

## Living Knowledge – Building Partnerships for Public Access to Research

### Newsletter – November 2003

Dear reader!

I am very pleased to present to you the fourth issue of the "Living Knowledge Newsletter". I hope you will enjoy it.

This newsletter is intended as a link between the Living Knowledge Discussion List with its brief information and ongoing discussion and the Living Knowledge Magazine with its detailed reports and articles that represent the current state of the discussion on community based research matters.

Yours sincerely  
Norbert Steinhaus

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Just released:

#### **Living Knowledge – International Journal of Community Based Research**

The chosen theme "Getting Started" for this first issue of "Living Knowledge- The International Journal of Community Based Research " informs readers about different aspects of the current state of science shop work: ISSNET coordinator Caspar de Bok talks about the growing network of science shops which will raise the visibility of and facilitate communication among science shops worldwide. Thomas MacCalla and Jacqueline Caesar describe how a science shop initiative in San Diego, California, developed to the "National University Institute" for listening to local voices. And Anke Valentin reports about a project which is outlined to give the largest numbers of citizens an abundance of information to participate in the discussion about and the development of new strategies of land-use patterns.

The magazine section "Around the world" offers news and information about demand driven science shop projects and experiences in setting up a science shop. The sections "Forum" and "Clippings" give space for previews and reviews, statements and opinions, letters and reports

**Please send your requests for a printed copy to:**

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## Quality and Perspective Utrecht Science Shops

In November 2003 the results of a project on the quality and the perspective of Utrecht Science Shops has been published. Main conclusions of the project are:

- Quality of the science shop work is good.
- Core activities of the Utrecht Science Shops are research and advise for not for profit organisations and community groups and community applied education for students. Although new activities can be explored, this should not influence the focus on the core activities.
- Co-operation among Utrecht science shops can be improved, especially regarding procedures and public relations
- The Utrecht science shops are important factors in the non-commercial community services Utrecht University. Non-commercial university community services, as part of a legal university task beside research and education, need to be strengthened. This is not an exclusive tasks of science shops.
- Science shops need to improve the visibility of there activities and impact.

A follow up project will be started to implement the recommendations of the report. This project runs in close co-operation with the Board of Utrecht University. Although the project was related to the Utrecht Science Shops the conclusions can easily be upscaled to the Dutch science shops in general and even the international networking of scienceshops.

For additional information contact Manon Vaal, Science Shop for Biology, Utrecht University, e-mail [c.f.m.debok@bio.uu.nl](mailto:c.f.m.debok@bio.uu.nl). The report (Reportnr P-UB-2003-09) and summary (Reportnr P-UB-2003-10) can be downloaded for free at [www.bio.uu.nl/wetenschapswinkel](http://www.bio.uu.nl/wetenschapswinkel), see "Rapporten". Both report and summary are in Dutch. A translation in English of parts of the report is foreseen in the near future

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New brochure:

## Creating Partnerships, Improving Health - The Role of Community-Based Participatory Research

Health-related research studies may develop new treatments or find ways to prevent disease. But it can take years before these treatments become available in most clinics, doctors' offices, or community health centers. This is especially true for disadvantaged communities, even when they are the subject of the research.

There is a type of health care research that promises to directly benefit the people studied. This approach, Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), actively involves the community being studied in the research. The brochure includes recommendations made by community leaders, funding organization representatives, and health care researchers at a conference.

*The Role of Community-Based Participatory Research: Creating Partnerships, Improving Health.* AHRQ Publication No. 03-0037, June 2003. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. To view the brochure, please go to:

[www.ahrq.gov/research/cbprrole.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/research/cbprrole.htm).

For further information about community-based participatory research, contact: Dr. Kaytura Felix-Aaron, AHRQ, Office of Priority Populations Research, [KFaaroon@ahrq.gov](mailto:KFaaroon@ahrq.gov), or Khan Rahi, [ksrahi@sympatico.ca](mailto:ksrahi@sympatico.ca), [www.loka.org](http://www.loka.org).

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## Conferences

*The Reality of Partnership - Celebrating Community and University Working Together*, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2003 at Clinical Sciences Centre, Aintree Hospitals Trust, Liverpool

An international day conference to bring together community practitioners, local policy and decision makers, academic staff and students, who have a common interest in developing and promoting community - university partnerships, and sharing experiences of policy and good practice. For further information contact Sharon Lockley, The University of Liverpool, Department Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work Studies, Tel: 0151-794-2984, Email: [slockley@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:slockley@liverpool.ac.uk)

The *2nd International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Management ICEEM/02*, will be organized on September 23-26, 2004 by the Department of Environmental Engineering, in collaboration with InterMEDIU Department and OAIMDD, at the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry, Technical University of Iasi, Romania. A special section on Environmental Education and co-operation with the civil society is also envisaged. More information can be found at <http://omicron.ch.tuiasi.ro/iceem02/> or at <http://www.tuiasi.ro/events.en.html>

For other conferences related to community based research, science and technology and science communication see 'news' and 'agenda' at the Living Knowledge-website [www.scienceshops.org](http://www.scienceshops.org)

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## Networks Conference on Sustainability in Practice

The Collegium for the Management and Design of Sustainable Development (KMGNE) organizes Encos 2004, the 1st European Networks Conference on Sustainability in Practice. The conference provides a communication platform to European networks, associations and organizations and aims to intensify both, dialogue and cooperation between the European actors in the field of sustainable development. A large number of networks and organizations will be invited to participate in the conference. All the necessary information can be found on [www.encos2004.net](http://www.encos2004.net).

