An allocation model for Science Communication

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Flemish Science Shops are embedded in Science Communication and financially supported by the Flemish Government. As of 2008, a new model for financing science communication in higher education – involving more partners- has to be developed. Therefore, a primarily discussion of an allocation model had to be conducted.

However, before starting to create an allocation model, we need to have a clear view of the concept of science communication. Which activities belong to science communication and how are science shops imbedded?

We present a model consisting of 3 parts. To guarantee a minimum of service, a fix basis is needed. This basis has to be completed with volume dependent and volume independent parameters. Volume dependent parameters, like number of students, are very popular which governments and large institutions. Numbers are easy to count and particular in advantage of the larger parties. On the contrary, volume independent parameters are mostly derived from the assignment given by the government and closely related to the content. When volume dependent parameters reward quantity without having an explicit link with science communication, volume independent parameters reward content and efforts related to science communication.

An ideal model should guarantee stability and a minimum of influence of economical and political fluctuation. Stability for its part can reassure continuity; the same amount of money one can count upon.

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