

*2nd Living Knowledge
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www.scienceshops.org

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
support
&
participatory**

**in response
to**

**concerns experienced
by civil society.**

Demand

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

Clients of Science Shops



Criteria

1. Not commercial. Public results.
2. Able to use results
3. No (full) financial means

Relation University - Society

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

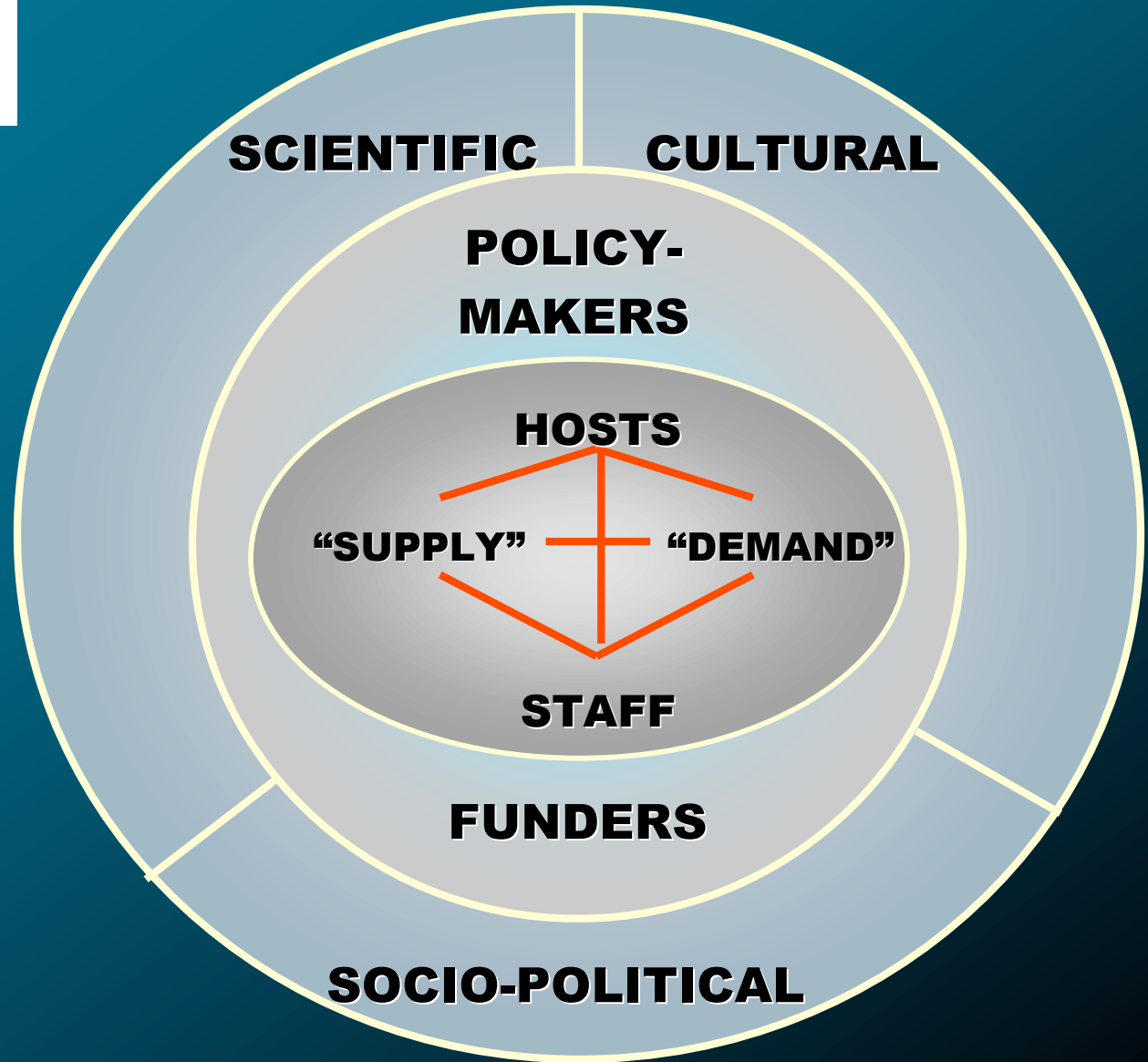
Courses
Public Courses,
Lectures, Science Week, Open House,
High-school desk
PR Department

*Science Shop/
(Internships)*

*Transfer Bureau/ Business Service
Centre/ internships*

NSF
Contracts
Paid chairs

**Science
shop
actors
&
factors**



Organisation Forms

❖ University

- *Central Office*
- *Faculty Office*

❖ NGO

- *Separate entity*
- *University links*



❖ Community-University Research Alliances

Supply

Research done by	In % of science shops
science shop staff	71
students	
- voluntary	34
- course/diploma	71
- internship	pm
researchers	
- voluntary	-45
- paid	-48

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*



Minister Maria van der Hoeven

Education, Culture and Research, The Netherlands

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



Quote:

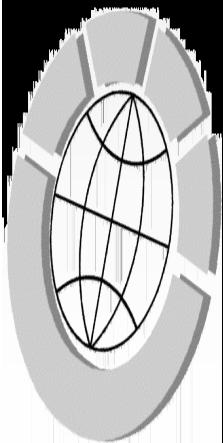
Every science
- and every society -
needs a science shop
(2001)

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



www.scienceshops.org

For better citizen
access to science !



Living Knowledge
The International Science Shop Network