

Living Knowledge – Building Partnerships for Public Access to Research

Newsletter – May 2005

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Living Knowledge I

Thematic Research Cooperation

In the near future a thematic research cooperation might become an important activity and added value of the Living Knowledge network. Science shops and similar organisations do have close links with local community groups and at many places around the world local groups do have the same questions. With the help of Science Shops and the Living Knowledge network local organisations do have an opportunity to break out of the local.

The EC intends to announce a call for proposals (by the end of 2005) to start international cooperation on community based research projects. The local dimension of the research and the international cooperation with organisations dealing with the same kind of local research questions seem the key elements of this call for proposals. If you run regular research projects (regardless the theme) which might be of interest for local organisations (and Science Shops) in other countries you can consider submitting a project proposal once the call has been announced. This call will be a pilot call in FP6 and might become a structural call (maybe yearly) in FP 7 if it will be successful (with many relevant proposals submitted).

From this perspective it is important that the Living Knowledge network shows the potential of these type of calls by submitting a wide variety of proposals. It can be very useful to use the Living Knowledge list to share ideas for international cooperation. You can subscribe for the discussion list at www.livingknowledge.org.

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TRAMS

Summerschool 'Introduction in Science Shop concepts and activities'

In the EC project TRAMS training and mentoring activities will be develop to support organisations that intend to start a Science Shop as well as new Science Shops. Amongst others TRAMS will be a pilot for structural training and mentoring activities of the Living Knowledge network.

In August 2005 TRAMS will organise an internal workshop to introduce the concepts and activities of Science Shops will its project partners. One of the objectives of this workshop is to develop a summerschool 'Introduction in Science Shop concepts and activities'. This summerschool will be a yearly activity of the Living Knowledge network. Participants will learn and discuss about options, do's and don'ts, procedures, examples of Science Shop and alike organisations. The summerschool will focus on people that want to learn about the concept of Science Shops and discuss the opportunities to start an new Science Shop initiative in their region. The first summerschool is foreseen in summer 2006. Information will be published

on the Living Knowledge discussion list. Organisation can already express their preliminary interest in the summerschool.

For information and an expression of interest you can contact Caspar de Bok of the International Science Shop contact point at c.f.m.debok@bio.uu.nl.

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Workshop

Seminar on Science and Society

As part of its 20 years anniversary the Science Shop at Technical University of Denmark organises a seminar on science and democracy this autumn.

We find this topic more important than ever because we have seen changes in the management structure at the universities in Denmark towards a model with appointed and not elected managers and with boards with a majority of external stakeholders. The government has had focused on appointing business leaders and managers from governmental institutions for these boards, whereas no representatives from NGOs have been appointed.

Universities have now got an obligation to exchange their knowledge with society, which mostly has implied a stronger focus on innovation and entrepreneurial activities with new emerging companies based on results from university research. Some of the technology areas such as ICT-, bio- and nanotechnologies, which are put high on the R&D agenda these years, raise new challenges for society. They are claimed to have significant potentials for improving health and environment. These potentials – and the related risks – are, however, highly contested and there is a strong need for development of new models of governance of science and technology. These models need also to take into account the changes in university policy and management.

The Science Shop at DTU will try to play a role in the dialogue around the future governance modality and intends to launch an initiative called “Dialogue on sustainable development”. Here NGOs and researchers can meet and establish dialogue around potentials and risks for environment, health, and resource consumption – for example related to different technology areas and their application. One of the aims is to ensure a focus on alternatives to the so-called high technology areas in strategies for a more sustainable development.

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Call for proposals

Promoting Science and Scientific Culture

To improve communication between the scientific community and the public on issues of European research the EU commission recently has published a call for proposals. Proposals are invited in the following topics:

1. Actions to promote an interchange of user-friendly scientific information products (e.g. travelling or permanent exhibitions, documentaries, science theatre etc) between European countries. The information products should be targeted at members of the public unfamiliar with research and scientific issues. This includes the adaptations necessary for transposing the products to other countries, including translation into other languages (0.6 M Euro)
2. Co-production of audiovisual programmes and support to TV and radio productions on research and science, preferably involving more than one Member State or associated country. The action should target members of the public unfamiliar with research and scientific issues, including young people. Proposals should include a clear indication that the relevant organisation intends to broadcast the programme in question (1.0 M Euro).

Closure dates: 25 10 2005, 17:00 (Brussels local time). **Call identifier:** FP6-2005-Science-and-society-15
For details and further information – also on the open calls on ‘Risk governance and ethics’ as well as ‘Women in Science’ – please see <http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/calls.cfm>.

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New Research Initiative

Creating Sustainable Growth in Europe

Since its inception in 1973, the Anglo-German Foundation has promoted comparative study and discussion of the processes of wealth generation and social development in Britain and Germany. This work has been funded by annual grants from the governments of the two countries. The new challenges which both countries face over the next thirty years include the need to stimulate creativity and innovation, changing patterns and flows of migration and environmental constraints on sustainable growth. The Anglo-German Foundation is launching a major research initiative with the general topic 'Creating sustainable growth in Europe'. The total budget for the initiative amounts to around £3 million, or €4.5 million. Outline applications must be submitted by 30 September 2005.

For detailed information please see www.agf.org.uk.

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Magazine

Living Knowledge – International Journal of Community based Research

Just released

The third issue of "Living Knowledge – Journal of Community Based Research (LK)" is now published. With its general theme "Science and Citizen Participation" the current issue presents various facets of Science Shop methodologies and experiences in science communication and ways of involving citizens in decision making processes. Please ask for a free copy.

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Science and Society Newsletter

In October 2004 the EC Directorate Science and Society launched the first issue of the Science and Society Newsletter. This quarterly newsletter provides news from Science and Society activities at the European Commission. In May 2005 issue 2 has been released.

You can find the newsletters at http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/documents_en.html

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Forum on university-based research

In May 2005 the EC report 'European Universities: Enhancing Europe's Research Base' has been published. As a follow up of the conference 'The Europe of Knowledge 2020' a high level expert group has discussed recommendations for actions for the European universities in order to contribute to achieve the Lisbon and Barcelona objectives.

One of the recommendations for action to improve universities' role in the exchange and transfer of knowledge with industry and society is to promote the creation and the advancement of Science Shops at Universities.

The report can be downloaded from http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/index_en.html

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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. 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

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>

November 14-15, 2005, Brussels, Belgium

Communicating European Research

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

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

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The newsletters are archived on the Living Knowledge homepage: www.livingknowledge.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 www.livingknowledge.org and select 'Discussion list and Newsletter'

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