Open Science International Staff Week UC3M

The interest of science shops for universities: The case of the UC3M-INAEcu Science Shop

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There are different ways of conducting science: TRADITIONAL SCIENCE and CITIZEN SCIENCE

**PERSPECTIVE: Traditional science**

- The researchers **define** the topic to study
- Citizens **do NOT participate** in the knowledge production process
- The scientific findings reach the citizens by **the dissemination process** (they are passive actors)
- The community **has little chance** of interaction with researchers
- Science **FOR** society
PERSPECTIVE: Citizen science

Citizens can participate in all stages of the research project

In this new perspective, the university can play an important role, because it can interact with citizens within its missions: teaching, research and knowledge transfer activities.

This new vision of research will allow the empowerment of citizens

Science WITH AND FOR society (SWAFS)
Within the Citizen Science perspective, the Science Shops promote the relationship between researchers and citizens. A Science Shop provides independent, participatory research support in response to concerns experienced by civil society.

(Living Knowledge- International Science Shop Network)
Since the first science shop, which emerged in the Netherlands in the 70s, many others have been created worldwide later. Europe leads these entities in almost all countries.

In Spain, one of the recent initiatives is the Science-Shop UC3M-INAECU.

Numbers of Science Shop by country
The UC3M-INAECU Science Shop

**SciShops.eu Project** “Enhancing the Responsible and Sustainable Expansion of the Science Shops Ecosystem in Europe”

**European Programme:** Horizonte 2020  
**Call:** H2020-SwafS-2016-1. Participatory research and innovation via Science Shops  
**Duration:** 30 months (2017-2020)  
**Budget:** €2,935,887,50  
**Countries involved:** 13  
**Participating Institutions:** 18

Creation of 10 **new Science Shops**

- Universities
- NGOs
- Research centers
- Enterprises
Direct communication with the citizens.
Forum for discussion.
Know the citizens problems and needs of the local communities.
Promoting the scientific and social recognition.
Offer solutions to the citizens.
Creation of synergies.
Main milestones of UC3M-INAECU Science Shop

2017
Initial phase of the Project “Scishop.eu”

2018
Development of logistic issues

2018
Identification and contact with stakeholders

2018-2019
Problem identification and development of activities

2020...
Search for options for continuity
UC3M-INAECU Science Shop stakeholders

University
- Staff
- Students
- Student associations
- Researchers
- University authorities

Industrial sector

Society
- City councils
- Associations
- Citizens
- Primary and secondary schools

- University
- Researchers
- University authorities
- Society
- City councils
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- Citizens
- Primary and secondary schools
UC3M-INAECEU Science Shop: activities

- Participatory methodologies
- Research projects
- Dissemination activities
Meetings with stakeholders to identify traffic and pollution problems in the urban areas of Getafe (September 2019)
Meeting with various stakeholders to identify problems related to traffic mobility in the municipality of Getafe and discuss proposals/solutions.

April 2019

Meeting with different stakeholders to discuss proposals on the reuse of empty lots in Madrid.

May 2019
Research Projects

EU Projects on Urban Mobility: Getafe Model City

Reuse of empty lots in Madrid (community uses)

Citizen mobility monitoring for urban planning through citizen science initiative
A specific case of problem identification

**Stakeholders involved**
- Citizens
- Local authorities
- Organizations (neighbors, disabled, environmental, etc.)
- Companies
- Technical staff (UC3M)
- Researchers (UC3M)
- NGOs

**Co-creation of knowledge**
(Bottom-up perspective)

**Problem identification**: mobility of citizens in the city of Getafe

**Transformation into a research question**

**Participatory meetings/activities with the different agents involved**

**Solution of the problem**
Dissemination activities

"European Researchers' Night" September (2018)

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Dissemination activities

Training for secondary school teachers (September 2018)

Workshop with high school students "The Challenge of Water" (April 2019)

Workshop in “Youth Speak Forum” (April 2019)
Dissemination activities

Workshop "Evolution of research on citizen science". INAECU Institute, Madrid (May 2018)

Workshop: How does science reach the citizen? INAECU Institute, Madrid (February 2019)
Dissemination activities

Activity with students during Solidarity Week (February 2019)

Info session with experts on traffic mobility (September 2019)
Strengths

• Broad knowledge of the local communities problems
• Close collaboration with municipalities
• Working with topics of interest to communities
• Support of the ‘Scishops.eu’ project
• Motivated work team

Opportunities

• The Matthew Effect (the prestige and recognition of the University)
• Collaboration with more experienced European partners (possibility of mentoring and twinning)

Weaknesses

• Funding until the end of the project
• Difficulty for involving certain stakeholders (lack of recognition)
• Dependence on political factors in the relationship with municipalities

Threats

• Strong dependence on the university facilities
• lack of mid-term financing
Activities in citizen science and especially in science shops can be very useful to strengthen university activities with their local communities.

Science shops are rarely used in Spain for conducting research using the participatory community-based research methodology.

This knowledge generation process must provide a more social and participatory approach to science.

The identification of questions and needs of the local communities is crucial in order to solve the identified problems.
Thanks for your ATTENTION!!