



**Improving Interaction between NGOs,
Universities, and Science Shops: Ex-
periences and Expectations**

**Democratic Governance through
Interaction between NGOs, Universities
and Science Shops:
Experiences, Expectations,
Recommendations**

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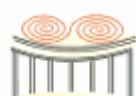
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Final Report of INTERACTS

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Preface

The report at hand is the final outcome of the INTERACTS consortium's work. It is intended to contribute to the growing debate over the responsibility of science and research for society at university, civil society, member state and EU level as well as further afield. The report is addressed to all those who work on funding or evaluating research and science, developing university curricula and exploiting the results of research and science.

The research consortium of eight institutions in the EU project INTERACTS, entitled "Improving Interaction between NGOs, Science Shops and Universities: Experiences and expectations", has been carrying out a complex study on how the interactions of NGOs, Science Shops and universities can be developed further in the future. The research time span has been from January 2002 to December 2003. It has been funded by the European Commission, DG12 under the programme "Improving the Human Research Potential and the Socio-economic Knowledge Base" – "Strategic Analysis of Specific Political Issues". Contract No. HPV1-CT-2001-60039.

This final report is divided into two main parts. Part 1 points out policy recommendations based on the cross analysis of the national State-of-the-Art concerning public discourses on science and society, case studies and scenario workshops. Part 2 includes the national findings and lists all reports produced as part of the INTERACT project.

Acknowledgement

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The INTERACTS consortium, 2004

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1 Executive summary

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 *The INTERACTS research project*

The INTERACTS research project is a pioneer cross-national study by organisations and institutions from seven different countries – Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, and the United Kingdom - conducted in the period from January 2002 until December 2003. The aim of the project is to contribute to improved interaction between NGOs, universities and Science Shops by providing information on the experiences and expectations of co-operation between small and medium NGOs and universities through intermediaries such as Science Shops. The project should be seen as a contribution to the discussion of strategies for democratic governance in the field of science and society.

The INTERACTS research project was funded by the European Commission, DG12 under the programme “Improving the Human Research Potential and the Socio-economic Knowledge Base” – “Strategic Analysis of Specific Political Issues”. INTERACTS is an Accompanying Measure to ISSNET (the Thematic Network of International Science Shop Network, Living Knowledge).

The INTERACTS research project has included:

- A State-of-the-Art survey about the political and institutional contexts of co-operation between small to medium non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Science Shops, and universities in the partner countries.
- Twenty-one national case studies analysing experiences of interaction between NGOs, researchers, students and Science Shops, and their impact on societal discourses, research agendas and university curricula.
- The expectations for and perspectives on co-operation between NGOs, researchers and Science Shops expressed by stakeholder groups at the INTERACTS scenario workshops (NGOs, researchers, students, policy-makers and intermediaries).

1.1.2 *The concept of Science Shops*

Science Shops are organisations that offer citizens' groups free or low-cost access to scientific and technological knowledge and research in order to help them achieve social and environmental improvement. Originally the concept of Science Shops was developed at Dutch universities during the 1970s, but now Science Shops exists in a

number of countries such as Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Malaysia, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States. Since the mid 1990s an international network among Science Shops has been growing, thanks to funding of networking and research activities by the European Community.

Most Science Shops are located in a department of a university, run by scientific coordinators, who act as the intermediary between a citizens' group that poses a question or problem and the university researchers and/or students who conduct the research. Some Science Shops are community-based and operate as non-profit private organisations through which researchers and students give advice to citizens' groups.

1.1.3 Policy framework and discourses influencing the relationship between science/university and civil society

The first part of the INTERACTS research project was an analysis in each country of the policy framework and discourses influencing the relationship between science and civil society. These analyses are gathered in the State-of-the-Art Report, which serves as the basis for the national case studies.

The State-of-the-Art Report showed that public discourses on science and society in most of the INTERACTS partners countries are connected to the concept of the knowledge-based society. Co-operation between science and society is perceived to be important, but the focus for most politicians and university policy-makers is to generate and distribute knowledge with the aim of increasing economic competitiveness. This means that scientific knowledge is seen primarily as a means to achieve economic goals. Rather than satisfying the needs of civil society, a business orientation plays the dominant role in the public discourse on science and society. Due to the tendency of favouring businesses rather than civil society organisations, some Science Shops feel pressured towards having to open up their services for commercial clients.

No legislation relating to Science Shops exists in the countries conducting the INTERACTS research project. Regulations influencing Science Shops are derived from the regulation of universities or of NGOs. This means that Science Shops depend on local conditions, regulations and goodwill, and in some cases this can put the Science Shops in a weak position when resources are distributed.

1.2 Key findings from national case studies

Twenty-one case studies were conducted as part of the INTERACTS research project, to analyse experiences from co-operation between NGOs and universities through intermediaries such as Science Shops. Twelve of the case studies were based on projects conducted by university-based Science Shops and nine case studies were conducted by community-based Science Shops, involving in total sixteen different Science Shops in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom. The Science Shop projects selected for this report were concerned with either environmental issues or social welfare.

The case studies show that when NGOs or citizens approach Science Shops, their need for knowledge can be categorised in terms of 1) Scientific analysis of a problem, 2) Enhancement of knowledge around a certain topic, 3) Research on the impact of governmental projects, 4) Development of solutions, or 5) Evaluation of NGO or community services/projects. To get access to free or low cost research and independent research through the Science Shops is an important factor for the NGO's.

The case study reports demonstrate that co-operation with Science Shops can have an impact on the NGOs, by for example building up capacity in the NGO for analysis, networking and service delivery, and by influencing public discussion about a topic.

The case study reports also show that Science Shops contribute to the role and tasks of the universities, by contributing to developing student competencies and skills, by applying project-oriented and problem-based methods, and by contributing to the strategic societal role of universities. The reports also provide evidence that Science Shop projects can have impact on curricula, lead to the establishment of new research and teaching areas, and open up possibilities for scientific publications.

Through the case studies it has been identified that in their role of mediating between civil society and science, Science Shops provide an open door and easy access to research, and help to translate the knowledge needs of NGOs into scientific questions. In some cases they carry out research through their own staff, and in other cases they find students to conduct the projects. Science Shops may act as knowledge repositories ensuring continuity and progress from project to project, and they can act as an antenna for new societal topics.

1.3 Key findings from national scenario workshops

The third part of the INTERACTS research project was to analyse future expectations for co-operation and dialogue between NGOs and universities through intermediaries such as Science Shops. This was done through seven scenario workshops held in the INTERACTS partner countries, using a variation of the European Awareness Scenario Workshop method. The Scenario workshops were held as one-day events, with participants representing four or five different role groups, e.g. Science Shops staff, university researchers and students, citizens' groups and policy makers from universities and local, regional or national public bodies. The overall aim of the seven scenario workshops was similar, but the specific starting question for each was determined by the individual partners.

The scenario workshops identified a strong desire among the participants for more networking and for continued discussions on how to develop the dialogue between science and society. This has resulted for example, in a follow-up meeting in Austria, a conference in the United Kingdom, and the establishment of a network in Denmark.

More democracy in decision-making processes was also an issue identified as important by the participants at the scenario workshops for the future dialogue between science and society. In order to obtain a greater level of democracy in the decision-making processes, universities need to open themselves to civil society so that its concerns can legitimately be addressed by both universities and individual scientists

The scenario workshops further demonstrated the value of Science Shops as densely networked, established centres of knowledge transfer, interpreting scientific questions for citizens and acting as the bridge between academics and praxis. The scenario workshops also revealed that some academics do recognise their responsibility towards society and that they perceive Science Shops as an institution which can ensure knowledge sharing and research integration.

1.4 Policy recommendations

Based upon the findings of INTERACTS the consortium has drawn out policy recommendations for strengthening the role of Science Shops in a more democratic form of societal governance. The recommendations relate to five policy issues, which emerged through the work of the INTERACTS research project:

1. How can Science Shops support the role of NGOs in developing societal governance?
2. How can Science Shops influence the curricula of universities to make them more responsive to the needs and demands of civil society?
3. How can Science Shops help make the research agenda more responsive to the needs and demands of civil society?
4. How can Science Shops contribute to regional development?
5. How can Science Shops become more economically sustainable?

The recommendations for the first four policy issues address a range of different actors, e.g.:

- Universities
- Local, regional and national governments
- The European Commission (EC) and different Directorates General
- Science Shops and their national and international networks.

The following subsections summarise the policy recommendations, and are structured according to which group of actors the recommendations are directed at. After each recommendation the number of the related policy issue is mentioned. Some recommendations are directed to more than one actor group and are therefore mentioned under more than one actor group headline.

The section ends with a short overview of different models of funding Science Shops.

1.4.1 Policy recommendations for universities

- Universities and city administrations should make NGOs aware of Science Shops and their potential benefits. (Issue 1)
- Universities should make use of the expertise of Science Shops to broaden the curriculum by including co-operation with civil society organisations. Citizen organisations as well as regional government should help this process by putting pressure on university administrations over the necessity for such initiatives. (Issue 2)
- Universities should ensure that students get credit points for carrying out Science Shop projects or internships in civil society organisations as part of their education. (Issue 2)

- Universities should appraise faculty staff on their co-operation with civil society and for initiatives within community-based learning, and include this kind of experience in the criteria for tenure and promotion. (Issue 2)
- Universities should include research in co-operation with civil society organisations as part of their research strategy, and make part of their PhD funding available for projects developed through a Science Shop or similar intermediaries. Community organisations as well as regional government should help this process by putting pressure on university administrations over the necessity of such initiatives. (Issue 3)
- Universities and national scientific councils should include explicit reference to community engagement and community-based research in criteria for tenure, when appraising and rewarding staff. Publications in journals directed towards civil society should be valued for promotion. (Issue 3)
- Universities should promote Science Shops as part of their portfolio of contributions to university-society linkages and to regional development in order to make them visible outside the university. (Issue 4)

1.4.2 Policy recommendations for local, regional and national governments

- National governments should encourage city administrations and universities to establish Science Shops to support NGOs. The necessary funding should be made available in ways that are compatible with the national funding traditions. (Issue 1)
- National governments and the EC should establish formal channels for NGO influence on defining, planning and implementation of public and private projects, programmes etc. (Issue 1)
- Universities and city administrations should make NGOs aware of Science Shops and their potential benefits. (Issue 1)
- National governments should through their influence over university funding encourage universities to incorporate co-operation with NGOs as part of the curricula, through courses or internships. (Issue 2)

- National and international research councils and programmes should finance research co-operation between research institutions and civil society organisations in order to reduce barriers to NGO and researcher participation in joint research activities. This could include the funding of PhD projects and Masters level bursaries. (Issue 3)
- National and international criteria for research excellence should include co-operation with civil society. New forms of quality evaluation in science and research need to be developed to ensure best practice for participatory and/or civil society-oriented science and research, which guarantee inter-subjectivity and transparency. (Issue 3)
- Regional development associations should include Science Shops and NGOs as partners in regional development, and invest in their infrastructural development. (Issue 4)

1.4.3 Policy recommendations for NGOs

- NGOs should seek formal as well as informal means and channels for influence on public and private projects, programmes etc. (Issue 1)
- NGOs should consider writing Science Shop evaluation into their bids for funding of activities as a way of ensuring independent evaluation of the activities. (Issue 5)

1.4.4 Policy recommendations for the European Communities through the Commission and the DG's

- The EC should encourage Open Coordination between member states, accession countries and regions on the exchange and spread of best practices related to co-operation between science and civil society, including Science Shops. (Issue 1)
- The EC, through DG Research should monitor the relation between the research projects they fund and civil society, in terms of civil society involvement and social and environmental impact. (Issue 1)
- The EC, through DG Research should support projects where Science Shops are engaged in participatory processes, for example acting as mediators between stakeholders in relation to policy making. (Issue 1)

- The EC, through DG Research should finance the further development of the INTERACTS tool-kit on participatory workshops. The tool-kit should be developed further and promoted as support for the local and regional dialogue about visions and strategies for cooperation between science and civil society. (Issue 1)
- The EC, through DG Education and Culture should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on the coordination of their policies on higher education to include community-based learning in the curricula. (Issue 2)
- The EC, through DG Research should fund research on how university research and curricula can be restructured to incorporate more community-based learning and research. (Issue 2 and 3)
- The EC should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on their policies for including the role of experience with community-based teaching and research as part of the criteria for tenure and promotion at universities and research institutions. (Issue 2 and 3)
- The EC, through DG Research should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on their policies for community-based research. (Issue 3)
- National and international criteria for research excellence should include cooperation with civil society. New forms of quality evaluation in science and research need to be developed to ensure best practice for participatory and/or civil society-oriented science and research, which guarantee inter-subjectivity and transparency. (Issue 3)
- The EC, through DG Research, should demand that future Framework Programmes have a strategy for considering how civil society organisations as stakeholders in research can give input into programme design, and where appropriate, participate in projects. This demand is compatible with the current demand for gender mainstreaming within projects. (Issue 3)
- The EC, through DG Research should increase its funding for research on governance in science and technology and other related areas, including the role of civil society organisations and Science Shops. (Issue 3)

- The EC should start the process towards a Communication from the European Commission drawing attention towards the importance of research dedicated to civil society concerns and the role science shops and similar intermediaries and research institutes can play herein. (Issue 3)
- The EC should explore the potential for financing scientific research support from the structural funds for regional development such that NGOs in underdeveloped regions could access funding for knowledge transfer, to be supplied by Science Shops. (Issue 4)
- The EC should issue guidelines that explain the potential role of Science Shops in regional development through their partnerships with universities and the NGO sector. (Issue 4)

1.4.5 Policy recommendations for Science Shops and their networks

- Science Shops should consider operating a demand-based as well as a supply-based approach in their co-operation with NGOs. (Issue 1)
- Science Shops should make use of national networks (where these exist) and the international 'Living Knowledge' network, which currently is supported by the EC via the ISSNET project. Through networking Science Shops should exchange experiences concerning the impact of Science Shop projects on societal governance. (Issue 1)
- Science Shops should take steps to ensure that the knowledge gained from partnering with NGOs on projects is accessible to the wider public, through edited publication of reports in print or electronically, while respecting confidentiality of information. This activity should be funded as part of the core functions of Science Shops. (Issue 1)
- Science Shops should regularly evaluate their range of services in relation to NGO needs. This activity should be funded as part of the core functions of Science Shops. (Issue 1)
- Science Shops should seek to contribute to university curricula through the introduction of and support for experiential learning based on Science Shop projects and through the introduction of new scientific fields into the curricula based on experience from Science Shop projects. (Issue 2)

- Science Shops should, through their national and international networking, exchange experiences over contribution to university curricula. (Issue 2)
- The international Science Shop network should consider developing a peer-reviewed journal of community-based research for dissemination of experience from Science Shop research. (Issue 3)
- Science Shops should, through their national and international networking, exchange experiences regarding their contribution to research agendas and methodologies at local, national and international level. (Issue 3)
- Regional and national associations of Science Shops should be created in each of the member states and accession countries to support, publicise and act as pressure groups for opportunities for community-university partnerships to become more visible and more integrated into regional social, economic and environmental development. (Issue 4)
- Science Shops should, through their national and international networking, exchange experience on strategies for obtaining impact at regional and national level. The journal Living Knowledge should be used as one of the tools in creating visibility and cooperation. (Issue 4)
- Science Shops should take a lead in providing training for small to medium NGOs in research appreciation and participatory methods, in addition to carrying out research projects, as part of the process of building capacity and social capital in the voluntary and community sectors of civil society, where voluntary and community sector stakeholders lack research skills. (Issue 4)

1.4.6 Overview of models for funding of Science Shops

Science Shops can be organised as community-based or university-based Science Shops. Funding can be obtained in different ways, which are summarised here below. Several of the models may be combined for any one Science Shop:

Full funding by university:

The universities provide direct financial support for Science Shops, which is the most readily sustainable model. The Science Shop staff can be dedicated Science Shop staff or can be scientific staff, who are conducting part of their teaching and research in the Science Shop. The project research is carried out either by students for free as part of their education, by the supervisors as part of their ordinary work or by the Science Shop staff. The students are supervised by academic staff or by Science Shop staff.

Part-funding by university:

Where universities are unable to finance the full cost of a Science Shop, there is sometimes the possibility of part-funding, by attracting external funding from government or European programmes or private and charitable grants. If the external funding covers concrete projects, overheads from such funding may be able to finance part of the day-to-day administration. Such funding arrangements are inherently less stable, and require Science Shop staff to devote part of their time to fund-raising. University management needs to be aware of the existence of Science Shops and their potential and include them in university-led bidding procedures and proposals.

Social entrepreneurship:

Some Science Shops, particularly those independent of universities, act as social entrepreneurs supporting socially beneficial research activity with NGOs by means of staff conducting profitable research or other activities with organisations and funding agencies which can pay market costs. This model could also be developed in universities, with Science Shops being part of research centres where again profits from research conducted on a commercial basis are used to support the socially beneficial scientific research of Science Shops and the day-to-day work operation of the Science Shop.

Co-funding with NGOs for research and evaluation:

Science Shops could be involved with NGOs when the latter are making application for external funding by having science shop research written in to the bid to provide evidence on monitoring and evaluation of services. For funders this would ensure an independent scientific assessment as part of the bid, which is likely to work out to be less expensive than a fully commercial research and evaluation service. This model is most likely to develop when there is a long-term relationship between a Science Shop and a specific NGO.

Studentships and research grants:

A further model would provide dedicated studentships and grants for Masters or Doctorate level students or researchers in Science Shops, who would then choose the

most scientifically relevant issues to research. If this model could be supplemented with basic funding for the day-to-day work in a Science Shop it could in the case of PhD studentships enable sustained research in one area over a period of years.

2 General Introduction

2.1 Explanation of the concept Science Shops

Science Shops are organisations that offer citizens' groups free or very low-cost access to scientific and technological knowledge and research in order to help them achieve social and environmental improvement. Originally developed at Dutch universities during the 1970s, Science Shops now also exist in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom, as well as in a number of non-European countries (including Canada and the United States of America).

By definition, Science Shops provide independent, participatory research support in response to concerns experienced by civil society. They act as intermediaries between the RTD system and the public at large, dedicated to better connection of scientific expertise and the public by aligning available knowledge with public concerns. The term 'science' in our sense is used broadly and includes the social and human sciences, as well as natural, physical, engineering and technical sciences.

Science Shops today are characterised by a remarkable diversity of fields of expertise, organisational forms and structures, and working approaches. They aim to bridge the gap between Science and Society, e.g., by bi-directional knowledge transfer, and take the role of intermediary, with one of three main organisation structures: "university based", "independent" or "mixed independent with university base". How Science Shops are organised and operate is highly dependent on their national context. According to estimates during the last 10 years there are around seventy Science Shops in Europe now.

(<http://www.livingknowledge.org>, <http://www.wetenschapswinkels.nl>)

2.2 INTERACTS objectives

The research consortium of eight institutions in the EU project INTERACTS, entitled "Improving Interaction between NGOs, Science Shops and Universities", has been carrying out a complex study on how the interactions of NGOs, Science Shops and universities can be improved. The research time span has been from January 2002 to December 2003. It has been funded by the European Commission, DG12 under the programme "Improving the Human Research Potential and the Socio-economic Knowledge Base" – "Strategic Analysis of Specific Political Issues".

INTERACTS is the second study on Science Shops funded by the European Commission under the STRATA programme. The first study, entitled “Study and Conference on Improving Public Access to Science through Science Shops” (SCIPAS), investigated the operational options for Science Shops: success and failure in starting Science Shops, training programmes for Science Shop staff, the development of an international Science Shop magazine, the impact of Science Shops on university curricula and research, and the accomplishment of and further opportunities for developing an international network of Science Shops.

In SCIPAS there was participation from institutes in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Romania, South Africa, and the USA. The results of these investigations were presented at the conference “Living Knowledge: Building partnerships for public access to research”, which was held in Leuven, Belgium, from 25 - 27 January 2001 (for further information information on SCIPAS, see <http://www.livingknowledge.org>, where all SCIPAS reports can be downloaded for free). At this conference the idea for INTERACTS was created. INTERACTS supplements and continues the work already carried out in SCIPAS.

The partners in INTERACTS have been collaborating across disciplines and in co-operation with representative stakeholder groups to identify changes needed in the structures and routines of the RTD system in order to improve the future interaction between NGOs, researchers, and intermediaries, such as Science Shops. Bringing together the results from different countries allows a broader picture to emerge concerning past experiences of the impact of Science Shops, future expectations and policy relevance, as presented in this report. Thereby, INTERACTS results contribute to strengthening the interaction between research institutions and society and to bringing more in-depth understanding of the processes and effects of this form of knowledge production.

There is a growing need to create a culture of socially acceptable science, research and to policy makers. **This study intends to answer the following key questions:**

- How can the RTD system become more accountable?
- What is the potential for interaction through intermediaries, such as Science Shops, to increase awareness of the mutual benefits of co-operation between universities and small to medium NGOs?
- What are the expectations for future co-operation between NGOs and universities?
- What are the functions NGOs and individual researchers expect these collaborations to perform?
- What are the changing needs and opportunities for this type of co-operation?

- What similarities and differences regarding these above mentioned questions can be found among the participating countries of Denmark, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Spain, and Romania?
- In which ways will these findings influence the policy recommendations at the different levels: local, regional, national, European? How can they be made accessible to citizens?

INTERACTS has been planned and executed in four stages:

- For the State-of-the-Art Report a survey has been carried out on the political and institutional conditions for the co-operation between small to medium non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Science Shops, and universities in the participating countries. This report served as a basis for the next tasks undertaken, the case studies and the participatory national workshops.
- The national Case Studies examine practical experiences with and the expectations from interaction between NGOs, scientists, and Science Shops to produce an inventory of the impact that direct co-operations, mediated through Science Shops, had on NGOs, researchers and on the Science Shops themselves.
- In participatory Scenario Workshops in each of the six study-countries future expectations and perspectives for co-operation between NGOs, scientists, and Science Shops have been discussed by four role-groups - scientists and researchers, NGOs and trade unions, mediators such as Science Shop staff, and a policy and public authority group. Together with the State-of-the-Art Report and the national Case Studies Reports, these discussions, reported in the national workshop reports, have produced an inventory of operational options and challenges, and changes needed for improving the future interaction between NGOs, researchers, and intermediaries such as Science Shops. Giving voice to a broader range of stakeholders makes Science and Technology policy more democratic.
- The final report at hand is based on national summary reports and a draft final report looking across the different participating countries.
- The INTERACTS findings are and will be further disseminated at national and international workshops and conferences, aiming at feedback by stakeholders.

2.3 Link to ISSNET

INTERACTS is an Accompanying Measure to the Thematic Network Issnet (Improving Science Shop Networking). Within this Thematic Network thirteen organisations from nine countries – Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the USA – work together to advance the size, outreach and impact of the contribution of Science Shops to citizens' access to scientific infor-

mation, knowledge and expertise. As an indispensable step for establishing the future International Science Shop Network, ISSNET is funded by the European Commission under the programme *Raising Public Awareness of Science and Technology* of the Fifth Framework Programme (for more information, see www.livingknowledge.org). The Thematic Framework Network started in 2003 and will last until 2005, as an Accompanying Measure to the ongoing International Science Shop Network (ISSNET). The findings and experience of INTERACTS will be disseminated within the Living Knowledge Network at the European and global level to support the enlargement of the network of Science Shops.

2.4 Target groups of the report

The report at hand is the final outcome of the INTERACTS consortium's work, including a State-of-the-Art report, Case Studies reports and Scenario Workshop reports. It is intended to contribute to the growing debate over the responsibility of science and research for society at university, civil society, member state and EU level as well as further afield. The report is addressed to all those who work on funding or evaluating research and science, developing university curricula and exploiting the results of research and science.

Improving public access to research, science and technology should have a place in the structuring of the European Research Area and should be on the agenda of all those concerned with the development of scientific communities and their institutions. The policy options presented in this report, target five groups: the EU and its institutions, the Member States and their universities, NGOs and civil society organisations, scientists and researchers, and Science Shops.

2.5 EC policy: STRATA

INTERACTS was funded by the European Commission, DG12 under the programme "Improving the Human Research Potential and the Socio-economic Knowledge Base" – "Strategic Analysis of Specific Political Issues" (STRATA) within the Fifth Framework Programme.

The STRATA (Strategic Analysis of Specific Political Issues) programme aims to bring together researchers, policy-makers and other societal stakeholders for a continuous dialogue on general science, technology and innovation policy (STI) issues of European relevance. Through measures such as establishment of networks and expert

groups, policy-makers and other stakeholders become more involved with new state-of-the-art knowledge and the relevance of research is increased, thus the efficiency and effectiveness of communication among them is increased. The Strata programme builds upon the experience of science and technology policy research in previous Framework Programmes (e.g. FAST, MONITOR, AND TSER).

STRATA provided a support for analytical and synthesis work on specific science and technology policy issues in four main thematic areas: policy development for the research, technology development and innovation (RTDI) system; policies to leverage investment in resources for RTDI; science and governance: impact on other policies; and improved policy co-ordination in the European science systems (<http://www.cordis.lu/improving/strata/strata.htm>).

