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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

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Science Shops: Research for local civil society

Last weeks there has been a lot of exchange of information and ideas about projects for the EC call for proposals on Science Shops. As you might know this call for proposals has been a pilot call for proposals for EC Science and Society. The success of this call will be of relevance for future calls that focus on research projects in cooperation with civil society organisations. Now all the work is done, the call is closed, and hopefully all proposals have been submitted in time.



We think the call for proposals was a success. At a certain moment it seemed at least 50 project teams were involved in preparing a submission. For several and different reasons not all these activities will have ended in a submitted proposal. On the other hand, not all activities might have been visible for a bigger group.

The success of this call is partly a success of the Living Knowledge network. It brought together Science Shops and other organizations, such as consumer organisations, trade unions, NGOs and – what is in our eyes the most remarkable result – a lot of initiatives who already work like Science Shops or at least intend to adopt the Science Shop idea. And these partners did not only come from countries where the Science Shop model already was established before.

Now it's time to make up a balance of the call for proposals. We kindly ask you to send some basic information about the proposal you worked on, such as:

- Acronym of proposal
- Title of proposal
- Proposal abstract (e.g. copy of the abstract in the A1 form of the submitted proposal)
- Project partners
- Duration of the proposed project

The evaluation period is just ahead and wishes have been expressed not to publish information about submitted projects to avoid any influence on the evaluators. This is comprehensible but nevertheless we should start with the work on this overview as soon as possible. Not all submitted proposals can be funded and we invested a lot of time and work on the preparation. Such an overview could help to continue working on our ideas and perhaps even find other (national or international) calls where our projects might fit in. A publication in the next Living Knowledge newsletter, end of May, surely will not have influence on the evaluators any more.

But not only submitted proposals are of interest for the Living Knowledge network. If you intended to submit a proposal but finally didn't submit, any can information about the barriers you have been confronted with are of high importance for future activities. Any additional remarks on the call, the procedure and the process are welcome as well, regardless whether you submitted a proposal or not. This information might be of relevance for future discussions with the EC on similar calls for proposal.

Caspar de Bok and Norbert Steinhaus

You can send your information to c.f.m.debok@bio.uu.nl or norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de



Science Shop Summer School

A four day introduction in Science Shops
22-25 August 2006, Utrecht (the Netherlands)
Registration open now!!

The Science Shop summer school is a four day course. It will focus on the concept of Science Shops and community-based research in general. Experienced Science Shop staff will discuss operational options and good practices, but also barriers in running a Science Shop. Local contexts are very important factors for the success of a Science Shop. Therefore an active contributions of participants is essential in the discussions. Clear links will be made to the EC Science and Society policy and other activities to improve citizens access to, and participation in research. Examples of different Science Shop models will be given and visits to different type of Science Shops will be organised.

The summerschool addresses to scientists, science communicators, community leaders, NGO representatives, graduate students, PhD students, and others who are interested in setting up a Science

Shop or starting Community-Based Research projects. The course aims at introducing the operational options of Science



Shops in order to support the establishment of community-based research organisations.

Deadline for registration is 1 July 2006. The fee of € 300,- includes course materials, Science shop site visits and housing. Scholarships are possible. More information about the programme, housing, scholarships are available at www.livingknowledge.org or at the International Science Shop Contact Point, Utrecht University, Caspar de Bok, telephone: +.31.30.25635796, e-mail: c.f.m.debok@bio.uu.nl

Groningen Science Shops

At the beginning of March the Faculty of Sciences of the Groningen University has announced the closure of all 4 of its Science Shops. The closure is part of a reorganisation of the Faculty. The reorganisation is needed because of a budget deficit in the Faculty. Now the Faculty of Science claims that transfer of knowledge through Science Shops is no longer a priority task, trying to save the costs for 1.3 full time staff in the Science Shops.

The Science Shops of biology, chemistry, physics and pharmaceuticals have been bridging the gap between science and society already for 25 years.

The real victims of this closure will be the citizens and civil society organisations in the north of The Netherlands.

The closure is contrary to the university's third mission of 'knowledge transfer'. This service will then only be available to (paying) enterprises. The value of Science Shops is that they give access to groups that would otherwise not have access to science. The closure is also contrary to the EU wishes to support and advance Science Shops at universities. The Science Shops of the Natural Sciences Faculty in Groningen have always done their best to promote and support Science Shops at the European level.

The reorganisation plans have been discussed in the Faculty Council which now has decided to advise AGAINST the reorganisation plans of the Faculty Board. Regarding the Science Shops they stated that the proposed closure should be subject of a discussion at the level of the university and not at that of the faculty.

The Faculty Board will most likely still go ahead with its plan and submit it to the University Board anyway (The Faculty Council can give nothing more than an advice; even though the vote was a clear 11:1 it has no legal power). So, the next step in the decision making procedure is the University Board. They already received a lot of letters supporting the Science Shops, with is very good! Luckily, the Groningen Science Shops get a lot of support from citizen organisations and the press as well.

