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Building partnerships for public access to research

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Editor:

Norbert Steinhaus, Wissenschaftsladen Bonn e.V., Buschstr. 85 - D-53113 Bonn, Tel + (49) 228 201 61 22, fax + (49) 228 26 52 82, norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de

Living Knowledge Website

www.livingknowledge.org

The newsletters are archived on the Living Knowledge website. Please recommend this newsletter to your colleagues and partners. You can subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter by sending a message to C.F.M.deBok@bio.uu.nl

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Science Shops: Research for local civil society Call for proposals

On 15 November the European Commission has published a call for proposals in the area of 'Science Shops' under the Sixth Framework Programme's 'Science and Society' activity. This is one of the areas covered by the 'Structuring the European Research Area' specific programme.

The objective of the call is to contribute to universities' mission of sharing knowledge with the society, in particular in the context of regional and local development. This will be done by developing and strengthening science shops (and similar organisations) based in, or cooperating with, universities. This aim is to help science shops address the specific needs identified by local civil society, while at the same time optimising the use of available research results and expertise. In specifying the instruments to be used in these areas, the call requests the use of specific support actions (SSA) and coordination actions (CA).

The total indicative budget for this call is 1 million euro. Proposals should be submitted before March 30, 2006. To find out the particular instruments requested for each area, please consult the [full call text](#) at the EU cordis server.

With this call the network can, and will have to, prove the strengths and advancements that have been made in international Science Shop cooperation. The special issue of the Living Knowledge Newsletter (October 2005) summarised the results of the inventory of ideas for research cooperation that might be submitted as project proposals in this specific call. These ideas can be a starting point for the development of a research proposal. Of course new projects can also be developed and submitted.

The local dimension of the research and the international cooperation with organisations dealing with the same kind of local research questions are the key elements of this call for proposals. The call is a great opportunity to link community-based research activities in a field with the community-based research activities of other organisations. It offers the opportunity to break out of the local with some of the Science Shops' community-based research projects.

The Living Knowledge Network can function as a discussion forum to link initiatives and to facilitate the process to match ideas. The recently launched database can be a tool to find organisations that do work in the same thematic field as one's own.

Please use the Living Knowledge Discussion List for exchange of information and discussion of options for future research cooperation. You can subscribe for the list at www.livingknowledge.org.



Living Knowledge Database

The completely new Living Knowledge database was launched on 11 November as part of the EC project ISSNET.

Over the last few years, there have been many requests for an overview of organizations and people active in community based research. The now launched database will fulfil the needs of many Living Knowledge members.

The Living Knowledge Database is a free, public accessible resource for Science Shops and alike organizations, community-based (research) organizations, universities and policy makers worldwide. The database is an interactive 'information warehouse', that gives you information about who is active in community based research, what are the topics involved and where you can find these organizations. It is an on-line resource, which brings together information on community-based research organizations from around the world. The Living Knowledge database is searchable on (type of) organization, people, country and (thematic) expertise in community based research, all over the world.

If you are an active organization dealing with community-based research, you are invited to add your information to the Living Knowledge Database! Please submit your organization today! Go to www.livingknowledge.org click 'Living Knowledge database' and select 'submit organization'. To keep the database updated, with information of relevant organizations, the input it is moderated by the international Science Shop Contact Point. You can update your own information if any change in your information will occur. Although the members of the EC project have tested the database ISSNET, there sure will be many suggestions to improve the database. Everybody is kindly requested to send his or her remarks on or questions about the database to the [International Science Shop Contact Point](#). We need your feedback to optimize the use of the database.

Frequently asked questions on Science Shops

The EC project TRAMS will deliver training and mentoring tools to support new and existing Science Shops and alike organizations. One of these tools is the new section Frequently Asked Questions on the [Living Knowledge website](#). This FAQ section is a dynamic section. It is not a final version; questions and answers will be added. If you have any additional answers please feel free to contribute to the development of this section. A printable version of this section will be available soon.

Proceedings of 2nd International Living Knowledge Conference

At the beginning of February 2005 around 250 people from 30 countries all over the world participated in the 2nd 'Living Knowledge' Conference in Seville, Spain, which focussed on 'Advancing Science and Society Interactions'. With over 100 presentations - not only from an European context but also from North-, Central- and South-America, Africa, Middle East and Far East - this conference organised by the International Science Shop Network offered of a the huge palette of different experiences and interesting examples of community-based research and science and society relations.

