



Table of Contents

- **Science Shop call**
- **Science Shops at the school desk**
- **TRAMS Advanced Training Workshop**
- **3rd International Living Knowledge Conference**
- **International Science Shop Co-operation: EFSUPS**
- **Networking: Canada, Italy and New Zealand**
- **Ten years UTS Shopfront**
- **Citizen Participation and Democratic Governance: PRIA's 25th Anniversary Dialogues**
- **Governance of Natural Resources**
- **Publication: Research methods for Community Change**
- **Publication: Course-Based Action Research in Social Sciences**
- **Report: From science and society to science in society**
- **Science Shops: Flyer, EU Website and Brochure**
- **Living Knowledge Database**
- **FAQs on Science Shops**
- **Conferences**

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@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 Shop call

The European Commission published a pilot call for proposals („Science and Society 20“) specifically devoted to the financing of science shops projects. This call for proposals has been very successful: the Commission received 66 proposals. These have been evaluated during the summer by a group of independent experts. 27 of these proposals passed the evaluation thresholds and were considered worth to be financed. However, the available budget for this pilot call was just 1 Million € and therefore just a few projects will finally be financed and will start in January. The pilot call proved a large demand and interest from the civil society and the science shops (and similar organisations) for such a kind of financing. Specific information on the financed projects will be available in January 2007. Thanks to all who contributed and made this call that successful.

Science Shops at the school desk

How do Science Shops work and how to establish one? And how can the continuous work be guaranteed if the first hurdle is taken? By the end of August 32 participants from 11 countries have taken part in the Science Shop summer school in Utrecht and looked for exchange of experience and the consultation by experienced colleagues. The summer school was part of the EU project TRAMS (Training and Mentoring of Science Shops). All participants, who came from all angles of the world to Utrecht - among them also from USA, China, Japan and New Zealand - intend to start a Science Shop in their country. During the four-day programme the participants have been informed about the different models for Science Shops, their working methods and contexts. „Science shops are like a Goulash“, said a colleague who recently established the first Science Shop in Hungary. „They are always different, depending on the ingredients, but the product is the same!“

Of course the possibilities of starting a Science Shop have been discussed intensively. Beside presentations also working visits to Dutch Science Shops have been organised. This way the participants have got a varied picture of Science Shops. Even in the example country the Netherlands the integration of Science Shops to several universities is completely different. The spectrum of presented Science Shops included a Science Shop as a part of the Centre for Knowledge Transfer of Tilburg University (NL) as well as the Science Shop for chemistry at the department of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry of the Technical University Eindhoven (NL), alone operated by students, and the Science Shop Bonn who's work is settled outside of the university. The participants were throughout content with the offered information. „It was great to meet people from the other shops. We now have a good understanding of the challenges we face“, said a participant from Ireland. The summer school certainly provided information for an international need and will be repeated in the context of the 3. Living Knowledge conference at the end of August 2007 in Paris. There still sufficient interest on the guard list for participation stand.

The participants the recent summer school remain in contact among themselves and with the TRAMS project partners by a particularly discussion list. More information about the programme is available at www.livingknowledge.org or at the International Science Shop Contact Point, Utrecht University, Caspar de Bok, telephone: +.31.30.2534274, C.F.M.deBok@uu.nl



TRAMS Advanced Training Workshop

The EC project TRAMS (Training and Mentoring of Science Shops) was set up to develop training and mentoring activities to support organisations that intend to start a Science Shop. The objective of mentoring is to link existing experience to new (daily) problems in Science Shops. In practice, newly starting science shops can thus benefit from the experience of longer existing ones. In TRAMS, there are several modes of mentoring. The most open but passive one is the already existing FAQ-list on the Living Knowledge website. But TRAMS also includes on site visits with personal mentoring.

From 13-15 October an advanced training workshop was organized by Interchange, Liverpool, to give a feedback on the first mentoring visits in Ankara (Turkey), Barcelona (Spain), Brussels (Belgium), Crete (Greece), Paris (France), Reykjavik (Iceland), Timisoara and Arad (Romania), Riga (Latvia), Tallinn (Estonia and the mentoring of non-TRAMS partners during a summer school in Utrecht. Future activities of TRAMS will include a second mentoring visit and regional meetings in these countries.

