

Living Knowledge – Building Partnerships for Public Access to Research

Newsletter – May 2004

Dear reader!

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

Yours sincerely
Norbert Steinhaus

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Invitation to Discuss Creating a Science Shop Association of the Americas (SSAA)

Peter Levesque, Ottawa, Canada, has launched the initial consultations leading to the creation of a Science Shop Association of the Americas and is seeking input from interested parties from across Central America and the Caribbean, North America, and South America. He is also seeking support and ideas from colleagues around the world, currently active in Science Shops, Community-based Research Centres, and Participatory Action Research initiatives, on how best to create and support such an Association.

Given the growing policy strength of the Science Shops in the European Community, the mass of funded initiatives in Canada and the United States, the long history of Participatory Action Research in Latin America and South Asia, the timing appears right to push on creating a more public profile for such activities in the Americas, with a focus on the Americas.

There are 35 independent countries and 16 dependencies, colonies or territories in the Americas, divided into three large groupings: Central America and the Caribbean, North America, and South America. All of these, with the exception of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), and Navassa Island are served by colleges, universities, and/or incorporated community organizations. As is the case in Canada, there is community-based research / participatory action research / Science Shop activity currently underway which could benefit from the creation of an association or community of practice.

Although new initiatives are needed and welcome, there is definitely value to be derived from an ongoing exchange between existing entities. This has been clearly demonstrated in the creation of the International Science Shop Network and Living Knowledge. The sharing of

knowledge, opportunities, and expertise increases the value of that knowledge by creating new contextual interpretations. An Association can reduce the time and cost of this exchange by helping to identify patterns and brokering relationships between actors. It can also serve to protect knowledge and practice that is at risk of being lost or assimilated by larger, more powerful forces. Initial thoughts include the possibility that many communities across the Americas could benefit greatly from the creation of Science Shops directly or in association with existing Science Shops. The work of Dr. Henk Mulder of the University of Groningen (Netherlands) with his colleagues in Romania is a good example.

Hemispheric bodies however, are not created without much discussion, many alliances, plenty of resources, lots of thinking, and a great amount of political will. Creating the Science Shop Association of the Americas, linking activities from Nunavut to Tierra del Fuego, should start with identifying clusters of current activities and drawing these clusters together - CURAs, CBR Centers, public research groups. Linkage without productive activity however, will quickly cause dissipation of collective intentions and efforts. As such, it is important that roads be created to opportunities that derive value - new resources, new personnel, new ideas, new contexts.

This call to interested individuals, whether singular or in associations, is being made in order to develop an understanding of what the creation of the SSAA will mean to public science in the Western Hemisphere. Among the many initial supporters of this idea are Richard Sclove, founder of the Loka Institute and author of "Democracy and Technology" (Amherst, MA, USA), Caspar de Bok, head of the Biology Science Shop at the University of Utrecht, (Netherlands), and co-ordinator of Living Knowledge – The International Science Shop Network, and Bessa Whitmore, Professor of Social Work, Carleton University, Ottawa and co-founder of the Community-based Research Network of Ottawa (Canada).

To add to this discussion, please send your comments to:

Peter Levesque, Science Shop Association of the Americas Consultation, 905 Balzac Lane, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K4A 4E4, 1.613.841.0858, peterlevesque@mac.com

(Peter Levesque is currently the Deputy-Director of Knowledge Products and Mobilisation at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in Ottawa. The idea of creating a Science Shop Association of the Americas stems from his work with creating the Community-University Research Alliances program and helping to develop the Knowledge Mobilization Division at SSHRC, serving on the Board of the Loka Institute, and chairing meetings for the the Study and Conference on Improving Public Access to Science and the International Science Shop Network both based in Europe.)

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Work programme 'Science and Society 2004' - Submitted proposals

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

For the work programme 'Science and Society 2004' with the closing date of 11 May 2004 the following proposals involving Science Shops have been submitted:

TRAMS

TRAMS (Training and Mentoring of Science Shops) will develop specific structural services for the International Science Shop Network Living Knowledge. The EC project ISSNET shows there is a growing request for tools and support to get started with new science shop activities in many regions of Europe. Development and dissemination of innovative practice in science shops will be encouraged, through a customised training programme toolbox and appropriate partnering and exchange (mentoring) among members of Living Knowledge. All members of Living Knowledge can participate in activities of TRAMS (e.g. workshops) and make use of the results and materials of TRAMS. The workpackages of TRAMS will focus on 1) Mentoring, 2) Training materials, 3) E-modules, 4) Dissemination of results. Co-operating Science Shops and Science Shop like organisations come from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Contact: Caspar de Bok, C.F.M.deBok@bio.uu.nl

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FUSSNEWS

"Future tasks of the International Science Shop Network and its added value for intermediaries and their clients with respect to New Member and Candidate States of the EU (FUSSNEWS)" intends to encourage and to enable the participants and their partner organisations to improve the work of their already existing intermediaries or to establish new ones promoting Community Based Research and citizen oriented knowledge transfer. Tasks and structures of intermediaries will be reflected in relation to gender issues. Furthermore the specific situation of the science-society dialogue within the transformation process of former socialist countries will be explored. Applicants: 10 Science Shops and Gender Units from Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Slovakia, Spain, and Turkey.

