

Living Knowledge – Building Partnerships for Public Access to Research

Newsletter – May 2005

Dear reader!

I am very pleased to present to you the 12th issue of the “Living Knowledge Newsletter” and hope you will enjoy it.

Norbert Steinhaus

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Network I

Toolkit for Science Shops

New EU project to support Science Shops

Since the start of the International Science Shop Network Living Knowledge in 2003 many new initiatives bloomed to start new science shops in Europe. On May 1, 2005 a new EU funded project 'Training and Mentoring of Science Shops' (TRAMS) has been launched. TRAMS will offer a toolkit with training materials for new and existing science shop. Besides TRAMS will offer new science shops an individual mentoring programme for practical advice and support. The work packages of TRAMS will focus on 1) A mentoring programme for Science Shops, 2) Training materials and programmes 3) E-modules and E-learning tools, 4) Dissemination of training and mentoring activities.

In TRAMS 18 organisations from 14 countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Netherlands, Romania, United Kingdom, Spain and Turkey) cooperate. A combination of experienced and new science shops will be a guarantee for customised tools and a relevant content of the toolbox. TRAMS will run pilot projects to with the intention to offer structural services for the international Science Shop network. The Living Knowledge magazine and website will be used for the dissemination of the information on TRAMS and the tools that will be developed. Activities, like workshops, that will be open for all members of Living Knowledge will be announced on the Living Knowledge news list and newsletter. TRAMS has been rewarded with € 450,000 for a period of three years.

More information about TRAMS will be available soon at the Living Knowledge homepage www.livingknowledge.org. Contact: Caspar de Bok, Science Shop for Biology, Utrecht University, C.F.M.deBok@bio.uu.nl.

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Network II

Citizen Participation in Science and Technology

In the last decades, the involvement of civil society and citizens in policy deliberation and decision-making processes relating to scientific and technical issues has undergone significant and also highly heterogeneous changes in European countries. The CIPAST project (Citizen Participation in Science and Technology), which started on April, 1st, aims at bringing together organisations that have significant experiences in the field of participatory procedures in scientific and technological issues, such as parliamentary offices, research institutes, science shops and science museums, academic researchers. The identified organisations will be mobilized for setting up a training programme tailored to the various contexts in which participation of civil society is relevant. The increasing international network of Science Shops and their demand-driven and bottom-up approach to facilitate and develop citizens' access to, and use of scientific information, knowledge and expertise was identified for possible future cooperation. Several workshops and a final conference, as well as a website, discussion lists and a newsletter will help to disseminate best practises and will help to structure an expanded network of European organisations involved in participatory processes.

www.cipast.org (under construction)

Contact: Roland Schaer (co-ordinator), Director Sciences and Society, Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris, France, r.schaer@cite-sciences.fr or Norbert Steinhaus, Bonn Science Shop, Germany, norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de

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Communication Tools

Online-Questionnaire on Living Knowledge Website

The Living Knowledge network at the moment provides a discussion list with brief information and ongoing discussion, a bimonthly newsletter with updated information and the Living Knowledge magazine with its detailed reports and articles that represent the current state of information on community based research matters. With an online-questionnaire we want to find out more about the specific dissemination and communication needs of people actively involved in science and society interactions in relation to the Living Knowledge Magazine and Newsletter. It will take less then 10 minutes to fill in the questionnaire. The questionnaire will be processed anonymous. We would like to thank you for your cooperation. If you want to have a closer look at the Living Knowledge magazines or newsletters first, you can find them in the archives at www.livingknowledge.org.

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Science and Society

Meetings and Round Tables

Science Shops are actually involved in different meetings with the Science and Society directorate. On June 9 there will be a meeting about ways to engage NGOs in research activities. This meeting is part of the progressive development of the DG Research relations with civil society organisations. It is a follow-up of a specific session on NGO involvement which took place at the EU Forum "Science in Society" on 9-11 March 2005 on "Civil Society and Science: An increased role for NGOs?" For a report of this session see http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2005/forum2005/index_en.htm.

The purpose of the current meeting is to discuss possible modalities to involve civil society organizations in research activities with some NGOs which expressed their interest in EU research and DG research services.

On June 9 there will be also a meeting with representatives of the Regional Authorities of the members states in Brussels. The scope of this meeting will be 'Science Shops as actors for regional development'.

The aim of this meeting is to inform the representatives about science shop activities and the possibilities that Science shops offer the civil society organisations. Also options for Regional Authorities in supporting Science Shops will be discussed.

On June 10 a workshop on Science Shops with representatives of experienced and new science shops as well as some NGOs and policy makers will be organised in Brussels. The aim of this meeting is to discuss concrete options to bring an international dimension into local co-operations between science shops and local NGOs. The debate will also focus on the recently started project called TRAMS (Training and Mentoring Science Shops) and the possibilities for other participants to take part in it. Additionally this workshop will discuss the structure of the future International Science Shop Network and its international contact office.

