



### Table of Contents

- **Concepts and Tools for Civil Society Research: 3rd International Living Knowledge Conference**
- **'Boutique de Sciences' en Rhône-Alpes. Scenario Workshop to set up a Science Shop**
- **Research and Societal Engagement. EURAB Final Report**
- **Airborne particles and cyclists – measuring & communicating health risks. European project 'VECTOR'**
- **The Impact of PAR**
- **Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator**
- **Science Shops in Wales**
- **From Dresden to Naples**
- **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](http://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](mailto: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.

### Concepts and Tools for Civil Society Research 3<sup>rd</sup> Living Knowledge Conference

Are you active or interested in community-based research? Then the 3rd International Living knowledge conference will offer an opportunity to share and develop information on community based, participatory research and innovation. The conference wants to attract both people already active in or people interested in community based and participatory research - citizens, researchers, students, civil society organisations, administrative officers, policy makers, etc.



Our intention is to build bridges between us, explore ideas, and discuss strategies in order to empower one another. The conference aims to share best practice amongst and link community based and participatory action research networks around the world. The conference will provide a forum where information on community based research, carried out in both community and academic settings, can be shared and developed. It will reflect the social impact and scientific and democratic value of research from a range of disciplines including social, natural, physical and technological sciences. Here you can reflect on a range of experiences from across Europe and beyond in the area of citizens science and cooperative innovation.

The conference will take place during three days in Paris, from 30 August until 1 September 2007. The first day is mainly focused on a pre-conference about science shops, followed by the inauguration of the conference in the evening. In total we received more than 150 proposals for oral presentations and 30 proposals for whole workshops, coming from more than 20 countries. This goes far beyond of what we expected ! So programming becomes a bit more complex than initially planned.

The main conference themes are listed below. The preliminary programme lists the following parallel session in each theme (Please check the conference website for updates):

- **University engagement with communities** with parallel sessions on '*Strategy*', '*Partnerships*', '*Evaluation*' and '*Science Shops and students*',
- **Citizens' science and social movements** with a workshop on *Environment/Ecology*
- **Research policy - from local to global** with workshops on '*Science Shops in post Socialist Countries*', '*Research Policy and Global Networking*', and '*Canadian Experiences*'



- **Innovation** - added values for communities with parallel sessions on 'Innovation and Agriculture', 'User led innovation & ICT' and 'Innovation and committed Scientists'
- **Participatory processes in science and technology** with parallel sessions on 'Participatory Procedures in S&T', 'Participatory Procedures: Practice and Experiences', a workshop on 'Participation and Agriculture' and a workshop organised by INES: 'Fruitful partnerships'.



### Structure of the Conference Programme

<b>Day 1 - Thursday 30 August</b> Registration desk is open all day.	
Pre-conference	
10.00-12.00	Session 1 - Introduction to Science Shops (TRAMS)
13.30-15.30	Session 2 - Introduction to Science Shops (TRAMS)
16.00-17.00	Introduction to EC policy
Conference	
17.00-18.00	Briefing of chair men and women
18.00-19.30	Inauguration Plenary
19.30	Drinks Reception
<b>Day 2 - Friday 31 August</b> Registration desk is open all day	
09.15-11.00	Parallel Sessions
11.30-13.15	Market Place
14.45-15.45	Second Plenary
16.15-18.00	Parallel Sessions
20.00-21.30	Conference Dinner
<b>Day 3 - Saturday 1 September</b>	
09.15-11.00	Parallel Sessions
11.30-13.15	Open Space
14.45-15.45	Fourth Plenary
15.45-16.30	Closing of the conference

Special sessions with transversal issues will deal with contributions to the discussion on nanotechnologies, health topics and biodiversity. The market place with Poster Sessions and the Open Space Session allow the presentation and discussion of experiences and practical questions in topics which could not have been considered for a presentation during a parallel session.

Abstracts will be published in the conference programme (paper and on-line). We will also publish conference proceedings.

The official languages of the conference will be English and French. The conference will include plenary sessions, oral presentations, workshops, and a marketplace with a poster session. Practitioners from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutes, universities (both academics and students) and science and society policy makers are invited to share their experiences and to submit a short abstract for a presentation or a workshop related to one of the conference themes.

**Early registration is possible until 15 July 2007.** Registration forms, detailed descriptions of the themes are available on the conference websites (   ) or at the website of the International Network of Science Shops: [www.livingknowledge.org](http://www.livingknowledge.org).

The conference is organised by the International Network of Science Shops, Fondation Sciences Citoyennes (FSC), the International Network of Engineers and Scientists for global responsibility (INES), the Centre of Sociology of Innovation (CSI) and the Unit Political and Social Transformations related to Life Sciences of INRA (TSV).

