

Introduction

The present volume is the second in the series presenting the recent work and achievements of our science communication workshop to the wide public. The first volume of the TudásTárs series (*A tudománykommunikáció értelme/értéke*, Budapest 2006) was addressed to the Hungarian audience in the first place. It aimed to outline our program, seek a definition of science communication as a discipline and introduce our research team. The present publication represents the international context that Hungarian science communication initiatives are fitted into, and it can be informative to Hungarian as well as foreign readers.

The international models of science communication research have played a stimulating role in the formation of the first Hungarian science communication workshop from the very beginning. The Communication Departments of the University of London or the UCLA in Santa Cruz, the CORDIS and Science Communication programs of the EU as well as the great science communication initiatives all illustrated the finding of our researches with respect to the extension of the functions of scientific operation, namely, that a third actor and activity, equal in rank to that of the experimenting/publishing scientist and the research manager, has emerged in the range of scientific pursuits: the communicator and the communication of science. The publication offers a comparative presentation of this activity, illustrated with examples.

The first chapter comprises the latest writings of our own team, raising theoretical-philosophical (György Fábri), historical (Soma Rédey), and currently most relevant practical (Imre Szebik) issues of science communication, in the authors' respective fields of study.

The themes of the lectures presented in the ENCOMPASS program represent the same variety. ENCOMPASS is a Hungarian example of good practice, which we are pleased to present to other workshops, and which foreign actors of the field are interested in. A special feature of the book is that a study by Tamás Pásztor, Deputy Director General of Magyar Telekom (the leading info-communication company in Hungary and the region) also gives an insight into the logic of the market utilisation of the knowledge brand from the point of view of the company that was among the founders of ENCOMPASS, and provides financial resources and management background to the project. The first part of the second chapter introduces the content of this initiative, and the selection of abstracts in the second part of the chapter gives an overview of the variety of themes covered by the lectures, demonstrating that a wide range of scientific researches and results (some of which are also discussed in the studies included in the present volume) can be presented in an enjoyable form that is easy to understand.

Some of the researches launched and still going on in our workshop have covered the themes arising at the World Science Forum Budapest conference series. A call for essays was also linked to WSF, and a great number of studies have been submitted. In the present volume we publish the three studies that were granted the awards of the WSF jury (writings by Kevin Yana Njabo, Eliseo Lucero-Prisno and Guadalupe Soria).

The Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture of the Graz University has dealt with science communication for a longer period, and a large scale international conference was organised recently, in May 2006, involving the members of our working team. In the fourth chapter we included a selection of writings presented here (Balázs Kőszeghy, Philipp Späth, Nicoleta Chioncel and Harald Rohrachner). Themes that were raised here (alternative energy resources, the role of women in science, technology for science, etc., as well as the WSF essays on brain drain, ethics in science or knowledge society) provide an overview of the themes of science communication.

The present volume is an adequate conclusion of the 2006 phase of our science communication program, supported by the Jedlik Ányos Program of the National Office for Research and Technology. With the success of the final international conference of the project and the Hungarian publication summing its achievements, we cordially recommend this volume to the attention of our readers!