The INTERACTS project, by identifying needs and opportunities for policy in collaborations of small to medium NGOs with universities and Science Shops, contributes to strengthening linkages between research institutions and society at large and, thereby, will allow good practice to emerge. This is, among others, in accordance with priority (i) ("Policy development for the RTDI system") of STRATA. By investigating the collaborations of small to medium NGOs with universities and Science Shops, the findings of INTERACTS lead to better understanding of the sources and functioning of expertise. This is in accordance with STRATA priority (iii) ("Science and governance: impact on other policies").

The European Commission acknowledges the important role of Science Shops as a medium for improving public access to, and public awareness of, science and technology by dedicating Action 21 of its current Action Plan "Science and Society" to Science Shops. The EC is currently examining a variety of new ways of strengthening and promoting the role of Science Shops under the Sixth Framework Programme for research. A new action on training and mentoring for new Science Shops (TRAMS) begins in May 2005 (<http://www.livingknowledge.org>).

2.6 Objectives of the report

The main objective of the final report at hand is to enable effective and sustainable future co-operation between NGOs, researchers and intermediaries, such as Science Shops. It will do this by disseminating the improved potentials for as well as barriers to co-operation within the R&D-system. Additionally the report presents policy recommendations to support future strategies and conditions for those co-operations, addressing all levels for change from local to regional, national, and European.

A common criteria scheme was necessary to bring together the political agenda issues with the empirical national results of the INTERACTS study and cross-national analysis. There is also an overview on political agenda programmes and key issues (done by Science Shops “kubus” and “Vienna”). The minutes of project meetings as well as the fore-mentioned overview have been helpful in reaching project findings on policy options.

The recommendations for policy strategies to initiate change which have been developed are based on the following main topics, analysed during the INTERACTS studies:

- The possibilities for democratising Science and Technology policy decision-making
- The access of NGOs and citizens to participate in Science and Technology decisions
- The operating conditions for intermediaries such as Science Shops
- The conditions for university teachers and researchers to work with NGO-initiated and NGO-related topics as part of their research and teaching activities.

2.7 Structure of the final report

These aims are reflected in the report structure, focusing on the development of policy options. The report is divided into two parts; the main report (Part 1) and appendices (Part 2). The **executive summary** presented by Søsser Brodersen and Michael Søgaard Jørgensen (DK), highlights the main INTERACTS findings. The **Introduction** is presented by Dr. Wolfgang Endler, Kirsten von der Heiden (D), Michael Strähle (A) and Søsser Brodersen (DK). The next contribution deals in more detail with **policy options** and is presented by Irene Hall and David Hall (GB) and Michael Søgaard Jørgensen (DK). The **methodology** is the topic of the following chapter, written by Irene Hall and David Hall (GB), Kirsten von der Heiden (D), Søsser Brodersen and Michael Søgaard Jørgensen (DK), Gabriela Schroffenegger and Andrea Gnaiger (A). The **policy recommendations** are presented by Irene Hall and David Hall (GB) and Michael Søgaard Jørgensen (DK), though based on information and comments from all partners, including the subcontractor Loet Leydesdorff (NL).

The **cross analysis of the national case studies**, leading to policy options, presented by Michael Søgaard Jørgensen, and Søsser Brodersen (DK) and Andrea Gnaiger (A), is based on the national case studies reports, the national summary reports of each consortium member organisation and the Internet based investigation carried out by the subcontractor Loet Leydesdorff. Gabriela Schroffenegger (A) has carried out the

cross analysis of the participatory EASW workshops, leading to policy options. The EASW cross analysis is based on the national case studies reports and the national summary reports of each consortium member organisation.

The national section is the last part of the final report (Part 2), consisting of **summaries of the national findings**. This includes the results of the State-of-the-Art Report, the Case Studies Report, the Scenario Workshop Report, the National Summary Reports, and additional publications and analyses of the respective countries and consortium partners.

The authors of the national summaries are:

- National summary: Austria (Innsbruck): *Andrea Gnaiger and Gabriela Schroffenegger*
- National summary: Austria (Vienna): *Regina Reimer, Michael Strähle and Christine Urban*
- National summary: Denmark: *Søsser Brodersen and Michael Søgaard Jørgensen*
- National summary: Germany: *Kirsten von der Heiden and Wolfgang Endler*
- National summary: Romania: *Carmen Teodosiu and Irina Alexandrescu*
- National summary: Spain: *Teresa Rojo*
- National summary: The United Kingdom: *Irene Hall and David Hall*

All partners have commented and given input to the chapters in the final report.

3 Methodology of INTERACTS

3.1 Introduction

The discussion in this chapter reflects the emphasis in the INTERACTS contract for Work Package 2 (WP2) ‘Setting up a common methodology’ (Appendix 1) which stressed that the WP2 deliverable was ‘a case study methodology for analysing co-operation between NGOs and the research system and the impact on societal and scientific discourses and on research and curricula’. WP2 also included developing a common strategy for ‘national workshops with group discussions’ and for this reason reference is made below to the scenario workshop methodology.

The INTERACTS project is about improving interaction between NGOs, universities and science shops, and aims to provide information on the experiences and expectations of cooperation between small and medium NGOs and universities through intermediaries such as science shops.

(INTERACTS website: <http://members.chello.at/wilawien/interacts/main.html>).

The project concentrated in the first 12 months on the experiences of cooperation, and in the final 12 months on the expectations for future cooperation and development.

The INTERACTS methodology has been the basis for the production of three inter-linked Work Packages and the reports on their outcomes: the *State of the Art Report* (WP3), *The Case Studies Report* (WP4), and the *Scenario Workshops Report* (WP5). These reports have in turn fed into the Final Report (WP6).

All partners on the Project have contributed to the discussions on methodology, through email communication and especially through the sequence of project meetings. The State of the Art methodology was the responsibility of the Berlin partners who took the lead in providing guidelines for the collection and analysis of the information. The UK partners had responsibility for the Case Study methodology with specific input from the Dutch sub-contractor and the Danish team, while partners from Seville and Innsbruck provided the expertise for the Scenario Workshops in terms of training and support materials. All partners responded to the papers and draft reports which circulated on methodology throughout the project and contributed to producing the analytical frameworks and the reports of findings.

A first task for the INTERACTS research project was for each national partner to contribute to a *State of the Art* report, to set out the baseline with regard to science shops and science policy. The State of the Art Report described the methods as follows:

For the overview of the public discourse on science and society, current literature is reviewed. For the policy analysis, literature and web sites have been studied and the programmes of political parties were analysed. Political parties were questioned via e-mail, followed by telephone interviews with representatives in some cases. In addition, interviews were conducted with Science Shop and NGO representatives and with policymakers. Each of the partners collected data with a common analysis framework and the authors evaluated the information and put it together (Fischer, Wallentin et al, 2002: 8-9).

Details of the common analysis framework can be found in Appendix 1. This commonly agreed framework is an example of the continuing concern of the project – to employ methodologies which would enable national diversity to be explored and accounted for, while using shared categories to allow comparison across the different countries.

The State of the Art exercise sensitised the project partners to the policy environment of European science shops and flagged up right from the start that INTERACTS was not simply a research project, but a project designed to generate policy and advocate action at the European level.

The State of the Art Report raised issues for the major research activity of the project, the *Case Study* research (considered in detail below), providing avenues for questioning and for analysis. The case studies in turn helped provide the agenda for the *Scenario Workshops*. The INTERACTS Scenario Workshop used methodology adapted from the European Awareness Scenario Workshop (EASW) (www.basisinnovation.com/easwtobasis.htm). This methodology was originally developed by the European Commission's Innovation Programme in 1994 as a way of promoting awareness and planning for sustainability in the urban environment. The method was designed to bring together participants from different backgrounds – technology experts, policy makers, residents, and employers – to consider future scenarios and to plan how they could overcome barriers to success.

INTERACTS partners decided that the 'national workshops with group discussions' (specified in the contract) would best be delivered through scenario workshops, using the expertise of partners in the Project (in Innsbruck and Seville). The INTERACTS scenario workshops conducted in the Spring of 2003 brought together researchers, scientists, NGO practitioners, decision / policy makers and science shop staff in locations based on the 7 partner institutions in order to look at how the relationship between science and society (university and community) could be strengthened through science shop activity. The workshops were participatory in nature to encourage a free

development of ideas concerning policy issues for the future – for a ‘scenario’ of 10 years’ time from now.

The workshops provided the opportunity to disseminate INTERACTS and science shop information, and, more importantly, to translate the findings of the case study research into policy options for local and national groups to consider and develop. These produced outcomes which refined the issues introduced in the State of the Art report, by developing them at a local level. The Final Report is intended to bring together the key national findings from all these activities into a comparative analysis for dissemination to NGOs, researchers, science shops and policy makers at national and European levels. The main objective of this Report is to relate the findings from the project to policy objectives and recommendations, drawing upon current concerns in the science and society discourse and using the empirical data to direct the European Commission to areas where science shops can make a vital input. All the methodology on the project has been developed with these aims in mind.

3.2 State-of-the-Art Methodological approach

The State-of-the-Art report (Fischer & Wallentin, 2002) presents an overview of political and institutional conditions for co-operation between small and medium NGOs (as the predominant target group of Science Shops), Science Shops, and universities in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Romania, Spain and United Kingdom. Each partner conducted their own research and data collection to provide answers to the policy questionnaire from their own national perspective.

This analysis was carried out in two steps:

- First, by depicting the general scientific and public discourse on interrelation between science and society by means of a literature analysis
- Secondly, by carrying out policy analysis of different programmes and legislation referring to the interrelation between science and society.

Public discourse on science and society was analysed for references to such co-operation to find out if and to what extent interaction between research institutions and small and medium NGOs is already present and supported. Based on their hands-on experiences, Science Shop staff members have listed options and challenges for co-operating with their clients.

Governmental policy papers, programmes of political parties, university mission statements, national legislation, as well as interviews with politicians, Science Shop and

university staff members, and literature on Science Shops and NGOs provide the basis for this analysis.

The key questions are:

- To what extent is the idea of interaction between science and society represented in public and political discourse? In particular, to what extent is the concept of Science Shops as intermediary institutions known and referenced?
- What potentials and barriers arise from these findings for co-operation between NGOs, science institutions and intermediaries such as Science Shops?
- In the context of hindering and supporting factors, where are the starting-points for fostering co-operation between NGOs and science? For example, regarding political and public lobbying or Science Shop practice?

The methodology is described in detail in the countries' sub-chapters of the State-of-the-Art report.

3.3 The Case Study Approach

Case study research was chosen for the second research exercise on this INTERACTS Project, on the experiences of science shop mediation. This approach was able to provide detailed data on the varied experiences of the very different science shops in the member countries. Case studies are not merely descriptive, they are based on analytic categorisation and are designed to inform policy. According to key writers in this field:

The research goal in a case history is to get the fullest possible story for its own sake. In contrast, the case study is based on analytic abstractions and constructions for purposes of description, or verification and/ or generation of theory. There is no attempt at obtaining the fullest possible story for its own sake.
(Strauss and Glaser, 1977: 183)

Case studies have a long history of use in social science research, and it is recognised that they can generate uniquely important views of social processes, which may have both exploratory and explanatory emphases (Platt, 1992; Stake, 1994, Yin,1994).

Criticisms of case study research usually relate to the idiosyncratic nature of a case, with the argument that case studies cannot deliver the kind of generalisable data which more positivistic, quantitative approaches can produce. Lincoln and Guba (1985) prefer to replace the concept generalisability with 'transferability' as the latter term more accurately expresses how cases can be transferred from specific contexts to illustrate par-

ticular differences and similarities between cases. With INTERACTS, the data collected had to be transferred to a wider policy context, through a method which involved comparison of cases.

For social policy researchers the case study has distinct advantages.

All who wish to understand voluntary action will need to balance the parochialism of the case study approach against its attention to process and dynamics. Dense, located detail, critically analysed, is as important as thinner, if numerically significant outputs. This is a message for all who study voluntary organisations, whether as policy makers, practitioners, researchers or students.

(Scott et al: 2000)

The work of INTERACTS was intended to generate policy implications and recommendations by showing the empirical reality of science shop work 'on the ground.' If current policy does not connect with empirical experience then policy needs to be reviewed in the light of the evidence produced from this Project.

Yin (1994: 44-51) in particular argues for multiple case studies, as in this INTERACTS project, to be considered not in terms of a 'sampling logic' attempting to assess and quantify the incidence of phenomena, but rather in terms of a 'replication logic' akin to multiple experiments on the same type of subject. Cases are chosen to predict similar results from similar circumstances (literal replications) as well as to produce contrasting results from predictable differences of circumstance (theoretical replications).

As researchers we have collected information with a structured outcome as an objective, through gathering data via semi-structured interviewing using a standardised interview schedule, and using a common framework for analysis. The research has been designed to make the information accessible and coherent, so that both common and unique features could emerge, along with explanatory discussion on the wider issues of impact and implication for policy. (Hall & Hall: 2002)

Donmoyer (2000: 61) notes a key advantage of the case study method when he states that 'case studies can take us to places where most of us would not have an opportunity to go.' Similarly, Stake (1986) believes the role of the evaluator is to provide narrative accounts that provide vicarious experience. This report can therefore be considered as providing access to a variety of community experiences, a *window on the localities* of Science Shops in action. The account of unique situations and individuals provides models for action, while the *rich data* collected adds nuance and subtlety to overarching theoretical perspectives.

3.3.1 Interview Questionnaire

Each case was an example of research collaboration with an NGO which had been mediated by a Science Shop or similar organisation. Each was based on interviews with all the main key participants on two levels – those who had been directly involved in carrying out the research (Level 1) and those who had a view on the policy implications of the activity, such as university deans or organisational managers (Level 2). In this way it was hoped to represent the overlapping spheres of university, science shop and NGO activity, similar to the model of the Triple Helix of university-industry-government relations. (Leydesdorff, 2001)

In order to ensure a broad comparability of cases, a common methodology was devised, with interview schedules (Appendix 2) derived from the issues which partners decided were central to the understanding of science shop work. So, for instance, the NGO respondent, researcher(s), supervisor and science shop mediator were asked about specific collaborative research projects - the main research questions and methods, findings and recommendations and about the organisation of the project – how it was initiated, channels of communication, budget and timescales. The outcomes of the research were also investigated, in terms of usage and publication, long term benefit to the organisation, and relation to the wider objectives of the organisation. These policy issues were also explored with Level 2 respondents, although with the diversity of roles involved, it was more difficult to devise questions which could be asked across all 6 countries. In order to reflect the more general thrust of the research on science policy, some of the questions asked at this level were about science and society issues rather than about the specifics of the cases, with which respondents may have been unfamiliar.

A major purpose of the study was not just to show whether negotiated applied community research could be effective – but also to examine the value of the intermediary organisation in facilitating such research. So direct questions were asked about the role of the science shop and about the advantages and disadvantages of the three way relationship between science shop, community group and researcher.

Open ended questions were used in all instances to enable interviewers both to probe on the development of the particular case being studied, and to permit flexibility between cases (as national contexts are so different). Careful consideration was given to the interviews being conducted according to appropriate ethical procedures as specified by professional social research associations. The following instruction was given by the designers of the methodology:

Before any interview take place, it is important to gain the **consent** of the participants for this research to be used by INTERACTS and for possible future publication. Please enquire whether they wish themselves and/or their organisation to be anonymous – and a pseudonym to be used.

3.3.2 *Sample*

It was agreed that partners would study cases of NGO-Science Shop interaction that were:

- *Complete* (so that activity was finished and impact could be assessed)
- *Recent* (so that those interviewed could recall fairly accurately what happened)
- *With Impact* (so that cases contributed to knowledge or to usage)

It was also agreed that case studies would focus on the three main actors:

- *NGOs* (those whose activities concerned the environment or social welfare and health)
- *Researchers* (students and/or supervisors)
- *Science Shops*

The option of including a non-science shop example of NGO-university collaboration was considered, but eventually rejected on the grounds that such cases would introduce too much variability to allow valid conclusions to be drawn regarding the reasons for their impact.

Instead, it was decided that the Science Shop examples from each country would include one case from a Science Shop / mediating organisation different from the partner's own Science Shop. Thus each partner agreed to complete three cases, one of which would be from a Science Shop other than their own. It was felt that this would supply further comparative perspective to the study and increase the validity of the research – so that the findings would be less heavily biased to personal experience and justification of action. The extension of the sample would enable the inclusion of questions and issues which the INTERACTS members might not have encountered in their own Science Shops and might provide further insights into negative or difficult problems which could arise.

It was suggested that a minimum of 6 interviews per case would be required:

- 3 with those directly involved in the research, 1 each from NGO, Researcher, Science Shop (level 1)
- 3 with those involved in the research at a policy level, 1 each from NGO, Researcher, Science Shop. These might include the NGO manager or regional net-

work coordinator, a University Dean with responsibility for curriculum and/or a research profile Science Shop manager (level 2).

In the event, it proved difficult to interview three level 2 participants for each case, because the science shops were all at different stages of development – with the level 1 science shop co-ordinator often being the only science shop worker. Further, not all the science shops were university based, while policy makers in academia who were willing to participate were not easy to locate.

3.3.3 Reliability and Validity

A number of background discussion papers were circulated by the UK team to help ensure a common understanding of the methodology that was being proposed, and to provide the opportunity for response by partners. One paper made the following comment:

[Case study research] may not have the high generalisability (external validity) of a probability-based sample survey, but it will have high internal validity, in that it probes the processes and shifting views of our work, as well allowing the voices of participants to be more clearly heard. It enables us to research the perceptions of reality of the participants, which is what we are about. This may require the collection of information specific to the particular case, as well as the collection of information consistent across cases. As with all qualitative research, this means that the data will have lower reliability than that produced by structured survey research, but it will have greater validity in that it is related more closely to our understanding of process.

(Hall I, INTERACTS discussion paper 6/02/2002)

Was the validity of the research weakened by a lack of ‘objectivity’? It was recognised from the outset that all the researchers shared a bias – they were committed to the ideals of science shop activity and to its promotion. Such researcher involvement requires awareness of ‘positionality’ – of the positioning of the researcher within a wider structure which relates to how they have come to understand knowledge as well as how they have come to produce it (Rhoads, 1997: 17). For social scientists today, awareness of the role of the researcher in producing data has overtaken concerns about the elusive standard of ‘objectivity’ when values and positioning are made explicit. However, it was hoped to avoid undue bias in the interview itself by adherence to the common interview schedule and by standardising the introduction (Appendix 3). Partners were also required to keep a full transcript of the interviews in the national language as a reliability check on the data and the questioning.

Validity was also strengthened by all partners being required to complete a pilot case to test the questionnaire before the main study began. This produced feedback via email on whether the questions were ‘working’ – i.e. they were unambiguous and provided information on science shop activity which was central to the study. Level 2 questions were found to be particularly problematic. Adjustments were made as a result of feedback from this pilot stage – although it is fair to say that in the final study, the level 2 questions were the hardest to deliver in a consistent way. National differences at the higher policy level meant that interviewers often had to rephrase the questions to make them meaningful.

3.3.4 Reflection

All partners were advised to keep a research diary to record their experiences of the pilot and the main study. As a circulated paper noted, ‘reflection in action’ is the process of thinking about what you are doing, as the work progresses and is distinct from “reflection on action” which is a *post hoc* activity – ‘stop and think’ when the action is no longer current (Schön, 1983).

Such reflection in action, Schön argues, provides a way of opening thought up to possibilities which might otherwise be blocked off. It helps produce flexibility in finding solutions when objectives are unclear or problematic and so produces improvisation which is thoughtful rather than reactive.

(Hall I & Hall D, INTERACTS discussion paper, 20/02/2002)

For the INTERACTS partners representing different cultures and experiences, reflection **in** action was crucial, if not always comfortable, to finding solutions which were creative and scientifically sound, and which represented the commonality and the diversity of the cases. The interview schedule, for instance, was modified after extensive consultation and reflection by partners, and the analytic framework was similarly revised.

Reflection **on** action was also encouraged, and a questionnaire was circulated to all partners asking them to reflect on what they felt had been the strengths and the problems with the case study research. One partner noted a particular problem with administering the research, that it was

time consuming (especially due to translations: we needed translated questionnaires and then transcriptions of the interviews in [the native tongue] and again citations in English), we spent more time than the allocated time (and budget) for this WP. [The problem] is not actually related to the form of the questionnaire, but to the whole research procedure application in the context of non-native English speakers.

These comments raise particular concerns for the conduct of cross-national qualitative research, which perhaps need to be addressed when research is being designed, timescales developed and budgets assigned for European projects. However, the partner who raised the problems also felt that there were advantages to the method,

but I think it facilitates analysis and comparison of cases, and provides also sufficient in depth information to “feel the flavour” of specific experiences.

3.3.5 Case Study Reports

The case studies of the different partners and countries were analysed according to a common agreed framework applied to the cases in terms of a fact sheet summary, the process of project origination and negotiation, the aims and objectives of the research, data collection and analysis, the outcomes, impacts and usage of the research, and participants' evaluations. This was preceded by a section introducing the Science Shops and the selection of case studies, and followed by a further section on policy evaluation. The policy section considered the application of the case studies to policy formulation from the points of view of the three main actors involved, the NGOs, universities, and Science Shops.

The final case study reports were prefaced by an executive summary, and an introductory section on case studies and methods. This current chapter is a revision and extension of the common introduction on case studies and methods.

3.4 Scientrometric analysis of case studies – methodological considerations

The research in this subcontract to the INTERACTS project addressed the question of the external visibility of Science Shop work in terms of communications which reach beyond the local context of the participants. In addition to the question of the effects of this specific type of communication in terms of publications, institutional development, and curriculum development, it is a study the communication of the results in the press, the popular and grey literature, and other means of communication *insofar as retrievable on distance through the Internet*. This is an important limitation because projects and authors may be visible in other respects, which are considered more important by the Science Shops. The Internet provides us with a specific lens that enables us to provide feedback on an increasingly important aspect of the visibility and social impact of the mediation.

Each INTERACTS partner provided three detailed case studies from the perspective of the local Science Shops. These 21 case studies were selected by the respective partners as “best practices” on the basis of a number of criteria.

The methodology of the scientrometric analysis can be summarized as follows:

1. The first full drafts of the case study reports (available as of 19 January 2003 or shortly thereafter) were scrutinized for external references, names of authors, websites and other information that can be accessed from a bibliographic point of view.
2. Each of these leads were followed-up using the *Science Citation Index* and the *Social Science Citation Index* for the scientrometric evaluation, specific webpages of authors and institutions, webportals of newspapers, Amazon.com and its national derivatives (like amazon.co.uk and amazon.de), and the integrated library system of the Netherlands (PICA) in the case of retrieving books, as well as the *AltaVista* Advanced Search Engine for identifiable clues like the ones mentioned. The *AltaVista* Advanced Search Engine was used among the many possible search engines because of its use in other webometric research (and therefore the availability of software and routines) and its option to search for different domains using Boolean relations and specific time frames (Leydesdorff, 2001).
3. On the basis of these searches a bibliographic/infographic profile is sketched for each of the 21 case studies describing the main researchers involved, the output, the scientific institutions, and the role of the Science Shop in the mediation. Conclusions in the different dimensions of potential impact like higher education, scientific publications, newspapers, etc. are elaborated and policy recommendations for enhancing the visibility of Science Shop research are made.
4. Preliminary conclusions were reported to the internal meeting of the consortium at Innsbruck (Austria), 7-9 March 2003, as a contribution to the formative evaluation. An initial version of the research report was circulated among the contractors in May 2003 for comments.
5. In response to the initial report, it became clear that the retrieval of information about the researchers and clients in the case studies of Vienna could mean a breach of the guarantee of anonymity provided by the research team that analyzed the case studies. Although the information was retrieved at the Internet on the basis of the previously anonymized reports only, we agreed to further ano-

nymize section 3.3 in this meta-evaluation. The format of this section therefore differs in some respects.

3.5 Scenario workshop methodology

Work package 5 of the INTERACTS project deals with the future expectations of and the perspectives for cooperation between the four actor groups NGOs, intermediaries, scientists and politicians, concerning the “improvement of the dialogue between science and society”. A workshop bringing together all actor groups was envisaged. The obvious methodological approach to choose was an adaptation of the European Awareness Scenario Workshop method (EASW).

3.5.1 What is an European Awareness Scenario Workshop?

A European Awareness Scenario Workshop is a good tool to support and facilitate active participation of people from across society and across different interest groups. The EASW methodology was originally developed by the European Commission’s Innovation Programme in 1994 as a way of promoting awareness and planning for sustainability in the urban environment by bringing together participants from different backgrounds – technology experts, policy makers, residents, and employers – to consider future scenarios and to discuss how to overcome barriers to success.