For more information about the conference please contact [citizens-research-LK3@sciencescitoyennes.org](mailto:citizens-research-LK3@sciencescitoyennes.org).



### 'Boutique de Sciences' en Rhône-Alpes

*Scenario Workshop to set up a Science Shop*

Thanks to the support and the accompaniment of the Living Knowledge network with the ENS Cachan a new Science Shop was born in 2004 under the impulse of a students' association – and 17 years after the closing of the last French Science Shop.

By the impulses of the Living Knowledge network and the European mobility project SOKORI ([www.sokori.org](http://www.sokori.org)), ADReCA (l'Association pour le Développement d'une Recherche Citoyenne Active), an association based in Grenoble, was set up to open new prospects for relations and exchanges between Science and Citizens by establishing and running a Science Shop like organization.

End of June ADReCA organized a Scenario Workshop to develop an action plan for the implementation of a functional Science Shop which takes into account the scientific, institutional, political and societal specificities in the region.

It was important to ensure upstream support for this idea, and to choose a robust methodology. Therefore the FBI Centre of Innsbruck (a Science Shop), supported by two other French representatives of the project TRAMS (Science Shop of ENS Cachan and the Fondation Science Citoyenne), agreed to promote the use of the „ Scenario Workshops methodology „.

Two other areas are currently committed in the same process with an aim of structuring the national network of the Shops of science in France: Isle-de-France and PACA. The coordination of the processes in these initiatives is ensured by Fondation Science Citoyenne. A national restitution of these workshops is right now programmed on August 30, 2007 in Paris within the framework of the 3rd international conference of the Living Knowledge network.

<http://boutiquedessciences.free.fr/pmwiki/index.php>, [www.uibk.ac.at/fbi/](http://www.uibk.ac.at/fbi/), <http://sciencescitoyennes.org/>



Andrea Gnaiger and Gabriela Schroffenegger from FBI, Innsbruck in a Scenario Workshop

### Research and Societal Engagement

*EURAB FINAL REPORT*

EURAB (European Research Advisory Board) has established a Working Group to address the means for engagement and dialogue between societal actors and the research community. With public mistrust in certain research-based institutions on the rise, there is a growing concern to engage more at the societal level. While researchers are beginning to work well in communicating their work to wider publics, and cooperation with business improving, there is still little sustained interaction with non-economic societal actors.

The report does not touch the significant support from EU programmes such as science weeks and festivals, consensus conferences and other science communication activities. Nor focuses it on the importance of close interaction between academic researchers and economic players. Rather this report focuses on recommendations to the community of researchers to engage with other relevant segments of the public in order to take societal questions and concerns more into account.

This report has made the case for the need for better dialogue between researchers and societal actors, not only to avoid societal conflicts or interruptions in the research agenda, but also because these other perspectives can play a vital role in the transition from research to innovation. Societal actors are capable of having a positive impact on research agendas. Within the good practices for integrating societal actors in dialogue Consensus workshops, Science Cities and Science Shops are explicitly mentioned.

The EURAB report on 'Research and societal Engagement' concludes with Recommendations:

1. Expose researchers to other perspectives of research and innovation by integrating engagement with societal actors into the university curriculum.
2. Encourage engagement as a factor influencing a researcher's career prospects.
3. Develop further mechanisms for societal ac4.
4. Encourage societal actors to be more involved in European Technology Platforms.
5. Encourage structures for partnerships between researchers and societal actors in the research dialogue.
6. Integrate societal actors into the various stages of the research evaluation process.

You can download the full report at [http://ec.europa.eu/research/eurab/pdf/eurab\\_07\\_013\\_june\\_%202007\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/eurab/pdf/eurab_07_013_june_%202007_en.pdf).



### Airborne particles and cyclists

– measuring & communicating health risks

*European project 'VECTOR'*

'Ultrafine particles' in ambient air is a 'hot issue' currently in the newspapers. Ultrafine particles (UFP), for which traffic emissions (mainly diesel engines) are a major source, have a negative impact on public health. In the Netherlands, each year 18.000 people prematurely die as a result of exposure to UFP. The European standards for ultrafine particles are exceeded at many locations in the Netherlands. This has forced the government to stop construction projects at these locations.

