



Managing Knowledge and Skills for Development

by Sylvia Brunold, LBL

SDC will organise a «Dare to Share Fair» in its premises at Ausserholligen/Berne on March 30-31, 2004. 200 to 300 persons from SDC and SDC partner organisations in the South, the East and the North will share the *ways they learn from experience*. In a Final Event on April 2, 2004, SDC will share and discuss the results of the Fair with an interested public for a better contribution of knowledge and skills to development.

The Dare to Share Fair is a multi-faceted event

The Dare to Share Fair aims to expose and share information, concepts, success stories, visions, contacts and thus to start promising new interactions. The Dare to Share Fair aims at creating favourable conditions for interaction and exchange. It invites the participants to creative and enriching interaction in a multitude of forms. Both, structured meetings, such as workshops, presentations and exhibitions as well as informal encounters, such as market stalls and talks, open space and crazy corners are all part of the Dare to Share Fair. One of the main effects of the dare to share fair however is expected to be a multitude of new and useful contacts among the participants and between the participants and SDC staff on the challenge of knowledge and skills management. As with previous dare to share fairs these contacts tend to create new follow-ups.

GTZ 1996 und DGIS 1999

“A Dare to Share Fair is an event, lasting one or two days, aiming at creating favourable conditions for interaction and exchange. The method has been applied by GTZ in Eschborn and DGIS in Den Haag with great satisfaction for the participants and the organisers. GTZ in 1996 and a Consortium of the Netherlands (DGIS, SNV, FMD, ETC) in 1999 organised a Dare to Share Fair with the title «Participatory Development Approaches». Participants from various places gathered and shared their experience. These two events have both been a success. Not only the sharing of experience among the participants has been an enriching event; also the unplanned encounters between participants and the members of the hosting organisation (GTZ, Dutch Ministry) created a lot of contacts and new insights.”

The focal point is managing knowledge and skills for development

The theme of the fair will be “Managing Knowledge and Skills for Development” with a focus on identifying successful approaches. Core question will be: “Which approaches to managing knowledge and skills for development are particularly successful for what purpose and under what conditions?”

Managing knowledge and skills for development is a challenge at all levels of development activities – for individuals or institutions, at the periphery or in a centre. Four points of focus might be specially attractive:

- How does your institution manage knowledge and knowledgeable people in order to increase its competency to tackle emerging challenges?
- What skills are essential? What instruments and processes are most effective?
- What values and what attitudes are prerequisites for effective knowledge management?
- How do we design networks that organisations and individuals can interact successfully?

The expected benefit

The main benefit for the participants will be:

- reflecting and capitalising experience in managing knowledge and skills for development
- identifying best practices in managing knowledge and skills for development (concepts and examples)
- designing new forms of managing knowledge and skills for development.
- exploring new links and networks for future reference and collaboration.

The main benefit for the organisers will be:

- a common concern in reflecting and capitalising experience
- a basis for a community approach in managing knowledge and skills for development
- new contacts and new partners for improving the own knowledge and skills management.

Active and interested participants from SDC and its partner organisations

Organisations invited to the Dare to Share Fair are SDC partner organisations in the South and East, Swiss development organisations and reference centres, donor institutions and of course SDC itself (Headquarters, COOFs and projects). The Dare to Share Fair concerns all persons who deal with programmes and projects, be it by planning, monitoring, controlling, evaluating or persons who work on the backstage busy with reflecting development programmes and approaches and developing new strategies. All people faced with the challenge of linking up and exchanging with other

actors in order to learn from ongoing efforts for the design of future activities. The Dare to Share Fair depends on active participants prepared to present their own experience in an attractive and conclusive form. It depends as well on visiting participants interested in learning from others. The interaction of both will animate the atmosphere of the fair.

The strengths of a dare to share fair are the big number of people being confronted with a mass of ideas, concepts, experience, various ways of documentation, all the persons being involved in a multitude of discussions and contacts – and all this around a key topic concerning the actors of the development scene.

Are you interested?

We are interested in your experience in managing knowledge and skills. We are interested in your stories and examples of your success in knowledge management!

*We present our experience –
you present your experience.*

We get new insights – you get new insights.

We win – you win. We both win.

You will find more information about the Dare to Share Fair and the procedure for participation on our web site <http://www.daretoshare.ch> or by direct mail contact eza@lbl.ch