The European Awareness Scenario Workshop Method allows the direct participation of four social groups from civil society. The setting of a EASW Workshop offers the participants a direct opportunity for exchanging and discussing their points of view, doubts, suggestions and wishes regarding a particular topic or problem with experts and decision-makers. Furthermore it is a tool for promoting dialogue, furthering involvement and for managing a constructive discussion between various actor groups. The Collingridge dilemma also supports this choice of method. It states that: The attentiveness of society for a certain problem or future development reaches its highest point at a time when control or influence of society on this problem is not possible any more. As a consequence, the timely involvement of the citizens in decision-finding processes, with respect to problems they are concerned with, can increase the chance of timely intervention and control.

3.5.2 What is a Scenario Workshop?

Based on the standardized European Awareness Scenario Workshop methodology “Pax Mediterranea” developed a first adaptation of the methodology explained in detail

in the “INSTRUCTIONS BOOKLET” – an INTERACTS Methodology for group discussions and analysis: an adaptation of the EASW and BASIS Public Participation Tool (for full details see booklet)

Bases on this booklet “The FBI Centre” further developed and adapted the methodology to the specific needs of the INTERACTS project partners. This further step was necessary as the majority of the project partners have not been experienced with the EASW methodology and needed a very basic tool, which could easily be adapted to their specific boundary conditions. In addition it proved to be necessary to have a training unit on the EASW methodology which took place at the third internal INTERACTS project meeting in Rinn, (Innsbruck – Austria) prepared and conducted by Gabriela Schroffenegger from “the FBI Centre” and Alain Labatut from “Pax Mediterranea”.

The central element in the Scenario Workshop approach is dialogue aiming at moderating the participants to develop their own visions related to a specific focus question and their specific area of interest, and through discussions enabling the participants to identify and develop suggestions on options to achieve their vision.

The main aims of a Scenario Workshop:

- It helps raising awareness of future problems in the community.
- It helps developing a common definition of a desirable development.
- It allows discussions with different social groups about obstacles on the way towards a future worth living.
- It allows identifying and discussing the differences and similarities of problems and solutions as perceived by the different groups of participants.
- On the one hand a Scenario Workshop helps to develop and generate utopian ideas. On the other hand it allows to plan first steps that can be realized in the near future or even to develop an action plan for the implementation of solution trails.
- It supports attempts to work out solutions together.
- An optimal result would be the agreement of all participants on a desirable development with respect to the workshop topic.

3.5.3 Basic Scenario Workshop Tool - BSWT*3.5.3.1 The Adaptation of the EASW Methodology and the Rationale in Detail*Selection of Participants / The Interest (Role) Groups

With respect to the key stakeholders in the INTERACTS project it was decided to have the following four role groups to be present at the Scenario Workshop:

1. NGO representatives
2. Politicians/decision makers
3. Universities/researchers
4. Intermediaries

This subdivision is necessary to balance the various interests of the different role groups and to include them on an equal basis. All participating role groups are regarded as experts on an equal basis with knowledge of the problem and solution trails.

Time Frame

An EASW is scheduled to last two days in order to provide enough time to develop the scenarios and plan the activities.

The partners of the INTERACTS project decided to shorten the time frame of the Scenario Workshop to one day by combining and shortening intermediary stages.

The rationale for this decision lay in the realistic assumption that for politicians and university professors a workshop organised by a non-official institution like the Science

Shops would not warrant abandoning their day-to-day activities for two whole days. So, in order to prevent getting only second and third ranking representatives to attend, it was decided to contract the time frame.

The second reason for shortening the time was the broadness of the topic. It was clear from the start that even two days would not be enough to discuss the topic exhaustively, rather, the workshop would only serve to discover ideas, compare them and, at the most, agree on first steps to be taken in consultation with each other. The hope was to put into motion a process of dialogue and networking which has to be continued longer term on a regional level.

Development of Scenarios

Within an EASW the role groups develop a best-case (positive) and a worst-case (negative) scenario. For practical reasons, time constraints and also with respect to the general aim of the Scenario Workshop to investigate on the improvement of the relationship between university and society most partners decided to focus only on the best-case scenario. Even in the case a worst-case scenario is developed it is just to contrast the best-case scenario. Experience shows that people more easily develop a worst-case scenario compared to a best-case scenario. It supports developing the best-case scenario.

Provision of Scenarios and Chairing of Working Groups

In the classic version of an EASW, the participating groups are being confronted with given scenarios, in the case of urban planning on a scale of more or less technological development and more or less personal initiative.

The given topic could, of course, also be modified. Most INTERACTS partners, however, did without pre-given scenarios and chairing of working groups. This is due to the perceived high expertise of the invited participants and the small numbers. It was considered too unwieldy and also patronising to chair a working group of city councillors, university professors, high-ranking civil servants etc. The people invited knew best what they wanted to discuss and wanted to do that in an unrestricted manner. There would have been little point for the organisers to construct future scenarios, only to have them rejected and start the working process on a negative note. We wanted to find out about new ideas, new visions and not hamper them with too tight a framework. The project workers of the Science Shops, for whom INTERACTS is their second project on science transfer via intermediaries, think they know from experience and from their research work with this model in its various forms and development, how the dialogue between science and society via intermediaries can work, but they do not want this knowledge to dominate to such an extent, that other possibilities are not being

considered any more. We as workers of the Science Shops are keen to discover ideas hitherto not considered in our work and the best way to do this is not to channel the participants thinking into given scenarios.

3.5.3.2 Main Elements to be included in the Basic Scenario Workshop Tool to conduct a Scenario Workshop

A Basic Scenario Workshop is arranged as a combination of group and plenary sessions. In the course of the Scenario Workshop the participants will go through a combination of different activities: brainstorming, development of positive scenarios, group and plenary presentations, development of actions or strategies in order to achieve a certain situation, dialogue and negotiations.

Introductory Session in Plenary

The Scenario Workshop starts with an introductory session in plenary, welcoming the participants and explaining them about the programme of the day.

Presentations of the Organiser

These presentations are explaining the wider settings and the aims of the workshop. There is also room for a short presentation of the organiser organisation and for any material the organiser considers as helpful in the frame of the workshop.

Group Session: Development of the Future Scenario within the four Interest Groups (Role Groups)

The participants develop and discuss within their role group a positive scenario related to the scenario workshop focus question (the prospective question) reflecting their interests and future expectations. To support this process it is helpful to provide the groups with handouts to help develop the scenario, pointing out the main questions to ask and what steps to take.

Each role group develops one common future scenario reflecting their interests and future expectations.

A minimum participation of four persons per role group is recommended. The maximum participation per role group should be limited to eight persons to give the individual participants a chance to discuss and bring forwards ones view.

It is recommended to have around one and a half hour of discussion time.

Plenary Session: Presentation of the Results of each Interest Group (Role Group)

The individual scenarios are presented by on spokesperson each and are compared with each other. Thus one can learn to understand the ideas, fears and wishes of the participating role groups and identify common ground and conflicting issues. The discussion stimulates mutual understanding. Individual motives, backgrounds, intentions become visible and decisions are made transparent and comprehensible.

Plenary Session: Identification of common Themes derived from the four Scenarios

In a first step the participants draw up a list of common topics and themes derived from the four scenarios. In a second step this list gets whittled down to four themes to continue working in the thematic groups.

Group Session: Division of the Participants into four Thematic Groups

Here the participants are divided into four thematic groups, and the aim is to discuss and develop means of actions towards the chosen theme for further discussions. Each thematic group consists of participants of all role groups. Thus the scenarios from the individual groups are present in each thematic group. Each thematic group gets supplied with a handout focusing on the suggested questions and including a coordinate axes schema supporting a structured presentation of the findings.

A minimum participation of four persons per thematic group is recommended (one representative of each role group). The maximum participation per thematic group should be limited to eight persons to give the individual participants a chance to discuss and bring forwards ones view. It is recommended to have around one and a half hour of discussion time.

Plenary Session: Presentation of the Results of each Thematic GroupPlenary Session: Plenary Discussions of what to do next - drawing up an Action Plan (a Master Plan)

This part of the participatory workshop brings us back to reality. Based on the results of the thematic groups a plan is developed for the implementation of the results, i.e. what each participant or participating group can contribute to the realisation of the scenarios. This last step opens up perspectives for concerted action, shows practicable ways for implementation and can go as far as developing a strategic action plan. In some cases an actual action plan is developed pointing out responsibilities of the different actors, and in other cases, the scenario workshop ends with several suggestions to change a given situation, but without pointing out responsibilities.

Feedback Round and Farewell

Follow up Meeting

A Follow-up Meeting some weeks after the Scenario Workshop is recommended with the aim of discussing workshop results and next steps.

3.6 Comparison of Case Studies – methodological approach

The cross case study analysis is based on the inductive method, which means that themes and issues in the analysis have been identified by going through the policy evaluation chapters in all the case study reports. It was possible to base the cross analysis of the case studies on the inductive method, because the design of the research (as explained in Hall & Hall, 2002) ensured that the information in the case studies was as coherent as possible, so that both common and unique features could emerge, along with explanatory discussion on the wider issues of impact and implication for policy.

The cross case study analysis was carried out by Institute FBI and DTU.

The cross analysis was developed in four steps:

1. Reading through all the policy evaluation chapters in the case study reports, and in some cases reading through the whole reports.
2. Issues and arguments were identified and grouped under themes (individually for each case study report)
3. Themes, issues and arguments from each case study report were combined across the case studies
4. The analysis was then structured along three perspectives (NGO, University (research and teaching), and Mediation (Science Shop)) based on the themes, issues and arguments identified.

Step 1: Reading through all the policy evaluation chapters in the case study reports, and in some cases reading through the whole reports

In order to ensure the unique features in the case studies, each chapter with policy analysis was read carefully and all issues and arguments concerning the background of the project, the interaction during the project and the impact of the project were written down.

Three perspectives (NGO, Research and Teaching (later called University) and Science Shop (later called Mediation) were identified as the general division in the policy

evaluation chapters. This division was therefore used as the overall structure of the analysis. This should ensure views and arguments of the different stakeholders were included in the analysis. The division is also a structural division of the stakeholders, equivalent to the different actors in a Science Shop project, but we tried to be aware of not to be biased about the actual role of a stakeholder, since some stakeholders might have several roles, like students and researchers also being active in a NGO.

Step 2: Issues and arguments were identified and grouped under themes (individually for each case study report)

The next step was to identify themes based on the issues and arguments in each of the case studies, like the problem addressed in a case, barriers in the cooperation etc. This meant that the themes emerged from the case studies and were not biased or predetermined by the researchers making the analysis.

Step 3: Themes, issues and arguments from each case study report were combined across the case studies

When each case study had been analysed separately and themes and issues identified, a cross analysis could be made. Identical themes and issues were grouped together and themes and issues only mentioned by one partner grouped separately. It was noted who had put forward the argument. In order to ensure no themes or issues were left out, the cross analysis was done both by FBI and DTU individually, and thereafter compared.

The result after this phase was a document containing all themes and issues and topics identified in the case study reports, divided into headings indicating the themes, and which partners had raised the themes and the underlying issues.

Step 4: The analysis within each of the three perspectives (NGO, University, and Mediation) was written based on the themes, issues and arguments identified

The last step was to write the final cross analysis chapter. This was done on the basis of the cross-analysis document worked out in Step 3. To ensure not to lose the partners points and the unique features in the cases, points and issues are presented by using the partners' own wording in the argumentation. Whenever an argumentation or issue are put forward it is stated by which partner, so that the arguments can be found in the case study reports.

The cross analysis of the case studies has been discussed and commented on by all partners and modified in relation to these comments.

3.7 Comparison of the workshops – methodological approach

In the given case the participatory workshops have been designed for the purpose of research with respect to a specific question, but the composition of the participants and their acting in role groups and thematic groups aimed at mirroring the social conditions as they are. The method applied is therefore established between an interview and a contents analysis.

The analysis in the sense of working out similarities, differences and unusual features is restricted to the contents as it is not appropriate to conduct a linguistic analysis in a multilingual European setting.

“In some cases sociologists investigate the social behaviour not in a direct way but through its outcomes. To tap relevant information in historical and contemporary material they often apply the contents analysis. This method can be applied to nearly all kind of written communication: such as letters, diaries, autobiographies, laws, lyrics, newspapers and even pictures, providing rich information about the behaviour of mankind. The contents analysis allows to organise and to summarize the manifest contents as well as the latent contents of the communication in a systematic way. (Calhoun 2003)

The flip charts of the participatory workshops can be regarded as “the minutes of the verbal reactions of the interviewees to verbal stimuli”. “ The empirical analysis of the contents focuses on documents of social processes, on results of activities of single persons or groups.... These materials are in general not being produced just for the purpose of a contents analysis, but they mirror social facts which existed or exist independent and uninfluenced of the intention of the research.” (Kromrey 2000)

The results of the participatory workshops represent the remarks produced by the participants in the role groups or thematic groups in response to provided questions and therefore equate a group interview.

The discussion process within the working groups without the participation of the moderator seems to represent even deeper and more genuine the opinion of the group compared to a regular group interview.

In the plenary sessions of the workshop the opinions of the groups – the opinions of the individual role groups as well as the opinions of the individual thematic groups – are ranked by the participants themselves. The ranking and the interpretation of the underlying communication are therefore anticipated by the participants themselves.

Based on a schema drawn up by Teresa Rojo (Pax med) all partners delivered summaries of her national participatory workshop. The comparison of the workshops is based on the information provided by the partners in the workshop summaries with one exemption. In the case of the Spanish workshop the summary was not available at the time the cross comparison was drawn up. About that the information needed had to be taken from the detailed Spanish workshop report.

Following the scheme provided the individual aspects have been compared in the following manner. The same results with regards to contents or similar results just formulated differently have been summarised and ranked. Thus the results described most frequently by the partners are discussed in the first place emphasizing their importance. The second frequent results have been discussed in the second place etc. Finally it was tried to grasp all individual results of the individual workshops in a way that the essential of each country is covered in the overall view. In this way all aspects as listed in the schema have been dealt with. Results or opinions deviating of the majority have been also recorded and described. The same is true for outstanding details. To make visible the differences quotations have been used as much as possible.

Each chapter ends with an overview summarizing the results with respect to their importance as expressed in the sum of all national summaries and with respect to the frequency comparing all workshops.

This comparison is aiming at providing an overview on the seven participatory workshops with respect to the thematic main focus, the organisation, the course of the workshop and the results. It will be particular of interest for readers who want to get an impression of the workshops without reading through all detailed individual reports.

Of course the common aspects could be described in a comprehensive manner. The deviations from the majority and the unusual features are only included and discussed selective and exemplary. Of course the selection process was aimed at obtaining objectivity but every selection also re-mirrors the personal view of the author.

The detailed reports are therefore recommended to the interested reader to deepen their understanding.

3.8 The process of policy option development

One of the objectives of INTERACTS has been to develop policy recommendations, which can help strengthening the role of Science Shops as part of the future interaction between Science and Society and democratic governance at different levels.

This objective was described in this way in the Technical Annex of the INTERACTS project:

“Develop policy strategies for improving conditions for future co-operation between NGO’s, researchers and intermediaries like science shops. The main points to be addressed are:

- *The possibilities for democratising Science & Technology policy decision making*
- *The access of NGO’s and citizens to participate in Science & Technology decisions*
- *The conditions for intermediaries like science shops*
- *The conditions for university teachers and researchers to work with NGO-initiated and NGO-related topics as part of their research and teaching activities.”*

The following paragraphs describe the methodology of the policy recommendation development.

The option development has been based on different processes:

- an *analytic* approach, where we define issues to be addressed, consider objectives for the future and think about options that might support these objectives
- a *creative* approach, where we more think about what we think is needed in order to support the development of citizens participation and intermediaries like science shops

Options should be evidence-based

The options are *evidence*-based. This means that they are based on the state-of-the-art report about the role of NGOs and science shops in the partner countries, the case studies and the scenario workshops.

Justifying issues and options

During the development of the issues and options for policy recommendations we have focused on *justifying* our issues, objectives and options by referring to policy docu-

ments (EU or national) and *about readily available options*. Policy development is understood as *a process of coalition building* at different levels

The steps in the policy option development

The policy option development has followed these steps:

- Each partner has developed ideas for policy options at *local, national, regional and international/EU level based on the local experiences from own case studies and own scenario workshop*.
- The cross-analysis of the case study reports and the scenario workshop reports have pointed to policy issues
- An survey of *relevant EU policy papers* have pointed to issues, where science shops can be seen as one of the means for fulfilling policy goals
- All these inputs have been merged into a chapter with policy options for the draft final report
- Feedback to policy issues and options have been given at the international dissemination events of INTERACTS in Paris during the European Social Forum and at the JRC organised conference Interfaces between Science and Society in Milan, both in November 2003. Feedback has also been received from the international network of science shops, Living Knowledge as part of the ISSNET thematic network activities.
- Based on this feedback the proposals for policy issues and recommendations have been revised.

The structure of a policy option

The policy recommendations have been given the following structure:

- The policy issue written as a question
- The Problem: Background;
- Evidence from INTERACTS
- Policy Options

Cross-national similarities and differences

The national ideas for policy options in the national summaries reflect the cross-national similarities and differences within the Science-Society discourse in the partner countries. These differences and similarities have been reflected in the cross-analysis of the case studies and of the scenario workshops and the development of policy recommendations.

Policy recommendations based on prerequisites and barriers

Developing policy options can be a difficult process because one might be a little blind to the prerequisites in ones own context. This is like when one learns about ones own country by visiting other countries, because one normally does not think about the prerequisites of the daily practice. In the development of policy recommendations the focus has been on:

- What are the *prerequisites of the impact of science shops* of today and how can these prerequisites be developed further in our own countries and in other countries
- What are the *barriers to the impact of science shops* of today and how can these barriers be reduced in the future.

4 Cross Analysis of Case Studies

This chapter is divided into three sections. These analyse the Science Shop experiences from the national case studies as seen from the perspective of NGOs, universities, and the Science Shops, respectively. Science Shop projects are about interaction between different actors, but the shaping of this interaction interacts with the conditions of these three actors: NGOs, universities, and Science Shops.

References in this chapter are made to the national case studies by name of the country. For the Austrian case studies Innsbruck is used in relation to the case studies carried out by the Institute FBI in Innsbruck, and Vienna for the case studies carried out by the Science Shop Vienna (Wissenschaftsladen Wien).

4.1 The NGO Perspective

4.1.1 *The problems addressed in the case studies*

By analysing the case studies a number of important fields for societal governance has been identified. The national case study reports show that NGOs are approaching Science Shops for different reasons and with different ideas and expectations. The initial step to consult a Science Shop is either based on problems they experience, observations they make, or ideas, desires or needs they have.

The findings show how NGOs approach Science Shops over social or environmental problems or needs, or because of NGOs desire to improve their own services or projects. NGOs have some of the following needs, when approaching a Science Shop:

- Scientific analysis of the need for action in order to establish dialogue with authorities or companies
- Enhancement of knowledge around a topic as part of their activity
- Access to knowledge from governmental institutions or organisation
- Development of solutions for prevention or abatement of problems
- Evaluation of NGO service provision and community projects
- Development of new knowledge-intensive NGO services based in new insights

More specifically, INTERACTS findings show that within the environmental area NGOs approached Science Shops because of the need for:

- Analysis of industrial emissions, state of the environment and urban development
- Dialogue with stakeholders about their perceptions of problems
- Development of strategies for abatement or prevention of environmental problems

Within the social area NGOs approached the Science Shops because of the need for:

- Analysis of social problems and needs for social inclusion of ethnic minority groups, low income families and those with mental health problems.
- Evaluation of NGO initiated social and welfare services or projects
- Recommendations for improving and developing social services and social conditions

INTERACTS has focused on the environmental area (cases from Denmark, Germany, Romania, and Spain), and the social area (cases from Austria, Spain and UK). Eighteen of the twenty-one projects analysed in the INTERACTS national case study reports were based on requests made by NGOs or civil society groups to the Science Shops, and three of the twenty-one cases were initiated by a Science Shop and not by a NGO.

Table 1 shows the type of knowledge production the NGOs wanted in the case studies initiated by NGOs.

NGO/community initiated projects: Type of knowledge production wanted	Number of cases (field of case)
Scientific analysis of a problem about the need for action in order to establish dialogue with authorities or companies	<p><i>Denmark:</i> One case about an environmental problem. (Title: 'Biomanipulation in shallow eutrophic lakes – a study of food web interactions and lake equilibria')</p> <p><i>Romania:</i> Two cases about an environmental problem. (Titles: 'Evaluation of the quality of drinking water supplied in the city of Iasi', and 'The impact of wastewaters resulted from the industrial production of yeast on the river of Siret')</p>
Enhancement of knowledge around a topic as part of NGO activity	<p><i>Denmark:</i> One case about the topic of bicyclism. (Title: 'What is a bicycle? – a social constructivist analysis of the possibilities of promoting the use of bicycles')</p> <p><i>Romania:</i> One case about bio-diversity (Title: 'Project Vladeni 2000- Biodiversity Conservation in the Wetland Vladeni (Iasi County- Romania)')</p>
Research of impact of governmental project	<p><i>Germany:</i> One case about impact of infrastructure project. (Title: 'Tiergarten – Tunnel')</p>
Access to knowledge from governmental organisations/institutions	<p><i>Romania:</i> One case about an environmental problem. (Title: 'Evaluation of the quality of drinking water supplied in the city of Iasi')</p> <p><i>Austria:</i> One case about social services for people. (Title: Evaluation of a series of lectures on precaution against heart disease for Turkish migrant women in Tirol')</p>
Development of solutions for prevention or abatement of problems	<p><i>Denmark:</i> One case dealing with storage of organic food. (Title: 'Organic food in the day care centre Vognporten – with special focus on storage and local supply of fruits and vegetables')</p> <p><i>Spain:</i> Two cases, one case concerning the development of green plan for city. (Title: 'Urban Ecology Strategy Design, Seville 2025'), and one case about housing of minority and vulnerable group. (Title: 'Architectural Study for Romany Community, Los Perdigones')</p>
Evaluation of NGO or community service and project	<p><i>Austria:</i> Three cases concerning social services, and one case concerning a research project about empowerment of a community in order to improve the community's living conditions. (Titles: 'Volunteers as Buddies for Mentally Disordered Persons', and 'Children Poverty in Austria, and 'Analysis on customer satisfaction of the aggrieved with respects to mediation in penal matters', and 'Mega Settlement')</p> <p><i>United Kingdom:</i> Two cases concerning social services. (Titles: 'Lakeview Day Centre', and 'Midlands Befriending Service')</p>
Development of new knowledge-intensive NGO services based on new insights	<p><i>Austria:</i> One case concerning the social conditions for youth. (Title: 'Children and young people in the Lungau: Between participation and apathy')</p> <p><i>United Kingdom:</i> One case concerning social services. (Title: 'Benington Hospital')</p>

Table 1: Type of knowledge production wanted in community/NGO initiated projects

In some of the case studies initiated by NGOs the focus of a project is developed further through the interaction between the NGO and the involved researchers and/or students. This happens during the initial planning or during the conduction of the project based on the need or the idea put forward by the NGO.

Not all requests from NGOs approaching Science Shops lead to research projects. Many requests by NGOs can be answered by consulting, supplying the requestor with literature on the topic of interest or arranging contacts with experts in corresponding fields (Vienna). This is also the case in some of the other Science Shops.

Some of the national case study reports reveal that NGOs might have expectations to the results, when they approach a Science Shop:

- Research and methods which are simple, so that findings would be transferable throughout the country (United Kingdom)
- Research that provides information that feeds into changing practice (United Kingdom)
- Results that can be applied to practice (United Kingdom, Innsbruck)

In some cases the NGOs have no or very vague expectations to the results. They might only have heard about the possibility to get researched-based help.

Three of the investigated cases in the national case study reports were initiated by a Science Shop and not by NGOs. One of these cases is initiated by a community-based Science Shops, one by a Science Shop equivalent trade union research institute and one by a university-based Science Shop.

Researcher/Science Shop initiated projects: Type of knowledge production	Number of cases (field of case)
Scientific analysis of a problem about the need for action in order to establish dialogue with authorities or companies	<i>Spain</i> : One case about an environmental problem. (Title: 'Health and environmental hazards at cement kilns waste incineration')
Facilitating networking among organisations and between them and others	<i>Germany</i> : One case which dealt with facilitating networking and communication between NGOs, and developing communication tools. (Title: 'Creative Committee')
Developing NGO knowledge about funding opportunities	<i>Germany</i> : One case about seminars on how to build up a foundation and network. (Title: 'Foundations for Environmental Protection and Local Agenda 21')

Table 2: Type of knowledge production in Science Shop initiated projects

4.1.2 Important aspects for NGOs in the co-operation with a Science Shop

The analyses of the experience from the case studies show which aspects of Science Shops and Science Shop research NGOs find important.

Access to free or affordable research

For some NGOs it is important that the Science Shop service is free (Romania, Denmark). Some bigger NGOs might be able to pay for some of the costs of the services, but it is important that the costs are affordable, since NGOs have scarce resources (Innsbruck, Vienna).

