Science Shops as Science – Society Interfaces
A basic introduction
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
(United Nations, 1948)

**Article 27 (1):**

*Everyone has the right* freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and *to share in scientific advancement and its benefits*
A Science Shop (is a unit that) provides independent research & participatory support in response to concerns experienced by civil society.
Community/voluntary groups
Environmental NGOs
Local/regional authorities
Schools/pupils
Patient groups
Labour unions
Religious groups
Individuals (sometimes conditional)

Other: student organisations, museums, police, parliamentarians/political parties

Some: other research institutes, SMEs, larger firms/industry
2. Able to use results
3. No (full) financial means
### Target Group

- Individuals (e.g. students, seniors, pupils, other individuals, general public)
- Community Groups
- NGOs
- Non-profit sector
- Local authorities
- SMEs
- Regional authorities
- National authorities
- Industry

### Facility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Courses,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures, Science Week, Open House,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-school desk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Shop/ (Internships)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Bureau/ Business Service Centre/ internships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid chairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Science shop
actors & factors

SCIENTIFIC

CULTURAL

POLICY-MAKERS

HOSTS

“SUPPLY”

“DEMAND”

STAFF

FUNDERS

SOCIO-POLITICAL

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Organisation Forms

- University
  - Central Office
  - Faculty Office

- NGO
  - Separate entity
  - University links

- Community-University Research Alliances
### Research done by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research done by</th>
<th>In % of science shops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>science shop staff</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- voluntary</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- course/diploma</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- internship</td>
<td>pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>researchers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- voluntary</td>
<td>-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- paid</td>
<td>-48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Skills for Students

1. Project definition, workplan
2. Writing / communication
3. Theory into practice
4. Research that is of direct use
Mediation Tasks

1. Receive/solicit clients and (new) questions
2. Map the problem (articulation)
3. Preliminary research: Refer, Refuse, Advice or Formulate (scientific) research question (Incl. funds if required)
4. Find a (co-) supervisor
5. Find a student or researcher
6. Maintain communication and process
7. Facilitate useable presentation/publication of results
8. Help client implement results and formulate follow up actions
9. Make inventory of follow-up research/themes
10. Evaluation
Science Shop Impact

On Higher Education

On Scientific Research

On Civil Society

Science Shops combine all three university missions
University of Groningen

Financing from Board of University
- Regional image
- Political/social awareness of students
- Part of “Third Mission”: Knowledge Transfer

Financing from Faculty / Department
- Practical education
- Research Themes
- PR
Quotes:

“In a knowledge society that aims to be more than a knowledge economy, science shops have a special place”

“Unique bottom-up approach”

“By supporting citizens in their quest for knowledge, people are given more possibilities to take responsibility for shaping their own life and their living environment”

“Citizens’ demands for knowledge also provide an important input for research that complements other scientific or commercially-driven ways of finding research topics”

From: Science shops, Knowledge for the Community, EU brochure, 2003
Every science
- and every society -
needs a science shop
(2001)

Dr. Rainer Gerold
Director
Science & Society,
DGXII - EC
www.scienceshops.org

For better citizen access to science!