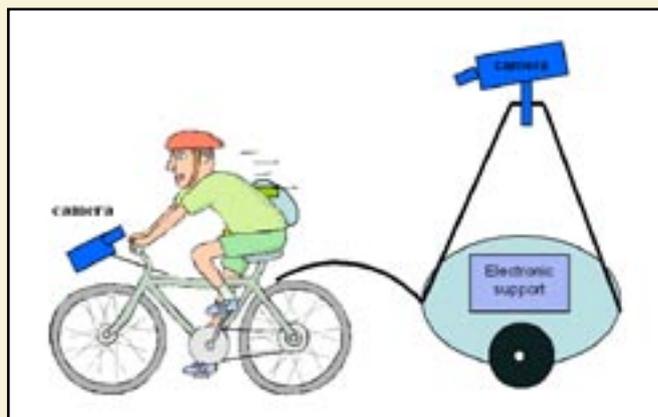
One of the ways to reduce emissions of UFP, is to stimulate the use of the bicycle. Unfortunately, cyclists are exposed to UFP as well. However, infrastructural measures, such as separate cycling lanes, may reduce the exposure. In order to draw attention to both the 'problem' of airborne UFP and to promote cycling and improvements in the cycling infrastructure, the Dutch Cyclists' Association ('Fietzersbond') has started the project 'Fietsbalans' ('cycling balance'). In this project, the exposure of cyclists to UFP has been measured (more information: [www.fietzersbond.nl](http://www.fietzersbond.nl) & [www.fietsbalans.nl](http://www.fietsbalans.nl)).

As a follow-up to 'Fietsbalans', IVAM University of Amsterdam - the former Chemistry Science Shop - has taken the initiative to set-up a European project under the Science and Society programme: VECTOR - Visualisation of the Exposure of Cyclists to Traffic On Roads. In this project, IVAM cooperates with the cyclists' associations in the Netherlands, Germany, Hungary and Lithuania, as well as with the German consultant Kooperationsstelle Hamburg. In VECTOR, a new measurement technique will be used, in which measurements of UFP are combined with video images. By 'mixing' both data, one may produce instructive videos or DVD's, showing the cyclist in a traffic situation, and at the same time (in the images) a graphical representation of the actual exposure to UFP. This method is known as 'PIMEX': Picture Mix Exposure Measurement.

The VECTOR project started in January 2007, and will run for 2,5 years. During the project, the measurements at cyclists will be carried out. In addition, a lot of effort will be put in 'disseminating' the results, towards the general population, policy makers and students (by means of a "virtual university").

#### Sub-projects

One of the aims of the European VECTOR project is providing an opportunity for students to participate in an interdisciplinary, communi-



*Figure: the measurement set-up. Two video-camera's are installed to record the traffic situation, on the body of the cyclist are the actual fine particle analysis devices. The electronic support needed for the camera's, the data analysis and their direct synchronisation are carried along in a small trailer.*

ty-based project. Therefore, we explore all possible ways of exchanging with students and university groups., students can take part in several sub-projects. Besides, students may take part in international project team meetings, where possible. Possible sub-projects are:

- Literature study on former exposure measurements UFP (1 stud.)
- Literature study on the health effects of UFP [diesel/exhaust] (1 stud.)
- Study on existing regulations on ultrafine particles in EU member states (1-2 stud.) in particular in eastern-Europe.
- Inventory of measurement techniques for UFP/ taking part in measurements!(1-2 stud.)
- Inventory of 'current practices' in risk-communication. (2 stud.)

Carrying out measurements in Budapest or Vilnius is an option. The measurements are planned between August 2007 and May 2008. Later in the project (early 2009) the communication-activities will be carried out.

The duration of the internship may vary from 6-8 weeks to 6 months. They offer work on various subjects, for students chemistry (analysis), environmental management, occupational hygiene, medicine/epidemiology, medical biology, physics, communication sciences/ sociology, politicology. In particular, students from Hungary or Lithuania are looked for. Generally, the location will be IVAM (Amsterdam); however, in certain cases the location might be the Dutch Fietzersbond in Utrecht, if desired.

You may find more information on the project at [www.vectorproject.eu](http://www.vectorproject.eu) or mail to Fleur van Broekhuizen, [fvbroekhuizen@ivam.uva.nl](mailto:fvbroekhuizen@ivam.uva.nl), or Jeroen Terwoert, [jterwoert@ivam.uva.nl](mailto:jterwoert@ivam.uva.nl).



### The Impact of PAR

This is an invitation to participate in an international project to document the outcomes of participatory action research (PAR). We will have an initial meeting at the Living Knowledge conference in Paris, August 30-September 1. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the challenges involved in assessing impact, measuring „good practices“ and documenting PAR outcomes. We are also considering whether to apply for funding to support the documentation project.

This project is important because participatory action researchers are reporting increasing difficulty getting funding for Science Shops, PAR projects, and related activities. Several universities are already participating in this project but we are seeking more partners so please feel welcome to pass this invitation along to other PAR practitioners.

