



Project no. SAS6-013654

TRAMS

Training and mentoring of Science Shops

Coordination Action

Final publishable report

Period covered: 1 May 2005 to 1 May 2008

Start date of project: 1 May 2005

Duration: 36 months

Project coordinator: Caspar de Bok

Organisation: Utrecht University

Introduction

The EC-project TRAMS (SAS6-013654) has been commenced on May 1, 2005 and ended on 1 May 2008. TRAMS was funded under the Science and Society call on 'Governance, scientific advice, outreach and communication', (call 4.3.4.1, 2004).

TRAMS developed specific structural services for the International Science Shop Network Living Knowledge. In this way the co-ordination actions in TRAMS contribute to the goals of the network. The training and mentoring activities that have been developed in TRAMS fulfil an expressed need, and provide a benefit for civil society, through the activities of the Science Shops and other Community-Based Research organisations involved in the Living Knowledge network.

After the pilot activities and development of materials in TRAMS these tools for support are published and available for free use for the members of the open network Living Knowledge.

The main objectives of TRAMS are to:

- 1) encourage the development of emergent science shops through the provision of training and mentoring support
- 2) support the ongoing professional development of existing science shops and similar organisations through the sharing of training materials and the experiences from daily practices to update professional development.

In TRAMS the development of innovative practices in science shops is encouraged, through a customised training programme toolbox and appropriate partnering and exchange (mentoring) among members of Living Knowledge. TRAMS focused on both sides (users and suppliers) in training and mentoring, because both groups are important stakeholders in the project. This allowed the project to have a direct input on the needs for training and mentoring and on the available tools and expertise. The users in TRAMS were the pilot group of the mentoring and training activities.

The work packages of TRAMS focussed on:

- 1) Mentoring,
- 2) Training materials
- 3) E-modules
- 4) Dissemination of results

TRAMS Consortium

- 1) Science Shop for Biology, Utrecht University, the Netherlands (**)
- 2) Chemistry Science Shop, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, the Netherlands (*)
- 3) InterMediu Information, Consultancy and ODL Department, Gh. Asachi Technical University, Iași, Romania (*)
- 4) Interchange, University of Liverpool, UK (*)
- 5) Institut FBI, Innsbruck, Austria (*)
- 6) Bonn Science Shop, Germany (*)
- 7) Science Shop, Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark (*)
- 8) Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, Paris, France
- 9) Boutique de Sciences ENS Cachan, Paris, France
- 10) TIMCED InterMediu, Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești, Romania (*)
- 11) Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas, Basilika Boyton, Crete, Greece
- 12) CREA, University of Barcelona, Spain
- 13) Science Shop Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- 14) INTERMEDIUNET ROMANIA, Brasov, Romania
- 15) Technical University Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 16) Science Shop for Medicines, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey
- 17) Baltic Institute of Social Sciences (BISS), Riga, Latvia
- 18) Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tallinn Technical University, Estonia

(**): project coordinator and 'supplier'
(*): supplier

Major achievements of the project

The focus in the first year of TRAMS was on the mentoring programme and the training materials. In the last year of TRAMS the focus was on publication and dissemination of training materials and finalising the mentoring. All training materials, instructions and publications are available at the website of the International Science Shop Network Living Knowledge, www.livingknowledge.org. At the website the training materials (including e-modules and a database with training materials) are available in Science Shop Toolbox.

Already before the end of the project it became clear the project already succeeded to encourage the development of emergent science shops. New Science Shops, also outside the TRAMS consortium started and there was an ongoing request for information and support to start a Science Shop. The TRAMS consortium introduced

the Science Shop Summer School model to facilitate as many requests as possible in an efficient and effective way.

TRAMS activities

Mentoring

The TRAMS consortium was a mixture of representatives of experienced Science Shops (suppliers) and of new initiatives (users). All users organised a mentoring visit of a member of an experienced science shop (a supplier) to discuss options to establish a science shop.

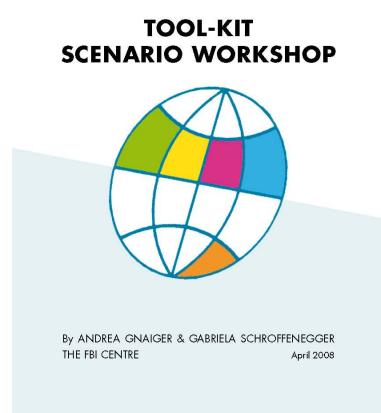


Figure 3: Mentoring at CREA Barcelona, April 2007

Scenario Workshop

In April 2006 the TRAMS consortium met and discussed the Scenario Workshop concept as an instrument to discuss perspectives for a Science Shop at places and/or organisations that don't have a Science Shop yet. This workshop resulted in the Tool-kit Scenario Workshop. This publication is available in the Science Shop Toolbox at the Living Knowledge website.

