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Building partnerships for

public access to research

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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

This newsletter is part of the output of TRAMS (Training and Mentoring of Science Shops) - which has been awarded financial support by the European Commission through the contract SaS6-CT-2005-013654 as Coordinated Action.

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. 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.



The total indicative budget for this call is 1 million euro. Proposals should be submitted before March 30, 2006. The EC made an applicants handbook for this call. This handbook contains a lot of useful background information and practical information for potential applicants. Call text, guide for proposers and the handbook can be found at the EU cordis server www.cordis.europa.eu.

With this call the Living Knowledge network can, and will have to, prove the strengths and advancements, which have been made in international Science Shop cooperation. The recently launched database can be a tool to find organisations that do work in the same thematic field as one's own. In the special issue of the Living Knowledge newsletter (October 2005) you can find an overview of some ideas for projects. The Living Knowledge list currently is used to discuss project ideas, to find partners or to express interest to participate in the preparation of a specific project. You can subscribe for the list at www.livingknowledge.org.

For any practical support or information you can always contact the International Science Shop Network Contact Point at isso@bio.uu.nl.

Living Knowledge Database

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

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. It 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 at www.livingknowledge.org. Please send your remarks on or questions about the database to the International Science Shop Contact Point. We need your feedback to optimise 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 organisations. One of these tools is the 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 the 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 - this conference presented a huge variety of experiences and interesting examples of community-based research and science and society relations. The proceedings of this conference are now available. Please ask for a free printed copy by sending an e-mail to norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de or download the pdf-file at www.livingknowledge.org (follow reports-documentation-ISSNET).



Community Based Research at the University of Victoria, Canada

Plans are under way at the University of Victoria in Canada to formally enhance support for community-based research (CBR) activities. In April 2005 the Vice President Research hosted a campus-wide CBR Forum, which was attended by over 80 UVic researchers and some community partners (Forum Proceedings and presentations are available at <http://www.research.uvic.ca/CBRF/>). Many benefits are anticipated in taking a more coordinated approach to CBR that would help link academics, communities, funders and policy-makers in research activities, from planning projects to mobilizing and implementing results. The next phase of building support for CBR include developing an organisational and governance structure, consulting with community research

partners on plans and needs, exploring funding sources and fit with other campus initiatives, and identifying networking partners within Canada and internationally. Connections through the international Science Shops network will be particularly valuable. The University of Victoria is planning to host the next Community-University Expo (CU Expo) conference in 2007 or 2008. More details will be available soon. Contact: Kelly Bannister, kel@uvic.ca

Science Shop of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam closed

From January 1, 2006 the Science Shop of VU Amsterdam is closed. After 23 years the board of the university decided not to support a unit like the Science Shop anymore. There are mainly budgetary reasons for this decision. But next to that there was a refocus on the universities activities in knowledge transfer in the not-for profit sector. Although VU Amsterdam still offers research opportunities for the not-for profit sector it will be more difficult for community groups to get access to research at VU Amsterdam. A clear entrance and uniform mediation process will be missing. This will effect both, community organisations and students interested in community-based research. Like at other universities that closed down their Science Shop and moved its tasks to research groups, there is a high risk of moving away from the real local needs for research and specific support for students doing community-based research. Let's hope VU Amsterdam will manage to falsify this.

Caspar de Bok

Thesis market: a success formula

From 19 October to 22 November 2005 the Science Shop Brussels and the Science Shop Antwerp organized their thesis market. The aim of this market is to give students the possibility to come directly in contact with organisations and their research questions and get information from first hand. 21 interested students already have registered for a research question during academic year 2006-2007. Read more [↪](#)

The bilingual Science Shop Brussels last year got a French-speaking counterpart at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, namely Boutique de Sciences Bruxelles. The bilingual project again got another 12 months financing from the metropolitan district of Brussels. The Boutique de Sciences is managed Jacques Moriau. www.wetenschapswinkel.be/contact/contact.html



Since 10 October 2005 the university of Antwerp has a coordinator on science communication. She cooperates with the Antwerp Science Shop and also supports initiatives on science communication within the university. For information on science communication within the university Antwerp you can contact els.grieten@ua.ac.be

SHOPFRONT wins national university teaching award

UTS Shopfront has won the award for the Provision of Education Services to the Community at the 2005 Australian Awards for University Teaching. UTS Vice-Chancellor Professor Ross Milbourne said the Shopfront model had been a boon not only for community groups, but for students involved in projects that have given them valuable professional experience and the opportunity to work with „real people on real projects“, and added „Shopfront serves the reputation of UTS and helps us to fulfil a



very important role of a university, that of social responsibility and engagement with those we are expected to serve - the community. Further information at www.uts.edu.au/new/index.html

Queen's University Annual Science Shop Award

Over the past 12 months, the Science Shop at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, worked with students and staff, to complete 52 projects in a wide range of areas. A research on alcohol and drug abuse among young people in the Coleraine area, carried out by young Holywood woman, 21-year-old Lynsey Mayberry, has just earned her the Queen's University Annual Science Shop Award. The work was carried out on behalf of the Safer Dancing initiative. Her dissertation focused on how some junior pupils in secondary and grammar schools - some as young as 11 - had experienced drink and drugs. Over half of the young people questioned had tried alcohol, but few were regular drinkers, while around 11 per cent had experience with drugs. Lynsey Mayberry said that she has greatly enjoyed her course and her time at Queen's, but added that in fact it was by doing her part-time job as she studied that she discovered the field she wants to work in.