Access to impartial and independent research

Another important issue mentioned in the national case study reports was the independent, external, impartial researcher. This was expressed in the case studies as follows:

- Quality assurance through an external evaluator/ researcher (United Kingdom, Vienna)
- An external review allows the voice of the service users to be heard (United Kingdom, Vienna)
- It was important to the client organisation to have an independent external expert to conduct the research (view from the outside of the organisation). A different view, were considered as enriching (Innsbruck, Vienna, Romania)
- The Science Shop as an organisation that has the role of an external expert for the NGO (Romania)
- Projects done through the university structures are seen as scientifically impartial. The organisations feel that by having projects done through a university, they feel empowered through higher legitimacy in the political debate, and feel that their arguments are stronger than if they had produced the results themselves. This show the high standing universities might have among NGOs (Denmark, United Kingdom)
- The United Kingdom cases show that a relationship with a university is of the increasing importance for the survival of NGOs (United Kingdom)

However, it was also mentioned in one of the United Kingdom cases that there were problems by having an external researcher working in the NGO, because the student did not understand the system or the culture of the organisation (United Kingdom).

The access to independent research and scientific analysis via a Science Shop implies that Science Shop projects not necessarily give the results a NGO hopes for. One case

shows that unexpected results might not always be welcomed by a NGO. The consortium of action groups opposing the proposed Tiergarten Tunnel (ATG) approached Kubus, the Berlin Science Shop, to find scientific help in producing an expert report for their legal case. Kubus acted as a mediator to link around 20 researchers from the Technical University Berlin, from biology, ecology, planning, hydrology, soil science, process engineering and community psychology. The results were unexpected – the tunnel was not as problematical in ecological terms as ATG expected, and although the research was used to oppose the tunnel, the court found in favour of the development. Research on groundwater management did, however, compel the construction company to amend its activities. Among the ATG activists, interest in the results was small when they discovered the findings did not support their case for opposition.

4.1.3 Barriers to co-operation

The national case study reports show that a barrier perceived by NGOs for co-operating with a Science Shop can be whether students are capable to meet the needs of the NGOs. One of the Vienna cases mentions doubts from the client (NGO) to what extent a Masters thesis would be able to yield useful results in terms of findings, which would really enhance the knowledge of the NGO and provide useful information for the daily work (Vienna). The results produced by the students resolved the problem and satisfied the expectations of the NGO by far. The clients were positively surprised by the commitment of the students, their way of working and by their findings (Vienna).

The big student commitment is mentioned in several of the national case study reports. In the Austrian case study reports for example, the students have been described as very ambitious, engaged, active, and determined (Innsbruck, Vienna). In the United Kingdom case study report for example, the independence and critical awareness of student researchers was in addition pointed out (United Kingdom).

Another barrier, mentioned in the Danish case study report, is that when NGOs approach the Science Shops with project proposals, they cannot be sure, whether or when some students decide to work with their project proposal. This can have an impact on how many NGOs that approach the Science Shop and with what type of problems they approach the Science Shop. For some NGOs it seem to imply that they approach the Science Shops with less urgent, but maybe more long-term oriented and strategic problems (Denmark).

4.1.4 Impact of Science Shops on NGO:

The case studies show different types of impact on NGOs from the participation in Science Shop research:

Impact in NGOs perception of Science Shops and of research

In general Science Shops are perceived by NGO representatives as an efficient way to connect universities and communities (for example: Romania). Through mediation of Science Shops NGOs gain access to science and research, which they would not have had if Science Shops had not existed (Germany Denmark, Spain, Romania). It is stated in case study reports that Science Shops are perceived as more accessible than a university department owing to their explicit openness to the public. They are perceived as less bureaucratic, than the university system (Innsbruck, United Kingdom).

Science Shop projects might contribute to an increased awareness of the possibilities and limits of research among NGOs. Through consulting with the Science Shops the clients might become aware of research possibilities and limits (United Kingdom, Vienna).

Contribution to capacity building in NGOs

The analysis of the case studies shows the following types of impact on the role and capacity of the NGOs and thereby to the role of NGOs in societal governance:

- NGOs felt enabled to bring forward the research and its results in order to open a debate about the topic of concern. They were in most cases able to have an impact on the public discourse, and politicians or authorities agreed through dialogue or because of pressure to address problems and provide support for further analysis or initiatives
- NGOs developed capacity and skills based on “help for self-help” so that the NGOs themselves become able to use (or expand their use of) scientifically grounded methods in their services or political activities
- NGOs were able to attract public or private funding for new facilities, projects or activities, or to maintain and improve their existing services

One case showed no impact on governance because the local authorities, due to limited resources, did not find the problem addressed by the NGO important enough. Three other cases show that strong interests behind urban development and infrastructure limit NGO influence, but that it might be possible also in such cases for NGOs to obtain some impact by combining formal and formal channels for influence. In the following the mechanisms behind the impact on the role of NGOs in governance.

In the majority of case study reports it is stated that Science Shop projects (or their findings) and/or the co-operation with a Science Shop contributed to the practice of the NGO. In some cases a project contributed to the capacity of the NGOs to carry out their future practice. This impact is not always planned or foreseen in the initial project idea and planning.

As an example, the Innsbruck case study report reveal that scientific results of Science Shop projects are not only broadening the 'store of knowledge' of the NGO in general, but can also enlarge the capacity of the client organisation for taking action (Innsbruck). The German case study report states that although the cases investigated focused on different topics and were conducted by different types of Science Shops (a university-based model and a community-based model) a common impact can be recognised which is the empowerment of small initiatives and NGOs with a focus on "help for self-help" (Germany).

In three cases empowerment of NGOs are built up through 1) provision/mediation of relevant contacts and knowledge, 2) support for the building-up of networks, e.g. by bringing people together, and 3) provision of organisational frames and experts for workshops and other events, and 4) by showing opportunities for funding (Germany) In one of the cases in the Spanish case study report it is stated that through a workshop held by the Science Shop, the participants felt empowered to analyse their own societal living and they were able to implement some of the results in their own local communities (Spain).

The results of Science Shop project may either open new societal discussions or contribute to societal discourses on specific topics and furthermore have an impact on the political sphere. In two of cases in the Danish case study report it is stated, that through co-operation with the Science Shops and students the clients feels capacitated to bring forward the research and its results in order to debate the topic of concern, and thereby impact the political sphere (Denmark).

In the Spanish case study report it is stated that result of Science Shop co-operation have been used to lobby with national /regional and local government (Spain). One of the cases in the Innsbruck case study report shows that results of a Science Shop project could be used by the NGO to influence political decision making on a certain topic (Innsbruck). This is further supported by one of the case from the Romanian case study report where it is mentioned that the initiation of legislative proposals can be facilitated by the public debates organised as discussions about a Science Shop project. This later statement also includes an aspect pointing to the public relations function a Sci-

ence Shop has for NGOs (Romania). This is supported by the Vienna case study report saying that Science Shop projects are promoting the work of NGOs (Vienna).

Some case study reports show that the NGOs might learn to apply methods or theories used by the researchers or the students. The Vienna case study report show that practitioners (NGOs) can benefit from the theoretical know-how of the student researchers as well as the student researchers benefit from the practical know-how of the practitioners (Vienna). The German case study report mentions NGOs acquiring techniques to moderate and conduct meeting/seminars (Germany). This is also seen in one of the cases in the Danish case study report in which one of the NGOs learned how to conduct focus group interviews (Denmark).

4.2 The University Perspective

This section discusses the issues related to the role of Universities in relation to Science Shops as it has evolved through the national case study reports. The national case study reports show that Science Shops can contribute to the role and the tasks of the universities in different ways:

- Contribute to the competencies of the involved students and thereby the competencies of the future professionals
- Contribute to the learning methods at the universities by making them more project-oriented and problem-based
- Contribute to new research themes at the universities
- Contribute to the strategic societal role of the universities

Not all case study reports show all these types of impact. The chapter analyses the background of the impacts as described in the case study reports.

In the majority of cases mediated through university-based Science Shops the research was carried out by students supervised by scientists. In most cases the students were undergraduate students in the last two years of their studies. In some of the cases from the university-based Science Shops the research was carried out by researchers in the Science Shop or from the university. In the cases, which involved community-based Science Shops (this means outside the universities), the research was carried out by researchers in the Science Shops, or by researchers or students at a university which co-operates with a Science Shop.

4.2.1 Contribution to the student competencies

Science Shops enable universities to educate academia, who are aware of their social responsibility, as they are required by NGOs. This gives Science Shops a key role to play in mediating the relationship between the public and science and in developing awareness about this relationship (Innsbruck).

An important motivation factor for the students to co-operate with the Science Shops and civil society groups seems to be that the results of their research project are going to be of use for someone so the project not is a desktop study (Denmark, Innsbruck).

Through co-operation with civil society the case study reports show that students might enhance or develop the following skills and competencies through the projects and the co-operation with NGOs:

- Social competences (Innsbruck)
- Employable skills (United Kingdom, Denmark, Vienna, Innsbruck)
- Real life experiences (United Kingdom, Denmark, Romania, Vienna, Innsbruck)
- Communication and co-operation skills (Denmark, Romania, Innsbruck)
- New knowledge and perspectives (Denmark)
- Knowledge and expertise within transdisciplinary research (Germany, Vienna)
- How to connect and bring together the various needs and demands of different groups with their rather theoretical scientific background (Innsbruck)
- Computer skills (Romania)

The students also benefits from a co-operation with civil society organisations by:

- CV improvement (important especially for students who want to continue with their MSc or PhD studies or want to start a career in the university) (Romania, Vienna)
- Usage of the results in projects for the Master's Thesis and publications in peer-reviewed journals (Romania)
- Acknowledgement of the quality of their work and positive evaluation in students' scientific events (Romania)
- Science Shop projects may create job opportunities, impact on the career (Denmark, Innsbruck, Romania, Vienna)
- Being also more aware that the presentations for the general public may involve an adequate usage of the scientific terminology (Romania)
- The students earn (in some cases) some extra money (Innsbruck)

4.2.2 Relevance for university teachers and researchers

As previously mentioned the researchers involved in the Science Shop projects were primarily involved as supervisors for the students. The national case study reports further show that Science Shop projects and co-operation with civil society can have strategic benefits for universities. In United Kingdom, Denmark and Romania Science Shop projects have had impact on curricula at postgraduate and undergraduate level (United Kingdom, Denmark, Romania). For example it is stated in the Romanian case study report that Science Shop activities have contributed to the ongoing modernisation of the curricula and the research by providing flexible modules of learning and project based learning, post-graduate courses, inclusion of Science Shop project results into the regular teaching activity, multi-disciplinary research and formulation of new project proposals (Romania).

Experience from one of the cases in the Danish case study report shows that Science Shop projects can lead to the establishment of new research and teaching areas. For example, in the case of organic food, several requests from NGOs through the Science Shop at DTU resulted in the establishment of 'organic food' as a research and teaching area at DTU (Denmark). This case also shows that even, where the Science Shop besides being a mediator, also has taken the role as incubator for research and curricula development, is there a need for more ongoing discussions and more ongoing involvement of the scientists in Science Shop projects (Denmark).

Scientific publications were published in peer reviewed journals (national or international) or communicated at different conferences and seminars. Some of the project data were integrated into the regular teaching activity, and an interest in scientific follow-up topics and new project proposals were formulated based on the Science Shop projects. The Romanian case study report also showed that the social dimension of scientific work was acknowledged. For example, scientists acknowledged that problems cannot be solved without considering the social context in which the problem is to be solved (Romania).

4.2.3 *The role of researchers and students in the co-operation with NGOs*

The cases show different roles of the participants in the Science Shop projects. In one of the Danish cases the university students were the producers of knowledge while the civil society groups had the role as receiver. Both parties were pleased with this model. The NGO was mostly interested in a scientific report and the supervisor did not want the students to become part of a local conflict around pollution of some small lakes, so he wanted the students not to cooperate too much with the NGO. In other cases knowledge production takes place as a more interactive process between the university (students and supervisor) and the civil society group. These cases show that interactive cooperation is necessary in order to obtain a useful result by integrating the experience and the needs of the civil society group into the process and also by ensuring that the analysis is understood by the civil society group so that the group itself afterwards is able to use the experience from the project. In a case about the development of a housing plan for a Romany group in Spain people from the community was involved in the development of the plan. In another project in Denmark about sustainable storage methods for organic products for the cooking in a day care institution the two students visited the institution many times and discussed and followed the daily practice. Together with the staff they visited a place with a special non-energy consuming facility, which the parents later convinced the municipality to fund.

In another Danish project about the different perceptions of bicycling the students and the project host discussed the applied social science methodology intensively. They jointly decided to include focus group interviews as a method and the draft analysis was discussed in-depth in order to ensure that the host would be able to apply the methodology and the results afterwards.

4.2.4 *Barriers for university co-operation between with Science Shop and civil society*

Several barriers for co-operation between universities and civil society through Science Shops were identified in the national case study reports. University researchers are under constant time pressure from the university structures: research has to lead to publication and teaching obligations has to be fulfilled.

Some case study reports also showed that it may be difficult to involve scientific staff in Science Shop projects if they do not recognise any publication possibilities in projects done through the Science Shops (United Kingdom, Innsbruck). Most of the Science

Shop projects analysed in these case study reports have contributed to 'grey' literature, but has not achieved any notice within the wider scientific community (United Kingdom, Germany, Innsbruck). If Science Shop projects mainly are seen as based on a practical problem rather than on a specific scientific problem researchers might have no scientific interest in Science Shop projects (Denmark).

An investigation made within the INTERACTS research project, aiming at analysing how the Science Shop projects (the cases analysed in the national case study reports) were made public, link up with the aspect of lack of scientific publication of Science Shop experiences. Science Shops are sometimes insufficiently aware that the reports have only the status of grey literature within academia. They are not considered as scientific output that can be submitted to scientific journals. Within the scientific production process of scholarly publications, the reports therefore tend to disappear. In the case of Science Shop projects, this scientific reflection is sometimes further developed within the scientific institution, but the reflexive communication might no longer be attributed to the Science Shop (Zaal & Leydesdorff, 1987 in Leydesdorff & Ward, 2003). The report further concludes that publications that arise from Science Shop projects are not recognisably attributed to them because the Science Shop functions both as an institution *and* as a mechanism for translation (Leydesdorff & Ward, 2003).

The German case study report show that universities are more interested in "big projects" with a high amount of third-party-volume and in contact with big companies or other relevant institutions than smaller NGO-related projects, and due to this, it is difficult to engage scientists in Science Shop related activities (Germany).

A barrier mentioned in the Vienna case study report was the difficulty to find a supervisor for the students when they are co-operating with civil society through the Science Shops. Another barrier is that students might drop out of the co-operation even though the projects have not been carried through to the end, which will have no consequences for the students (Vienna).

4.2.5 The role of Science Shops in university strategies

The interviews with decision-makers in the national case study reports show that Science Shops relate to ongoing strategic discussions about the role of universities in some countries.

In the United Kingdom Science Shops can be considered as relevant in relation to the so-called third mission activity in higher education, which is outreach. All managers from the universities interviewed in the United Kingdom case study report recognised

that these issues were now on the agenda of government, and expressed a personal interest in developing them, and publicising staff expertise visibly to external bodies (United Kingdom). University managers increasingly accept that teaching and learning must be combined with community outreach in order to justify public funding. But at present the third mission is almost exclusively dominated by the contribution of universities to scientific knowledge production within a business / innovation orientation whereby the scientific advances of academia are exploited commercially. Nevertheless, within the third mission there are other, less obviously commercial, undertones of civic responsibility, of taking up responsibilities for urban regeneration (United Kingdom). The United Kingdom government is talking about widening participation and encouraging active citizenship, but the trends are going in the opposite direction, e.g. decreasing student grants, which means students have to work, increasing student numbers in higher education, which makes it hard to find vocational placements. The case study report from the United Kingdom further show that collaborative research is not acknowledged or perceived as important by the universities. It seems as the Research Assessment Exercise and subject benchmarking tend to reinforce closer disciplinary focus and discourage vocational work with a more applied content (United Kingdom).

The Head of Department of Manufacturing Engineering and Management at DTU pointed out, that a tendency within the university is, that more and more knowledge is produced within the universities, but the understanding of the knowledge and for which purpose it is produced is lacking. Science Shops are one way to promote and connect knowledge production and knowledge application in a broader context (Denmark).

The investigation made within the INTERACTS research project, aiming at analysing how Science Shops projects were made public, states that two major structural dimensions for comparison among the cases are provided by national differences among Science Shop practices and the disciplinary affiliations of the researchers. Perhaps, with the exception of Spain where the Science Shop is not yet itself a concept used for the mediation, the common origin of the discourse about Science Shops in the various European countries is recognizable. These activities seem to attract highly motivated, culturally advanced, and socially engaged students and young scholars who are seeking to make careers that are intellectually and socially meaningful. The Science Shops provide and generate social capital in terms of relevant networks first of all for the researchers involved. These projects can perhaps be considered as a distributed format of the new social contract between the universities involved and their environments (Leydesdorff & Ward, 2003).

4.2.6 *What can be improved and how*

The national case study reports have shown how Science Shops and Science Shop projects at universities need to be more attractive to researchers and to the university management. Efforts to identify and make publication possibilities visible in Science Shop projects are needed. By integrating a long-term research perspective into the Science Shop projects, researchers may also find the Science Shop projects more interesting.

The United Kingdom experiences show that the researchers feel a need for tangible rewards for research associated with outreach activities in order to legitimate their involvement in these activities (United Kingdom). Outreach obligations could also be part of the researchers' remit.

One aspect seen in the Romanian case study report, and which maybe primarily is related to the Science Shops within the field of natural science, is the need of some scientists to learn to consider that a technical solution can not be found without considering seriously the social dimensions to which the technical solution are related (Romania).

The national case study reports also show that in some countries there is a need for rethinking for having students involved in Science Shop projects or doing outreach activities. In Romania students are not allocated credit points at all universities when they co-operate with Science Shops or civil society. The universities in Romania are in the process of structural changes of the curricula, and allocation of credit point to students when co-operating with Science Shops are one of the points which needs to be considered further (Romania). The case study report from Vienna also points towards a need for universities to acknowledge the students work through the Science Shops. Students could be remunerated for their work, or at least reimbursed for their expenses in relation to the work they do through the Science Shop. One solution could be that Science Shops have a budget to reimburse the expenses of the students (Vienna).

4.3 The Mediation Perspective

This section discusses issues related to the role of Science Shops as they have been through the national case study reports.

4.3.1 *Two models of Science Shops*

Two different models of Science Shops are represented in the national case study reports, university-based Science Shops and community-based Science Shops (which here should be understood as non-university-based Science Shops). In total 12 cases were conducted in co-operation with university-based Science Shops and 9 cases were conducted in co-operation with community-based Science Shops. The national case study reports show different Science Shop models also within these two models. The following sections give an overview of the different Science Shop models involved in the INTERACTS national case study reports.

4.3.1.1 *University-based Science Shops*

Austria:

Two cases were conducted through university-based Science Shops, e.g. *Wissenschaftsagentur Salzburg* and *Patenschaftsmodell Innsbruck (PINN)*. The *Science Shop Wissenschaftsagentur Salzburg* is a university-based Science Shop in the City of Salzburg. It is organised as a Non-Profit Organisation and focuses on knowledge transfer between the University of Salzburg and the society at large. *PINN* is a service centre for enterprises and organisations, a Science Shop equivalent, at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, University of Innsbruck. *PINN* is aiming at building up contacts between university and Practice on a systematic and regular basis. *PINN* further aims at promoting the practice orientation in the economic scientific education. Students can choose between certain “Modules” or acquire the “PINN – Certificate”. Thereby they get in touch with their future professional environment (Innsbruck).

Denmark:

Both Science Shops represented through the Danish case studies are university-based, but organised in different ways within the respective universities. The Science Shop at the *Technical University of Denmark (DTU)* (founded in 1985) is affiliated to a department, but is serving the whole university. The *Science Shop at Roskilde University Centre (RUC)* (founded in 1988) is placed under the central administration of the university. The aims of both Science Shops are to provide free access to science and

research to civil society organisations by creating contacts between university and civil society organisations, and to provide students possibilities for qualifying through co-operation with these groups on 'real-life' topics as part of their curricula. The *Science Shop at DTU* further aims at contributing to the renewal of the education and research at the university (Denmark).

Germany:

Two cases are represented by the *Science Shop kubus*, which is based at the Technical University Berlin. Kubus was founded in 1986 and is part of the service institution for environmental and social questions at the Technical University Berlin. This Science Shop is not affiliated to a specific Faculty. Kubus functions as a link between the university and different partners of the society. The target groups are mainly NGOs, public institutions, different departments of the city and district administration and small businesses (SME and the respective associations). Kubus deals with co-operation projects, conferences and workshops related to all kinds of social-ecological questions (Germany).

Romania:

Both Science Shops represented in the case studies from Romania are part of the university structures, though related to different departments within the respective universities. The *InterMEDIU Science Shop* was founded in April 1999 as a non-profit, independent department (Science Shop) at the Technical University of Iasi, rooted in the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry. The *InterMEDIU Science Shop* co-operates with Faculty departments and organizations of the civil society, as well as with other similar organizations on a national or international scale. Its activities are related to information, consultancy, and research in the field of environmental protection, as well as education and training. The *Science Shop InterMEDIU* provides an interface between university and society. The main objectives are related to the transfer of knowledge in the field of environmental protection from the university towards civil society structures, the facilitation of public access to environmental issues, organisation of programmes of environmental education in schools, high-schools or universities, as well as for other community groups, in order to increase environmental awareness and contribute to capacity building of environmental groups. It offers students, in co-operation with other members of academic staff, the possibility to gain experience with project work and co-operation with citizen groups and thereby to develop a practically oriented approach to environmental problems. (Romania).

The *Biology Science Shop InterMediu* at "A.I. Cuza" University Iasi was established in March 1999. The idea behind this Information and Research Centre for the Civil Society was first to put the biological scientific knowledge at free disposal for the non-profit

organisations and groups that lacked material means for scientific research. A second aim is to establish a tighter connection between academic education and research on one hand, and societal needs on the other hand. The focus is on the protection of threatened populations or species, and their habitat. Research topics are water, air and soil pollution; drinking water supply; waste management; population health aspects; energy efficiency; landscape; biodiversity.

Efforts have been made to integrate Science Shop's activity within the academic curriculum. Students are offered the possibility to undertake an optional course: "Ecological monitoring". The practical work consists of short term (2 weeks x 40 hours) or medium (8 weeks x 40 hours) research projects within concrete topics of Ecology and Environmental protection as a response to the civil society requirements (NGOs, Associations of lodgers or owners, client groups etc.) (Romania).

Spain:

Arquitectura y Compromiso Social (A.C.S.) represented in one of the Spanish cases was founded in 1994 as a university association affiliated to two Architectural schools in Seville. The association A.C.S. consists of students, professors, architects, and other interested people. The association's main concerns are social instruction in the universities, construction of sustainable habitat in inner cities and global equality (Spain).

United Kingdom:

The *Student Link* represented in one the United Kingdom cases is part of the structures of the University of Wolverhampton. Through the *Student Link* final year undergraduate students are enabled to conduct applied research projects for one semester (15 credits) or two semesters (30 credits). Most of the 'Student Linkers' are from sociology (around 15 – 20 a year), although other students are involved as well. The objectives of *Student Link* are among others to provide organisations with a forum to gain access to additional skills which will support them in their work, to give students the opportunity to develop research, vocational and personal and transferable skills in a practical and useful way, and to enable students to evaluate their own learning and skills development in the context of an organisational based project (United Kingdom).

Interchange represented in two cases from the United Kingdom was established in 1994 as a registered charity. It is a merger between two organisations, Merseyside Community Research Exchange (initially founded 1991 through the Enterprise in Higher Education initiative of the United Kingdom Department for Education and Employment) and the Liverpool Science Shop (established with a grant from the Nuffield Foundation). *Interchange* offers the opportunity for undergraduate students at Liverpool

University and Liverpool Hope in the Sociology Departments to perform applied research projects for an NGO. The projects are equivalent to a dissertation (30 credits) and is undertaken in the final (3rd year) of their (Bachelor's) degree. The project is an option rather than a required module, and students need to demonstrate a sufficient level of attainment in their second year sociological research modules to be accepted on the programme. Since 1997, students from the MSc in Applied Social Research (taught jointly by Liverpool Hope and Liverpool University) have also been able to undertake a research-based dissertation through *Interchange* (United Kingdom).

4.3.1.2 *Community-based Science Shops*

Austria:

Four cases from Austria were carried out through co-operation with community-based Science Shops. These are the *Science Shop Vienna*, the *Science Shop Graz*, and the *Institute FBI*. The *Science Shop Vienna* was established as a Science Shop specialising in offering free intermediating research services between NGOs and Viennese universities on one hand and as an independent research institute dedicated to concerns of NGOs and citizens on the other. Since the termination of the Austrian government's support for the intermediating services, the *Science Shop Vienna* focuses on independent research projects on issues brought up by NGOs and citizens.

