

## Interdisciplinary Assessment Project, Topic 2012: 'Sustainable Production and Work Station Optimisation' and Topic 2013 'Sustainable Use of Natural Resources'

### Organising institution:

KU Leuven

### Faculty/Department/Programme/External partners:

Environment, Health and Safety Management and Commercial Engineering at the Faculty of Economics and Business of KU Leuven in Brussels and Business of KU Leuven in Brussels

### Abstract:

Students with a different background and expertise try to solve a real business case together. In this way the project meets the needs of the business community where interdisciplinary problem-solving skills are increasingly regarded as a basic competence for new employees.

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### Website:

[http://onderwijsaanbod.kuleuven.be/syllabi/n/HMN21AN.htm#activetab=doelstellingen\\_idm17998656](http://onderwijsaanbod.kuleuven.be/syllabi/n/HMN21AN.htm#activetab=doelstellingen_idm17998656)

### Description:

The Interdisciplinary Assessment Project (IAP) is a course in the Master's programmes Environment, Health and Safety Management and Commercial Engineering at the Faculty of Economics and Business of KU Leuven in Brussels and in the Master's programme Industrial Sciences at the Faculty of Engineering Technology of KU Leuven in Ghent. Via Agoria Vlaanderen, which is the sectoral federation of the technology industry and a permanent partner in the IAP, some 15 technology companies are cooperated with each year.

The aim of the IAP is to have students with a different background and expertise solve a real business case together. In this way the project meets the needs of the business community where interdisciplinary problem-solving skills are increasingly regarded as a basic competence for new employees. The students work in interdisciplinary teams for one of the partner companies to formulate a set of recommendations in terms of technical feasibility, economic turnover and sustainability for a real problem. Both the problem and the approach and advisory opinions are intrinsically interdisciplinary within the IAP. Each year, a different topic is chosen. In 2012, the project theme was 'Sustainable Production and Work Station Optimisation'. In 2013, projects were developed around 'Sustainable Use of Natural Resources'. Each topic challenges students from different disciplines, is an actual problem within the business community and requires an interdisciplinary approach and solution.

A number of core objectives of the project:

- The students work in interdisciplinary teams in companies around a current topic.
- The students are able to transcend the boundaries of their own disciplines and find solutions together with their team which reveal an interdisciplinary approach.
- The students are able to formulate recommendations for one or more business problems that encompass elements of economy, technology and sustainability.