

Intensive Programme 'Well-being and Economic Growth' – 2014 Edition

From:

University college Karel de Grote in cooperation with University colleges Leuven-Limburg and foreign partners

Faculty/Department/Programme/External partners:

Department of Socio-Educational Care Work in cooperation with Department of Commercial Sciences and Business Administration

Abstract:

During 10 days participants from socio-educational care work and business studies in Flanders and other European countries (Sweden, Spain, Bulgaria, Finland and Germany) take part in a training programme sponsored by the EU. The subject is the relation between Well-being and Welfare. The multicultural and multidisciplinary working groups guarantee a fascinating programme with the following key ingredients: creating images of the future, drawing up action plans and formulating policy recommendations. All of this in relation to an alternative scenario for an economic model that is based on continuous growth.

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<http://www.wellbeinggrowth.eu/>

Description:

The 'Intensive Programme Well-being and Economic Growth' focuses on the relationship between well-being and welfare. Third year Social Work Bachelor's students and lecturers learn, discuss and work with Business Administration students and lecturers. The students originate from Flanders as well as from other European countries: Sweden, Spain, Bulgaria, Finland and Germany.

After a number of introductory **theoretical sessions** students and lecturers are challenged to find new perspectives with regard to the relationship between well-being and welfare. In the current climate of economic crisis, overpopulation, depletion of natural resources and ecological crisis, there is a growing realisation that an economic model based on continuous growth is no longer achievable nor desirable. But what is the alternative?

Multidisciplinary and multicultural working groups create stories for the future ('Envisioning' or 'Leitbilder') in the field of:

- Money and Society
- Multicultural Society
- North-South Relations and Development
- Role of the Commons
- Social Identity and Consumption
- Social Role of Working
- Society Model for Allocation
- Urban and Rural Development

On the basis of these stories of the future, the working groups formulate steps for innovative actions between the present and 2030. This is laid down in an **action plan** with goals, a description of how stakeholders can be engaged and empowered, concrete actions and identified success factors to achieve the 'Leitbild'. The action plan is translated into a presentation and a report.

On the basis of the action plan the working groups also formulate **policy recommendations** and define the role of and impact on social work and the role of and impact on business/management/financial advisers to achieve this 'Leitbild'. Participants also reflect on their own contribution to the future.