If you haven't done so yet, you can still check out the website, see what it is all about and what other people are saying, and if you wish leave a message www.rug.nl/wewi/nieuws/steunverzet?lang=en or send a letter of support for the Science Shops to The Executive Board of the University of Groningen, PO Box 72, NL-9700 AB Groningen, The Netherlands; fax number +31 50 363 4847. If you send a fax, please send a copy to the Groningen Science Shops: +31 50 363 7526. (or by e-mail: h.a.j.mulder@rug.nl)

Thank you all very much, it means a lot to us!
Henk Mulder & colleagues from Groningen

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).



SINAPSE (Scientific INformation for Policy Support in Europe)

International Science Shop Network registered

The main and general objective of the SINAPSE e-network is to make better use of scientific knowledge in policy making. SINAPSE is open to all scientists, scientific organisations and anyone with an interest in science. The Interna-

tional Science Shop Network is now registered in the SINAPSE network. So we would like you, who detain scientific expertise, to register in SINAPSE as organisation members (OM) of the International Science Shop Network and specify their own domain of interest and expertise. If you wish to only be informed of activities compatible with your own field, your registered profile can differ from that of the International Science Shop Network. Nevertheless your registration gives you the possibility to access SINAPSE and contact other scientists/experts. It also enables other SINAPSE members to identify you in the system when searching for a specific expertise. It is important to note that, once registered, you can at any time modify your profile and preferences.

In order to facilitate this process, there is the possibility to register members on our behalf (and automatically upload most of the information requested during a standard registration procedure) in order to save you from an unnecessary waste of time.

If you are interested to register in SINAPSE please go to the SINAPSE homepage <http://europa.eu.int/sinapse> or contact Caspar de Bok, c.f.m.debok@bio.uu.nl, or Norbert Steinhaus, norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de

Mentoring for Science Shops in France What's new?

The Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, partner in TRAMS, has invited Caspar De Bok (Science Shop manager in Utrecht University) on February 28th, to talk about Science Shops, the Living Knowledge network, and current activities. This day was divided into 2 parts : in the morning, 14 people interested in the concept of Science Shops listened & learned about global ideas and achievements ; they also proposed their experience & reflection for the development of the concept in France ; those people came from the Research or the Education, working as scientific mediators, organizing scientific exhibitions, retired or active researchers. The discussion was very fruitful, and people agreed to continue discussion through the electronic forum for the French Science Shop movement bds-france@sciencescitoyennes.org. This first meeting will help to gather efforts, and think about regional Science Shops, taking into consideration than experiences similar to Science Shops must exist in different places of the country, without having this name yet. The objective of the afternoon was to go further on the Cachan existing Science Shop (www.boutiquedescience.free.fr) and on Avignon's (François Warlop) intention to start a



project; Cachan unfortunately is a „sleeping shop“, since most of the active students are abroad (Denmark, China), or just too busy in their studies ; there is then a need to decide how to boost things and reactivate projects; citizen associations still regularly send requests (concerning organic farming, GMOs, noise troubles...) but no people can really take care of these requests. It has been decided to apply for a public grant to hire one people who could then better concentrate on administrative needs, and partnership formalization.

Concerning Avignon (and south of France generally), the main idea was to try to involve students from EN-SAM (agronomic school in Montpellier) on a 9-months project (from march to next January), aiming at identifying the needs and possibilities of establishing a Science Shop in south of France. This first step could help to find interested people among the researchers community, and determine the scale of the project to be set up. A second step could then be to organize a meeting during next winter with Claudia Neubauer and/or Caspar De Bok (under the frame of TRAMS), integrating a „scenario Workshop“ to teach about this new network. More information: Francois Warlop, francois.warlop@sciencescitoyennes.org



Women Empowerment in Life Skills (WELS Project)

To empower women of Qazvin region in life skills a community based participatory research was carried out in a population of 50000. Based on the findings of the participatory needs assessment about 120 volunteers were trained to communicate issues such as family management, family economics, oral health, coping with stress, beauty health, healthy nutrition, first aids at home, human skills, social skills, or heart diseases prevention to other women. Several workshops about these skills conducted for volunteers, and educational modules were also designed and published according to assessed needs of the target population.

You can ask for the full report from Saeed Asefzadeh, Professor & Director of Research, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran, sa34_asefzadeh@yahoo.com

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

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/>

August 22-25 2006, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Science Shop summer school

www.livingknowledge.org

August, 23-26 2006, Lausanne, Switzerland
EASST 2006; Reviewing humanness: bodies, technologies and spaces

November, 3-4 2006, Heidelberg, Germany
Genes, Brain/Mind and Behaviour, EMBL/EMBO
Science & Society conference at the European
Molecular Biology Laboratory, www.embl.org/conference2006/scope06

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