Non University Science Shops: Challenges and Opportunities

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Our current knowledge base about the formation and organization of Science Shops and similar initiatives is predominantly about university based Science Shops, the Dutch model and the Berlin model "kubus" at TU Berlin – ZEWK prominent among them. At the same time, there is a growing number of Science Shop type initiatives based outside the university, whether for practical, organizational or even ideological reasons. These initiatives are diverse in their history, structure and objectives, yet often face similar operational and other challenges.

At LK6 we would like to create a space for representatives from Science Shop type initiatives working outside the university to meet and learn from each other in a conference session designed as a workshop. We will invite initiatives to share their experiences with the group and then facilitate a structured discussion of common themes and concerns. We hope this session will generate new knowledge and useful materials on possible models for non-university Science Shop type initiatives.