



LIVING KNOWLEDGE

The International Science Shop Network

Building partnerships for
public access to research

Science Shops

Mediators at the Interface of Science & Society

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WISSENSCHAFTSLADEN BONN



What is a Science Shop?

- **A Science Shop (is a unit that) provides independent participatory research support in response to concerns experienced by civil society.**
- The term 'science' is used in its broadest sense, including social and human sciences, arts and engineering.
- Science Shops offer free or low cost access to scientific or technical knowledge.



What is a Science Shop?

- Science Shops are as diverse as the communities with which they work.
- There is not one dominant organisational structure defining a Science Shop. How Science Shops are organised and operate is highly dependent on their context.
- Organisations that meet the definition of a Science Shop and do provide civil society with knowledge and skills through research and education on an affordable basis are welcome in the Living Knowledge network.



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Organisational Structures

| Model | University based | | | Mixed (University based and independent) | | Non university based | |
|----------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Concept | Dutch Concept | | US-Concept | | | | |
| Organisation | Central Office | Faculty Office | CBR-Centre | CURA (Community-University Research Alliance) | NGO as Incubator | NGO connected to university | NGO without connection to university |
| Countries | Netherlands Denmark Germany Austria Great Britain Norway USA/Canada Australia South-Korea Malaysia Belgium | Netherlands Denmark Romania South Africa Belgium | USA Denmark (Canada) | Canada | Israel | (Germany) Austria USA Spain | Germany Austria USA |
| Working method | Mediation, sometimes Internships | Research, Mediation | Participatory Action Research | Participatory Research | Mediation | Mediation, Research, sometimes participatory | Research, sometimes participatory |



Clients and Facilities

- **Individuals**
- **Community Groups**
- **NGOs**
- **Non-profit sector**
- **Local authorities**
- **SMEs**
- **Regional authorities**
- **National authorities**
- **Industry**
- **Courses, Public Courses,**
- **Lectures, Science Weeks, Open Houses,**
- **High-school desk, PR Department**
- **Science Shop Internships**
- **Transfer Bureau/ Business Service Centre/ (Internships)**
- **Contracts**
- **Paid chairs**



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Science Shop Mediation Tasks

1. **Receive/solicit clients and (new) questions**
2. **Map the problem (articulation)**
3. **Preliminary research: Refer, Refuse, Advice or Formulate (scientific) research question (and funds if required)**
4. **Find a (co-) supervisor**
5. **Find a student or researcher**
6. **Maintain communication and process**
7. **Facilitate useable presentation/publication of results**
8. **Help client implement results and formulate follow up actions**
9. **Make inventory of follow-up research/themes**
10. **Evaluation**



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- **Established 1984**
- **Non-profit-association outside university**
- **About 50 members**
- **Budget 2,5 Mio EUR, no external funds**
- **Professional staff of 25 in flat, collective structure**
- **Not involving students in projects**
- **Demand driven and creating own fields of work**



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The Bonn Science Shop

Service, Education, Consulting and Research

- Labour market and vocational training
 - Publication of two weekly magazines
 - Survey of the labour market
 - Job fair on renewable energies
 - Training of key qualifications
- Civil Society and Sustainability
 - Foundation network, Workshops, Conferences,
 - Visualisation of land use, Art d'Éco,
 - Living Knowledge - international networking
- Environment and health
 - Elektromog, ecological constructing, mobility, nutrition, textiles