The *Science Shop Graz* was established as a Science Shop specialising in offering free intermediating research services between NGOs and Graz universities on one hand and as an independent research institute dedicated to concerns of NGOs and citizens on the other. The intermediating research services are financed by the Karl Franzens-Universität Graz. Additionally, the *Science Shop Graz* carries out independent research projects on issues brought up by NGOs and citizens (Vienna).

The *Institute FBI* is a Science Shop and an independent research institution operational since 1991. One major goal of *Institute FBI* is to bridge the gap between the university and the public in the sense of making advanced knowledge accessible, understandable, and applicable for a broad public. It serves as a link between academia and society, and between theory and practice on issues related to research, society and culture with a focus on women and gender issues (Innsbruck).

Germany:

One case from Germany was conducted in co-operation with *Wissenschaftsladen Bonn (WiLa Bonn)*, a community-based Science Shop founded in May 1984 and focussing on ecology and environmental protection. It is a non-profit and self-administrated institution with the objective to make science/ scientific results accessible for groups, insti-

tutions and individuals ('knowledge transfer close to the citizen'). *WiLA Bonn* has contacts with scientific experts of different institutions all over Germany. The services cover counselling and project-development, workshops and conferences, reports, surveys, and newsletters (Germany).

Spain:

Two cases from Spain were made in co-operation with community-based Science Shops, e.g. *Pax Mediterranea SL (PaxMed)* and *ISTAS*. *PaxMed* was founded in 1995 and has an office in Seville. It works in research within the social arena of ecology, economical development and social cohesion strategy from environmentally and socially sustainable perspectives. It is involved in various European and local research and monitoring projects and observatories.

ISTAS is a self-funded technical foundation promoted by the Spanish Trade Unions Confederation (CC.OO.) to support social activities for the improvement of working conditions and environmental protection in Spain. It has been founded to back trade unions' action in the field of occupational health and environmental protection. Being a Trade Union foundation, the orientation, programming and management of *ISTAS* are under supervision of a Directorate. The majority of its members are trade unionists appointed by the Central Trade Unions Executive Commission. *ISTAS* was created to serve all workers and maintains cooperation with similar organizations at European and international levels. It is autonomous in character and economically independent. Part of *ISTAS'* work for CC.OO. is to observe environmental, scientific and social science issues, which can have a detrimental effect on worker's lives. In this sense *ISTAS* acts as an independent observatory for CC.OO (Spain).

4.3.2 Free or affordable research through the Science Shops

Some of the Science Shops offer free services to the NGOs, while other Science Shops ask the NGOs to cover the costs, according to the type of project, the economic conditions of the NGO etc. The case study reports show different models for coverage of the costs involved in the projects. The mediation costs are either covered by the university or through grants from projects and foundations. The research costs are covered by mobilising the resources of students and supervisors, who carry out the research as part of the studies and supervision tasks, respectively. Some of the university-based Science Shops charge the NGOs for costs related to travel and printing, and some for the research if Science Shop researchers carry out the research. The community-based Science Shops charge the NGOs or offer free services by getting public funding for the projects or by co-operating with university students within the frames of an internship or a thesis.

Austria:

In the three cases made through the Science Shop Vienna there were no costs were involved. In one case from the Science Shop students were remunerated for writing an article based on the project for a brochure (Vienna).

In all the three cases presented by the FBI costs were involved in the co-operation. In the case from PINN the two undergraduate students, who conducted the research, were paid 1.090 Euro in salary. These costs were covered by the NGO. PINN, who normally gets paid for the mediation job they are doing, worked on a voluntarily basis in this project. In the case from Wissenschaftsagentur Salzburg, the NGO covered a cost of 6.500 Euro. The student conducting the research got 650 Euro, the Wissenschaftsagentur Salzburg got 72 Euro for intermediation and co-ordination, and the rest covered costs for layout and printing. The case conducted by the staff from FBI involved costs of 3.270 Euro, which were paid by the NGO, and based on market interest prices for projects (Innsbruck).

Denmark:

In Denmark the Science Shops are built upon a model which does not request the clients to pay for having research done through the Science Shops. The Science Shop staff is financed by the universities, and the resources of students and supervisors are mobilised as part of the ordinary university teaching. In all three case studies no costs were involved for the NGO. One exception was a day care centre which voluntarily offered to pay for a study trip to Sweden, but the department would have been willing to pay the trip otherwise (Denmark).

Germany:

All three cases from Germany involved no costs for the NGOs. In the 'Tiergarten-Tunnel' project done in co-operation with the Science Shop Kubus, the NGO got 12.500 Euro for the research, financed by a Berlin based foundation. The costs for mediation staff and infrastructure were financed by the Technical University Berlin. The 'Creative Committee' initiated by Kubus involved costs of 3.000 Euro, which were also funded by the above mentioned foundation. In both cases Kubus obtained the respective costs. The costs covered salary for workshop moderation and documentation of the project. The project 'Stiftungsgründung' initiated by the Science Shop Bonn had a budget of 210.000 Euro, which mainly was financed by the Federal Environmental Agency in co-operation with the Federal Environmental Ministry. The Science Shop Bonn got 10 % of the budget (Germany).

Romania:

The two Romanian Science Shops represented in the case studies are based on the same model as the Danish Science Shops, i.e. providing free research to civil society. Costs were involved in the three cases, but they were all covered through the MATRA program (a Dutch program supporting the establishment of Romanian Science Shops). In the case regarding Biodiversity conservation in the Wetland British Petroleum Environmental program funded some of the costs (Romania).

United Kingdom:

In the three case studies from United Kingdom costs covering the students travel expenses, and photocopying were paid by the NGOs requesting assistance through the Science Shop assimilations (United Kingdom).

Spain:

The cases from Spain involved costs covered by the clients. The PaxMed project involved costs financed by both the NGO (900 Euro), the Science Shop itself (600 Euro) and the university (840 Euro). The scientists and the Science Shop staff worked voluntarily on the project. In the project done through A.C.S costs were covered by the NGO and the Science Shop. In the project done through ISTAS there were costs involved for a full time technician for nearly a year (Spain).

4.3.3 Science Shops as mediator between civil society and university

The national case study reports show that Science Shops provide several types of functions as part of the interaction between NGOs and research. Some functions are mostly related to mediation between NGOs and researchers or students at a university and other functions are more directly part of the knowledge production process:

- Providing easy access to the resources of universities
- Mediation between the knowledge need of the NGO and the researchers and/or students as part of the project planning
- Carrying out research
- Acting as knowledge repository ensuring continuity and progress from project to project
- Acting as antenna for new societal topics, which are not yet addressed by NGOs or authorities
- Acting as incubator for new research and teaching areas.

The knowledge production itself takes place in a number of different ways with respect to NGO participation:

- Knowledge transfer to NGOs, where existing knowledge is transferred to the NGO by the Science Shop
- Knowledge supply, where researchers or students produce new knowledge, which is transferred to the NGO
- Participatory knowledge production, where the knowledge production take place in co-operation between students or researchers and the NGO. Depending on the Science Shop model the Science Shops can be mediating and guiding the interactions or participate in the research themselves.

The approach of knowledge production is shaped by the conditions of the involved actors and their understanding of research. The participatory approach applied in most of the projects implies that the knowledge of lay people is considered as important as academic or scientific knowledge.

4.3.4 Science Shops as access to research resources

The existence of Science Shops or their equivalents mean that there is an organisational structure in place for linking across university and community. By providing the link between civil society and university, the Science Shops remove barriers for smaller NGOs to approach the universities. Barriers mentioned in the case studies were that the NGOs do not know how to approach the universities, the NGOs do not have any funding for research, and they are reluctant to apply research methods to their own projects because of lack of confidence (United Kingdom, Innsbruck). In the Danish case study report it was explicitly mentioned that without the Science Shops and the free access to research, they would never have had the opportunity to have the research done, due to lack of resources in their organisations (Denmark).

Some cases in the case study reports further show that Science Shop projects might arise from long-term relationships with NGOs or single key persons in the social or environmental field. This points to the importance of networking between Science Shops and NGOs (Innsbruck).

Ensuring that appropriate students are involved in Science Shops projects is one of the tasks which the Science Shops perform. One of the NGOs represented in the United Kingdom case study report expressed that Interchange had performed a useful role in ensuring that appropriate students had been involved and sensitised to the needs of the NGO, through preparing them for the specific issues concerning the research placement (United Kingdom).

4.3.5 Science Shops as mediating institution

An initial process of negotiation can always be distinguished in Science Shop projects. In this phase each party learns about the requirements of the others, and the research questions can be operationalised in a student research project given the limits of student capability and academic requirements (United Kingdom, Germany). By linking between university and community Science Shops mediate between those, who have a concrete practical interest and those who might emphasize the theoretical aspects of research (Vienna).

Translating questions from a civil society organisation into a research perspective is one of the major jobs a Science Shop contribute to perform, before a project co-operation can start. The case study reports point towards this task as being complex and time consuming (United Kingdom, Innsbruck, Vienna). The experiences from the case study reports are that some larger NGOs more often have formulated research questions before they address a Science Shop, though they may not have the resources to undertake research themselves or to commission funded research. Smaller NGOs are in some cases less able to formulate research questions, and may be hesitant about approaching universities or lacking knowledge about who to approach and how (United Kingdom).

The Austrian case study reports characterise Science Shops as a background trouble shooter and mentoring platform, signalling to everybody from the beginning to have an open ear and that everybody can rely on the support of the Science Shop if problems or conflicts would come up (Vienna, Innsbruck).

The strength of Science Shops is that they mediate between theory and practice. The Science Shop Kubus has made a step towards transdisciplinary work by assembling transdisciplinary teams (Germany). This can be seen as a way of mirroring the complexity of real-life topics in the way the research team is composed.

4.3.6 Science Shops as repository of knowledge

The cases from the United Kingdom case study report further point out that Science Shops can be seen as repository of knowledge. The experiences from Science Shop projects are often used as background information/ knowledge when new projects are planned and carried out (United Kingdom).

As part of the Science Shops mediation between civil society and university Science Shops also help promoting the work of civil society (Vienna). Science Shops can have

an antenna function, as it was seen most clearly in one of the cases from the Spanish case study report, where the Science Shop equivalent acted as a watchdog for environmental and health issues towards workers and neighbourhoods (Spain). Another example of the impact of Science Shops as mediators between society and university is shown in one of the cases in the Danish case study report, where several requests from NGOs within the area of organic food to the Science Shop at DTU, lead to the establishment of organic food as a research and teaching area at the university (Denmark).

4.3.7 Problems, barriers and dilemmas

The national case study reports show that one barrier that many Science Shops face is lack of visibility, both towards the public and towards researchers, students, and decision-makers at universities and in research planning.

The Vienna case study report point out that the contribution of a Science Shop to a successful project is not visible enough (e.g. the mediation is not visible). However, too much publicity could trigger a demand which smaller Science Shops would not have the resources to cope with. A future task for the Science Shops will be to solve this dilemma of making the Science Shops work more visible (Vienna).

Too low visibility in the general public and among NGO's is also a barrier identified in the case study reports. This seems to be an important aspect limiting the societal impact of Science Shops by limiting how many NGOs that are approaching the Science Shops (Denmark, Spain).

The Romanian case study report show that Science Shops here are small entities known at a local or regional level, but with limited access to national policy and media levels. This situation might change in the future by the creation of four new Science Shops at different universities and in different regions, and by the creation of a national Science Shop network (Romania). The regional coverage and visibility of Science Shops has to be improved and the support of university management structures and policy makers is essential in order to achieve the needed outreach towards society organisations and the network of universities (Romania).

The Danish case study report show a barrier related to the Science Shops position at the universities. The Science Shops are perceived by some students as a separate institution at the university and not as an integrated part of the university. This made the students think that the Science Shop was not fully accepted at the university and doing

a project through the intermediary might be less scientifically than doing a project directly for a researcher at one of the institutes at the university (Denmark).

The Spanish case study report argues that Science Shops are invisible due to the fact that the Science Shop concept is completely unknown in Spain. They further point out that in Spain things often work by word of mouth between a small network of people who know each other and move in similar circles and projects (Spain). Also the United Kingdom case study report discuss the aspect of the Science Shops being relatively unknown at the universities in the United Kingdom, though there is a considerable undercurrent of such activity, without the formal designation of a Science Shop, where individual departments and members of staff have a philosophy incorporating outreach to the community. There are indications that universities in United Kingdom are increasingly thinking about outreach as an aspect of their mission, though this starts from a low base, and is held in check by the many other priorities being placed on staff for their core activities of teaching and research (United Kingdom).

Another barrier mentioned in the Danish case study report is the aspect of uncertainty whether and when students might respond to the NGOs request (Denmark).

4.3.8 *What is needed, what has to be improved*

The case study reports show that securing sufficient and long term funding for development and staffing in Science Shops is essential (Romania, United Kingdom). The Romanian case study report argue that to fund Science Shop activities only from projects is time consuming and not always successful in terms of results (number of proposals vs. granted projects). A specific policy at the national level (Ministry of Education) or supra-national level (EU, international organisations) would encourage more universities to start and support Science Shop activities (Romania).

In the United Kingdom the tendency is that much of the funding for development of higher education has been channelled to teaching and learning units within the universities, rather than to the academic departments or staff and that on the whole there is little application of this funding to curriculum based learning in the community (United Kingdom). If the role of Science Shops is also to include the role as incubator for new scientific fields within the universities it will require more funding in terms of employment of scientific staff (Denmark).

The Science Shops need to improve and develop their marketing and publicity functions (United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark). The German case study report point out that it is important for Science Shops to have a marketing strategy. This can provide a

professional reputation and a clear profile to the organisation. The marketing strategy should include the personal and professional networks that are used to spread information of Science Shops and their services, which have proven to be a very efficient marketing instrument (Germany). A university policy-maker in the Danish case study report pointed out that one way of marketing the Science Shops towards students and university teachers could be by putting emphasis on the different projects the students have to perform during their studies, and which requirements each project contains and how this can be obtained through Science Shop projects (Denmark).

The case study reports also show that there is a need to increase the visibility of Science Shop activities within the scientific circles. This means there is a need to increase efforts for university staff and students to publish in scientific journals based on Science Shop projects (Innsbruck, Denmark, United Kingdom). In the Danish case study report it is argued that Science Shops have to involve the university departments more in the translation of the requests into projects in order to increase the scientific interest from researchers in Science Shops projects (Denmark). The relation to the university researchers could also be strengthened by more direct interaction with the researchers, like setting up thematic networks or counselling committees consisting of both representatives from university institutes and civil society organisations (Denmark).

The case study reports point towards a need for formal networking between community-based Science Shops and universities (Spain, Innsbruck). The Spanish case study report shows that setting up formal structures between community-based Science Shops and universities could prevent knowledge from getting lost or knowledge not being communicated to interest groups. It will further ease the transparency of knowledge production (Spain).

The regional and national covering with Science Shops should be improved in several of the countries. The establishment and fostering of networks is more promising on a regional level, and a lot of funds are regional (Germany). Promoting Science Shops at a national level implies more networking among Science Shops, NGO's and researchers (Romania, Denmark).

The Danish case study report also show that there is a need for engaging more students in Science Shop activities, and make them aware of the possibilities co-operation with civil society can give them, e.g. technical and social skills, career possibilities, practical experiences etc. Higher visibility both towards society and towards university could be one way to engage more students in Science Shop activities. Other ways to strengthen the relation to students' could be to involve students' organisations and

have students who have finished a Science Shop project to tell about their research and the impact to the clients to other students (Denmark).

The report investigating how the cases in the national case study reports were made public, highlights that the Science Shops should be encouraged to make reports available (as some of them are) as files on the Internet. It provides researchers, students, and clients with points of reference in their practices, and publication on the Internet can be expected to provide more access and recognition from various sides (Lawrence, 2001 in Leydesdorff & Ward, 2003). The availability of reports and the active updating provides opportunities to claim the credit for an innovation at a later stage, even if the effects of the new insights are somewhat disappointing in the short term. For example, if in a later stage (e.g., after the next elections) a municipality should decide to clean the pools in their village, the role of the Science Shop project would become partly attributable as credit to the students who took the initiative. It would be impossible to ignore this link if the reports were properly archived (Leydesdorff & Ward, 2003).

A number of “best practices” can also be defined as: ‘best student paper’, ‘best report’, ‘best advice’, etc. The jury could be staffed by a board-like committee where clients, administrators, and scholars (university staff and/or externally) meet to discuss the results of the past year with the purpose both to provide recognition for the students and scholars involved and to make recommendations for improvements in the quality of the mediation (Leydesdorff & Ward, 2003).

Some of the case study reports also pointed out concrete activities, which the Science Shops could initiate in order to promote and develop their work and become more visible both towards society and university. The proposals are:

- Organise seminars, lecture and campaigns (Germany)
- More systematic research done through the Science Shops (Germany)
- More methodology included in Science Shop projects (Germany)
- Creation of a student and a interest database (Denmark)

4.4 Rounding Off

The case studies show that despite the variation in terms of nations, disciplines, institutional settings, etc., the Science Shops have developed a common language of mediation between citizen groups and the public sphere. This common language has evolved in local niches as best practices of mediation. The comparison among the case studies allowed distinguishing the institutional integration with the higher-education function and the research function of the university. This distinction is perhaps more important than the focus on national differences (Leydesdorff & Ward, 2003).

The tasks of the Science Shops in recombining normative concerns with analytical perspectives could further be explored and the inherent tensions in this type of work made visible. It seems obvious that wherever these mechanisms are successful in solving the puzzles involved, they can be expected to remain fragile. The Science Shops operate at interfaces which are not continuously needed from the perspective of the institutions. However, these interfaces may be crucial for the development of a knowledge-based society from a system's perspective. The translation of clients' concerns and demands into the research and education system and the feedback of supply by research and higher-education legitimate the latter and this mediation deeply involves public audiences because their substantive demands are taken seriously. Academic freedom can thus be appreciated more fully as a societal resource (Leydesdorff & Ward, 2003).

If the university would like to profit from societal input both at the level of higher education and at the level of research, communalities in the interfaces of research and higher education with the university environment should be further developed. This could for instance be done by the establishment of rewards for best practices, structures may have to distinguish between social relevance and scientific quality, and establishment of a standing committee at the level of the board that investigates the potentials for further development at the interface with the surrounding society more systematically and in terms of both research and higher education.

5 Comparison of the Scenario Workshops results

This chapter is comparing the results of the seven national scenario workshops conducted by all partners within the INTERACTS project. The comparison is based on the national summaries provided by all partners. The national summaries follow a commonly adapted scheme and are part of the final report. The national summaries provide an overview of the national INTERACTS project activities and experiences and summarise the most important national results. With regard to the scenario workshops the national summaries contain information on the following aspects:

1. *Basic reference data* (country, location of the scenario workshop; title of the workshop; date and duration; organiser/ moderators; information material)
2. *Participants (listed)*
3. *Presentations by the organisers*
4. *Workshop results* (visions (the different interest groups (role groups) best case scenarios), Scenario non-governmental organisation (NGO) and in the case of Germany trade union, Scenario intermediary and transfer groups, scenario politics and administration, scenario science and research and in the case of Denmark scenario students; common Priorities (thematic groups); proposals for future action
5. *Implementation/dissemination* – suggestions for concrete steps

In cases where the information provided by the partners on a certain topic was not sufficient the authors of this chapter did draw back on the detailed national scenario workshop report.

This chapter is divided in two sub-chapters. The first chapter explains the methodological adaptation of the basic methodological approach chosen to develop a new tool to conduct participatory workshops – to conduct “Scenario Workshops”. It also gives some insight in the rationale behind the individual adaptations.

The second chapter is aiming at providing an overview on the seven scenario workshops as well as working out common tendencies by comparing the scenario workshops based on the information provided in the national summaries and furthermore working out unique features of the individual national scenario workshops. This chapter is not aiming at covering every detail of the individual national scenario workshops. The deviations from the majority and the unusual features are only included and discussed selective and exemplary. Of course the selection process was aimed at obtaining objectivity but every selection also re-mirrors the personal view of the authors, which may

not necessarily correspond in all aspects with all project partners. It is recommended for the interested reader to refer to the individual national “Scenario Workshop Reports” to deepen their understanding.

5.1 Modifications of the Basic Method (the European Awareness Scenario Workshop - EASW) and their Rationale in Detail

5.1.1 Time frame

In order to provide enough time to develop the scenarios and to plan the activities an European Awareness Scenario Workshop (EASW) is scheduled to last two days.

To conduct a Scenario Workshop - a tailor made adaptation based on the EASW - the partners of the INTERACTS project decided to shorten the time frame to one day by combining and shortening intermediary stages.

The rationale for this decision lay in the realistic assumption that for politicians and university professors a workshop organised by a non-official institution like the Science Shops would not warrant abandoning their day-to-day activities for two whole days. So, in order to prevent getting only second and third ranking representatives to attend, it was decided to contract the time frame.

The second reason for shortening the time was the broadness of the topic. It was clear from the start that even two days would not be enough to discuss the topic exhaustively, rather, the workshop would serve to discover ideas, compare them and, at the most, agree on first steps to be taken in consultation with each other. The hope was to put into motion a process of dialogue and networking which has to be continued longer term on a regional level.

5.1.2 Development of Scenarios

Within an EASW the role groups develop a best case and a worst-case scenario. For practical reasons, time constraints and also with respect to the general aim of the workshop to investigate on the improvement of the relationship between research (university) and society most partners decided to focus only on the best-case scenario. Nevertheless in the case of Denmark and Romania the role groups also developed and worked with a worst-case scenario related to the workshop focus question.

5.1.3 *The role / interest groups*

With respect to the key stakeholders in the INTERACTS project it was decided to have the following four role groups: Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and trade union; politicians and administration, universities/researchers and intermediaries /transfer groups.

Denmark decided to have five role groups by dividing the university/research group into "students" and "researchers and educators". Because it was believed that students and researchers do not have the same perception of what is needed to improve the relationship between university and society. And this also turned out to be true, the students focused on other aspects than the researchers did.

5.1.4 *Provision of Scenarios and Chairing of Working Groups*

In the classic version of an EASW, the participating groups are being confronted with given scenarios, in the case of urban planning on a scale of more or less technological development and more or less personal initiative.

The given topic could, of course, also be modified. Most INTERACTS partners, however, did without pre-given scenarios and chairing of working groups. This is due to the perceived high expertise of the invited participants and the small numbers. It was considered too unwieldy and also patronising to chair a working group of city councillors, university professors, high-ranking civil servants etc. The people invited knew best what they wanted to discuss and wanted to do that in an unrestricted manner. There would have been little point for the organisers to construct future scenarios, only to have them rejected and start the working process on a negative note. We wanted to find out about new ideas, new visions and not hamper them with too tight a framework. The project workers of the Science Shops, for whom INTERACTS is their second project on science transfer via intermediaries, think they know from experience and from their research work with this model in its various forms and development, how the dialogue between science and society via intermediaries can work, but they do not want this knowledge to dominate to such an extent, that other innovative possibilities are not being considered any more. We as workers of the Science Shops are keen to discover ideas hitherto not considered in our work and the best way to do this is not to channel the participants thinking into given scenarios.

5.2 A Comparison of the Results

5.2.1 *The Focus of the Workshop and the Organisation of the Workshop*

The title of each workshop expressed the focus of the respective organisers. Most titles expressed a wish for dialogue on:

- How to improve and develop it (the dialogue),
- Future collaboration and its preconditions, among three groups, namely academia, society (represented by NGOs) and intermediaries
- Sustainable Development as dialogue between science and society

Denmark, the United Kingdom and Romania decided to focus on the intermediary and put: "How can Science Shops contribute to the development of the co-operation between citizens and universities" (Denmark), "How can the relationship between university and community be strengthened by Science Shop activity" (United Kingdom) and "How can the relations between the civil society and university be strengthened by Science Shop activities in 2010" (Romania).

The central image for the workshops is the triangle formed by academia/science, society (civil society, non-profit organisations) and transfer institutions like Science Shops and the mutually beneficial interaction between the three areas.

All workshops followed a similar time frame, starting between 8:45 and 9:45 a.m. and ending between 4:30 and 6:15 p.m.. With the exception of one, all workshops were held at a location within the university. The one exception was held in a subsidiary of the regional Chamber of Labour, which is physically housed in a university building. This subsidiary is dedicated to researching into the future of work, which made it thematically relevant to the workshops. The venues were chosen for their low cost and by thematic relevance.

5.2.2 *Number of Participants*

Participant numbers ranged between 16 and 30. A well balanced participation of representatives of all role groups was intended. Nevertheless in some cases it proved to be difficult to have a sufficient number of politicians and representatives of NGOs participating in the role groups. Some partner organisations sent a representative to the Intermediaries group. Where they did not, it was probably due to staff shortage or to avoid a biased view.

Participants with the most regional importance were recruited by the Science Shops which are better staffed and integrated into the relevant university than other groups. Here again the basic difference between Science Shops within the organisational framework of the university and autonomous institutions could be observed. This difference in status impairs the direct comparability of the results.

5.2.3 Information Material

Initially, various comprehensive folders and invitations were being prepared. The Spanish partner made available a sample folder. Analysing the actual participation, it became clear that direct contact by telephone, e-mail or in person achieved the best results with the most important and representative participants.