TRAMS – Training and Mentoring of Science Shops



Summer Schools

In order to give optimal response to mentoring requests from non-TRAMS partners, a Science Shop Summer School has been organised. The Introductory workshop that had been organised for the TRAMS (work package 1) has been the basis for the Summer School. The summer school offered the opportunity to bring together representatives of emergent science shops to discuss the background and concept of science shops as well as a wide range of operational options.

The 1st summer school, in Utrecht, was a big success in our view. From 22-25 August 2006, 34 participants from 13 countries all over the world, including China, Japan, New Zealand and USA participated in the four-days summer school.



1st Science Shop Summer School participants, 2006

All summer school participants intended to start a Science Shop in their country. During the Summer School the participants have been informed about the different models for Science Shops, their working methods and contexts. "Science Shops are like a Goulash", said a colleague who recently established the first Science Shop in Hungary (www.scienceshop.hu). "They are always different, depending on the ingredients, but the product is the same!"

Because of the success and the ongoing requests for support and information a condensed version of the summer school was organised as pre-conference at the 3rd Living Knowledge in Paris in August 2007. (www.livingknowledge.org/lk3)



2nd Science Shop Summer School, 2007

Training materials

Suppliers collected documented training materials and instructions for the compilation of a draft toolbox. Not all documents were available in English. Some relevant documents have been translated.



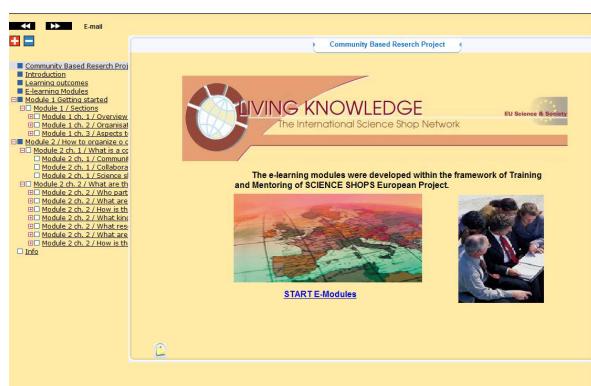
The draft version of the toolbox has been discussed at a workshop with suppliers and users in Liverpool (October 2006). The final version of the toolbox is published as a database in the Science Shop Toolbox on the Living Knowledge website

Advanced Training Workshop, Liverpool, October 2006

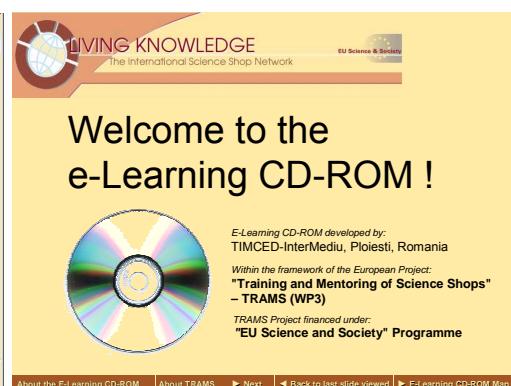
E-modules

Based on the results of the Advanced Training Workshop in Liverpool and ongoing feedback from the members of the TRAMS consortium two e-module have been developed 'Getting started' and 'How to organise a community-based research project'. The E-modules are accessible via Science Shop Toolbox at the Living Knowledge website

For off line training use an interactive e-Learning CD-ROM has been produced.



Start page for the E-modules

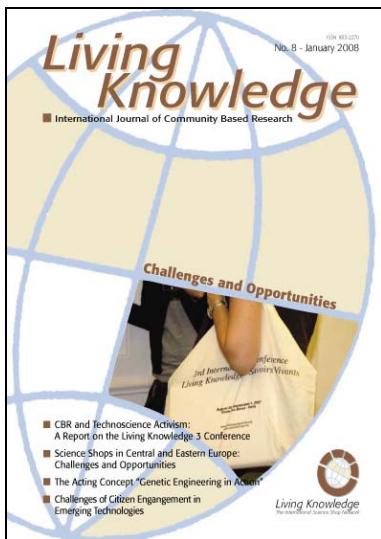


Interactive E-learning CD-ROM

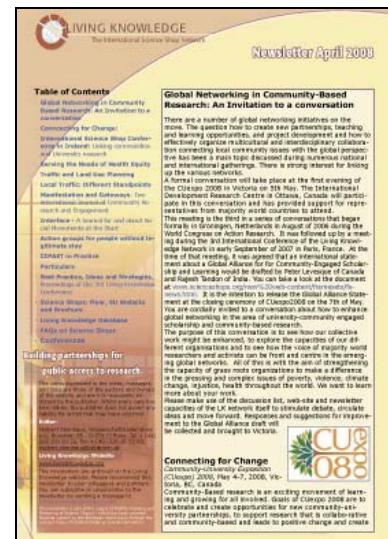
Dissemination

All TRAMS products (see above) are published at the Living Knowledge website. Apart from these products articles and presentations are published at the website

The International Science Shop Contact Point clearly functioned as an intermediary between Science Shops and alike organisations. The Contact Point, the Living Knowledge website, the Living Knowledge listserv and the Living Knowledge Newsletter functioned as a hub for sharing of information. The listserv, website and newsletter have been used for general announcements of TRAMS activities like the Science Shop summer school, as well as the Living Knowledge conference and information on open calls for proposals that are relevant for Science Shops.



