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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 livingknowledge@wilabonn.de

Christmas and the end of a busy and very active year are close. I hope you will find some relaxed moments of reflection during the days to come which obviously are the most busiest of the year. Enjoy this issue and please keep sharing your expertise. The LK newsletter lives from your contributions. I wish you all a relaxing Christmas time and a happy and successful new year 2011.

Norbert Steinhaus

PERARES

The European Commission has awarded EUR 2.7 million to a 4 years project to strengthen the European network of Science Shops (funded from FP7/SiS under contract 244264). The project is coordinated by the Science & Society Group of the University of Groningen. Twenty-six partners from 17 countries (Science Shops, social organizations, universities and a research funder) will jointly organize transnational debates on scientific research, and actively involve researchers and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and help both CSOs and general public in all dialogues to articulate research questions. These will then be put on the research agendas of the partnering research bodies. PERARES also has three special programs for direct cooperation with social organizations in order to draw up a European research agenda: nanotechnology, domestic violence and Roma/ Traveller's issues and will organize two major international conferences.



The PERARES consortium.

PERARES in the regions

The PERARES project also supports the development of new Science Shops in a number of regions. This allows the Technical University of Crete to now invite first questions from CSOs in the Chania region. Potential student projects concern the design of an energy-neutral heating/cooling system for the offices of a sailing club, a study of the side-effects of making an artificial lake in the mountains, and a study on the planning of a new marina.



The European University in Cyprus could organize a meeting in which 20% of all NGOs from the country were represented; research questions can now be articulated with e.g. women's organizations, patients associations and youth clubs. The University of Sassari in Italy can now seek co-operation with important umbrella organizations on the island of Sardinia, such as a network of social enterprises, a national organization for social promotion, and the Salesians. All three universities receive support from the experienced Science Shop of Groningen University in The Netherlands. Other initiatives take place in Stavanger, Tel Aviv, Tartu, Lyon, Grenoble, and are on the way in Cambridge, Cork and Dublin.

PERARES - Evaluation Toolbox

The PERARES (Public Engagement with Research And Research Engagement with Society) project aims to strengthen the interaction between researchers, CSOs and citizens in Europe. Another objective in that project is to develop a "toolbox" for evaluating Science Shop like organizations' activities and impacts (on the way they work, on the projects they run, on their impacts on society, teaching and research). Any material and indication you might find useful on that matter is therefore welcome (i.e. bibliographic references and web links to documentation, list of indicators, templates of evaluation tools and evaluation reports and the like...). You can send suggestions to Andrea Vargiu at larvanet@tin.it

PERARES and CUEXPO 2011

During the CU Expo, May 10-14, 2011, Waterloo Region, Canada, (www.cuexpo2011.ca/) the PERARES team will organize two workshops on how to run Science Shops. One will be a basic one, for those that have little to no experience in Science Shops or community-based research, or want to have a more structured overview of it. The second workshop is aimed at those that do have experience and want to discuss their work with colleagues. Participants from the first workshop are also welcome in the second one. This is a chance for those that are not able to come to Europe to visit one of the Science Shop summer schools, which are organised regularly on an irregular basis. Of course, CU Expo offers a wealth of additional talks, workshops and other activities, and many opportunities for meet and greets with colleagues..

Contact: Dr Henk Mulder (project coordinator) h.a.j.mulder@rug.nl, Norbert Steinhaus, International Science Shop Contact Point, living-knowledge@wilabonn.de. See also: www.scienceshops.org, www.rug.nl/wewi

Public and Open Access to research

The aim of the Living Knowledge network is to build partnerships for public access to research. This aligns with the aim of the Open Access publishing of research outputs. As explained in the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities the internet enables a transition to freely available research on the web. Many research institutions worldwide undersigned this declaration.

Research funders more and more stipulate that results of publicly financed research are available for everybody through Open Access repositories or Open Access journals. To develop a broader Open Access policy the EU Open Access Pilot now requires Open Access for 20% of the research funded in the FP7. This also goes for peer-reviewed publications resulting from the recently funded PERARES project (see previous LK-news letter). Open Access contributions can also include open data, scholarly multimedia, reports etc. For example, the University of Groningen Library supports the local Science Shops with a repository for student's reports. Library technology can assure that the reports are persistently available and easy to find. The OpenAIRE project (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe) supports researchers to comply with the EU Open Access Policy.