Contact: Wolfgang Endler, wolfgang.endler@zek.tu-berlin.de

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CIPAST

The CIPAST (Citizen Participation in Science and Technology) proposal aims at bringing together organisations (1) having significant experiences in the use of participatory procedures in scientific and technological issues, (2) belonging to the different families of experienced actors in that field (parliamentary offices, research institutes, science shops and science museums, academic researchers), (3) already structured in European networks (EPTA, IGLO, ECSITE, ISSNET). These organisations will be mobilized for setting up a training programme and producing re-usable training tools tailored to the various contexts in which participation of civil society is relevant. The target audience for this training programme will be decision-makers belonging not only to the political sphere, but also to research sector, non profit organizations and industry; a special effort will be made to identify participants in the new member states of the E.U. Co-operating organizations from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom

Contact (for Science Shops): norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de, or project co-ordinator: Roland Schaer, Cite des Sciences et de l'Industrie (Paris, France), r.schaer@cite-sciences.fr

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Other proposals prepared and submitted for different European programmes and calls are

ESTIA-NET, Sokrates, Erasmus 3, Thematic Network: Opening Up Electrical Engineering, Computer Technologies and Applied Sciences to Successful Women Careers

The Knowledge Shop, Sokrates, Grundtvig II, Learning Partnership: This 2-years project aims at developing new concepts in adult education on how to involve "learners" more actively into the process of learning.

MIDAS II, ESF (European Social Fond), EQUAL :This project aims at developing strategies against racism and discrimination with respect to the labour market.

Novum 1, ESF (European Social Fond), EQUAL: This project empowers juvenile migrants and aims at supporting their integration into the labour market.

Contact: Andrea Gnaiger, Institut für gesellschaftswissenschaftliche Forschung, Bildung und Information, Innsbruck, Austria, fbi@reflex.at

If you want to add your information please contact norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de or C.F.M.deBok@bio.uu.nl

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Work programme 'Science and Society 2005-2006'

This summer the EC will start discussions - mainly internal - about the Science and Society Work Programme 2005 and 2006. At a workshop on Science Shops during the conference 'The Europe of Knowledge 2020' in Liège last month the question was raised what the EC can do to support the networking of science shops, what EC activities will be beneficial for the science shop network and how the EC can improve the involvement of community groups in the use of knowledge and the debate on science and society. These open questions give opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the new Science and Society work programme.

The Living Knowledge Discussion List can be used to raise topics and questions which might be relevant for the coming work programme. The network can be used to share and discuss ideas. The chance of this informal procedure is to give input to the EC. The International Science Shop Office will collect all information and summarise it before informing the EC about the ideas that are going around in the network.

If you want to contribute to the exchange of ideas please subscribe the Living Knowledge Discussion List at www.scienceshops.org or contact Caspar de Bok, , C.F.M.deBok@bio.uu.nl.

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Living Knowledge – International Journal of Community Based Research

Call for papers

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of Living Knowledge is to be prolonged and will now be 16 June 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 June 16th 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. The brochure is of special interest for people who are involved in science and society issues (on a practical, political and management level) or who want to adopt the concept of Science Shops. The brochure is available in English, German and French. Brochures can be ordered for free at the European Commission, Science and Society Directorate.

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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Conferences

3-5 February 2005

Advancing in Science & Society Interactions, 2nd Living Knowledge conference, Seville (Spain)

Conference Focus: Learning from community based approaches to research.

This conference deals with the relation between citizenship and science and technology; specially with community based research and on research done by civil society actors.

The Event of Seville, 3-5 February 2005, is the second international Conference promoted by the Network "Living Knowledge" and will be dedicated to present, to debate and to evaluate the experiences, future trends and opportunities of Science Shops and similar organizations. Science Shops are mediating organizations that promote and facilitate Universities to open to their local communities with the collaboration of university students and NGO's or civic associations.

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.

The conference tracks for the presentation of papers are:

- Research and Education Priorities.
- Social Demands on Research and Technology.
- Structures for the science and society mediation.
- Science Dissemination and Communication.
- Society's participation in science.

The Conference is hosted by the University of Sevilla and is organized in plenary sessions, panel sessions, parallel sessions with paper presentations; video sessions; and market place for the presentation of posters and exhibits. The conference is sponsored by the European Commission (within the ISSNET project) and the Social Council of the University of Seville.

For more information see www.scienceshops.org

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23-26 September 2004

2nd International conference Environmental Engineering and Management, [ICEEM/02](#), Iasi, (Romania)

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

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Other Conferences

- 9-11 June 2004: [INRO 2004](#): *Towards sustainable partnerships between universities and society groups*, Brasov (Romania)
- 4-7 August 2004: *International conference [Community and Campus](#): Building partnerships for better practice, research and education*, Stavanger (Norway)
- 25-28 August 2004: [Public Proofs – Science, Technology and Democracy](#) - European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) / Society for the Social Study of Science (4S), Paris (France)
- 25-28 August 2004: *Highlighting Science, Technology & Innovation in Europe*, [Euro Science Open Forum](#), Stockholm (Sweden)

For more 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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