Living Knowledge Magazine, January 2008
'Challenges and Opportunities' (cover)



Living Knowledge Newsletter,
April 2008 (page 1 of 5)

In January 2008, 3500 copies of the Living Knowledge magazine have been printed. Copies have been distributed in more than 50 countries worldwide.

3rd Living Knowledge conference

The 3rd Living Knowledge conference in Paris (August 30 – September 1, 2007), organised with several TRAMS partners, was a major forum to discuss and disseminate TRAMS activities (see www.livingknowledge.org/lk3).

The conference offered a unique opportunity for researchers, policy-makers and practitioners in community based research to share their experiences and build or foster networks for approaching citizens' participation in science.

More than 330 people from more than 50 countries joined one or more of the 18 sessions, with nearly 100 oral presentations, and explored the more than 30 posters, watched the videos, and discussed at Open space workshops.

Impressions from the 3rd Living Knowledge conference





TRAMS deliverables

All planned deliverables, as described in the TRAMS contract (Annex I, Technical Annex) have been actually delivered.

An overview of deliverables and the planned date of deliverance can be found in the table below.

All public deliverables are available for free download at the Living Knowledge website

Deliverable title
Introductionary workshop and visit
Training on scenario workshops
Scenario workshop training-kit
Mentoring delivered and described
Completed FAQ page on website
Draft Training Toolbox
Advanced Training Workshop
Draft Database
Training Toolbox
E-modules
E-learning Webpage
Interactive CD Rom
Science Shop summer school
Guideline for Science Shop summer schools
Newsletter
Magazine
PR tools
Publication of training toolkit and handbook
Training programme database
Regional workshops

TRAMS in conclusion

Through the project TRAMS new Science Shops have been established. These new Science Shops either have been developed as new institutions inside or outside universities or have been set up as new activities within existing organisations.

TRAMS also gave relevant input to the International Science Shop Network Living Knowledge. It provided the members of the network with relevant new training materials and documentation and it stimulated new joint activities of members of the open network Living Knowledge. Through the Living Knowledge network new joint initiatives have been developed, some of which have been successfully submitted as proposals in EU calls for proposals. With 67 proposals, of which 24 were evaluated above threshold, the pilot EC call for proposals FP6-2005-Science-and-society-20 clearly showed the relevant and qualitative good activities in the Science Shop network.

TRAMS definitely met its aims because:

- through the training and mentoring activities in TRAMS, organisations have been encouraged to initiate Science Shop activities.
- through the dissemination of the training and mentoring activities and materials there is information on good practices to support ongoing professional development of existing science shops and similar organisations as well as for new initiatives.

TRAMS Final plan for using and disseminating the knowledge

A specific work package (WP4) was dedicated to the dissemination of the results, materials and knowledge generated by the project.

During the project period the International Science Shop Contact Point clearly functioned as an intermediary between Science Shops and alike organisations. The International Science Shop Contact Point, the Living Knowledge website, the Living Knowledge listserv and the Living Knowledge Newsletter functioned as a hub for sharing of information. The listserv, website and newsletter have been used for general announcements of TRAMS activities like the Science Shop summer school.

Contacts have been established with other networks (e.g. INES) and projects (e.g. CIPAST, EFSUPS). TRAMS has been a major input for the establishment of the Global Alliance on Community Engaged Research (GACER). The International Science Shop Contact Point became the contact point for this international initiative from community networks worldwide. GACER was established at the CUExpo 2008 that was held in Victoria (BC, Canada).

The 3rd Living Knowledge conference in Paris in August 2007 was a major forum to discuss and disseminate TRAMS activities (see www.livingknowledge.org/lk3). The general TRAMS coordinator and the work package coordinator were members of the international organisation committee of the conference. Thus the conference was used as a dissemination forum for TRAMS, e.g. by having a pre-conference following the model of the Science Shop summer school that was developed in TRAMS.

In order to guarantee optimal availability of all information generated by the TRAMS project, all training materials, instructions and publications are available for free at the website of the International Science Shop Network Living Knowledge, www.livingknowledge.org. At the website the training materials (including e-modules and a database with training materials) are available in Science Shop Toolbox.

The project results and the availability Science Shop Toolbox has been communicated at different forums like the Living Knowledge email listserv, and the Living Knowledge newsletter and through the networks that are linked via GACER.

The concept of Science Shop Summer Schools will be continued at the 4th Living Knowledge conference 'Engaged Communities, Engaged Universities: Developing policy and practice in participatory research' that will be held in Belfast from 27 – 29 August 2009, see www.livingknowledge2009.org