For information about the meeting 'Engaging NGOs in research activities' you can contact Claudia Neubauer at claudia.neubauer@sciencescitoyennes.org, Tel. +33.1.40384147

For information about the meeting 'Science Shops as actors for regional development' and the 'Science Shop workshop' you can contact Caspar de Bok at c.f.m.debok@bio.uu.nl, Tel. + 31.30.2535796

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Research & Development

Campaign for a FP7 more engaged with sustainability and social justice

All communications and reports coming from the EC and the European Parliament and concerning FP 7, the research & development programme of the European Commission, signalise that there will be very few money for science and society issues as well as issues directly related to sustainable development. That's why the 'European Science Social Forum (ESSF)' – a platform of non-profit associations and NGOs as well as individual persons that work to get a model of scientific and technological progress engaged with a solidary, sustainable and fair society – proposes a Europe wide petition that critically analyses future research priorities and the vision of society they portray. The ESSF proposes a kind of alternative programme and vision.

The petition, signed by more than 350 civil society organisations, scientists, and citizens from 19 European countries (and 12 other countries), shows that there is both scientific and civil society unease about the way that FP7 is being organised and about the priorities it is proposing. The current FP7 process is mainly influenced by technical and business experts who fashion the world for a narrow range of interests and there is not enough influence from the wider European public. The petition continues to gather signatures.

You can find the full text of the petition and a very simple signature procedure at: www.essfnetwork.org

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Knowledge Management and Mobilization

Call for Papers

The International Journal of Public Sector Management

Data, information, and knowledge exist in greater quantities now than at any time in the past. Trends indicate that the production of knowledge will not only grow but also accelerate. The rise of knowledge management, knowledge transfer, knowledge exchange, knowledge mobilization (and the growing lexicon of associated terms) seems to be rooted in the desire to move from simply "knowing" to smartly "doing". This special issue of the International Journal of Public Sector Management seeks to examine emerging good practice from experiments and initiatives. Issues of importance, addressed at an international, national, regional or provincial, or local level, may include but are not limited to:

- Infrastructure needed to support evidence-based practice and policy in health, education, social services, and governance,

- Role of trust and reciprocal relationships in choice of evidence,
- Optimization of face-to-face and computer assisted interaction for decision making at multiple levels of decision making,
- Democratization or anti-democratization of decision making by the use of technology,
- Changes in the value of personal knowledge within institutions,
- Emergence of new social networks, knowledge brokers, and collaborative work practices,
- Boundaries of public and private information and authentication of data, information and knowledge.

Papers for this special issue should be sent electronically by e-mail (in a Word format file) to the guest editor by the submission deadline of October 31, 2005. Authors are asked to follow the IJPSM standard formatting requirements. Authors wishing to discuss their paper prior to submission may contact the guest editor by e-mail. The guest editor of this IJPSM special issue is: Peter Levesque, plevesque@cheo.on.ca, Knowledge Exchange Specialist, Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Ottawa, Canada

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/rpsv/ijpsm.htm>

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Online

EU Bookshop

EU bookshop is an online bookshop giving access to publications from the EU institutions, agencies and other bodies. In addition to the online bookshop, this service will offer an online catalogue and archive of all EU publications. EU bookshop will allow users to search for EU publications, order them and where possible, download copies. The EU bookshop is managed by the Publications Office.

<http://www.bookshop.eu.int>

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Science Shop Brochure

An international brochure on Science Shops is available. 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. 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

12-16 September 2005, Rome, Italy with FAO and IFAD

Farming Systems and Poverty: Making a Difference

IFSA 18th Symposium and Global Learning Opportunity (GLO)

More information at www.fao.org/farmingsystems, farming-systems@fao.org, European IFSA steering committee: Kirsten von der Heiden, kheiden@zek.tu-berlin.de; Heiden.Plagge@t-online.de

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September 15-18, 2005, Winnipeg, Canada

CUexpo 2005: Community-University Research Partnerships: Leaders in Urban Change

More information is available at <http://cuexpo.uwinnipeg.ca>

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9-13 October 2005, University of Bonn, Germany,

Global Environmental Change, Globalization and International Security: New Challenges for the 21st Century

6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community

More details, including information, application forms, timelines and deadlines, are available at the Open Meeting website, <http://openmeeting.homelinux.org>

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November 14-15, 2005, Brussels, Belgium

Communicating European Research

More information at www.europe.eu.int/comm/research/cer2005.html

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November 17-19, 2005, Sedona, Arizona, USA

Putting Knowledge to Work!

Fifth National Community Based Collaborative Research Consortium (CBCRC)

More information at www.cbrc.org

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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'

This newsletter is part of the output of ISSNET (Improving Science Shop Networking) – which has been awarded financial support by the European Commission through the contract HPRP-CT-2002-00011 in the framework of “*Improving the Human Research Potential and the Socio-Economic Knowledge Base*”; programme “*Raising Public Awareness*”.