All partners provided information about the INTERACTS project, about their own institution and about the scenario workshop methodology alongside the invitation.

Other optional materials distributed: inspirational material in Denmark, a Science and Society Action Plan of the EU in Spain, a feedback form in the United Kingdom, a summary of the Case Study Report in Germany and the Romanian Case Studies Report (the full report was sent to those participants who acted as interviewees for the case studies or on request to 3 other participants) in Romania and Denmark.

In the introduction to the workshop in Denmark, various topics at the edge of the workshop itself were dealt with comprehensively. Papers were given on types of knowledge requirements in different societal groups, on trends within Danish university politics, on the motivation of students for projects in collaboration with NGOs. In Germany, the topics of the case studies and results (on what intermediaries could learn from the case studies) were referred to. In Romania a presentation was given on the university-society interactions through Science Shops in the European and Romanian context. This was followed by examples of types of requests and projects that can be realised through Science Shops and how these can contribute to an improved access of the society groups to scientific knowledge and at the same time have an impact at the university level. In Spain in addition a SWOT analysis (The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats the Science Shop development in Spain is confronted with) was presented.

All partners were in touch with the press before and after the workshop and provided press releases. At the Scenario Workshop in Innsbruck, a science correspondent took part in the workshop in the intermediaries group.

A comparison shows that the agreed parameters of the national scenario workshops were kept to on the whole and the formal set-up was pretty uniform.

5.2.4 Scenarios

5.2.4.1 Scenarios of the Intermediaries

What the scenarios have in common is the assertion that Science Shops recognise particularly societies need for research and that this is unique in the research environment both inside and outside of universities, at least at this level of consistency and thoroughness. This special quality is to be strengthened, as it ensures that societal requirements for knowledge is being passed on to those who can fulfil them. Without Science Shops and similar intermediaries, interested civil society is not represented in the system of knowledge production. Demands are made for a stake in decision-making processes: "Society and its participation is not presented in decisions in research" (Spain).

On the other hand, the contribution of social organisations to innovation and social progress remain under-appreciated both from society and universities (Denmark).

In the work of intermediaries, there is room for citizen-friendly methods like "problem-oriented action research, social learning processes, interdisciplinary and participatory research" (Germany); "the science shops will facilitate effective communication, in real time, between the civil society and universities" (Romania).

In order to continue fulfilling these functions and possibly fulfil them better, the following things are deemed necessary:

- Sufficient finance and staffing levels and general appreciation. "A constant financial support of university-society co-operation will be provided through governmental funds and special fundraising activities" (Romania).
- Installation of a cooperative network with partner institutions in both directions of the transfer process as well as among intermediaries. "Haus des Wissens – "House of Knowledge" (Innsbruck)
- "Cooperative network with an office in the university and an office in the city" (Spain).
- Science Shops should be authorised to issue certificates and references for students, the work done by members of the university in the area of citizen-orientated and participatory research should be recognised within the academic community. "Science Shop is an essential partner of the university" (Vienna).

- Emphasis should be put to give citizens a voice within an academic environment. This could be achieved by intermediaries acting as interpreters, as mentioned in the Case Studies, and by training citizens to help themselves (Spain, Innsbruck).
- "Awareness and educational programs realized through science shops will contribute to the stimulation and development of a dynamic involvement of civil society in the policy making process" (Romania).
- Science must be re-organised, taking under account local knowledge, and trans-disciplinary research is rewarded by the scientific community, as well as by financial sponsors (Germany):

In sum: Scenarios for the Intermediaries show them as well networked, established centres of knowledge transfer, interpreting for citizens and acting as a bridge between academics and praxis in a climate of mutual appreciation.

5.2.4.2 *Scenarios of Researchers/University*

"University goes public and is public" (Innsbruck) is one of the visions. The academics would like support for the installation of institutions like the Science Shops in order to fulfil important tasks like "knowledge sharing and research integration" (Denmark). These institutions should be "more visible and outreaching towards university and society" (Denmark). " Science Shops become an "information centre" concerning the requests formulated by the civil society and the local administration and also the scientific possibilities of the university to solve these requests, supported by an active and continuous communication between University and society as dialogue partners" (Romania). There is a lack of "incentives for scientists" (Spain) and no need to continue the tradition of universities dedicated to elites. This chimes with suggestions like the ones made in Innsbruck for leaving off academic titles or holding academic presentations in pubs. Mass media too can contribute (Spain) or "round tables" or "efficient and continuous dissemination of the solutions to all the requests" (Romania), all institutions equipped with mediators". (United Kingdom). "Interfaces between the different interpretations of reality through education and experiences (Vienna). "Science and society" is seen as "action in progress". (Spain) To support this, it is envisioned for universities to build up partnerships with for example local administration institutions and NGOs. The understanding society has of science/academia and the results it produces, needs to be developed further. "Training is the main element in the relation between science and society" (Spain); "guest lectures for everybody and by everybody on all topics" (Vienna).

In Vienna demands were made for research into knowledge and knowledge production in an "institute of Integrative Science with masters degree" (Vienna) with the aim of promoting the results and opening up access to knowledge.

The connection to society should be established by means of an increased number of round tables, mediators and translators, to guide the dialogue and to get influence on researchers goals. All university faculties should be equipped with mediators to create these connections (Germany).

In sum: academics are aware of their importance for and responsibility towards society. To live up to this role and responsibility, the academics believe that the use of the media and established intermediaries are necessary.

5.2.4.3 *Scenario of the Students*

The project partners in Denmark decided to have students as a separate role/ interest group due to their assumption, that students might have a different perception compared to that of the researchers of what is needed to improve the relationship between university and society.

"The students' scenarios contained a wish of Science Shops being more visible and outreaching towards both university and society. They further identified a need for developing the procedures for Science Shops projects, in order to strengthen the dialogue between the involved partners and to ensure knowledge sharing (Denmark)."

5.2.4.4 *Scenarios of the Politicians and Administration*

The politicians make several demands of science and research, as summarised in the Innsbruck workshop: "Science should improve quality of life and living conditions, strengthen democratic structures and invest in comprehensive education and lifelong learning" (Innsbruck). All groups put emphasis on democratisation and an assessment of the value of science for society. "Democratisation of knowledge should be a positive standard of the EU"; "science shops produce research as public property" (Vienna); "democratisation of the whole society" (Germany) down to a discussion about these values: "a legal analysis of the usefulness of research" (Innsbruck); "discussion of legitimacy of universities" (Denmark).

Here too, the responsibility of science vis-à-vis society is posited and demanded: "fostering research related to social needs" (Spain).

As an incentive for pursuing this kind of research, these groups too, are looking at links to the qualification of the researchers: "should be of value for the future career" (Innsbruck). A vision of an "open-university" emerges: "co-operation with civil society organisations can become legitimate to address within the concept of the Open University" (Denmark), intensified co-operation with stakeholders: "networking with stakeholders" (Vienna) and "thinking becomes inclusive", e.g. politics takes account of scientific potential and research with practical relevance becomes involved as a service provider (Germany). As one element of the necessary background in the Romanian workshop was identified: "the university ability to enforce changes related to societal needs so as to influence more the governmental policy decisions and achievement of changes at the level of university management so as to create the open university profitably oriented to the citizens needs, knowledge and experiences" (Romania). The necessary resources are touched upon as well.

In sum: politicians demand an opening up of the universities as production centres of knowledge and the possibility to make use of them for solving problems of the society as a whole, while enhancing democracy and legitimacy.

5.2.4.5 Scenarios of the NGOs / Community Groups and Trade Union

NGOs reiterate the need for problem-orientated research that takes an interest in everyday life and the implementation of the research in practice; "needs for more Science Shop research in basic societal topics" (Denmark).

The representatives of NGOs support networking and demand a stake in political as well as academic decision-making processes. In their view, institutions like Science Shops are necessary and/or useful for managing such processes: "science shops deal with research on trends of actual problems" (Vienna); "each university has a service centre responsible for the dialogue between science and society as well as a supervisory board. This board consists of representatives of NGOs, grass roots movements, trade unions, the economy etc. with the aim of initiating, supporting and monitoring the dialogue and auditing the implementation of community based research" (Innsbruck). "Easy access to University as a source of information, education and a problem solving system, based on Science Shop as intermediary stations" (Romania).

Networking should take place, both through institutions like Science Shops between society and academia/science and among the NGOs themselves: "international and national networking"; "Science Shops promote networking between NGOs" (Vienna). Financial and ideological autonomy of intermediaries is essential for this task: "guaranteed financial autonomy of Science Shops and independence" (Vienna) as is their func-

tion for regions not immediately contiguous to a university: "Science Shops integrate the rural region, where there is no accumulation of researchers" (Vienna). Scientists could spend a third of their working hours with NGOs and learn to integrate the requirements of society permanently into their home institution within the university: "scientists as NGO co-workers on 1/3 of their working time" (Germany). Additionally, NGOs would like to be project organisers contracting intermediaries or researchers to fulfil community based information demands. There is one sponsor fund for all NGOs (Germany).

In Spain the idea of access of civil society to the production of knowledge and its results emerges under a pirate flag: "civil society self-manages in knowledge and action" (Spain).

In sum: NGOs confirm a need for science in their practice and demand an institutionalised system like intermediaries or exchange arrangements for scientists or participation in planning and decision-making about research projects.

5.2.5 Themes distilled out of the Scenarios

In a moderated group discussion the following themes - distilled out of the Scenarios - were drawn up by the participants. These themes were the topics the thematic groups continued working on.

- The role of Science Shops (Denmark)
- The Open University (Denmark)
- Network and research integration (Denmark)
- Knowledge and project processes (Denmark)
- Institutional awareness (Spain)
- Training for citizenship (Spain)
- RDT Policy oriented to social problems resolution (Spain)
- Bigger participation of associations and institutions in the process of scientific and technological production to civil society request (Spain)
- Inclusive society (United Kingdom)
- Science Shops to be used as a trigger for social change (United Kingdom)
- Science Shops to strengthen the voluntary sector (United Kingdom)
- Science Shops to be responsive (flexible) to specific community contexts (United Kingdom)
- Universities and community to work together from primary school upward ("floating support") (United Kingdom)
- Science Shops to be "two-way-streets" (Interchange model) (United Kingdom)

- Interface - House of Science (Innsbruck)
- Objectives - Relevance - Resources (of science) (Innsbruck)
- Participation (Innsbruck)
- Structure and organisation of research (Germany)
- Research goals - Reflections about society (Germany)
- Translation of Science into practice, action, participation (Germany)
- Co-operation - Knowledge transfer (Germany)
- Exchange of institutional staff (Germany)
- Support by Politics, Universities and the Public (Vienna)
- Finances and Subventions (Vienna)
- Networking (Vienna)
- A different kind of science and research (Vienna)
- Open, permanent and active communication between university and society (Romania)
- Intermediary structures (Romania)
- Specific communication supported by the representatives of all stakeholders, mass media and IT (Romania)
- Visibility of the partners and intermediaries (Romania)
- Financial and strategic support (Romania)

On comparing the topics discussed, certain themes emerge. Strongest among them is that of networking and participation; that is all processes which let organisations of civil society participate on a permanent basis in research and planning processes, facilitating the integration of the research results into the social environment and enhancing the role of interfaces like Science Shops.

The next important theme centres on the research topics themselves, the opening of universities to society, the questioning of the structures and organisation of knowledge production, the translation of research results into practice. This is related to the usefulness of science and how it can be tapped for the non-profit and social sector. There is demand for a different kind of research; a useful, transparent research which will benefit everyone in their everyday life. Science Shops should contribute to this as interfaces, as a trigger for social change and social progress.

In some of the topics the task and role of Science Shops is put explicitly as one of strengthening the welfare sector, empowering citizens to act on science and to make knowledge useful to them, with the Science Shops acting as conduits for two-way communication and co-operation.

Also mentioned were financing options, the support of politics, university and the general public for intermediary institutions, their integration into the politics of science, e.g. RDT policies, as well as the general awareness of the possibilities offered by intermediary institutions.

In sum: central are demands for research which is relevant to the everyday life of society and to that end the strengthening of interface institutions like the Science Shops.

5.2.6 Suggestions for concrete next steps

Two follow-up meetings were carried out in Denmark and in Innsbruck. In the United Kingdom a national conference was scheduled to present the model of Interchange and to demonstrate the potential of Science Shops. In Innsbruck a working group was set-up in order to develop the concept of a "House of Knowledge".

Several workshop participants expressed a desire to discuss further the development of the dialogue between science and society. They were going to keep each other informed about their activities and hoped for linking up with other networks. Spain developed a sophisticated "Watchtower of social demands" with forums that are open to other interested people.

Networking was a core aspect in the discussion as well as in actual steps taken. This was about networking among the workshop participants plus expanding the network via additional partner organisations. In Denmark a network was set up consisting of the workshop participants. This network is to work continuously on how to improve dialogue between University and society. In Romania the creation of a network that would envisage participation of Science Shops, NGOs, university representatives and local administration was brought up. Forums or workshops on social questions to be set up, physical and virtual spaces to be opened up as meeting places for scientists/academics and social movements, and a campaign to disseminate scientific results.

Particular emphasis was put on the regional link-up of intermediaries, networking of the Science Shops in form of an association. Such a coming together should not be restricted to formal aspects but encourage closer co-operation and the exchange of information (Innsbruck). In Germany numerous module-workshops bringing together role group representatives and an extended audience, aiming at re-organising teaching-modules for students taking into account national EASW results and role group experiences. In the United Kingdom, the idea was put forward to establish a small network of influential persons/politicians locally to support their Science Shops.

New media could be exploited to strengthen the network and to reach a broader public: first steps have been taken to put together a new mailing list of participant organisations (Innsbruck). Suggestions were made to set up a file or a database that would make it easier to call up existing information and contact details as well as publications of the Science Shops. (Authors note: this has already been developed and set up in the SCIPAS project.)

Cooperation with journalists is to be intensified and new avenues of publishing results to be explored, for instance in the form of comics for young people or TV documentaries (Spain).

Concrete proposals and declarations of intent to improve transfer processes were also made during the Scenario Workshops. A manual for an optimal project schedule should be drawn up (Authors note: this is described in SCIPAS, Report 2). Positive examples for projects should get more media attention and promotion. Emphasis is being put on taking research partners seriously and on their special importance as clients. Science Shop projects should also be evaluated more systematically than previously in the form of follow-up procedures examining their impact (Denmark).

Objectives for scientific projects are the participation of the objects of research in the project, a cross-disciplinary approach and having mixed groups of researchers as a rule. NGOs too should be informed about participation options.

In order to drive the suggested processes on, it was proposed to establish various bodies. Science Shops could install advisory boards, in which regional NGOs would be represented and could thus participate in decisions. Civil society should be included in the process of planning and developing research through bodies run and chaired by Science Shops. This would enhance public support for intermediaries and raise their status (Germany). Science Shops should continue to act as project coordinators between NGOs and researchers.

In order to find the right partners within the universities, curricula would need to be modified. In Spain demands were expressed for a separate university department for citizens: "raising research needs through surveys or debate groups, to set intervention programmes in motion with a special concern on evaluation, citizen training and research promotion" (Spain). In Vienna demands were made for more research into science and an "improvement of quality standards, against exclusion of women and the feudalistic system working for the university professors." There is also a need to investigate scientifically what universities and NGOs need from intermediaries (Vienna).

To facilitate the dissemination of scientific knowledge to non-academics, appropriate training is needed for the agents of the system science and society, e.g. communication seminars for students (Denmark). In Spain too demands were made for "scientific spreaders training". Staff from the Science Shops could go on exchanges and/or posts at the university could include places dedicated to practice.

5.3 Summary

The aforementioned ideas reflect themes chosen for debate in the theme groups of the Scenario Workshops. In part they pick up old demands of the Science Shop movement or relate to aspects already being dealt with but with differing levels of success and sophistication in different countries.

Main result of the Scenario Workshops has realistically been the forging of first contacts between important agents in the arena of science and society, particularly within the staff of intermediary institutions, the exchange of views and a strong commitment to continuing and intensified co-operation.

The Scenario Workshops have thus underlined the work of the Science Shops, given them special importance and promoted their enhancement and regional extension. The participants also considered the special working method that became clear in the Case Studies, a closer relation to citizens and a heightened sensitivity to problems of everyday life an important insight. The common vision of a future dialogue between science and society is clearly more democratic and includes demands for an opening and an offer of participation. Science Shops have been promoting such concepts since the 1970s and can feel confirmed in their role as trail blazers.

Ways of enhancing the position of Science Shops and of intensifying the dialogue between science and society are not entirely new. Networking, which was hotly demanded, is already underway but could be improved. Currently it often gets stuck on a formal level or fails due to lack of resources. Here surely there is plenty of room for development. Some necessary tools such as data benches or Internet links exist already and might just need more promotion in order to achieve a higher profile and more hits. Denser regional networking is certainly of the essence and should have priority over international networking. Here national sponsors are needed and need to be motivated.

Changes towards a more open, more easily understandable science, better access for citizens in terms of physical access and understanding will only be achievable in the longer term and only through the concerted effort of many important partners, since some of the demands made by civil society constitute a paradigm shift. Here EU stan-

dards can be a decisive help for national contexts that sometimes take on narrow traditional forms. Just as in the case of gender mainstreaming as a general requirement of projects made by the EU, which has started to crumble national barriers vis-à-vis one gender, a requirement for participatory inclusion of the objects of research into the research process, into the evaluation of the results and the assessment of demand by the EU could contribute to a democratic development of the dialogue between science and society.

Science Shops and the principles and methods they employ could be used as an important link in this development.

6 INTERACTS recommendations for strengthening the interaction between NGOs, universities and Science Shops

6.1 Introduction

One of the objectives of INTERACTS has been to *“draw out policy implications for future cooperation in science, technology and innovation, in particular the cooperation of small to medium NGOs with universities through intermediaries such as Science Shops”* (INTERACTS Technical Annex 22 Sep 2001).

This chapter presents the policy recommendations, which have been developed on the basis of the experience from the INTERACTS project. The recommendations deal with current European policy concerns with relation to the work of Science Shops, such as governance, the role of universities and regional development. The discussion focuses on how policy can be developed at different levels, European, national, regional and local.

The INTERACTS project was negotiated with reference to the societal/ community partners Science Shops work with. The EC preferred term of ‘NGO’ (Non-Governmental Organisation) was used to indicate what type of societal involvement was being referred to. The term NGO applied in this report covers a broad range of more or less formalised organisations of different types, sizes etc. involved in social, economic and environmental development at local, regional or national level, which all together also could be called ‘civil society organisations’ or ‘citizen organisations’.

We see the term NGO as strongly related to ‘citizen participation’ where people come to together in groups, rather than acting as individuals to promote and provide social and environmental benefit (the two main areas the project has concentrated on). Within the report, the NGOs referred to include organisations within the social and health sectors such as schemes using volunteers to improve patient care in hospitals, and organisations working to improve social conditions for minorities, children and young people. Within the environmental area the NGOs referred to include environmental organisations concerned with problems and strategies in relation to pollution, traffic, biodiversity, a trade union concerned with workers’ health and safety, and cooperation between staff and parents in a public day-care institution for the development of organic food supply.

The policy recommendations are based on evidence from:

- The State-of-the-Art survey about political and institutional contexts of cooperation between small to medium non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Science Shops, and universities in the countries in the INTERACTS consortium.
- The 21 national case studies analysing experiences of interaction between NGOs, researchers, students and Science Shops and the impact on societal discourses, research agendas and university curricula
- The expectations for and perspectives on future cooperation between NGOs, researchers and Science Shops expressed by stakeholder groups at the INTERACTS scenario workshops (NGOs, researchers, students, decision-makers and intermediaries such as Science Shop staff)
- Experience from previous and present EU financed Science Shop network projects and evidence gathered from their international cooperation (SCIPAS¹ and ISSNET²)

The following sections present five policy issues of relevance for the future role of Science Shops and suggest policy options in relation to each of the themes. Each theme is discussed under the headings:

- The policy issue itself
- The Problem: Background
- Evidence from INTERACTS
- Policy Options at different levels: EU / national / regional / city and locality / Science Shops and their network

¹ SCIPAS (Study and Conference on Improving Public Access to Science through Science Shops) were the first study on Science Shops funded by the European Commission under the STRATA programme.

² INTERACTS is an Accompanying Measure to the Thematic Network ISSNET (Improving Science Shop Networking). ISSNET is funded by the European Commission under the programme *Raising Public Awareness of Science and Technology* of the Fifth Framework Programme.

The five policy issues are:

1. How can Science Shops support the role of NGOs in societal governance?
2. How can Science Shops influence the curricula of universities to make them more responsive to the needs and demands of civil society?
3. How can Science Shops help make the research agenda more responsive to the needs and demands of civil society?
4. How can Science Shops contribute to regional development?
5. How can Science Shops become economically sustainable?

The chapter ends with a proposal for actions to stakeholders at the different levels (EC / national / regional / city and locality / Science Shops and their network).

6.2 Policy Issue 1: How can Science Shops support the role of NGOs in societal governance?

6.2.1 The Problem: Background

NGOs are a part of governance in society; they give voice to citizen concerns and act as early warning systems for emergent problems in society. According to the White Paper on European Governance (COM, 2001/428) NGOs act to mobilise people and support, for instance, those suffering from social exclusion and discrimination and thereby put pressure on statutory authorities, institutional bodies and companies to take action. However, besides warning about problems, NGOs also themselves deliver services and solutions e.g. in providing welfare and in developing and promoting sustainable solutions to environmental problems.

The role of expertise in decision-making is an important aspect of the governance discussion. On the one hand there is the question of what is recognised as expertise and on the other hand how the access to expertise is facilitated. This aspect has been addressed by one of the working groups working with the White Paper on governance:

“Democratising expertise’ should not be understood as sacrificing quality, but as extending the traditional procedures for assessing quality. This refers not only to scientific excellence but also to the ability to respond to policy and social concerns.

In this regard, ‘democratising expertise’ goes hand-in-hand with ‘expertising democracy’, or the provision of expertise to democratic institutions.

Faced with complex problems ...citizens need to have access to relevant and 'usable' knowledge of good quality. ...Specific efforts are required to 'translate' information in suitable forms ...for the wider public while trying to avoid 'information overload' ...It is considered that a key element of the 'democratisation of expertise' would be to reinforce the functioning of democratic institutions in this way". (Gerold & Liberatore, 2002; page 7)

This understanding of citizens tends to be based on a deficit model, where citizens are seen as lacking "the right knowledge". However, the need for extension of the traditional scientific procedures for assessing quality of scientific knowledge is also recognised.

The EC has also addressed the innovative role of civil society organisations in the discussions about science and society:

"Nowadays scientific knowledge and technological know-how are no longer the sole result of the activities of specialised institutions. They are produced within a very broad spectrum of organisations and structures and of networks encompassing research bodies and the users, both public and private, of the products of scientific endeavour.

The involvement of patients' associations, transport user groups or consumer organisations in defining and monitoring research activities and programmes brings research and society together and helps to ensure that results match need". (SEC, 2000; pages 8f)

NGOs differ greatly in terms of size, type of expertise and resources available. NGOs are also developed to different levels in different parts of Europe. Especially in Eastern Europe, the NGO sector has only started developing since the beginning of the 1990s. However, NGOs and in particular small and medium sized NGOs have not always had access to all the expertise they find necessary in their activities, because of their restricted resources and because by their nature, they are positioned outside statutory government funded structures. There is therefore a distance between citizens with problems (acting through NGOs) and the scientists who have the expertise to help them meet these problems. This distance is structural, cultural and economic.

NGOs' co-operation with organisations with scientific expertise can be essential to the effective functioning of NGOs – to supplement the NGOs' own scientific resources or give the NGOs access to scientific resources and thereby help them articulate demand and develop plans to meet their goals more effectively.

6.2.2 Evidence from INTERACTS and other analyses of community-based research

Science Shops as intermediaries can help bridge the gap between science and civil society by working with NGOs. Some Science Shops are university-based and mediate between NGOs and students and university staff (teachers and/or researchers). Here students, researchers and teachers and Science Shop staff conduct the research in co-operation with NGOs. Other Science Shops are community-based research organisations. These Science Shops conduct the research themselves in cooperation with NGOs. In some cases these Science Shops draw in university students or staff, based on formal or informal relationships with a university. The case studies show that not all intermediaries with Science Shop characteristics, providing independent, participatory research support in response to concerns experienced by civil society (as defined in the SCIPAS project), do actually call themselves Science Shops, but instead may have names related to their field of expertise, their location or their way of working.