There is a small grant for supporting the establishment of a network of participatory action researchers who are interested in discussing how to document the outcomes of PAR for the purpose of better establishing the legitimacy of the practice. That grant is supporting the Paris meeting and a graduate assistant, Trish O'Kane, who is handling our email correspondence. Please contact her by email at [pokane@wisc.edu](mailto:pokane@wisc.edu) if you plan on attending the Paris meeting or would like more information about this project.

There is also a project website, <http://comm-org.wisc.edu/wcbr>, where you can learn more about the project. The initial meeting of this project is supported by the World Universities Network. Information: Randy Stoecker, Associate Professor, [rstoecker@wisc.edu](mailto:rstoecker@wisc.edu)

### Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator

(Fixed Term Contract from 17 September 2007 - 31 July 2008)

Imperial College Volunteer Centre is currently recruiting for a new Centre Co-ordinator. Imperial College is ranked in the top ten universities of the world, according to the 2006 Times Higher Education Supplement league tables. The Volunteer Centre provides a brokerage service by matching students and staff volunteers with local volunteering opportunities. These opportunities are either one-of, short-term or long-term placements.

The postholder will provide high-level support to the Centre. A minimum of one year's experience from the not-for profit sector is essential.

You will co-ordinate all aspects of our services by supporting volunteers, and by managing all procedures to ensure the Centre is efficient and well-organised. You will also manage an external accreditation scheme and ensure that this is well attended and fully supported.

You need to be an effective co-ordinator, with a clear and up-to-date understanding of the motivations and needs of volunteers. It is essential that you are able to multi-task and exercise initiative to deliver results. Effective communication and excellent IT, presentation, interpersonal and training skills are essential, as is an understanding of the importance of diversity. Further details about this position, including application form, job description and person specification, can be found from Imperial College website <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/employment/administrative/ss.2007.83>.

Closing date: 3 August 2007

### Science Shops in Wales

*New website*

The Science Shop project is being run by the University of Glamorgan and University of Wales, Newport, in south east Wales. The four Science Shops within this project are going to be based in local communities across the Heads of the Valleys. The main hub is at the University of Glamorgan, Treforest. Science Shops are paid for by a department of the Welsh Assembly Government. There is also funding for Science Shops from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) for 2006-2008.

Local venues can become a contact point for Science Shops Wales. Contact points are not full Science Shops. In fact they are located at venues belonging to other organisations. Community groups and members of the public can get in touch with Science Shops Wales by visiting or phoning a contact point. The local staff will take the calls and enquiries, note down some basic information on the problem and record the client's contact details and then pass on this information to the Science Shops Wales hub. A Development Officer will get in touch with the client and follow up the issue. This Development Officers will in addition provide induction and training for the local organisation. Staff will learn about the Science Shop movement and how they support the community by addressing its research needs. They will also learn how to take initial enquiries from clients. The Science shops Wales are able to pay the local organisations a fee for this service.

[scishopw@glam.ac.uk](mailto:scishopw@glam.ac.uk),  
[www.scienceshops.wales.org.uk](http://www.scienceshops.wales.org.uk)



### From Dresden to Naples

*The 2nd CIPAST training workshop on public deliberation was based on participants input*

Based on the results of the first CIPAST training workshop, held in Dresden, June 2006, the 2nd CIPAST workshop held in Procida-Naples from June 17th to June 21st 2007 presented the state of the art of knowledge on public participation in science and technology and referred to concrete experiences in European countries. But also aimed at fostering organisational learning and the dissemination of good practices across institutions and countries.



The wonderful Mediterranean atmosphere of the island of Procida in the Gulf of Naples and the fantastic organisation by the host Città della Scienza allowed a fruitful exchange of experience and expertise and offered much scope for establishing contacts or consolidating networking. After introductory lectures the participants worked on concrete case studies, offered by the CIPAST consortium but also introduced by the participants themselves. Many of the case studies which could not have been selected for a detailed discussion in work groups were prepared as posters and presented during the workshop's poster session. Some questions and experiences raised in the participants' case experiences were also adapted for a discussion in the workshop's Open Space session.

All case studies and posters are available for download at [www.cipast.org/cipast.php?section=42](http://www.cipast.org/cipast.php?section=42). A presentation of the CIPAST project, its outcomes and offers will be held at the 3rd Living Knowledge conference in Paris. Contact: [norbert.steinhaus@wialbonn.de](mailto:norbert.steinhaus@wialbonn.de)

### Science Shops

#### 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](http://www.livingknowledge.org), see section News). Printed copies

can be ordered for free at the European Commission from [monica.menapace@ec.europa.eu](mailto:monica.menapace@ec.europa.eu). 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](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](http://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. If you have any additional answers please feel free to contribute to the development of this section.

### Conferences

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](http://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](http://www.livingknowledge.org)