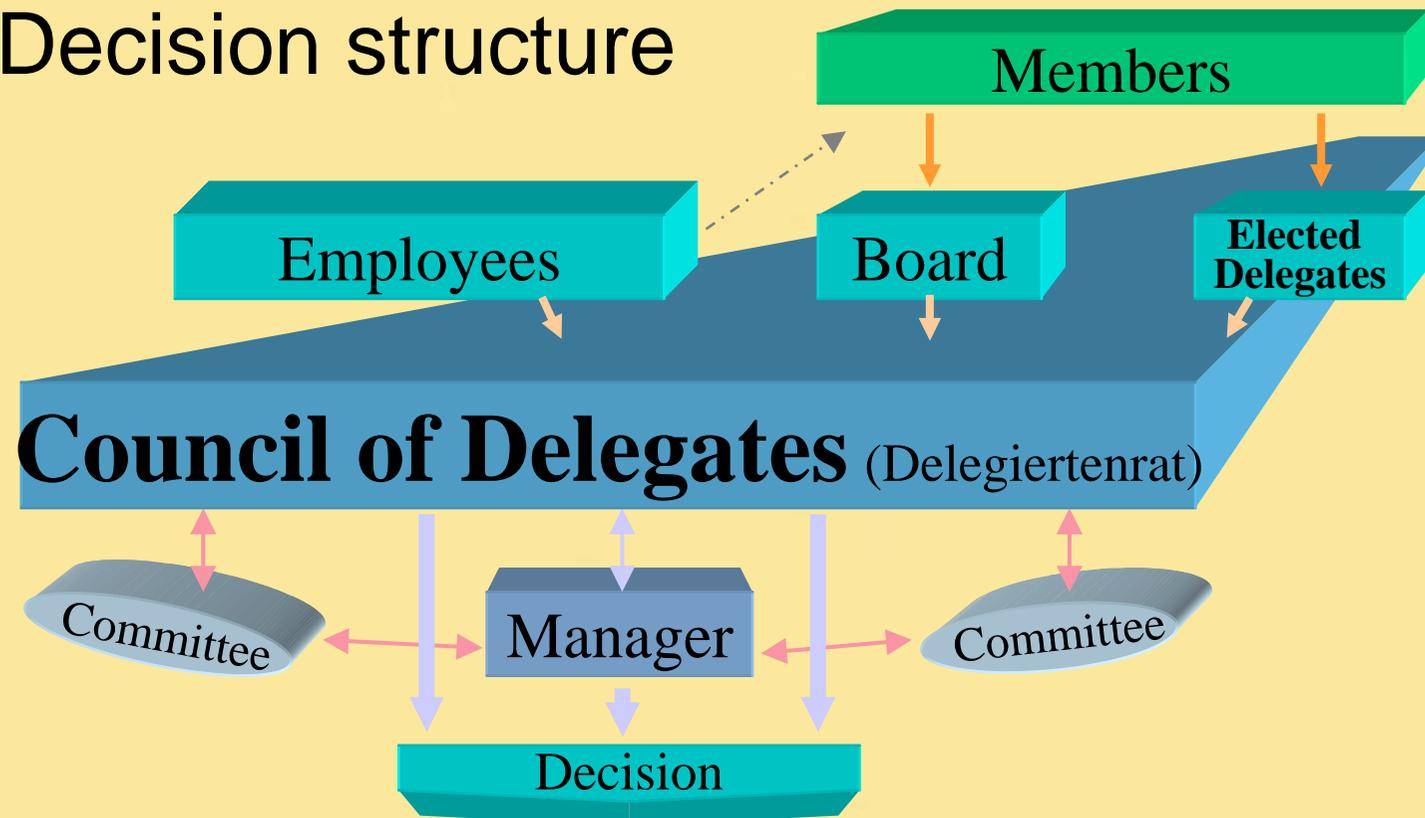
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The Bonn Science Shop

- Decision structure





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Living Knowledge Network

www.livingknowledge.org

- International co-operation
- Increase visibility and accessibility
- Exchange of information
 - Discussion list (300 subscribers), newsletter (200 subscribers), website, magazine, conference (250 people from 30 countries)
- Quality control
- Options of organisational structure and funding opportunities under discussion



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Strategic Impacts

- Critical mass
- Funding opportunities
- Proposal submissions
- EC Science & Society
- National spin off
(government, national institutes)
- Local spinn off
(hosting institutes, media, public awareness, empowerment)





