooperation
- ▶ Practical research impacts – the on-line market of research topics

Actors and activities

- ▶ Green Circle, Trust for Central and Eastern Europe, individuals both NGOs and academics
- ▶ 3+1 years project – Developing new modes of collaboration between NGOs, the public and the academic sector
- ▶ qualitative sociological research as the bases for the further activities (discussions, seminars, media work, advocacy)
- ▶ aims - public participation on the research process, accessibility of the research outcomes, practical problems solutions, develop arguments for advocacy



how can we strengthen CSO and researchers interest in engaged research in the Czech Republic... and...

Research Background

▶ data

- 23 individual interviews + 2 focus groups with CSO (NGO) workers and scientists + science and university policies documents
- covered environmental, patients and human rights fields

▶ theoretical inspirations

- Gibbons' shift between science in *Mode 1* to *Mode 2* (Gibbons et al. 1994)
- Callons' models of communication and cooperation (Callon 1999)
- Collins and Evans types of expertise (2002)

▶ analyses

- focus on various aspects of those modes and models - the institutional settings, evaluation criteria, values of science, organizational structures, heterogeneity of skills, ways of their communication and cooperation, roles of different types of expertise

Research Conclusions

set of six main factors influencing the level and form of NGOs-
science collaboration revealed

structural conditions for cooperation (overall research environment)

Funding schemes

Criteria of evaluation

Dominant scientific values

non-structural patterns of motivation for cooperation

Researchers' personal biographies

Specifics of research fields

Compliance between science and
experience-based expertise

Research Conclusions – Structural Factors

Funding schemes

centralized public science funding
university funding – teaching first
NGOs funding – no sources for science

Criteria of evaluation

exclusive science evaluation system
support of economic relevant cooperation
poor public participation in science
evaluation

Dominant scientific values

independent and highly exclusive mode of
science promoted by scientists and NGOs

Research Conclusions – Non-Structural Factors

Researchers' personal biographies

crucial role of previous experiences and personal contacts

Specifics of research fields

differences based on different research fields, methodologies, subjects

Compliance between science and experience-based expertise

NGOs position towards science
– degree of participation
– attitude to mainstream science-based knowledge

Research Conclusions – Summary

- ▶ effort to build up cooperation with NGOs is in fact punished by the system
- ▶ dominance of first narrow interpretation of Mode 2 + relatively strong Mode 1
- ▶ despite the adverse structural conditions, number of connections and instances of NGOs-science collaborations partnerships motivated by previous experience, specifics of research fields and compliance between scientific and experience-based expertise rather fragile and unsustainable



how can we strengthen CSO and researchers interest in engaged research?
changes in the structural conditions more efficient and sustainable in long-term

BUT

no relevant partners on both academic and NGOs sides
non supportive prevailing “science values“ and interests



concentrate mainly on non-structural factors

Practical Outcomes (1)

- ▶ “snowball” method , looking for “agents of dissemination”
- ▶ focus on students
- ▶ focus on research fields which have the biggest potential for cooperation
- ▶ focus on NGOs which are in the state of necessity of the expertise
- ▶ discussions with NGOs, making their experience visible
- ▶ discussions with scientists, assuring that the cooperation with NGOs
 - is not threatening the science impartiality
 - is not against the basic research and science-industry cooperation
 - variety of forms of public engagement in science exists
- ▶ **“the on-line market of research topics” with the main focus on promoting the idea of NGOs-science cooperation**
- ▶ 25th September - conference “Science and Public in Decision-making processes“ (Prague)

Practical Outcomes (2)



insert new offer/demand

view and reply relevant offers/demands


> Novinky


Citizen science v ornitologii. Poslechněte si záznam diskuse Českého rozhlasu o přínosech a úskalích výzkumu založeného na spolupráci profesionálních vědců a zainteresovaných dobrovolníků z řad občanů. >
22. 01. 2012

Příležitost pro právníky jak zlepšit své lektorské a praktické dovednosti Pro bono aliance a Právnická fakulta Masarykovy Univerzity organizují třídní workshop, zaměřený na praktickou výuku práva na právnických fakultách. >
17. 01. 2012

Máte talent na komunikaci vědy? Ukažte to!

> Poptávané výzkumy

 **Význam VKP v dané lokalitě (dle výběru studenta), Návrhy na nové VKP v Pardubickém kraji – >**
20. 01. 2012

 **Zeleň, parky a odpočinková místa města Chrudim a jejich zhodnocení – >**
20. 01. 2012

další poptávky >

> Nabízené výzkumy



POVODĚN – katastrofa nebo příležitostke změně?

O významu změn v životě i v krajině a způsobech prožívání krize.

RNDr. Michal Jeniček, Ph.D.
Přírodovědecká fakulta UK

Mgr. Tomáš Kohoutek
koordinátor výzkumu AV ČR o psych. aspektech

čtvrtek 16. února, 18:00
Malostranská beseda, Praha

- news from science and society
- knowledge resources
- seminars, conferences
- science cafés
- fundraising possibilities
- students praxis

Thank you for your attention

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ptackova.katerina@gmail.com

www.vedavakci.cz

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