There is a need to raise awareness amongst researchers about Open Access. Science shops can bring the topic up in conversations with researchers. There are more possibilities to publish Open Access than one would intuitively think; copyright rules are not always in the way. The

involvement of the Science Shops can result in insights on the research areas in which Open Access publications are most needed by civil society organizations and how the research agenda for successful transition to Open Access can be shaped. Here collaboration between Science Shops and their university libraries can be beneficial.



Contact: Esther Hoorn, copyright librarian University of Groningen Library; E.Hoorn@rug.nl

Additional information: Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities <http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>;



EU Open Access Pilot <http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society> => policy initiatives => open access in fp7;

An example of a report in the Groningen Science Shop repository: <http://eb.wewi.eldoc.ub.rug.nl/rapporten/2010/WD2010-1/>;

OpenAIRE www.openaire.eu/;

PERARES: www.scienceshops.org/new%20web-content/content/news.html#PERARES



Research with CSOs for sustainable development: a workshop report

Many academics are experienced in working with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in a research context; some CSOs act as researchers in their own right. The European Commission's Science in Society program has funded projects which enable greater capacity for CSOs in research, as well as further cooperation between academics and CSOs. Cooperative research involves academics and CSOs jointly building new knowledge. Participants from six of these projects met at a London workshop to analyze and compare their experiences, especially around issues of sustainable development. The workshop aimed to learn from those experiences, towards improving future cooperative efforts. Key themes for discussion included: relationships between academic and CSO participants, CSOs as researchers, CSOs as boundary spanners, transdisciplinary approaches, action research, policy relevance, knowledge democratization, and sustaining what kind of development? The workshop report and papers are available at http://crepeweb.net/?page_id=383

Contact: Les Levidov, l.levidow@open.ac.uk

Science Shop initiative in Brno - ERASMUS staff training program for exploring visit

Dear colleagues, maybe you remember, more than half a year ago I posted a message on this mailing list asking whether somebody could accommodate me in his/her Science Shop such that I can get experience with this kind of community based research model. I got numerous answers, thank you very much again. Finally I agreed on a 2 weeks visit in the Science Shop kubus, TU Berlin, Germany. My trip was financed by the ERASMUS staff training program which is a simple and good instrument for such kind of visits.

I came back some days ago and have to state that it was a successful visit based on very in-

teresting discussions on the Science Shop concept in general and particular projects run at kubus. I took part in numerous meetings of the particular projects where I got interesting impressions of the organization and communication aspects of the work of kubus. Later I conducted my own mini-project in relation to one of the projects currently run at kubus and also consulted some scientific issues related to my own expertise with regard to some of the running projects. I also met other people from the TU and learned about the scientific issues discussed there.

The kubus people were very helpful to help me define the concept of a mini-Science Shop we want to establish in the Czech Republic. It is essential for me and my colleagues here in Brno that we now have such a contact to an experienced Science Shop abroad. The mini-Science Shop we want to establish at the Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX), Masaryk University (Brno, Czech Republic) will be strictly focused on issues connected to environmental chemistry, ecotoxicology and mathematical biology. I will inform you later on details. Finally I have to state that I can only recommend using e.g. the ERASMUS program for such kind of visits and establishing contacts. I think my visit in Berlin was of mutual benefit for all participating people.

Contact: Alice Dvorská, PhD, RECETOX - Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment, Kamenice 3, CZ - 62500 Brno, Czech Republic

Science Shop Wales suspends operations

Against a background of widespread cuts in University funding, Science Shops Wales (SSW) has been forced to suspend most of its operations at the University of Glamorgan - including their participation in the PERARES project). For the four years 2006-10 SSW has been generously supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. With this money no longer available as of 30th September 2010, and without significant further funds being secured, SSW has been unable to renew staff contracts. Science Shops Wales manager, Dr. Steve Harris, commented: "Over the past four years the Science Shops Wales team at the University of Glamorgan have provided an important and valued service to Welsh civil society, completing dozens of projects and receiving hundreds of requests for help with research from community groups, NGOs and charities. I am doing everything I can to ensure that SSW will be able to resume this much-needed service in the future..."