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Practical Impacts

- Mentoring and training
consultancy, advise, exchange)
- Dissemination of results
magazine and newsletter, linking networks, public access, database
- Thematic research co-operation
environmental issues, urban planning, Science Shop call





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EU Commission and Science Shops

- The Science and Society Action Plan (2001) appreciates the activities of Science Shops in bridging the gaps between citizens and research community.
- Funding of studies and network projects. In FP6 calls for further networking and establishment of new Science Shops.
- Workshops and conferences (e.g. Science in Society Forum 2005, Europe of Knowledge 2020)





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EU Commission and Science Shops





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EU Commission and Science Shops

ISSNET Improving Science Shop Networking

- 13 partners from 9 countries to develop and maintain an international Science Shop network, „Living Knowledge“ magazine, newsletter and conference. Transnational research cooperation.

TRAMS Training and Mentoring of Science Shops

- 17 partners from 14 countries to support new or recently established Science Shops by offering training material, training seminars and coaching. Summerschool foreseen for August 2006

CIPAST Citizen Participation in Science and Technology

- 12 partners from 7 countries to establish a network of European organisations with experience in participatory methods. To develop training units for different levels of decision and practice.



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“The European Union is not just about institution building and bringing Member States closer together, it is also about bringing Europe closer to the citizens. Consequently, its research programmes are keen to promote partnerships and knowledge for living.

Recognising the crucial role Science Shops play in the local community in raising scientific access and awareness, the European Commission has been helping this movement evolve and reach critical mass.”

Rainer Gerold

Science and Society Director

Research Directorate-General, European Commission





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“L’Union européenne ne se limite pas à la construction d’institutions et au rapprochement d’États membres, elle veille également à rapprocher l’Europe des ses citoyens. Par conséquent, ses programmes de recherche mettent tout en oeuvre pour promouvoir les partenariats et la connaissance au bénéfice de la société.

Constatant le rôle crucial joué par les boutiques de sciences au sein de la société pour améliorer l’accès à la science et la conscience de la science, la Commission européenne aide ce mouvement à se développer et à atteindre une masse critique.

Rainer Gerold

Directeur de la Direction „Science et Société“
Direction générale recherche, Commission européenne





The role of NGOs in research

- NGOs are often only asked to participate as 'window dressing' or to disseminate research results, rather than for genuine partnership and input into the project design.
- NGOs are critical observers, defending the interests and needs of sections of civil society.
- They can act as valuable conduits of information between the scientific community and the general public.



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The role of NGOs in research

- NGOs can conduct research themselves. NGOs need their own research capacity.
- Scientific decision making should be made more democratic. Civil society has become an important producer of knowledge, innovation and independent expertise.
- NGO involvement should be an eligibility criterion for EU support.
- See www.essfnetwork.org for activities ,towards a real partnership with society‘



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The 7th Framework Programme

Science and Society aspects

- “Trust in research” (governance)
- Strengthening the scientific workforce (young people, careers in science, gender equality)
- Communicating science



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The 7th Framework Programme

Possible Science and Society activities

- Networks
- Optimizing national efforts (open method of co-ordination)
- High profile events (prizes, science weeks, conferences)
- Specific research
- Studies, surveys and data collection



The 7th Framework Programme

Activities under discussion

- “CRAFT” type of instruments for the civil society organisations
- Work-package « dialogue with civil society » within certain FP7 projects
- Dissemination
- Technology platforms

But only 80 Mio Euro foreseen for Science and Society in FP 7



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Further reading

www.livingknowledge.org

Current information, database, contact information, archive of reports, newsletter, magazine
International Science Shop Office: isso@bio.uu.nl

EU website on Science Shops

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/scientific-awareness/shops_en.html

Brochure on Science Shops

Available in English, French and German,
jette.gents@cec.eu.int

European Science Social Forum

Civil Society Organizations' Alliance for another European Science Policy, www.essfnetwork.org





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Thank you for your attention.

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