Until the end of the project in April 2008 TRAMS activities will supply in addition a toolbox – as a set of documentation – and e-learning modules – as questions and answers – to guide readers from society groups, Science Shops and university research through a Science Shop project.

For further information please contact Caspar de Bok (C.F.M.deBok@uu.nl) or Henk Mulder (H.A.J.Mulder@RUG.NL).

3rd International Living Knowledge Conference

30 August to 1 September 2007, Paris, France

The preparations for the 3rd Living Knowledge Conference are getting more concrete. The conference will be held in Paris, France, from August 30, 2007 until September 1, 2007. The main conference themes will be:

- University engagement with communities
- Citizens' science and social movements
- Research policy - from local to global
- Innovation - added values for communities

A pre-conference session will give a general introduction on Science Shops as second and condensed Science Shop summer school. A draft programme is available at the Living Knowledge website (www.livingknowledge.org). More details, the call for abstracts and requests for support will be announced here as well as on the Living Knowledge discussion list. Please check for updates.

Printed copies of the Seville conference proceedings are still available. Please ask for a free copy by sending an e-mail to norbert.stei

nhaus@wilabonn.de or download the pdf-file at www.livingknowledge.org (follow reports-documentation-ISSNET).

International Science Shop Cooperation

The Bonn Science Shop and the University of applied Sciences Höxter from Germany, Intermediu Bucharest and Intermediu Bacau from Romania and the Institute of Environmental and Landscape Management (ESSRG) from Gödöllo, Hungary, recently started a EU funded project on the development of further vocational training for child minder and teachers at primary schools called EF-SUPS – Exploring the ground. Fostering Scientific Understanding in Primary Schools. This two year project is funded within in the Science education and careers 2005 call (FP6-2005-Science-and-society-16). For more information, please contact norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de

Networking

Canada: Office of CBR

The University of Victoria, Canada, is strongly committed to civic engagement and to partnering with communities to develop collaborative solutions to some of the most challenging issues of our times. The university offers an unrivalled combination of: one of Canada's broadest and most active sets of community-based research initiatives, one of the country's largest experiential learning programs providing real-life experiences for its students, and an extensive and innovative continuing education program. UVic is establishing an Office of Community-Based Research that will build on the university's existing strengths in civic engagement by co-coordinating and encouraging research partnerships with the community that will:

- create new opportunities for collaborative research on issues that matter to our communities
- provide strong evidence-based recommendations for public policies, programs and practices to meet community needs
- enhance the quality of life and the economic, environmental and social well-being of communities.

The new office will open in early 2007, under the direction of Dr. Budd Hall, an internationally recognized leader in university-community research collaboration. Your advice and support will help them move forward together. Please contact Budd Hall, Director, Office of Community-Based Research, bhall@uvic.ca

News from Italy

Recently the Dipartimento Interateneo di Pianificazione Territoriale e Urbanistica (DIPTU), Università di Roma "La Sapienza" decided to formal-



ise an effective transfer of scientific knowledge to community action groups as far as planning processes are concerned by the establishment of a Science Shop called "Laboratorio Università Città" (LUC). The shop can rely on a part time assistant and the collaboration of many members of the Department. A specific section on the Department's web site will be created soon. For the future we intend to extend the activity of the Shop from Planning to include other fields. For the time being we would like to keep in touch with science shops working in Planning. Further details can be obtained from Paolo Scattoni, Science Shop Coordinator LUC, paolo.scattoni@UNIROMA1.IT

In addition all 'Italian shoppers' are invited to participate in an Italian network ITSN (Italian Science Shop Network). A first step is the set-up of a website/blog (address: itsn.science-shop.org) to host information which could be of interest for new Italian shoppers. Important objective of a national network is to strengthen our position of a community based and participatory research approach towards local, regional and national decision makers as well as to introduce Science Shops to other research bodies. Moreover it is intended to organize a workshop on Science Shops in Ispra, Italy, giving existing shops, interested new shoppers and decision makers the opportunity to share information and experiences in the Italian setting.