www.scienceshops.wales.org.uk



Local Food Systems in Europe

The FP7 project 'FAAN – Facilitating Alternative Agro-Food Networks: Stakeholder Perspectives on Research Needs' ran from February 2008 to March 2010 to investigate Local Food Systems in five European countries: Austria, England, France, Hungary, and Poland. The research team comprised academic institutions and civil society organizations, and the research process engaged many stakeholder groups. The project's starting point was a raising concern about the negative effects of the conventional food system, like issues related to environmental sustainability, health or social justice. Local Food Systems (LFS) constitute an alternative, which appear in different forms, and which can differ from the conventional system in several aspects. The FAAN team investigated such alternative initiatives, in order to identify in which way they are different, how they developed, and why they survive successfully. The main objective was to analyse how current policies facilitate or impede the development of Local Food Systems in order to elaborate recommendations how policies could better support such initiatives.

The FAAN booklet (1.6 Mb) summarises the main findings, which are based on qualitative empirical research of 10 case studies, two in each of the partner countries, and it includes recommendations about policy changes that would be necessary to strengthen Local Food Systems in the future. These changes include: support for setting up cooperative networks and infrastructure; greater knowledge exchange;

more local sourcing in public procurement; more appropriate funding; and the more flexible adaptation of over-burdensome legal regulations (e.g. distinguishing rules for products for different markets); and ensuring that the EU Leader program maintains its bottom-up character, along with a territorial approach



linking urban consumers with rural producers. By recognizing and valuing LFS and for their societal opportunities and benefits, authorities could take responsibility for improving and linking relevant policies. More detailed information about the FAAN project can be found on www.faanweb.eu

Contact: Balázs Bálint, balazs.balint@essrg.hu

German Local Sustainability Award

The Science Shop Hannover's youth oriented interactive project 'Green Cities? Time Travel 2030' with its ecological visions of city life and city environment got the deserved acknowledgement by being honored with the German Local Sustainability Award 'Zeitzeiche(N)' in the category 'ideas'. Since its start in April 2010 stu-



Picture: Wissenschaftsladen Hannover

dents workshops have been organized and for early 2011 an exhibition and a future conference are scheduled. Central aspect of this project is the creative work with intercultural youth groups to develop a vital future world and a vision of Hannover in the year of 2030, invented by tomorrow's generations together with scientists, entrepreneurs and other today's visionaries. The presented ideas and concepts for activating the young generation are transferable and can be best practice examples for many regions.

Contact: thomas.meiseberg@wissenschaftsladen-hannover.de

www.wissenschaftsladen-hannover.de/index.php?id=35#107 , www.zeitreise-2030.de

Budget cut offs in Austria for non-governmental research institutes

The Austrian government decided to cancel core funding for practically all non-governmental extra-university research institutes. Many of them have a nonprofit orientation. This budget clear-cut affects institutes of a wide range of disciplines: humanities, mathematics, social sciences, and technical sciences, among others. It is a specific characteristic of the Austrian research area that such often small institutes contribute significantly to research in Austria as a whole. This clear-cut becomes effective within weeks, with 1/1/2011, and could wipe out all about 40 institutes, a research infrastructure built up in decades.

Even if you view this from an economic perspective alone, it pays off to keep core funding. Many of these institutes are quite successful in apply-



ing for grants from the European Union and other national and international sponsors. It is not uncommon for an institute to raise additional project grants of at least twice the amount of its core funding. But for putting raised grants to use, they need core funding, because the grants do not cover all project costs. If an institute has no core funding, it cannot conduct any research at all. No core funding -> no additional grants -> no grants at all.

Several institutes formed a coalition against this budget cut and set up a support platform at <http://wissenschaft.research.at>. On behalf of the Science Shop Vienna you are asked to sign the declaration of support at <http://wissenschaft.research.at/registration.php> and to inform others about this initiative. Up to now, this petition has already almost 19,000 supporters!