INTERACTS shows how Science Shops can help bridge the structural, cultural and economic divide between science and civil society:

- The structural divide - through providing access to “research capacity” for NGOs and access to the community for students and researchers
- The cultural divide – through user-oriented techniques which emphasise participatory dialogue and methods
- The economic divide – through providing research at little or no cost conducted by researchers and/or by students

INTERACTS has focused on the environmental area (Denmark, Germany, Romania, Spain) and the social area (Austria, Spain, UK). The findings show how NGOs approach Science Shops over social or environmental problems or needs, or because of NGOs’ desire to improve their own services or projects. NGOs have some of the following needs, when approaching a Science Shop:

- Scientific analysis of the need for action in order to establish dialogue with authorities or companies
- Enhancement of knowledge around a topic as part of their activity
- Access to knowledge from governmental institutions or organisations
- Development of solutions for prevention or abatement of problems

- Evaluation of their service provision and community projects
- Development of new knowledge-intensive services based on new insights

More specifically, INTERACTS findings show that within the environmental area NGOs approached Science Shops because of the need for:

- Analysis of industrial emissions, state of the environment and urban development
- Dialogue with stakeholders about their perceptions of problems
- Development of strategies for abatement or prevention of environmental problems

Protection of bio-diversity in Romania

Three Romanian NGOs approached the Science Shop InterMEDIU Information and Research Centre from the Faculty of Biology, Al. I. Cuza University in Iasi to have the bio-diversity in an area analysed as a continuation of studies by one of the NGOs. Close collaboration and debate with the local population and authorities helped to raise awareness about the problems and formulate an efficient conservation programme. As part of the dialogue the Science Shop organised two small conferences with representatives from authorities, university students and staff, NGOs, the mass media and the public

Within the social area NGOs approached Science Shops because of the need for:

- Analysis of social problems and needs for social inclusion of ethnic minority groups, low income families and those with mental health problems.
- Evaluation of NGO initiated social services or projects,
- Recommendations for improving and developing social services and social conditions.

Turkish migrant women and health in Austria

Institute FBI (Innsbruck) was asked by a leading health sector NGO to evaluate the effectiveness of its health lectures and information provided to Turkish migrant women in their native language. The women were estimated to have a greater risk of heart disease than the Austrian population because of diet, lack of exercise, and genetic predisposition. The research involved interviews and group discussions with Turkish women, using Turkish interpreters, as well as conversations with other members of the Turkish community not directly involved in the health project. The research findings enabled the NGO to improve the design of its information delivery, and suggested alternatives ways of accessing hard-to-reach groups of older Turkish women.

INTERACTS findings also showed three examples where Science Shops initiated projects and approached NGOs, because the Science Shop saw a need for action. In one case this was because of concern for workers' health and safety and in two other cases in order to develop skills in conflict resolution among NGOs, and develop fund raising capacity of NGOs. This shows that NGOs may not be aware of the potential benefits of approaching Science Shops and that Science Shops might consider a demand based as well as a supply based approach.

Health and Environmental hazards at cement kilns waste incineration

The Science Shop equivalent ISTAS made a recommendation to a trade union (CC.OO.) to study the environmental risks for workers working with burning cattle meat at kilns. The outcome of the study was used by the trade union to influence policy makers and other decision makers at national, regional and local level. Measures were taken by policy makers in regards to incineration and waste management of animal meat. The trade union also managed to commit the companies and the government to ensure participation of workers and citizens in the decision making processes.

In some of the cases studied NGOs emphasize that the access to Science Shops is important because they provide independent research and scientific analysis. This implies that Science Shop projects do not necessarily give the results an NGO had expected. Both community-based and university-based Science Shops provide access to high quality scientific, methodologically sound research and are less bureaucratic than statutory institutions. Science Shops co-operating with universities also have the benefit of scientific credibility from their institutional base and are able to mobilise their re-

sources (e.g. labs and libraries) for community benefit via student projects or researcher projects (bridging social capital). The issue is to include organisations and groups currently excluded from civil society and the economic benefits thereby through developing knowledge intensive and advanced capacity.

Environmental assessment in Berlin

The consortium of action groups opposing the proposed Tiergarten Tunnel (ATG) approached Kubus, the Berlin Science Shop, to find scientific help in producing an expert report for their legal case. Kubus acted as a mediator to link around 20 researchers from the Technical University Berlin, from biology, ecology, planning, hydrology, soil science, process engineering and community psychology. The results were unexpected – the tunnel was not as problematical in ecological terms as ATG expected, and although the research was used to oppose the tunnel, the court found in favour of the development. Research on groundwater management did, however, compel the construction company to amend its activities. The research was independent, and seen as a success by Kubus. However among the ATG activists, interest in the results was small when they discovered the findings did not support their case for opposition.

The analysis of INTERACTS and previous Science Shop research showed the following types of impact on the role and capacity of the NGOs:

- NGOs felt capacitated to bring forward the research and its results in order to open a debate about the topic of concern. They were in most cases able to have an impact on the public discourse, and politicians or authorities agreed through dialogue or because of pressure to address problems and provide support for further analysis or initiatives.
- NGOs developed capacity and skills based on “help for self-help” so that the NGOs themselves became able to use (or expand their use of) scientifically grounded methods in their services or political activities
- NGOs were able to attract public or private funding for new facilities, projects or activities, or to maintain their existing services.

One case showed no impact on governance because due to limited resources the local authorities did not find the problem addressed by the NGO important enough. Three other cases show that strong interests behind urban development and infrastructure limit NGO influence, but that it might be possible also in such cases for NGOs to obtain some impact by combining formal and formal channels for influence.

These types of impact exemplify the ‘added value’ of Science Shop research, in adding to the capacity of civil society organisations like NGOs and their role in societal governance. As Science Shop research is provided at no or low cost, small and medium NGOs with few resources can benefit from Science Shop research.

The bibliographic and scientrometric analysis of the dissemination of the Science Shop publications from the case studies showed that in some cases the research provided by Science Shops to NGOs was not readily accessible to wider society. In some cases the publications remain as “grey literature” because of confidential information concerning the NGO, and in other cases the limited resources of the Science Shops are a barrier to wider dissemination. The case studies and the scenario workshop participants in INTERACTS confirmed a need for wider dissemination through increased public relations activities of Science Shops.

There is in some cases a tension in developing a dialogue which opens up higher education institutions to the needs of civil society. This is a tension between Science Shops on the one hand being willing to respond to all requests from NGOs for specific information and knowledge, and on the other hand the Science Shops’ concern to prioritise those requests which are most likely to lead to new generalisable knowledge. These latter types of project proposals seem in some cases to be more attractive to students and researchers in their scientific work, because they offer the best possibilities for publishing scientific articles based on the Science Shop project afterwards.

6.2.3 Policy Options

Because of Science Shops’ contribution to NGO capacity and through this to civil society’s role in societal governance, the model of Science Shops needs to be more widely disseminated and the existing Science Shops need to be more widely known. This requires the establishment of Science Shops in more regions and cities, either at universities or as community-based Science Shops, and it requires sustainable economic conditions for the existing Science Shops and new Science Shops. Extending the knowledge about Science Shops also requires improved public relation activities about Science Shops, not only at the local and regional levels, but also through national and international networks.

We recommend the following initiatives:

- **NGOs should seek formal as well as informal means and channels for influence on public and private projects, programmes etc.**
- **Universities and city administrations should make NGOs aware of Science Shops and their potential benefits.**
- **National governments should encourage city administrations and universities to establish Science Shops to support NGOs. The necessary funding should be made available in ways that are compatible with the national funding traditions.**
- **National governments and the EC should establish formal channels for NGO influence on defining, planning and implementing public and private projects, programmes etc.**
- **The EC should encourage Open Coordination between member states, accession countries and regions on the exchange and spread of best practices related to cooperation between science and civil society, including Science Shops.**
- **The EC, through DG Research should monitor the relation between the research projects they fund and civil society in terms of civil society involvement and social and environmental impact.**
- **The EC, through DG Research should support projects where Science Shops are engaged in participatory processes, for example acting as mediators between stakeholders in relation to policy making.**
- **The EC, through DG Research should finance the further development of the INTERACTS tool-kit on participatory workshops. The tool-kit should be developed further and promoted as support for the local and regional dialogue about visions and strategies for cooperation between science and civil society.**
- **Science Shops should consider a demand based as well as supply based approach in their co-operation with NGOs.**

- **Science Shops should make use of national networks (where these exist) and the international ‘Living Knowledge’ network, which currently is supported by the EC via the ISSNET project. Through networking Science Shops should exchange experiences concerning the impact of Science Shop projects on societal governance.**
- **Science Shops should take steps to ensure that the knowledge gained from partnering with NGOs on projects is accessible to the wider public, through edited publication of reports in print or electronically, while respecting confidentiality of information. This activity should be funded as part of the core functions of Science Shops.**
- **Science Shops should regularly evaluate their range of services in relation to NGO needs. This activity should be funded as part of the core functions of Science Shops.**

6.3 Policy Issue 2: How can Science Shops influence the curricula of universities to make them more responsive to the needs and demands of civil society?

6.3.1 *The Problem: Background*

Universities are increasingly being encouraged to relate to the needs of wider society - what for example is known as the Third Mission in the UK (i.e. to the first two missions of teaching and research is added community engagement). This is also feeding through into dedicated ‘third stream’ funding for universities’ outreach activities to business and the community. However, the strongest focus is on business-university relations. The UK Lambert Review of Business-University Collaboration (December 2003)³ proposes strategies for improving knowledge transfer by encouraging better communication and changes to the funding regimes for university research. It argues that

- Universities need to get better at identifying their areas of competitive strength in research
- Government needs to do more to support business-university collaboration, and

³ The Lambert Review, commissioned by HM Treasury, the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Trade and Industry, makes series of recommendations aimed at smoothing out the path between Britain’s strong science base and the business community. The report can be accessed at www.lambertreview.org.uk.

- Business needs to learn how to exploit the innovative ideas being developed in the university sector.

In Denmark universities should, according to the new university law, exchange knowledge and competencies with “the surrounding society” and encourage the employees to engage in the public debate. Although the focus is on the relation between university and society, this relation has hitherto mainly been focused on the exchange of knowledge between university and business and between university and government.

Concern about graduate employability has also impacted on the curriculum through the move to develop work-related skills and work placements in higher education, whereby students get the opportunity of experiential learning, where theory and practice is brought together.

The interaction between university and society is also being discussed by the EC, for example in the Communication about the future role of universities, where two opposing trends in the structures at the universities are discussed:

„This is to be seen in particular in two trends which pull in opposite directions. On the one hand, we have the increasing diversification and specialisation of knowledge, and the emergence of research and teaching specialities which are increasingly specific and at the cutting edge. On the other, we see the academic world having an urgent need to adapt to the interdisciplinary character of the fields opened up by society's major problems such as sustainable development, the new medical scourges, risk management, etc. Yet the activities of the universities, particularly when it comes to teaching, tend to remain organised, and more often than not compartmentalised, within the traditional disciplinary framework“. (COM/58, 2003)

Problems in society are increasingly being viewed as interdisciplinary in nature. However, science itself is in many areas becoming ever more specialised and scientific problems are specified as technical, without reference to the social context within which they occur. Increasingly, sophisticated ethical issues are arising as a result of this misfit of scientific training and citizen demands for a healthy and secure environment.

6.3.2 Evidence from INTERACTS and other analyses of community-based research

Science Shops have many parallels to knowledge transfer in the business field, with the capacity to apply theoretical knowledge and problem-solving learning methodology

to real-life situations through experiential learning, and equipping students with the essential skills for future work. In this way Science Shops contribute to a learning approach, which is becoming increasingly important in the education of professionals (Schön, 1987). The difference with Science Shops is that they have an aim to work with civil society, providing knowledge to citizen groups that could not themselves pay for or invest in research. In many of the university-based Science Shops, and sometimes in the community-based Science Shops, students are carrying out the Science Shop projects as part of their education or as part of an internship⁴. In doing so, they provide a means for developing debate and dialogue between university and citizens and civil society organisations like NGOs, which gives students important skills as future professionals such as social awareness, citizenship values and problem-solving skills as well as giving NGOs access to highly qualified research personnel. The added value for universities is direct access to a wide variety of social groups and public issues of current concern.

Science Shops at universities may be department based (though with a university-wide role) or based in Schools or Faculties, depending on how universities are structured. Some Science Shops have contributed to developing curricula outside narrow disciplinary frameworks and also encouraging awareness of knowledge and expertise within the community from which the university can learn. Based on co-operation with civil society organisations some Science Shops contribute to the introduction of new scientific fields and new teaching methods in the curricula and new views on issues such as research ethics at the university they are part of or affiliated to⁵, for example:

- Courses in methods in co-operation between experts and citizens and courses in sustainable development (urban ecology and organic food production) in Denmark
- Community based learning in the UK
- Contribution to the increased co-operation between University and society in Romania and new educational programs with problem-based learning and facilitation of co-operation with different societal groups.

⁴ Students seem to participate in the project work in 70% of the Science Shops (based on a questionnaire in the SCIPAS project) (Hende & Jørgensen, SCIPAS, 2001)

⁵ Around one third of the Science Shops seem to contribute to university curricula in these ways (Hende and Jørgensen, SCIPAS, 2001).

This kind of contribution is provided through co-operation between Science Shop staff and university teachers or through Science Shop staff's own teaching obligations and their development of courses.

The INTERACTS case studies and the SCIPAS project show that through Science Shop activity (in university-based as well as in community-based Science Shops) students enhance or develop some of these skills and competencies:

- Knowledge about and recognition of experience, needs and demands of civil society groups
- Analysis of real life experiences, where theoretical knowledge and experience-based knowledge is brought together
- Communication and co-operation skills and experience with dialogue-based methods
- Experience with problem-based methods
- Project planning and management skills
- Writing skills (reports and popular articles)

Part of this curricular enhancement is evidenced in the outcomes of Science Shop projects: publications that provide additional reward and recognition for students as well as providing benefit to community groups. Student reports aimed at citizen groups need to be written in clear, accessible language rather than only focusing on the scientific terminology and this requirement in itself represents a considerable enlargement on standard academic teaching and learning.

Interactive working methods in student projects

In a project in Denmark about sustainable storage methods for organic products for cooking in a day care institution the two students visited the institution many times and discussed and observed the daily practices. Together with the staff they visited a place with a special non-energy consuming facility, which the parents later convinced the municipality to fund.

In another Danish project about the different perceptions of bicycling the students and the project host discussed the applied social science methodology intensively. They jointly decided to include focus group interviews as a method, and the draft analysis was discussed in-depth in order to ensure that the host would be able to apply the methodology and the results afterwards.

6.3.3 Policy Options

Science Shops (both university- and community-based) should be included as relevant actors in the policy debate on knowledge transfer between universities and society. National governments should use their influence over university funding to encourage co-operation with civil society. Science Shops should, where possible, seek to introduce and support an element of experiential learning through Science Shop projects into the existing curriculum, and they should be recognised for their expertise in this form of teaching and learning as well as for their contribution to the teaching of research ethics. Science Shops are effective when they draw in faculty staff to participate as supervisors of Science Shop projects. To encourage this to happen, barriers to student and faculty staff participation in Science Shop projects should be removed.

We recommend the following initiatives:

- **Universities should make use of the expertise of Science Shops to participate in broadening the curriculum by including co-operation with civil society organisations. Citizen organisations as well as regional government should help this process by putting pressure on university administrations over the necessity for such initiatives.**
- **Universities should ensure that students get credit points for carrying out Science Shop projects or internships in civil society organisations as part of their education.**

- **Universities should appraise faculty staff for cooperation with civil society and for initiatives within community-based learning and include this kind of experience in the criteria for tenure and promotion.**
- **National governments should through their influence over university funding encourage universities to incorporate cooperation with NGOs as part of the curricula through courses or internships.**
- **The EC, through DG Education and Culture should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on the coordination of their policies on higher education to include community based learning in the curricula.**
- **The EC, through DG Research should sponsor research on how university research and curricula can be restructured to incorporate more community-based learning and research.**
- **The EC should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on their policies for the role of experience with community-based teaching and research as part of the criteria for tenure and promotion at universities and research institutions.**
- **Science Shops should seek to contribute to university curricula through introduction of and support for experiential learning based on Science Shop projects, and through introduction of new scientific fields in the curricula based on experience from Science Shop projects.**
- **Science Shops should through their national and international networking exchange experiences over their contributions to university curricula.**

6.4 Policy Issue 3: How can Science Shops help make the research agenda more responsive to the needs and demands of civil society?

6.4.1 *The Problem: Background*

Scientific knowledge has created enormous gains for society and is seen as the key to economic development and international competitiveness. Yet industrial and commercial development has also given rise to massive social and environmental problems. The resolution of problems, such as environmental threats, or the evaluation of the impact of new technologies such as information technology and biotechnology requires further scientific knowledge and political and economic decisions. The scientific knowledge needed in problem solving is not neutral, but contested and negotiated within political frameworks. Further, economic and organisational resources for research and development are unequally distributed at the national and international level. Businesses and governmental authorities and institutions have more resources and easier access to and influence on research facilities than NGOs and citizen groups such as consumer organisations, environmental organisations, trade unions, social welfare organisations etc.

The growth of the knowledge economy and society creates pressure for universities to become more closely involved in civil society. The university can increasingly become a forum of reflection, as well as of debate and dialogue between scientists and people. Universities are expected to have a major role to play in initiatives under the “Science and Society” action plan, designed to foster and improve the coordination of national activities and policies in areas such as scientific dialogue with the people, ethics, science education, and women and science (COM, 2003/58).

The main focus hitherto in research institutions’ and science museums’ relationships to the public has been on research communication **to** the citizens in order to make citizens interested in the results of scientific research, although some museums seem to be interested in developing a interactive dialogue-based relationship. A recent Danish report about research communication includes also dialogue-based relations in some of its recommendations and propose experiments with “new dialogue methods when setting priorities for research efforts” and evaluation of “non-traditional dialogue activities with citizen involvement” (The Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, 2004).

Relationships have also been developing between science and civil society which allow NGOs and citizens to become critically engaged in the regulation and agenda setting of science and technology, e.g. to influence science and technology policy. During the last two decades different initiatives and structures have emerged in Europe. Science Shops, large NGOs with research capacities, independent institutes, patients' organisations, and community groups have increasingly become engaged with research and developed countervailing expertise. They have proved their capacity to propose and to develop research topics and fields, often leading to transdisciplinary projects, and to directly link research to social needs. However small to medium NGOs, representing citizens at the local community level, have largely been excluded from this process and are unable to contribute their expertise or to frame researchable questions through lack of resources and research capacity.

6.4.2 Evidence from INTERACTS and other analyses of community-based research

It was found in the INTERACTS State of the Art research that Science Shops and research dedicated to citizens' organisations are not generally on the agenda of RTD policy. There are occasional references in national policy documents, but little emphasis on such research as an important topic of political debate. The financial and the symbolic support that the European Commission lends to Science Shops is therefore an important factor in enhancing their reputation.

Nevertheless, there was evidence in the INTERACTS case studies and the scenario workshops that, although often unrecognised, Science Shops do have a role in developing the research agenda. Science Shops were found to provide a strategy for giving small and medium NGOs access to research capacity, which allowed them to influence the research agenda at the universities (and through this the wider societal agenda). In turn, Science Shop projects developed the perception of the NGOs about what is researchable through science and what are the potentials and limits of research.

Some case studies show it can be difficult to find supervisors for Science Shop projects, if the scientific staff do not find the topic proposed by the NGO scientifically interesting. The mediation through the Science Shop between the NGO and the researchers can help translate proposed topics into scientifically interesting questions, which may also have publication potential, either in the popular press, or in the peer-reviewed scientific journals where academics currently have to publish to secure career status and promotion. Without scientific interest or publishing potential, the interest of some researchers in engaging with Science Shop projects is likely to be limited.

By accumulating projects across different NGOs and over time, Science Shops can act as a knowledge repository, where knowledge about a certain topic is gradually built from project to project. In this way, the otherwise individual focus of small-scale research or student-conducted projects can be moved forward from what might otherwise be a project with limited scientific value.

Science Shops have in some cases demonstrated their value in acting as antennae or early warning systems for new public concerns and as repositories for new scientific research themes. The Science Shop can either act as an incubator for a new research theme until a critical mass of interest develops among existing research groups, or act as facilitator of research between citizens' groups, a research department and governmental authorities, which may be interested in funding research⁶.

Development of organic food production as a new scientific field through a Science Shop

A Danish Science Shop developed organic food production into a new research and teaching theme at the university. It started with a number of student projects in the end of the 1980s and continued with the building of a research group based on public research funding. Since the food researchers at the university at that time were not interested in the field the Science Shop acted as an incubator for the field. Ten years later, when organic agriculture had become more widespread and recognised as a strategy in Denmark, the food researchers became interested and research cooperation started based on public funding.

In addition, Science Shops are in the forefront of reformulating the division between basic and applied research, with emphasis on the production of pure knowledge being matched by an emphasis on knowledge implementation, development and diffusion. The reformulation creates a "knowledge avenue" which can lower the threshold between the universities and the surrounding society, helping local groups to articulate their needs and demands, while the Science Shop itself provides the intermediation essential for brokering such innovation.

Interesting examples of ways of developing institutional support for university-community partnerships for research are discussed below. Examples are taken from the Canadian research councils' community-university research alliances (CURAs), the UK collaborative awards in science and engineering (CASE studentships), and the pro-

⁶ 20-25% of the Science Shops seems to have impact on the research agenda and the research methodology at the universities (Hende and Jørgensen, SCIPAS, 2001).

vision of allocation of research funds for PhD research at the Science Shop at Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

The CURAs took their inspiration from Science Shops, and from a small beginning they are now regarded as a success in redirecting scientific effort towards the community, which is seen as civil society organisations and public institutions and authorities at the local and regional level. At the moment CURAs are primarily within the social sciences and the humanities. An important feature of the CURA funding is the extensive pilot phase grant for the creation and development of community-university partnerships, which has been increased over time as a proportion of the funding in response to feedback on the operation of the CURAs. An evaluation of the impact of the CURAs shows the model is effective in reinforcing community decision-making and problem-solving capacity. Currently, however there is a lack of systematic evidence of CURA impact on university teaching and university capacity to work with and respond to community needs.

The CASE studentships of the Economic and Social Research Council for PhDs are awarded on the basis of joint applications from a university department and an external organisation for jointly supervised research on a topic of concern to the external organisation, which may be an NGO, statutory body or business organisation. It should be noted however that the financial contribution element required from the participating external organisation towards student support rules out participation from many small to medium NGOs, and because such studentships are thinly spread across the university sector there is little opportunity to build from them a sustained knowledge base on NGO collaboration.

Science Shop potential for co-financing PhD projects

Since the mid-1980s Tilburg University in the Netherlands has made funds available for the University Science Shop to finance research projects. The University makes available 135,000 Euro for these activities every year. Since the end of the 1980s most of the money has been allocated to PhD projects or their preparation in cooperation with scientific departments at the university on a matched funding basis. Some projects also make use of external funds. Themes that have been covered include multiculturalism, the role of environmental groups in environmental regulation, intercultural management and sustainable use of water. Proposals for projects are made by the Science Shop or by departments at the University. Each of the PhD projects has its own steering committee consisting of members from civil society organizations, such as environmental groups or representatives of minority groups, civil servants of municipalities, etc.

6.4.3 Policy Options

To be on the agenda of RTD policy, Science Shops should be more widely known to policy makers. *Action 21 of the Science Society Action Plan concerning Science Shops* has already helped to increase policy makers' interest in as well as the reputation of Science Shops at all levels, because policy makers take into account the guidelines from the European Commission.

We recommend the following initiatives:

- **National and international research councils and programmes should finance research cooperation between research institutions and civil society organisations in order to reduce barriers to NGO and researcher participation in joint research activities. This could include funding of PhD projects and Masters level bursaries.**
- **Universities should include research in cooperation with civil society organisations as part of their research strategy and make part of their PhD funding available for projects developed through a Science Shop or similar intermediaries. Community organisations as well as regional government should help this process by putting pressure on university administrations over the necessity of such initiatives.**
- **Universities and national scientific councils should include explicit reference to community engagement and community-based research in the criteria for**

tenure, when appraising and rewarding staff. Publications in journals directed towards civil society should be valued for promotion.

- National and international criteria for research excellence should include co-operation with civil society. New forms of quality evaluation in science and research need to be developed to ensure best practice for participatory and/or civil society-oriented science and research, which guarantee inter-subjectivity and transparency.
- The EC, through DG Research should fund research on how university research and curricula can be restructured to incorporate more community-based learning and research.
- The EC should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on their policies for the role of experience with community-based teaching and research as part of the criteria for tenure and promotion at universities and research institutions.
- The EC, through DG Research should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on their policies for community-based research.
- The EC, through DG Research, should demand that future Framework Programmes have a strategy for considering how civil society organisations as stakeholders in research can give input into programme design, and where appropriate, participate in projects. This demand is compatible with the current demand for gender mainstreaming within projects.
- The EC, through DG Research should increase its funding for research on governance in science and technology and other related areas, including the role of civil society organisations and Science Shops.
- The EC should start the process towards a Communication from the European Commission drawing attention towards the importance of research dedicated to civil society concerns and the role science shops and similar intermediaries and research institutes can play herein.