For details and further questions do not hesitate to contact Michael Veith, info@science-shop.org

News from New Zealand

Mary Gardner, who joined the Science Shop Summer School just submitted a grant application for an action research project about starting Science Shops in NZ. Participants there agree to take up the idea in their institutions and report back via website three times over the next six months. What will be got to by then will be informative for TRAMS and others as well. Another part of the project is one-on-one email introductions between NZ and overseas researchers. Already two such links were made: interest in collaborations and sharing ideas is really high.

Interested people can join in on the science shop project as an overseas participant and add their comments and observations (1 paragraph at 3 set times is the commitment). Comments will be summarised and posted on the website. Privacy will be maintained. Five groups are involved already.

Who wants to develop some links with NZ researchers may join the network project. All needed is an email address with topics of interest, plus a commitment from you to report back at end of trial period about the success or problems in establishing contacts.

Please address specific questions and comments to mgardner@mgardner.info, www.mgardner.info/scienceshops.html

Networking and training session for UK and Ireland

The Science Shop at Queen's University Belfast is holding an informal networking and training session for UK and Republic of Ireland based Science Shops on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd February 2007. It is anticipated that this will be of interest to new and emerging Science Shops as well as to people who are considering setting up a Science Shop in their own University.

This session will provide a broad overview of the work done by Science Shops across Europe and the European Commission context for the work. It will also allow informal information exchange between participants and there will be ample opportunity to discuss current Science Shop practice and to consider the challenges and rewards of setting up a Science Shop within your own institution. Henk Mulder from The Chemistry Shop at Groningen University will be there to share his experiences of mentoring and training new Science Shops.

For further information contact Emma McKenna or Eileen Martin at Queen's University Science Shop, email science.shop@qub.ac.uk; tel: 028 9097 3107/3410.

Ten Years UTS Shopfront

UTS Shopfront - at the University of Technology Sydney - is a university-wide program that acts as a gateway for community access to the University. It links disadvantaged and under-resourced community groups to university knowledge, skills, resources and professional expertise. This allows projects that would not otherwise proceed to be completed with multiple benefits for both the community and students.

In 1996 UTS Shopfront began with a Quality Assurance Grant at the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences. 10 years and 400 community projects later UTS Shopfront wants to celebrate and launch their new research directions with sunset birthday drinks and entertainment. Happy Birthday!

lisa.andersen@uts.edu.au,
www.shopfront.uts.edu.au

Workshop: Citizen Participation and Democratic Governance

PRIA's 25th Anniversary Dialogues in Delhi, February 5-8, 2007

Inspired by the work of Paolo Friere, Myles Horton and Julius Nyrere, PRIA began its journey with a belief in the tenet 'knowledge is power'



and started questioning the rationale and knowledge behind the implementation of large-scale development programs. In the beginning participatory research studies were used to evaluate policies that threatened and ignored the rights of tribals over land, water and forests. However, it was only with the Bhopal Gas Disaster in 1984 that the relevance of the people's knowledge came to the fore with unprecedented force, strengthening the movement and the demand for the 'Right to know'. This movement not only triggered local efforts and demands for access to knowledge and justice but also triggered the creation of networks of civil society actors drawn together by a common goal. Building on its international linkages PRIA broadened this network over the years to include local, national and international organizations exchanging experience and learning; strengthening civil society voices advocating for participation and an empowered citizenship.

From its clear focus on participatory research principles, PRIA derived a participatory training methodology as a counterfoil to its research efforts. PRIA along with other civil society actors has succeeded in influencing both popular perspectives and the all-important 'official perspective' on people's participation. This journey of participatory research, which began from a small hut in New Delhi, has today extended its outreach to directly touch the lives of the poor and marginalized living in 12 states of the country and many countries beyond.

The Seminar on the 5th of February, 2006 is a celebration of this participatory research network and attempts to explore ways of deepening this networking and learning exchange. It is an occasion not only of celebration but an opportunity to bring together academicians, practitioners, civil society activists, bureaucrats and citizen leaders from across the country and the world to reflect on what participatory research has given us and what more it has to offer. As Budd Hall puts it, "it is about strengthening the role of knowledge strategies in search of a better world".

For further information on PRIA and the seminar you may visit the website www.pria.org.