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## Science and Society' expressions of interest published on CORDIS

More than 220 expressions of interest (EOI), submitted by European citizens and regarding the science and society section of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), have been published on CORDIS, the European Commission's Research and Development Information Service. The ideas have been submitted by individuals, public and private bodies, as well as research, civil society and media organisations in 29 countries in response to the European Commission's call for expressions of interest in the 'Science and Society' section of FP6. While the area 'public awareness' attracted the highest level of interest, all themes of science and society have been addressed, including scientific advice, governance, ethics, public awareness, young people, and women and science. The Commission is now revising the science and society work programme for 2004, taking account of the submitted ideas and planning new calls for the funding of projects before the end of the year.

12 expressions of interest are directly related to the networking of science shops through Europe.

All expressions of interest can be searched and found at the Cordis website: [http://fp6.cordis.lu/eoi/ss/eoi\\_srch.cfm](http://fp6.cordis.lu/eoi/ss/eoi_srch.cfm)

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## Transfer-Institutions in the Euregio

The Euregio is a border crossing cooperation of cities, districts and counties of the Netherlands and Germany. Ina Vogelsang collected information about science and technology transfer institutions and business support organisations in this region which are now published by the Science Shop of the University of Twente. In addition this report contains information about available aid programmes.

Further information: Ina Vogelsang: Transferstellen in Euregio unter der Lupe, Enschede September 2003, [wewi@disc.utwente.nl](mailto:wewi@disc.utwente.nl) or [www.wewi.utwente.nl](http://www.wewi.utwente.nl)

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## European research institutes pledge support for 'open access' to scientific knowledge

Representatives of some of Europe's leading research institutes signed a declaration on 22 October, pledging to promote greater dissemination of scientific knowledge and human reflection via the Internet. Signed by research organisations from France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Norway, the 'Berlin declaration on open access to knowledge in sciences and humanities' advocates better use of the Internet as a tool for dissemination, stating that for the first time ever, the Internet offers the possibility of making knowledge universally accessible. 'The Internet has fundamentally changed the practical and economic realities of distributing scientific knowledge and cultural heritage. [It] now offers the chance to constitute a global and interactive representation of human knowledge, including cultural heritage and the guarantee of worldwide access,' states the declaration. However, the declaration claims that the development of a viable dissemination procedure will necessitate a huge amount of support and commitment from 'each and every individual producer of scientific knowledge and holder of cultural heritage', given the significant repercussions that the Internet will have on the nature of scientific publishing, as well as the existing system of quality assurance. For their part, the signatories will support progress in this area by encouraging their researchers and grant recipients to publish their work according to the principles of the 'open access paradigm'. In order to maintain the standards of quality assurance and good scientific practice, the signatories will also develop methods to evaluate open access contributions and online journals, and promote the merit of contributions to an open access infrastructure by software tool development, content provision, metadata creation, or the publication of individual articles.

For further information, please consult the following Web address:

[www.mpg.de/pdf/openaccess/BerlinDeclaration\\_en.pdf](http://www.mpg.de/pdf/openaccess/BerlinDeclaration_en.pdf), cordis focus 232, 3.11.03

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## Report on fish protection systems and power plants

Mortality of fish at coolwater intakes and hydro-electricity plants is a major problem. The cumulative survival-rates can be very low when fish pass through multiple plants, which implies that the recovery of some endangered fish species populations is at risk. In the Netherlands, energy companies are still not legally obliged to apply fish protection systems. Now the Science Shop for Biology of Utrecht University has published a report on fish protection systems and power plants. The report is the result of a 6 month research project by a graduate student. The Foundation Reinwater requested the project, and the results of the project have contributed to the discussion and additional research on the impact of fish protection systems in the Netherlands.

For additional information contact Manon Vaal, Science Shop for Biology, Utrecht University, e-mail [M.A.Vaal@bio.uu.nl](mailto:M.A.Vaal@bio.uu.nl). The report (in Dutch, report-nr P-UB-2003-06) and an abstract in English can be downloaded for free at [www.bio.uu.nl/wetenschapswinkel](http://www.bio.uu.nl/wetenschapswinkel), see "Rapporten".

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The newsletters are archived on the Living Knowledge homepage: [www.scienceshops.org](http://www.scienceshops.org).

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<http://www.scienceshop.org> and select 'Discussion list and Newsletter'

This newsletter is part of the output of ISSNET (Improving Science Shop Networking) – which has been awarded financial support by the European Commission through the contract HPRP-CT-2002-00011 in the framework of "Improving the Human Research Potential and the Socio-Economic Knowledge Base"; programme "Raising Public Awareness".