More information: Emma McKenna, Science Shop, Queen's University Belfast, e.mckenna@qub.ac.uk

Alternative cure. An overview of anthroposophy, homeopathie and phytotherapie

New publication of the science shop medicines of the University of Utrecht, NL

Alternative cure has increased enormously the last 35 years. Many people more often look for a more natural manner of healing because they believe that natural product are better and more safe, fearing serious side effects of regular medicines. The opinions on alternative cure are divided. For a consumer association and the Science Shop for medicines at the University of Utrecht a study has been written. It tries to give an objective overview of three important alternative cures and the ideas behind the anthroposophy, homeopathie and phytotherapie. The 50 pages report (in Dutch) can be downloaded for free here [↪](#)

Contact: Wetenschapswinkel Geneesmiddelen, wewi@pharm.uu.nl

Participatory Methods Toolkit - A practitioner's methodological manual

'Participation' has become a buzzword in government statements and policy papers and the concept is being given concrete shape. But how can participation be organised? What methods are available and when and how are they applied? What are the implications for the budget and staff? To offer a few answers to these questions, the King Baudouin Foundation and viWTA (The Vlaams Instituut voor Wetenschappelijk en Technologisch Aspectenonderzoek, an independent and autonomous institute, associated with the Flemish Parliament) joined forces and shared their expertise. Nikki Slocum (United Nations University) used these materials to put together a toolkit on participatory methods (in English.) It contains a presentation of ten methods (e.g. World Café, Citizens' Jury, Consensus Conference, Expert Panel), a step-by-step, hands-on manual, with detailed checklists and realistic expectations of outcomes.

You can download a free copy here [↪](#)

ZIRN and DIALOGIK

After the demise of the Centre of Technology Assessment at the end of 2003, now two new research institutes are established: the „Interdisciplinary Research Unit for Risk, Governance and Sus-



tainable Technology Development (ZIRN)" within the International Centre of Cultural and Technological Studies at the University of Stuttgart, and a non-profit corporation called DIALOGIK for the investigation of communication processes between science, civil society, and the public.

Now the organisers are busy to construct a database containing all their contact addresses. To complete this effort they ask to answer a questionnaire at <http://www.dialogik-expert.de/en/list/list.htm>. The questionnaire will ask you for the address and special points of interest. All respondents will get a newly created newsletter regularly and material pertaining to the subjects mentioned in the questionnaire.

Contact: Prof. Dr. Ortwin Renn, for ZIRN: ortwin.renn@soz.uni-stuttgart.de, for DIALOGIK: renn@dialogik-expert.de, www.dialogik-expert.de

Journalists trust researchers



Nine out of ten journalists have confidence in researchers. They often meet scientists and have mainly positive experiences from these contacts. However,

many journalists would like it to be easier to get in touch with scientists and attain understandable information about research. These are the results from a new study from Vetenskap & Allmänhet, VA (in English: Public & Science). English summaries of the studies can be downloaded from here: [↻](#)

Contact: Karin Hermansson, Research Manager Vetenskap & Allmänhet, Karin@v-a.se, www.v-a.se

Science & Society ... and you?

Under this title the Science & Society directorate invited to a consultation seminar on January, 23rd, 2006, in Brussels. The declared purpose of this meeting was to examine the content of the Commission's proposals for a Science and Society chapter in the „Capacities“ part of the 7th Framework Programme, as well as giving the Science & Society Directorate and indication of its audience.

The seminar was based on the three action lines which will characterize the Science and Society activities: 1.) A more dynamic governance of the science and society relationship, 2.) Strengthening potential, broadening horizons (addressing gender research and young

people), and 3.) Science and Society communicate. Around 170 participants were asked to voice their opinions and expectations. Due to the narrow deadline for the presenting of the 7th Framework Programme at the European Parliament in early February, the main chance given in Brussels was to articulate input to the setting of priorities for the first period of support. It was a bit disappointing that any bottom up approach in the relation of science and civil society - its success and its further chances - was less considered in the contributions. Claudia Neubauer of the Fondation Sciences Citoyennes explained, that there is no NGO or civil society organisation in any network of excellence. She asked for a general instrument in FP7 for societal institutions or civil society organisations, such as CRAFT, or specific grants for researchers who like to address societal demands. It was surprising that -despite the success of existing bottom up approaches, with Science Shops as only one example and in contradiction to all policy papers - during this meeting science communication still was discussed as dialogue between scientists and science journalists. As Caspar de Bok declared the Science and Society part of FP7 is very important and it should aim at supporting mediators, giving citizens access to research resources and communication tools and fostering networking and the exchange of experiences.

Norbert Steinhaus

Post-Forum brochure „Questions of Science“

This brochure is a kaleidoscope of the points view expressed at the „Science in Society Forum“ held in March 2005. Now it is available in English, French and German but will be available soon in other EU languages and some non-European languages.

[English](#) PDF 2.1 MB

[Français](#) PDF 3.3 MB

[Deutsch](#) PDF 3.3 MB

Calls for contribution

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: [↗](#) or by contacting: Peter Levesque, 1961 Caprihany 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 organisations, 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 be submitted in full format, according to the specified editorial guidelines, no 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 organisations 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

Conferences

April 6-7 2006, Brighton, UK

Community University Partnerships for Community University Benefit

This event is primarily aimed at researchers and practitioners from community sectors and academia. It focuses on how universities are collaborating with community and public sectors in research, university student learning and knowledge exchange. www.brighton.ac.uk/cupp/conference.htm

April 1-2 2006, New Haven, CT, USA

Unite For Sight's 3rd Annual International Health Conference, Empowering Communities to Bridge Health Divides

http://www.uniteforsight.org/2006_annual_conference.php

June 4-7 2006, Edinburgh, UK

Participatory Approaches in Science and Technology (PATH) Conference

The PATH conference aims to explore how best to involve stakeholders and the public in policy development and decision-making on science and technology issues. <http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/PATHconference/>

July 15-19, 2006, Munich, Germany

European Science Open Forum

<http://www.esof2006.org/>

For links and 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