Research and Training Network: Governance of Natural Resources

The Marie-Curie Research and Training Network "Multi-level Governance of Natural Resources: Tools and Processes for Water and Biodiversity Governance in Europe" (GoverNat) started. GoverNat concentrates on participatory processes and analytical tools as means to improve environmental multi-level governance. In specific case studies, GoverNat researchers match the need for improvement of specific govern-

ance schemes with the potential of improvement of combined participatory and analytical approaches. Designing and ideally even implementing improved governance schemes in collaboration with praxis partners constitutes the final challenge for this research project. GoverNat researchers herewith empirically test the hypothesis that certain combinations of analytical and participatory processes improve multi-level governance. You will find more information at www.governat.eu.

Research methods for Community Change: A project based approach

Everyone is a member of a community, and every community is continually changing. To successfully manage that change, community members need information. Research Methods for Community Change: A Project-Based Approach is an in-depth review of all of the research methods that communities use to solve problems, develop their resources, and protect their identities. Author Randy Stoecker shows readers how to use a project-based research model in the community.

The four features of the model are: * Diagnosing a community condition, * Prescribing an intervention for the condition, * Implementing the prescription and * Evaluating its impact. At every stage of this model there are research tasks, from needs and assets assessments at the diagnosis stage to process and outcome studies at the evaluation stage. Readers will also learn the importance of involving community members at every stage of the project and in every aspect of the research, making the research part of the community-building process.

Research Methods for Community Change. A Project-Based Approach, by Randy R. Stoecker, Sage Publications Inc., 2005, 288 pages, US \$ 39,95, You can download some free chapters [here](#) ➔

Pedagogies of Praxis: Course-Based Action Research in the Social Sciences

This book is about building public interest partnerships between institutions of higher education and local community-based organizations. It is not a how-to guide, but rather a compilation of case studies that discusses the implications, successes, and failures of such partnerships. In particular, this book documents the ways in which course-based action research (CBAR) within the social sciences functions as an effective resource for establishing and reinforcing partnerships among students, academic officers, and local communities. Students and faculty, guided through CBAR, learn how to develop ad-



vocacy strategies for marginalized communities through firsthand exposure to local-level politics and power imbalances in these communities. Nila Ginger Hofman is assistant professor of anthropology, and Howard Rosing is an anthropologist and associate director of the Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning, both at DePaul University.

Pedagogies of Praxis: Course-Based Action Research in the Social Sciences. N. G. Hofman and H. Rosing (editors), Anker Publishing Company, 2007, 180 pages, US \$37.95, Forthcoming December 2006, orders@ankerpublish.com

From science and society to science in society: Towards a framework for ,co-operative research`

This report arises from intensive discussions at an innovative two-day 'GoverScience' Seminar organised by the Governance and Scientific Advice Unit of DG RTD in November 2005. The Seminar focused on a variety of complex and hotly contested questions that are central to current efforts to move Europe towards a 'knowledge based society'. What is the appropriate role for science in the governance of modern society? How should research itself be governed? What is the function of public engagement? Attention focused on a variety of detailed topical areas: including the communication of risk, the provision of science advice, relations between government, industry and civil society and the best ways to balance involvement by experts, stakeholders and citizens.

The report can be ordered or downloaded here 

Science Shops: New Flyer, EU Website and Brochure

The EC printed a new flyer on Science Shops. This flyer focuses on different target groups, universities, students, citizens groups and local authorities. The flyer can be downloaded from the Living Knowledge website (www.livingknowledge.org, see section News). Printed copies can be ordered for free at the European Commission from liz.verserlund@cec.eu.int.

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 http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/home_en.cfm.

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 .

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.

FAQ's 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.

Conferences

February, 5-8, 2007, Delhi, India
Citizen Participation and Democratic Governance
PRIA's 25th Anniversary Dialogues, www.pria.org

April, 11-14, 2007, Toronto, Canada
Mobilizing Partnerships for Social Change, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health 10th Anniversary Conference, Details at: www.ccph.info

June, 17th-21st, 2007, Naples, Italy
How to design and organize public deliberation, CIPAST Training Workshop, www.cipast.org

30 August to 1 September 2007, Paris, France
Communities building knowledge: Innovation through citizens' science and university engagement, 3rd International Living Knowledge Conference, www.livingknowledge.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