SCIENCE SHOP OF THE UNIVERSITÉ DE LYON

Innovative research with citizens' participation

BOUTIQUE DES SCIENCES
Université de Lyon
THE SCIENCE SHOP PROGRAM:
BUILDING A BRIDGE BETWEEN CITIZENS AND RESEARCH

Local citizens are developing a number of initiatives to respond to a changing society and emerging social and environmental issues. They are setting up organizations and associations to work together, but they may still require specific expertise or knowledge to consolidate initiatives, assess their impact and try out new approaches. Since 2013, the Université de Lyon’s Science Shop program (Boutique des sciences in French) has been supporting such initiatives, by encouraging discussion and collaboration between civil society organizations and the research community.

Building shared knowledge between researchers and civil society

Depending on which issues they are tackling, citizens receive support from researchers who get involved in internships, scientific challenges or group projects bringing together urban studies, sociology, or engineering students, etc. The Science Shop brings these stakeholders together for a co-construction of new knowledge. They develop relevant participatory research projects bringing real-world solutions to issues that affect everyone, in compliance with public policies.

Bringing together local players and the Lyon Saint-Étienne academic site

The Université de Lyon is made up of twelve member institutions and around thirty associated institutions. Its fields of expertise are human and social sciences, chemistry, engineering and digital technology. By matching students and researchers from these varied fields to civil society organizations, the Université de Lyon plays an active role in affirming its social responsibility.

SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CITIZENSHIP

A few examples of topics that have been addressed since 2013: the spread of an invasive plant – helping local inhabitants understand urban planning documents – a study of bee mortality in winter – the use of digital technology by people who have difficulties in reading and writing – supporting people with pathologies of dyslexia - “dys”.

Find all the subjects (in French) on: boutiquedessciences.universite-lyon.fr

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Because the challenges that our society faces concern everybody, we must learn how to combine knowledge gained in an academic setting and the pragmatic approach from citizens’ with field experiences.

By providing a support to innovative projects, the Science Shop gives way to new experimental methodologies of research and training.

THE SCIENCE SHOP PROGRAM: BENEFICIAL FOR ALL PARTNERS INVOLVED!

- **Better-equipped citizens**
  Measuring the impact of initiatives, studying opportunities and a personalized scientific assessment helps stakeholders develop their skills.

- **Students learning new skills**
  Students become more employable by gaining competencies such as autonomy, becoming more open-minded and learning to steer projects involving multiple stakeholders.

- **Researchers and research professors who innovate**
  Discovering concrete case studies leads to research work and courses that keep pace with the real-world socio-economic situation.

QUESTIONS RAISED BY VARIOUS CITIZEN GROUPS

Maison rhodanienne de l’environnement, France Alzheimer Rhône organization, Ocívelo, Scènes de musiques actuelles, neighborhood councils, social centers...

KEY FIGURES SINCE 2013

- 60 organizations and citizen groups received support for their questions
- 170 students from 30 different educational programs involved in projects
- Over 90 researchers working with the program
- The program is funded by 4 European projects
- A multidisciplinary approach supported by a network of over 40 institutions
HOW DO SCIENCE SHOP PROJECTS WORK?

1. Organizations or citizen groups submit their questions to the Science Shop.

2. The questions are assessed, selected and reformulated by the Science Shop’s scientific committee whenever applicable.

3. The Science Shop builds a team of researchers and students and assigns them specific questions to work on.

4. Fieldwork is conducted by all partners through paid student internships or group projects.

5. The knowledge that is produced and the resulting recommendations are disseminated to the general public.