Contact: Wissenschaftsladen Wien - Science Shop Vienna wilawien@wilawien.ac.at
http://wilawien.ac.at/index_en.html

World Forum on Science and Democracy

Fondation Sciences Citoyennes is co-organizer of the second World Forum on Science and Democracy that will take place on February 4 and 5 in Dakar, just before the World Social Forum. We thought it would be really good if people from the Science Shops could organise a workshop there! There are several manners to get involved in the SDWF process, anyway. Please see the Forum's website for details www.sdwf-fmsd.org/

Contact: Claudia Neubauer, Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, claudia.neubauer@sciencescitoyennes.org



CUexpo 2011 – Bringing Global Perspectives to Local Action

The CUexpo movement began in Canada as a response to individuals involved community-university partnerships needing a forum to share experiences, strategies and ideas. CUexpo 2011 will showcase the exemplars in Community-University partnerships worldwide, and explore and introduce creative ways of strengthening our local communities. The conference received papers from 27 countries is expected to draw over 800 people from Canada and around the world who are passionate about the power of community-university partnerships as a vehicle for social change. Students, community leaders, researchers, educators, funders, policy makers

and others invested in community-building will be in attendance.

CUexpo is a community-hosted event, and the organizers are so excited about the involvement across a broad spectrum of organizations in their communities. They would love to see a similar kind of involvement in Europe and other places. For example, they are holding a series of roundtables from September to March (which you can learn about on the CU Expo website) where participants discuss topics relevant to community-university partnerships. If you are organizing similar workshops events in Europe and would like to share your presentations or results please contact the CUexpo organizers.

Learn more about CUexpo 2011 objectives, themes and streams at www.cuexpo201.ca.

GACER and North-South Dialogue

Deeply concerned with community, national and global challenges in the form of complex issues of an economic, social justice, health, cultural and sustainability nature a group of international community-based and university networks, namely the Centro Boliviano de Estudios Multidisciplinarios, Commonwealth Universities Extension and Engagement Network, Global Alliance on Community Engaged Research, Global Universities Network for Innovation, Living Knowledge Network, PASCAL International Observatory, Participatory Research in Asia, the Talloires Network, held a Global Dialogue on North-South Cooperation in Community-University Engagement on September 23, 2010 and released an international statement on the role of knowledge, higher education and community education in the alleviation of poverty and other complex contemporary issues. You can read or download the global communiqué from the Living Knowledge website (support in translating it into more languages is very welcome)

www.scienceshops.org/new%20web-content/content/documents/GlobalCommunique.pdf

Learn more about GACER at <http://community-researchcanada.ca/?action=alliance>.

USM Sejahtera Communities and Bottom Billion Exhibition

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) exhibited its product and services for poverty stricken communities at its Dewan Utama Pelajar at the beginning of November. This exhibition, themed "Community-Industry Engagement for Sejahtera Communities" represents one of USM's priorities in engaging with Communities and Industries to start reducing the rich-poor gap in crucial areas



such as education, health, infrastructure, economic activities and availability of energy and clean water.

"Sejahtera Communities" are communities that are living sustainably and in harmony with their environment, and where basic needs and requirements have been fulfilled. USM staff and its students in its entirety is "The Sejahtera Team", and this exhibit showcased a sampling of the numerous projects that have started in USM to address the urgent agenda to equalize opportunities for all communities. The Sejahtera Team is a physical manifestation of our Multidisciplinary Initiative to mobilize all USM Staff and Students to use their talents, skills and expertise to help transform poverty stricken communities.

Contact: Lean Chan Heng, University of Sains Malaysia, Penang, leanlotus@hotmail.com

The Making of Citizen Science - Network Alliances between Science Shops and CSOs Engaging in Science and Air Pollution

The idea for the research project was inspired by a request from the ACCENT (ACCENT is the abbreviation of Atmospheric Composition Change European Network of Excellence) Network of Excellence to explore how Science Shops could contribute to promoting a dialogue between the ACCENT research community and the civil society and at the same time provide an arena for dialogue with CSOs about their interests related to air pollution.

