

Living Knowledge – Building Partnerships for Public Access to Research

Newsletter – March 2004

Dear reader!

I am very pleased to present to you the sixth issue of the “Living Knowledge Newsletter”. I hope you will enjoy it.

Yours sincerely
Norbert Steinhaus

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Living Knowledge – International Journal of Community Based Research

Just released

The second issue of “Living Knowledge – Journal of Community Based Research (LK)” is now published. With its general theme “Science in conflict resolution” the current issue presents various facets of Science Shop methodologies and experiences when involved in problems and conflicts. Henk Mulder from the Chemistry Shop Groningen describes how mediation became a side effect of technical advice by the example of odour annoyance. José Manuel de Cózar-Escalante from the Eco-Social Studies Centre in Tenerife reports from new experiences from the Canaries regarding participation in solving environmental problems. And Alan Irwin from Brunel University, UK, writes about scientific governance and democracy in Europe outlining seven challenges and opportunities for the future.

Further contents:

- “Stepping up the science and society dialogue”, an interview with Georges Vlandas from the European Commission on a call for proposals within the Science & Society Work Programme 2004,
- “Changing Cultural Attitudes”, a report on female genital mutilation in the Netherlands by the Science Shop of the Free University of Amsterdam,
- “Mushroom Intoxication”, a report on a Romanian Science Shop project, and
- “News”, “Conference Reports” and “Clippings”.

Please ask for a free copy

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Call for papers

Deadline for submissions for the next issue of Living Knowledge will be 28 May 2004!

Its general theme will be “**Policy Recommendations**”.

The magazine welcomes the contribution of reports, articles, news, press releases and clippings, letters, contribution to discussions, job offers, internships etc. To simplify your

contribution to the magazine you can send your press releases, headlines, brief information or news in any language. The editorial board will choose topics from your contributions and organize the translation. Reports and detailed articles should follow the editorial guidelines. Information about LK and the editorial guidelines can be found at the homepage of the Science Shop network (www.scienceshops.org). Please feel free to contact the editors for your questions and any support.

Please note that Living Knowledge is not a peer reviewed scientific publication yet. The purpose of LK is to disseminate informative articles and reports that represent the current work of Science Shops in the field of (demand driven) community based research matters.

Please send your contributions until May 28th to:

Norbert Steinhaus, norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de or Caspar de Bok, C.F.M.deBok@bio.uu.nl
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Science Shop Brochure

An international brochure on Science Shops has just been released. This brochure was produced by the European Commission in close co-operation with the International Science Shop Network. In the brochure information can be found on activities and impact of Science Shops. The examples in the brochure give an outstanding overview of the different contexts in which Science Shops operate and the networking of Science Shops. The brochure is of special interest for people who want to adopt the concept of Science Shops or are involved in science and society issues (on a practical, political and management level). The brochure is available in English, German and French. Brochures can be ordered for free at the European Commission, Science and Society Directorate. The English brochure was sent out together with the current issue of the Living Knowledge magazine.

For ordering the brochure please contact Jette Gents at the European Commission,
jette.gents@cec.eu.int, tel. +32.2.29.99909

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Work programme 'Science and Society 2004' - Call for proposals

(Governance, scientific advice, outreach and communication, FP6-2003-Science-and-Society-7)

On 17 December 2003 the EU Commission published a call for proposals in the field of "Governance, scientific advice, outreach and communication." There is a budget of 7.1 Million Euros for activities and projects. Of special interest for Science Shops are activities within part C of the work programme:

Promoting science and scientific culture: Improving the communication between the scientific community and the public on issues of European research. This includes actions to promote an interchange of scientific information products for the general public (e.g. travelling or permanent exhibitions, documentaries) between European countries. This also includes the adaptations necessary for transposing the products to other countries, including translation into other languages. Budget: 400.000 Euro

Networking "Science Shops" or equivalent organisations: This includes the creation of networks to promote and enable the creation of new Science Shops; the production of on-line information, training materials, guidelines etc.; the reinforcement of the European dimension of Science Shops; the dissemination activities; creation of specific tools for communication; scientific expertise and advice. Budget: 400.000 Euro

Promoting the 'embedding' of science and society issues across the Framework Programme: This includes innovative pilot communication activities bringing together partners from existing FP6 actions ('integrated projects' and/or 'networks of excellence') and new participants, particularly local or regional actors (e.g. local authorities, museums, schools, Science Shops, local media). While continuing to reflect the European dimension of the FP6 action, the aim is to reinforce the local and regional impact by making citizens. Budget: 300.000 Euro.

Closing date of the call will be 11 May 2004 at 17:00 Brussels local time.

A list of the general activity areas addressed within this call as well as specific topics explicitly open for this call with an indication of the types of instruments is available under http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=119. Here you can also download the complete call text and the work programme 'Science and Society 2004'. The Commission strongly encourages referring to both the Call Text and the Work Programme for further information.

An overview of Expressions of Interest (which are ideas for projects) related to this call can be found at: http://fp6.cordis.lu/eoi/ss/eoi_srch.cfm

Also the Living Knowledge news and discussion list (see www.scienceshops.org) can be used for sharing ideas on possible projects.

Also published was the call 'René Descartes Prizes' (FP6-2003-Science-and-Society-8) with a budget of 1.25 Million Euro. The prizes are seen as awards for achievements in scientific trans-national collaborative research and exemplary actions in scientific communication.

Closing date of the call will also be 11 May 2004 at 17:00 Brussels local time.

