



BOUTIQUE DES SCIENCES

UNIVERSITÉ DE LYON



*The Science Shop of Université de Lyon addresses general-interest, **citizen-raised** questions by mobilizing **students** and **researchers** in the elaboration of concrete answers.*

boutiquedessciences.universite-lyon.fr

“ A science shop provides independent support to research in response to a society-expressed need ”

HENK A.J. MULDER,
Coordinator of the PERARES
European Project and Director of
the Science Shop of the University
of Groningen (the Netherlands).



A SCIENCE SHOP IN LYON - SAINT-ETIENNE

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE SHOP?

Boutique des sciences, the Science Shop of Lyon Saint-Etienne, is an initiative of the Université de Lyon to bring together the research world and civil society. It allows Civil Society Organizations-CSOs (associations, neighbourhood councils, patient association, non-governmental organizations...) to benefit from the expertise of a scientific team (Master's-level students supervised by researchers) to seek a solution to their societal problems, notably related to health and the environment.

This service is part of the Avenir Lyon Saint-Étienne Programme (PALSE) and was supported by the PERARES (Public Engagement with Research and Research Engagement with Society) European Project. It is also a member of the international science shop network: Living Knowledge.

HOW DOES IT FUNCTION?

- * *At any time:* Citizen groups can submit their problems via our online form.
- * *At the start of the next academic year:* The questions are examined and selected by a scientific committee.
- * *October to January:* If the subject is chosen, the Science Shop prepares the corresponding project (publishing the internship offer, selecting the student and identifying the accompanying researcher).
- * *From January to July:* The field study is collectively carried out by all partners.
- * *September:* The results and recommendations are presented to the association.

WHAT ARE ITS OBJECTIVES?

Following the six months of research carried out by all three parties (the CSO, the student and the researcher), the results are presented via an illustrated report. This report is presented to the association during an in-the-field feedback session. This open encounter allows for sharing and discussion among the various project partners and all other concerned parties (cultural and social players, local authorities, neighbours, etc.). Finally, the document is made available to the general public via the Boutique des sciences website.

FOR ASSOCIATIONS



HOW YOU BENEFIT FROM THIS PROJECT ?

As a not-for-profit structure, Boutique des sciences brings you into contact with one or several students of Université de Lyon and a researcher, who together will carry out with you a study focusing on your particular problem. This collaborative research work will produce scientifically-validated elements to constitute a «reservoir of knowledge» applicable within a diversity of contexts. It also serves as an opportunity for your structure to strengthen its analytical capacities.



“Due to the silting up of the Rize River, the water rises and floods our gardens. We needed help in finding solutions. I was afraid that involving a researcher would prove unwelcome. But as samples of water and soil were taken, the gardeners felt useful and became familiar with the students and the researcher.”

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION?

Your question – an as yet under-documented problem, without any direct commercial or political aim – must be of general interest to society. If your issue is selected by the Boutique des sciences team, it is then collaboratively reformulated into an internship and research subject, for the following step consists of recruiting a student from a relevant Higher education institution and mobilizing his or her supervising researcher. Together, you will construct a concrete answer or solution for your question.

Submit your question via our website:

boutiquedessciences.universite-lyon.fr

VAROUJAN SARKISSIAN,
«Villeurbanne Society
of Labourers' Gardens»,
association involved in the
pilot project: «Researchers
in the Garden».

FOR STUDENTS



WHY GET INVOLVED?

Boutique des sciences offers you the opportunity to complement your in-class training with work carried out in-the-field that is concrete and useful. It provides the ideal context for putting into practice your knowledge to benefit a not-for-profit CSO and to help it find scientific solutions for its problems. The internship subjects that are offered you have been reformulated by a scientific committee assessing their feasibility and their scientific prospects and potential. Over a period of six months, you gather together knowledge applicable to this structure and develop specific competences and expertise in collaboration with students from other disciplines.

IN PRACTICE, HOW DOES IT WORK?

You must be enrolled in a training programme at an institution of higher education and research participating in the PALSE programme, in either the exact sciences or the social sciences. At the start of the academic year, Boutique des sciences offers internships for which you may apply. If you are selected, you will carry out in-the-field research over a period of four to six months, in collaboration with the citizen group and accompanied by a researcher. This internship is part of your university training and allows you to earn ECTS credits.

“During my studies, I sometimes found it difficult to identify the concrete interest of what I was doing. With this internship, I’ll be able to share with the general public the thoughts and considerations that I’ve developed over four years. And also develop a certain environmental expertise. It’s a way of entering the working world.”



TSILIA POUSSIN,
Professional Master 2 student
in Local Development Sociology
at Université Lumière Lyon
2, participating in a study
of the Maison Rhodanienne
de l’Environnement («Rhône
Environmental Centre»).

FOR RESEARCHERS



WHY PARTICIPATE?

Boutique des sciences gathers together research subjects originating from questions raised by civil society. Only subjects of real general interest and promising research potential are selected.

Boutique des science invites you to put your knowledge to use within a community-based, participatory context, and to become involved in quality research based on case studies. It's an opportunity for you to explore occasionally neglected fields of research, to pursue an interdisciplinary approach to your work, and to contribute to the visibility of your laboratory and field of study at both the local and national levels.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

Acting as a scientific supervisor in a Boutique des sciences project means sharing your expertise with students, which can prove decisive, especially at the start of the project: subject orientation, problem elaboration, identifying the current state of knowledge, choosing the methodology, etc.

This accompaniment complements the internship's more «traditional» supervision, ensured on the one hand by the teaching tutor and on the other hand by an internship director chosen from the Boutique des sciences team.

In concrete terms, your role as a scientific supervisor requires you to commit a minimum of 20 hours stretched out over the entire project and to ensure the scientific quality of the results obtained.



GUY LE HENAFF,
researcher at IRSTEA (French National
Research Institute of Science and Technology
for Environment and Agriculture) and a
supervisor for the pilot project: «Researchers
in the Garden»

“We made the journey together, the student and I, with each of us contributing something. I explored the peri-urban environment, with which I was unfamiliar. The project in which I participated was of both scientific and social interest, and in line with my personal and professional convictions. It allowed me to build a network, giving birth to new collaborations”

FOR COMMUNITIES



WHY SUPPORT THE SCIENCE SHOP?

Boutique des sciences builds a bridge between research based on theoretical knowledge and community-based associations confronted with concrete health and environmental problems. It lends voice to an organized civil society. It grants a scientific team the opportunity to pursue a mission of general public interest liable of influencing the local societal debate.

THE REGIONAL IMPACT

Boutique des sciences opens a dialogue on problems shared by citizens, by generating knowledge produced by studies and research jointly carried out by diverse regional players (citizen groups, students and researchers).

Member of the Living Knowledge network, which gathers together some one hundred science shops around the world (Europe, Canada, etc.), Boutique des sciences strengthens the international influence of the universities, grandes écoles and citizen associations, as well as the research, of the Lyon Saint-Etienne area. The scientific resources that it generates within a local context are thereby made available to other regions.



“The various players start from a shared problem and jointly generate knowledge which is acceptable to all parties. While not sharing the same interest, the scientist and the local player will be able to cohabit within the dialogue centred on the question raised”

CHRISTINE AUDOUX,
sociologist at LISE («Interdisciplinary
Laboratory of Economic Sociology») –
CNAM-CNRS.



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