

# LIVING KNOWLEDGE NETWORK



## Science Shops – Important Actors in Community Based Research

In addition to the demands made on research and development by commerce and industry, 'civil society' organisations have their own research needs.

Science Shops are organisations created as mediators between citizen groups (trade unions, pressure groups, non-profit organisations, social groups, environmentalists, consumers, residents association etc.) and research institutions (universities, independent research facilities).

A Science Shop provides independent, participatory research support in response to concerns experienced by civil society.

The term 'science' is used in its broadest sense, incorporating social and human sciences, as well as natural, physical, engineering and technical sciences. How Science Shops are organised and operate is highly dependent on their context.

search agendas  
 search Institutes  
 Higher Education in

Setting shared research agendas by **CSOs** and **Research Institutes**  
 The role of **Higher Education** in creating knowledge with communities **Communities and students** learning **together** Evaluation and **quality improvement**: New lessons learned on **measuring** the value of **community engagement** and **collaborative research** Developing partnership working for research – **civil society engagement Policies** to **support collaborative research relationships**

### YOU CAN FIND

#### European Networks and Contact Points in



#### Non-European Networks and Contact Points in



### International Science Shop Contact Point

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## LIVING KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Building Partnerships for Public Access to Research



Living Knowledge  
 The International Science Shop Network

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## Breaking out of local Conditions

Science Shops and similar organisations in Community Based Research (CBR) in general are small and local entities, bound to local conditions. They are highly diverse in respect to organisational structure, focus and funding.

A network allows for breaking out of the local. Facilitating collaboration and cooperation broadens the base of knowledge and experience. Living Knowledge focusses on strategic issues and is active within political settings.

## International Networking

Sharing the expertise of Science Shops advances citizens' ability to participate in the dialogue between science and society. A network is a flow that moves with the contribution of its members. Let us raise the awareness of scientists and policy makers of (research) issues – in Europe and worldwide – that are of concern to the public.

Living Knowledge is the international network of Science Shops and comparable organisations. It is a meeting place for all organisations and persons interested in community based research and science and society relations.

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 invited to subscribe for free to the Living Knowledge network.

## Tools and Infrastructure

Living Knowledge offers a forum for the exchange of information, expertise and ideas on community-based research and science and society relations in general. The network's activities focus on different levels, ranging from strategic networking to training of individual skills and from information to mentoring of old and new Science Shop practitioners.

## Newsletter and Magazine

The Living Knowledge newsletter provides information at regular intervals about issues relating to the various facets of Science Shop work. It is targeted to Science Shops and Science Shop staff, as well as similar working organisations and scientists interested in community based research.

This structural activity for the expanding network is complemented by the magazine "Living Knowledge - Journal of Community Based Research". The magazine publishes a combination of news, reviews and discussion of Science Shop research methods, results and impacts.

## Projects and Conferences

Local research themes might have an international dimension. The network can be used to link organisations all over the world that work on similar local research issues and create opportunities for thematic research co-operations.

Five international conferences and several international coo-

peration projects have been indispensable milestones for the development of the Living Knowledge Network. The 6<sup>th</sup> Living Knowledge Conference will be held in April 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Find out more about SCIPAS, interacts and TRAMS (Training and Mentoring of Science Shops) or other projects, such as PERARES (Public Engagement in Research and Research Engagement with Society) and upcoming conferences or summer schools on

## The Living Knowledge Website

The network website, [www.livingknowledge.org](http://www.livingknowledge.org), gives access to all tools of the network. It offers background information, news, and announcements about all kind of activities related to community based research, science and technology and science communication. It also gives access to reports and the archives.

Join the Living Knowledge Network by subscribing to the Living Knowledge News and Discussion Group.

Subscribers will be kept informed about developments related to "Building partnerships for public access to research" and the international network of Science Shops.