For more information see: http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=124

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Quality and Perspective of Utrecht Science Shops

On 20th November 2003 the results of a project on the quality and the perspective of Utrecht Science Shops have been presented at the national Science Shop conference in the Netherlands. The first report has been handed over a member of the Board of Utrecht University. Main conclusions of the project are:

- Quality of the Science Shop work is good.
- Core activities of the Utrecht Science Shops are research and advise for not for profit organisations and community groups and community applied education for students. Although new activities can be explored, this should not influence the focus on the core activities.
- Co-operation among Utrecht Science Shops can be improved, especially regarding procedures and public relations
- The Utrecht Science Shops are important factors in the non-commercial community services Utrecht University. Non-commercial university community services, as part of a legal university task beside research and education, need to be strengthened. This is not an exclusive task of Science Shops.
- Science Shops need to improve the visibility of their activities and impact.
- A follow up project has started to implement the recommendations of the report. This project runs in close co-operation with the Board of Utrecht University. Although the project was related to the Utrecht Science Shops the conclusions can easily be upscale to the Dutch Science Shops in general and even the international networking of scienceshops.

For additional information contact Caspar de Bok, Science Shop for Biology, Utrecht University, e-mail c.f.m.debok@bio.uu.nl. The report (Reportnr P-UB-2003-09) and summary (Reportnr P-UB-2003-10) can be downloaded for free at www.bio.uu.nl/wetenschapswinkel, see "Rapporten". Both report and summary are in Dutch. A translation in English of parts of the report is foreseen in the near future.

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Renewable Energies as Job Engines

Bonn Science Shop organises job fair for renewable energies and presents research results on occupation situation

With meanwhile 120,000 persons employed, renewable energies developed to a "job engine". However in the field of wind energy the number of the jobs almost doubled itself in the last four years. But what kind of jobs and occupation profiles hide themselves behind this number? Can the existing job market cover on the need for sufficiently qualified employees? The Bonn

Science Shop Bonn tries to answer these questions within a project funded by the Federal Ministry of Environment. A central part of this project is the first job fair on renewable energies, which will take place on 02 and 03 June in Bonn. The meeting will focus on contacts between employers, prospective employees, educational institutions and interested people in general. Persons looking for a job can get information about educational offers, join single and group discussions with enterprises, and let their application documents be checked for free. The job fair will be accompanied by an expert's conference and by trade workshops. While preparing the job fair the Bonn Science Shop Bonn made a research on the workforce requirements, the qualification profiles asked for and the deficits regarding qualification and professional training. The research results will be presented end of March.

For further information please contact Anke Valentin, Wissenschaftsladen Bonn, +228-2016123, anke.valentin@wilabonn.de

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Conferences

The Europe of Knowledge 2020 – A vision for university-based research and innovation

Liège, Belgium, 25-28 April 2004.

University heads, researchers, industrialists, policy makers and representatives from civil society at large, will gather in Liège, Belgium. They will chart the best course to take European universities forward to embrace the challenges of the 21st century.

Universities and in particular their research activities have a critical role to play in the Europe of knowledge. Exploring the issues raised by the Commission's communication published in February 2003 on "The role of universities in the Europe of knowledge", the conference will address, in a series of parallel sessions, themes such as: the creation and certification of knowledge, the changing nature of research training, public/private partnerships, the role of university for research in the regions and the challenge of inter-disciplinary research. Each session marks the culmination of an extensive consultation exercise that started with the contributions received from across Europe and was then followed by a series of in-depth preparatory seminars. Participants will not only have ample time and every opportunity to present their views during the open discussion, but can be assured that their input will be important in the shaping of the Commission's strategy.

During this conference (at least) two interesting workshops are organised:

1. A workshop on « **Science Shops** » with the following agenda items: Review and discussion of the different links between universities (and similar institutions) and the Science Shops (and comparable organisations), a review and discussion of existing actions in this area and the exchange of best practices. The workshop will be held on Monday, 26 April 2004 in the afternoon and will be repeated on Tuesday morning, 27 April 2004.
2. A workshop dedicated to « **Sciences dissemination** », organised by the Scité network in Liège on 27 April 2004. The main themes to be discussed here are: The contribution of European universities in science education at school, the suggestion of particularly successful activities ("best practices") and the "sciences ambassadors" scheme – a voluntary or a professional approach.

E-mail registration and further information: rtd-consult-univ@cec.eu.int,
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2004/univ/index_en.html

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Advancing Science & Society Interactions

2nd Living Knowledge Conference, Seville, Spain, 3-5 February 2005

The conference aims to share information on community-based research and on research done by civil society actors in Europe. It will be of interest both to people already active in and people interested in community based and participatory research. The conference will focus on

- Building equitable and supportive research partnerships with civil society organisations
- Developing concepts and tools for civil society research.
- Facilitating trans-national community based research themes by developing concepts and procedures for trans-national community based research co-operation.

- Developing strategies and concepts, which will impact on Science & Technology policy
The conference organisers assert that a science for all must be built with all.
For more information see www.scienceshops.org

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International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Management

The 2nd International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Management **ICEEM/02**, will be organized on September 23-26, 2004 by the Department of Environmental Engineering, in collaboration with InterMEDIU Department and OAIMDD, at the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry, Technical University of Iasi, Romania. A special section on Environmental Education and co-operation with the civil society is envisaged. More information can be found at <http://omicron.ch.tuiasi.ro/iceem02/> or <http://www.tuiasi.ro/events.en.html> and at the Conference secretariat, e-mail: brobu@ch.tuiasi.ro

For other conferences related to community based research, science and technology and science communication see 'news' and 'agenda' at the Living Knowledge-website www.scienceshops.org

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The newsletters are archived on the Living Knowledge homepage: www.scienceshops.org.

Please recommend this newsletter to your colleagues and partners.

If you want subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter please send a message to C.F.M.deBok@bio.uu.nl or visit our website at <http://www.scienceshop.org> and select 'Discussion list and Newsletter'

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