The proceedings of this conference will be available soon. The publication shows the presentations of the plenary sessions and adds information to the presentations of the plenary sessions. All speakers' abstracts and their submitted additional material can be found on an enclosed CD. Please ask for a free copy by sending an e-mail to norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de

1st City Science Communication International Forum

On November 3-4 experiences on city science communication in Shanghai have been presented and discussed at the 1st City Science Communication International Forum. The forum focussed on experiences and opportunities in China, and Shanghai in particular. In order to discuss opportunities an overview of some practises outside China have been given by experts from abroad. Both days included presentations for the participants. In the afternoon of the second day a seminar was held with invited guests from Shanghai as well as 5 foreign experts from Spain, Austria, Japan USA and the Netherlands. The forum made clear there is still a strong focus on technology and 'hard' sciences when it is about science communication. Social sciences and humanities need to get a more prominent position in science communication, as does the active involvement of citizens. This first City Science Communication Forum in Shanghai has been a good starting point to move forward with science communication in Shanghai and to exchange information and experiences among the Shanghai stakeholders in science communication. The input and experiences of the foreign participants to the forum have been an incentive to continue the process that has been started now to establish (international) relations. There was interest from students, science and technology organizations and a potential funder to discuss the options to develop a Science Shop in Shanghai. Members from the Shanghai Science and Society network also joined the Living Knowledge network. For information about Science an Society activities in



Shanghai see the Shanghai Association for Science and Technology at www.sast.stn.sh.cn/en/

Calls for Contribution

7th European IFSA Symposium: New Visions for Rural Areas - Changing European farming systems for a better future

The symposium will be held from 7-11 May 2006 in Wageningen, The Netherlands. Contributions, referring to scientific research, methodological discussions, case studies, fieldwork, experimental reports etc., may include oral presentations, poster communications or computer demonstrations. Farmers, advisors and field workers are invited to present field notes and case studies; students are encouraged to present research questions, research set up and/or results. See details at the conference website www.farmingsystems.nl.

Community-University Research Evaluation: Developing Transdisciplinary Excellence

RNS Press is preparing an edited collection of case studies on best and emerging practices in the evaluation of community-university research, community-based research, and science-society interactive research. Submissions are sought from a range of practitioners, researchers, and research users, in all sectors, disciplines, and fields of investigation. Of particular interest are international comparisons, submissions from aboriginal communities, developing countries, and rural contexts. Submissions are due by August 15, 2006. Details can be found at the following link: <http://kekm.blogspot.com/2005/11/call-for-chapters-community-university.html> or by contacting: Peter Levesque, 1961 Caprihani Way, Ottawa, ON, K4A 4R6, Canada, Tel. ++ 1-613-841-0858, peterlevesque@yahoo.ca

Environmental Engineering and Management - ICEEM/03

The 3rd ICEEM conference, to be held from 21- 24 September 2006 in Iasi, Romania, is designed to bring together engineers, scientists and managers, active in the field of Environmental Protection, from universities, industry, local authorities, policy makers and non-governmental organizations, to discuss and analyse environmental problems, to share practical solutions and information on recent developments and to contribute to public awareness and ecological education. The topics "Environmental Engineering", "Environmental Management and Sustainable Development" and "Environmental Education and Curriculum Development" may give a guideline for possible contributions. Papers on other related topics will also be accepted if they fall within the objectives of the conference. Conference language is English. All papers should

not be submitted later than April 15, 2006. More information about ICEEM/03 can be found at: www.ch.tuiasi.ro/ICEEM03

Science Shops: EU Website and Brochure

The new [Science and Society portal](#) of the European Commission was launched on 14 November 2005. It replaces the previous Science and Society website. The portal is open to all news and organizations related to Science and Society. Still available at the old [EU website](#) are specific pages with general information about Science Shops as well as the minutes and single contributions of two Science Shop workshops organised by the European Commission. In addition an international brochure on Science Shops is available. In the brochure information can be found on activities and impact of Science Shops. It is available in English, German and French. Brochures can be ordered for free at the European Commission, Science and Society Directorate. jette.gents@cec.eu.int

Public Consultation

In response to a request from the Commission, the independent experts of the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) recently adopted an opinion on „the appropriateness of existing methodologies to assess the potential risks associated with engineered and adventitious products of nanotechnologies.“ In October the EC launched a public consultation on risk assessment methods for nanotechnologies. If you are interested to participate in the consultation you can do so until December 16. [Background information](#) and the opportunity for [participation](#) are given on the web.

Conferences

December 12-13, 2005, Brussels, Belgium
[Social sciences and humanities in Europe: New challenges, new opportunities](#)

January 20-23, 2006 Brussels, Belgium
[Meeting of Minds: Second European Citizens' Convention on Brain Science](#)

April 1-2 2006, New Haven, CT, USA
[Unite For Sight's 3rd Annual International Health Conference](#), Empowering Communities to Bridge Health Divides

July 15-19, 2006, Munich, Germany
[European Science Open Forum](#)

For more conferences related to community based research, science and technology and science communication see 'news' and 'agenda' at the [Living Knowledge-website](#).