PhD. Dissertation by Søsner Brodersen, sbro@man.dtu.dk, Department of Management Engineering, Technical University of Denmark, DK-2800 Lyngby, June 2010

[The PhD is available for download from the Living Knowledge website.](#)

Science, Technology and Civil Society - STACS report available

STACS (Science, Technology and Civil Society - Civil Society Organisations, Actors in the European System of Research and Innovation) was a capacity building project funded by the EU 6th Research Framework Programme, as part of the Science in Society activities aimed at stimulating participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in research activities.



You can [download the STACS report here](#) (pdf, 2mb)

Workshop Materials for CBR by Welles-

ley Institute now freely available

Wellesley Institute (WI) offered a successful CBR and capacity-building program for local researchers over a number of years. Over twenty workshops were delivered on topics spanning both the conceptual (e.g., ethics, theories in health promotion, methods, etc.) and practical aspects of CBR and capacity-building (e.g., how to conduct a literature review, how to run a focus group, how to analyze data, etc.). The workshops were very well-attended and addressed the need for local training in research and policy at an affordable price. In 2009, WI shifted its strategic direction to focus more on population health and undertake research that more closely addresses this new focus.

However, given the popularity of the workshops and the ongoing need and demand for training in CBR and capacity-building, WI has made the workshop materials (including presentations, trainers guides and other resources) available on its website for easy downloading and adaptation to suit the needs of diverse audiences. While WI realizes that the real value of workshops is in the interaction that takes place face-to-face, the hope is that this material will still be useful for others to develop for their own purposes.

The workshops are available free for download. WI encourages the circulation of the materials as widely as possible under the open access publishing license.

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For CBR workshop materials, go to <http://bit.ly/aQb0ot>

For capacity-building workshop materials, go to <http://bit.ly/br0MOZ>

Science Shops

Old Living Knowledge Discussion list closes down

The SURFmailinglijsten service will be discontinued as of January first, 2011. From that date no new messages can be sent nor will the archives be available.

The Living Knowledge Discussion List is now running



under livingknowledge-l@lists.ucc.ie. All subscriptions have been transferred to this new list. Please make sure to use it for your coming postings.

Science Shop Toolbox for Mentoring and Training.

The EC project TRAMS (Training and Mentoring of Science Shops) produced a series training materials. All materials are available in the Science Shop Toolbox at the Living Knowledge website. The development of innovative practice in Science Shops is now supported through a customised training toolbox and appropriate partnering and exchange (mentoring) among members of Living Knowledge. The Toolbox offers: FAQ, Training programmes (a database with documents), E-modules („Getting started“ and „How to organise a community-based research project“), Scenario Workshop Toolkit (a handbook), Science Shop Summer Schools, Database of organisations. You will find the [toolbox at the Living Knowledge website](#).

Living Knowledge Database

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 delivered 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 by sending your question to livingknowledge@wilabonn.de

Conferences

Knowledge Production and Higher Education in the 21st Century“ – KNOWLEDGE 2011.

Cape Town, South Africa, 28 - 31 March 2011

“Knowledge Production and Higher Education in the 21st Century“ is an initiative of the NUFU-funded research network Productive Learning Cultures with researchers from Southern Africa and Norway. This conference is the concluding conference of a series of four. The conference will be hosted by the Faculties of Education at the Universities of Bergen (Norway), Pretoria and Stellenbosch (both South Africa).

Registration : Sally le Roux mlr1@sun.ac.za, www.knowledge2011.co.za/

CUexpo 2011. Community-Universi-



ty Partnerships Conference: Bringing Global Perspectives to Local Action

Waterloo Region, Ontario, Canada, May 10-14, 2011

CU Expo 2011 is a Canadian-led Conference designed to showcase the exemplars in Community-University partnerships worldwide, and together to introduce creative ways of strengthening our local communities. Complex social issues require global perspectives to inform local action. Community-University partnerships can be an effective way to stimulate innovative solutions for the pressing concerns within our communities.

For more information regarding themes, streams and presentation formats, please visit the conference website at www.cuexpo2011.ca.

Next Steps: Building a New Engagement Agenda

Sydney, Australia, 11-13 July 2011

The 8th annual AUCEA international conference held in Sydney, Australia from 11 – 13

December, and the conference sub-themes are: Leadership, Research, Learning, and Partnerships.

<http://aucea.com.au/events/next-steps>

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