- **The international Science Shop network should consider developing a peer-reviewed journal of community based research for dissemination of experience from Science Shop research**
- **Science Shops should through their national and international networking exchange experiences regarding contribution to research agendas and methodologies at local, national and international level.**

6.5 Policy Issue 4: How can Science Shops contribute to regional development?

6.5.1 The Problem: Background

European policy for the European Research Area (COM, 2001/549 and COM, 2002/565) places a particular emphasis on regions as drivers of research and innovation capacity and economic and technological development:

“...regions are important because they form the spatial basis of groupings of research and innovation operators which have come to be known as “clusters”, often considered as the main drivers of regional development.

Clusters are formed by groups of innovative enterprises, academic and research institutions, local development agencies and/or other supporting organisations. (...)

*In its most successful expression, clustering combines industry, government and **nongovernmental organisations**, together with a number of knowledge-specific players (universities, research centres, science and technology parks and technopoles, innovation agencies acting like service, competence and diffusion centres)”. (COM, 2001/549, page 8)*

While university-industry links have been the prime focus of regional development hitherto, it is recognised that the social partners should be integrated in the development of the regional strategy (COM, 2001). In the White Paper on European Governance (COM, 2001/428) it is recognised that the NGO sector – though of varying strength in different countries – is both an important expression of civil society as well as a vital resource for social inclusion, for socially responsible employment, and for neighbourhood regeneration. This offers a role for the NGO sector to make its contribution to social and economic development by partnership in regional multi-sectoral clusters to find solutions to social issues.

The UK Government, in its September 2002 “Cross cutting review of the role of the voluntary sector in public service delivery” (HM Treasury, 2003) recognised the importance of a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) that is strong, independent and has the capacity and skills, where it wishes, to be a partner in delivering world-class public services. It therefore wishes to create a new partnership with the sector, drawing on the sector's strengths to challenge, complement and reinforce public services. It is estimated that 70% of voluntary and community organisations operate at local level, so the local dimension is crucial in getting Central and Local Government to work more effectively with the voluntary and community sector to deliver high quality services.

However, developing partnerships for regional development takes time, with a significant lead-in time for NGO participation to become effective. The problem is that small or medium NGOs often lack the knowledge and resources on how to find scientific partners so they are unable to access resources and may become excluded from policy development.

The regional level is also appropriate for undertaking support and reflection on the debate on Science and Society (COM, 2001/549, page 24). Questions around ethics in science, the frontiers of research and the role of science in governance are seen as examples of the difficult topics that could be addressed in a regional context and gain from its richness and diversity. However, since the dynamics of economic, technological and scientific development in many cases go across national borders, it is also important for NGOs to be able to organise cooperation across regions at national and international level.

6.5.2 Evidence from INTERACTS and other analyses of community-based research

The INTERACTS case studies provide numerous examples of relatively small-scale projects in a variety of countries, which have had impact on the NGOs and their activities, on the social or environmental conditions they are concerned about, and on their users and members. Additionally, the findings from Science Shop research have been used as independent evidence to justify and draw down funding for the NGOs to operate in the field of health and social welfare, providing benefits to service users that would otherwise be outside the scope of statutory services and could not be afforded through private care.

Most of the impact of the projects analysed has been at the local level, but in a few examples where NGOs have approached national stakeholders or the NGO itself has

been active at regional and national level, there has also been a demonstrable regional or national impact.

Science Shop projects help NGO getting national recognition

The Science Shop projects with Aintree Hospital Volunteers in UK have been used by the NGO as independent scientific evidence to demonstrate the value of the volunteer scheme both for patients, for individual volunteers and for the National Health Service. The Aintree Hospital Volunteers have achieved a national profile and are regarded as a model of good practice.

Science Shop project with regional and national impact through the NGO's regional branches and membership of national council

The Science Shop project with the Danish Bicyclist Federation about the perceptions among stakeholders of bicycling and bicyclists showed that bicyclists were more afraid of other bicyclists than of the cars. This led the Federation to apply for a regional project about bicyclist behaviour through one of its regional branches. Furthermore the Federation addressed the issue in one of the public councils at national level, where the Federation is a member.

The experience from the Science Shops in INTERACTS within the social arena shows how Science Shops through contacts and projects with numerous different NGOs working in specialised fields of health and social welfare, are able to build up a bigger picture of the variety of provision – and often, lack of provision – at a local level, while also gaining knowledge of the changing relationship of the voluntary and community sector to other service purchasers and providers, statutory and private. They also become aware of the capacities of the NGOs in utilising participatory methods, and the extent to which training in research design and appreciation, as well as the interpretation and application of findings, can be improved.

Similar impact is seen from the work of the Science Shops in INTERACTS within the environmental area. Two German Science Shops offer services to the NGO community based on their long-term experience and close cooperation with NGOs. One Science Shop offers training for NGOs in how to obtain funding for Agenda 21 projects and another Science Shop has carried out seminars for NGOs in conflict resolution.

Earlier research on the impact of Science Shop projects in the SCIPAS project has shown examples of impact at regional and national level, where a Science Shop has coordinated the knowledge from a number of smaller projects and organised a dialogue

among different stakeholders (NGOs, researchers, national authorities etc.) (Hende & Jørgensen, SPICAS, 2001). The SCIPAS project (report no. 2) also showed that Science Shops in the Netherlands have a role in sharing and applying knowledge at regional and national levels. While most Science Shops make a contribution to the understanding and solution of issues at the local level, the existence of a coordinating network of Science Shops in the Netherlands is important for sharing information, for supporting the mediation activity of individual Science Shops, and for raising the visibility of Science Shops in regional and national policy.

Strong evidence of demand for regional input within the INTERACTS project came from the scenario workshops, where NGO representatives, university representatives and policy makers have all argued that Science Shops should respond to community needs, and they should also help drive good practice in universities through using education and research to develop solutions to social and environmental problems.

6.5.3 Policy Options

Regional development associations should recognise the role of Science Shops in contributing in their own right to knowledge about social and environmental issues, as well as empowering NGOs to be effective operators in social and economic development.

We recommend the following initiatives:

- **Universities should promote Science Shops as part of their portfolio of contributions to university-society linkages and regional development in order to make them visible outside the university.**
- **Regional development associations should include Science Shops and NGOs as partners in regional development, and invest in their infrastructural development.**
- **The EC should explore the potential for financing scientific research support from the structural funds for regional development such that NGOs in underdeveloped regions could access funding for knowledge transfer, to be supplied by Science Shops.**
- **The EC should issue guidelines that explain the potential role of Science Shops in regional development through their partnerships with universities and the NGO sector.**

- **Science Shops should take a lead in providing training for small to medium NGOs in research appreciation and participatory methods, in addition to carrying out research projects, as part of the process of building capacity and social capital in the voluntary and community sectors of civil society, where voluntary and community sector stakeholders lack research skills.**
- **Regional and national associations of Science Shops should be created in each of the member states and accession countries to support, publicise and act as pressure groups for opportunities in community-university partnerships to become more visible and more integrated into regional social, economic and environmental development.**
- **Science Shops should through their national and international networking exchange experience on strategies for obtaining impact at regional and national level. The journal Living Knowledge should be used as one of the tools in creating visibility and cooperation.**

6.6 Policy Issue 5: How can Science Shops become economically sustainable?

6.6.1 The Problem: Background

The previous four policy issues have discussed how Science Shops can contribute to societal governance at local, regional and national level through enhancing NGO capacity, community-based learning at the universities and community-based research. This last Policy Issue, based on the previous four sections, addresses how Science Shops can become economically sustainable.

The SCIPAS report no.1 (Gnaiger and Martin, 2001) demonstrated that Science Shops in the Netherlands in most cases have considerable institutional support, with Science Shops being either faculty based within a university or a central university Science Shop serving the whole university. In each case, they have access to a small but significant and regular amount of funding for core staff as scientific mediators and in some cases also as researchers. The Netherlands model has been followed by some other countries with researchers or mediators working in a university context. However, specific funding for science shop personnel is not always available. A community-based model for Science Shops has also developed, with Science Shops as autonomous social enterprises independent of universities performing a research/mediation function

staffed with university-trained researchers. Some of these community-based Science Shops have formal or informal cooperation with universities.

Depending on the type and the aim, university-based Science Shops might perform a number of different activities. The need and the possibilities for the following different activities might be considered during the planning of a university-based Science Shop:

- Short term advice: Answering questions posed by the public to the science shop, using the scientific personnel at the university and/or referring to external sources
- Student project work in applied research carried out as part of the curricula
- Advisory groups for meetings with NGOs on ongoing basis
- Research projects around concerns raised by civil society
- Developing new areas for education and research: new scientific fields; theories and methods for community-based research and teaching.

The most important part of the Science Shop work is the day-to-day work of mediation and research support:

- Proposals and requests from NGOs are received and discussed with the NGO, university researchers and teachers and with students considering whether to carry out a project
- Dialogue with the NGO, teacher/researcher and/or students during the project
- Evaluation of project and discussion of the dissemination of the results, follow-up projects etc.
- Keeping files of the projects, the reports, updating project database, homepage etc.

Universities are increasingly being pressed by governments to develop their mission of outreach to the surrounding community (the ‘third mission’). This could provide strong pressure for regular institutional support of Science Shop activity. The problem is that in the absence of specific funding streams for such activity, universities may be unwilling to devote finite resources away from core teaching or learning and research. Additionally, there can be resistance to research which is applied in nature, rather than “pure” research. The status of applied knowledge suffers at some universities from this discrimination, often reflected in the allocation of research grants from traditionally managed research funders.

For the voluntary and community sector, performance measurement and accountability have become increasingly important in justifying support from public and private funds. Yet many contributions (including student research projects through Science Shops) are in the form of voluntary action, which is unaccounted for in traditional financial reports. Assessing the total impact of volunteering should take account of different

stakeholders: the volunteer, the volunteer-involving organisation, the recipients/beneficiaries, the local community and the wider society; and different types of 'capital': economic, physical, social, human and cultural. A total volunteer audit can be a complex task requiring a multi-method approach.

The problem is that much Science Shop activity, which involves real costs in terms of coordination and mediation, produces benefits, which are not seen or costed in monetary terms. Their value therefore tends to be financially invisible. This makes it difficult to access funding when the value of the work is not economically recognised.

One approach to solving this problem has been the recently developed guide in the UK to placing a financial value on voluntary action - VIVA - the Volunteer Investment and Value Audit (Institute of Volunteering Research, 2003). VIVA is a measurement tool that assesses the 'outputs' of volunteer programmes (the value of volunteers' time) in relation to the 'inputs' (the resources used to support the volunteers). It therefore provides informative and readily grasped indicators of the scale and significance of voluntary work and the payback on an organisation's investment in voluntary action. This can also be employed to audit the net benefits of Science Shop research projects, where the student researchers make a contribution to the voluntary and community sector at no or low cost (typically expenses only).

6.6.2 Evidence from *INTERACTS* and other analyses of community-based research

NGOs that are small or medium sized are unable to pay a commercial rate for research. As these are the major part of most Science Shops' partners and clients, the philosophy of Science Shops is to emphasize the enabling of research at nil, low or affordable cost.

Many Science Shop projects are carried out by university students as part of their education (as course and/or internship in an NGO or a community-based Science Shop). An estimate of the costs looks like the following: The input from universities, in the form of students' and supervisor's time, can be given an imputed value, in the case of the UK case studies, of over £2,000 per project (~3,000 euros). There is only a small marginal cost to universities, however, as students require teaching and supervision in any case. This represents a benefit to voluntary and community sector organisations, from which however they would need to deduct the extra cost of their staff time in administering their part of the student project in terms of training and supervision to arrive at net benefit. In case of an internship in a community-based Science Shop, the Science

Shop has to find ways to cover the costs of the time for their part of supervision and administration, unless the student is working on an external financed project.

The case studies showed that Science Shop research reports in several cases have been successfully used by NGOs as evidence for funding applications, and this financial value could also be imputed to research projects. Similarly, Science Shop projects have been found to stimulate academic funded research in a particular area. In terms of economic sustainability, it is important that the costing of science shop value and benefit be done not solely in financial and economic terms but also in terms of social and educational benefit.

Where voluntary and community sector organisations are obliged by the conditions of their funding to evaluate their actions, the Science Shop model provides an efficient method of doing this, with additional benefits through the training both of students and voluntary and community sector participants in the use of applied research. Again there needs to be recognition within the funding of NGOs that evaluation is an important activity which Science Shops can provide. This would be more sustainable if Science Shops could be written in to NGO grants as external consultants for evaluation under joint-funding arrangements.

6.6.3 Policy Options

Based on the experience from INTERACTS and other analyses of community-based research we see a number of models for funding Science Shop activities, which are considered below. In order to obtain the sustainable operation of a Science Shop, several of the models might need to be combined. The types of costs which need to be covered, are:

- the office costs of the mediation and coordination of the research,
- the costs of the research itself,
- and the costs of publicity and dissemination of the results.

The extent to which funding is made available to the Science Shop, to a concrete research project or to the research student distinguishes the following models:

- **Full funding by university:**
The Netherlands model of universities providing direct financial support for Science Shops is the most readily sustainable model. The Science Shop staff can be dedicated Science Shop staff or can be scientific staff, who are conducting part of their teaching and research in the Science Shop. The project research is carried out by students for free as part of their education, by the supervisors as part of their ordinary work or by Science Shop staff. Any cost-benefit model should include the whole range of benefits provided to the institutions, scientists/ researchers, students and NGOs and civil society. Science Shops should collaborate with voluntary and community organisations in developing appropriate models for auditing the financial benefits of partnership in research. The VIVA model provides a good starting point.
- **Part-funding by university:**
Where universities are unable to finance the full cost of the day-to-day work in a Science Shop, there is sometimes the possibility of part-funding, by attracting external funding from government or European programmes or private and charitable grants. If the external funding covers concrete projects, overheads from such funding might be able to finance part of the day-to-day work. Such funding arrangements are inherently less stable, and require Science Shop staff to devote part of their time to fund-raising. In this context, university management needs to be fully aware of the existence of Science Shops and their potential in order to include them in university-led bidding procedures and proposals. This means Science Shops need to work at the strategic level within universities, with representation in the committee structure, to raise awareness of what they are and what they have to offer. It is important to secure a basic level of funding for the day-to-day running costs in the Science Shop.
- **Social entrepreneurship:**
Some Science Shops, particularly those independent of universities, act as social entrepreneurs supporting socially beneficial research activity with NGOs through staff conducting profitable research or other activities with organisations and funding agencies which can pay market costs. This model could also be developed in universities, with Science Shops being part of research centres where again profits from research conducted on a commercial basis are used to support the socially beneficial scientific research of Science Shops and the day-to-day work operation of the Science Shop. How-

ever, there is the disadvantage that research contracts may not provide a stable basis for continued operation of the Science Shop and there may be difficulties in determining eligibility for reduced or nil cost research.

- **Co-funding with NGOs for research and evaluation:**
Science Shops could be involved with NGOs when the latter are making application for funding by having Science Shop research written in to the bid to provide evidence on monitoring and evaluation of services. For funders this would ensure an independent scientific assessment as part of the bid, which may work out to be less expensive than a fully commercial research and evaluation service. This model is most likely to develop when there is a long-term relationship between a Science Shop and a specific NGO.
- **Studentships and research grants:**
A further model would provide dedicated studentships and grants for Masters or Doctoral level students or researchers in Science Shops, who would then choose the most scientifically relevant issues to research. If this model could be supplemented with basic funding for the day-to-day work in a Science Shop it could in the case of a PhD studentship enable sustained research in one area over a period of years.

6.7 Summary of Policy Recommendations

This section summarises the recommendations for initiatives given in the discussions of the five policy issues in the previous sections. The recommendations are structured into lists of policy recommendations for different actors from the Policy Issue 1-4:

- Universities
- Local, regional and national governments
- The European Commission (EC) and different Directorates General
- Science Shops and their national and international networks.

After each recommendation the number of the related Policy Issue is mentioned so that it is possible to go back to the related discussion and see the arguments behind the policy recommendations. Some recommendations are directed to more than one actor group and are therefore mentioned under more than one actor group headline.

The section ends with a short overview of the different models of funding of Science Shops.

6.7.1 Policy recommendations for universities

- Universities and city administrations should make NGOs aware of Science Shops and their potential benefits. (Issue 1)
- Universities should make use of the expertise of Science Shops to participate in broadening the curriculum by including co-operation with civil society organisations. Citizen organisations as well as regional government should help this process by putting pressure on university administrations over the necessity for such initiatives. (Issue 2)
- Universities should ensure that students get credit points for carrying out Science Shop projects or internships in civil society organisations as part of their education. (Issue 2)
- Universities should appraise faculty staff for co-operation with civil society and for initiatives within community-based learning and include this kind of experience in the criteria for tenure and promotion. (Issue 2)
- Universities should include research in cooperation with civil society organisations as part of their research strategy and make part of their PhD funding available for projects developed through a Science Shop or similar intermediaries. Community organisations as well as regional government should help this process by putting pressure on university administrations over the necessity of such initiatives. (Issue 3)
- Universities and national scientific councils should include explicit reference to community engagement and community-based research in the criteria for tenure, when appraising and rewarding staff. Publications in journals directed towards civil society should be valued for promotion. (Issue 3)
- Universities should promote Science Shops as part of their portfolio of contributions to university-society linkages and regional development in order to make them visible outside the university. (Issue 4)

6.7.2 Policy recommendations for local, regional and national governments

- National governments should encourage city administrations and universities to establish Science Shops to support NGOs. The necessary funding should be made available in ways that are compatible with the national funding traditions. (Issue 1)
- National governments and the EC should establish formal channels for NGO influence on defining, planning and implementing public and private projects, programmes etc. (Issue 1)
- Universities and city administrations should make NGOs aware of the Science Shops and their potential benefits. (Issue 1)
- National governments should through their influence over university funding encourage universities to incorporate cooperation with NGOs as part of the curricula through courses or internships. (Issue 2)
- National and international research councils and programmes should finance research co-operation between research institutions and civil society organisations in order to reduce barriers to NGO and researcher participation in joint research activities. This could include funding of PhD projects and Masters level bursaries. (Issue 3)
- National and international criteria for research excellence should include co-operation with civil society. New forms of quality evaluation in science and research need to be developed to ensure best practice for participatory and/or civil society-oriented science and research, which guarantee inter-subjectivity and transparency. (Issue 3)
- Regional development associations should include Science Shops and NGOs as partners in regional development, and invest in their infrastructural development. (Issue 4)

6.7.3 Policy recommendations for NGOs

- NGOs should seek formal as well as informal means and channels for influence on public and private projects, programmes etc. (Issue 1)

- NGOs should consider writing Science Shop evaluation into their own bids for funding of activities as a way of ensuring independent evaluation of the activities (Issue 5)

6.7.4 Policy recommendations for the European Communities through the Commission and the DG's

- The EC should encourage Open Coordination between member states, accession countries and regions on the exchange and spread of best practices related to co-operation between science and civil society, including Science Shops. (Issue 1)
- The EC, through DG Research should monitor the relation between the research projects they fund and civil society in terms of civil society involvement and social and environmental impact. (Issue 1)
- The EC, through DG Research should support projects where Science Shops are engaged in participatory processes, for example acting as mediators between stakeholders in relation to policy making. (Issue 1)
- The EC, through DG Research should finance the further development of the INTERACTS tool-kit on participatory workshops. The tool-kit should be developed further and promoted as support for the local and regional dialogue about visions and strategies for cooperation between science and civil society. (Issue 1)
- The EC, through DG Education and Culture should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on the coordination of their policies on higher education to include community based learning in the curricula. (Issue 2)
- The EC, through DG Research should fund research on how university research and curricula can be restructured to incorporate more community-based learning and research. (Issue 2 and 3)
- The EC should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on their policies for the role of experience with community-based teaching and research as part of the criteria for tenure and promotion at universities and research institutions. (Issue 2 and 3)

- The EC, through DG Research should encourage Open Coordination between member states and accession countries on their policies for community-based research. (Issue 3)
- National and international criteria for research excellence should include co-operation with civil society. New forms of quality evaluation in science and research need to be developed to ensure best practice for participatory and/or civil society-oriented science and research, which guarantee inter-subjectivity and transparency. (Issue 3)
- The EC, through DG Research, should demand that future Framework Programmes have a strategy for considering how civil society organisations as stakeholders in research can give input into programme design, and where appropriate, participate in projects. This demand is compatible with the current demand for gender mainstreaming within projects. (Issue 3)
- The EC, through DG Research should increase its funding for research on governance in science and technology and other related areas, including the role of civil society organisations and Science Shops. (Issue 3)
- The EC should start the process towards a Communication from the European Commission drawing attention towards the importance of research dedicated to civil society concerns and the role science shops and similar intermediaries and research institutes can play herein. (Issue 3)
- The EC should explore the potential for financing scientific research support from the structural funds for regional development such that NGOs in underdeveloped regions could access funding for knowledge transfer, to be supplied by Science Shops. (Issue 4)
- The EC should issue guidelines that explain the potential role of Science Shops in regional development through their partnerships with universities and the NGO sector. (Issue 4)

6.7.5 Policy recommendations for Science Shops and their networks

- Science Shops should consider a demand based as well as a supply based approach in their co-operation with NGOs. (Issue 1)
- Science Shops should make use of national networks (where these exist) and the international 'Living Knowledge' network, which currently is supported by the EC via the ISSNET project. Through networking Science Shops should exchange experiences about the impact of Science Shop projects on societal governance. (Issue 1)
- Science Shops should take steps to ensure that the knowledge gained from partnering with NGOs on projects is accessible to the wider public, through edited publication of reports in print or electronically, while respecting confidentiality of information. This activity should be funded as part of the core functions of Science Shops. (Issue 1)
- Science Shops should regularly evaluate their range of services in relation to NGO needs. This activity should be funded as part of the core functions of Science Shops. (Issue 1)
- Science Shops should seek to contribute to university curricula through the introduction of and support for experiential learning based on Science Shop projects and through the introduction of new scientific fields in the curricula based on experience from Science Shop projects. (Issue 2)
- Science Shops should through their national and international networking exchange experiences over their contribution to university curricula. (Issue 2)
- The international Science Shop network should consider developing a peer-reviewed journal of community based research for dissemination of experiences from Science Shop research. (Issue 3)
- Science Shops should through their national and international networking exchange experiences regarding contribution to research agendas and methodologies at local, national and international level. (Issue 3)
- Regional and national associations of Science Shops should be created in each of the member states and accession countries to support, publicise and act as pressure groups for opportunities in community-university partnerships to become more

visible and more integrated into regional social, economic and environmental development. (Issue 4)

- Science Shops should through their national and international networking exchange experience on strategies for obtaining impact at regional and national level. The journal Living Knowledge should be used as one of the tools in creating visibility and cooperation. (Issue 4)
- Science Shops should take a lead in providing training for small to medium NGOs in research appreciation and participatory methods, in addition to carrying out research projects, as part of the process of building capacity and social capital in the voluntary and community sectors of civil society, where voluntary and community sector stakeholders lack research skills. (Issue 4)

6.7.6 Overview of models for funding of Science Shops

Science Shops can be organised as community-based or university-based Science Shops and the funding can be obtained in different ways, which are summarised here. Several of the models might be combined for any one Science Shop:

Full funding by university:

The universities provide direct financial support for Science Shops, which is the most readily sustainable model. The Science Shop staff can be dedicated Science Shop staff or can be scientific staff, who are conducting part of their teaching and research in the Science Shop. The research projects with NGOs are carried out by students for free as part of their education, by the supervisors as part of their ordinary work or by the Science Shop staff.

Part-funding by university:

Where universities are unable to finance the full cost of a Science Shop, there is sometimes the possibility of part-funding, by attracting external funding from government or European programmes or private and charitable grants. If the external funding covers concrete projects, overheads from such funding might be able to finance part of the day-to-day operation. Such funding arrangements are inherently less stable, and require Science Shop staff to devote part of their time to fund-raising. University management needs to be aware of the existence of Science Shops and their potential and include them in university-led bidding procedures and proposals.

Social entrepreneurship:

Some Science Shops, particularly those independent of universities, act as social entrepreneurs supporting socially beneficial research activity with NGOs through staff conducting profitable research or other activities with organisations and funding agencies which can pay market costs. This model could also be developed in universities, with Science Shops being part of research centres, where again profits from research conducted on a commercial basis are used to support the socially beneficial scientific research of Science Shops and the day-to-day work operation of the Science Shop.

Co-funding with NGOs for research and evaluation:

Science Shops could be involved with NGOs when the latter are making application for funding by having Science Shop research written in to the bid to provide evidence on monitoring and evaluation of services. For funders this would ensure an independent scientific assessment as part of the bid, which may work out to be less expensive than a fully commercial research and evaluation service. This model is most likely to develop when there is a long-term relationship between a Science Shop and a specific NGO.

Studentships and research grants:

A further model would provide dedicated studentships and grants for Masters and Doctoral level students or researchers in Science Shops, who would then choose the most scientifically relevant issues to research. If this model could be supplemented with basic funding for the day-to-day work in a Science Shop it could in the case of PhD studentships enable sustained research in one area over a period of years.

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