

BOTTLENECKS IN SCIENCE SHOP ACTIVITIES

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IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS

- Characteristics of Flemish higher education system
- University's structural organisation
- Society's culture

PILOT CASE

- Client: Communication Agency (Verbal Vision)
- Research: Press covering of migrant issues in Antwerp-based periodicals
- Research Period: September 2003 – Juli 2004
- Researcher: Senior student in Communication Sciences
- Science Shop: Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

BOTTLENECKS & REMEDIES (1)

🔒 **Strict academic calendar**

- 🔒 *Increased communication about rigidity of Flemish educational system*
- 🔒 *Calls for new research questions only in October or Februari*

🔒 **'Social questions' remain unanswered**

- 🔒 *Expanding research service package*

BOTTLENECKS & REMEDIES (2)

🔒 Too high or wrong expectations about student (thesis) research

- 🔒 *Extra focus on intake discussion with client*
- 🔒 *Intake discussion with thesis director*
- 🔒 *Thesis market*

🔒 Contact (student)researcher – client

- 🔒 *Intensified mediating activities*

BOTTLENECKS & REMEDIES (3)

🔒 **Strict rules for writing thesis reports (structure and jargon)**

- 🔒 *Student workshops to increase scientific writing skills*

- 🔒 *Popular report (with extra cost)*

🔒 **Press release (Content? Ownership?)**

- 🔒 *Strict rules for press releases*

CONCLUSION

Problems due to rigidity of Flemish higher education system and university structure are solved by intensified communication (content & timing & thesis market), increased regulation and extra research options

Problems due to society's expectations about student (thesis) research are solved by intensified communication (content) with clients and thesis directors