

Learning Network Economic and Business Studies

Organising institution:

Ecocampus, a project of the Government of Flanders
Department of Environment, Nature and Energy

Faculty/Department/Programme/External partners:

Ingrid Molderez, the Head of the Research Centre for Economics and Corporate Sustainability (CEDON), KU Leuven @HUBrussel, is the president. Other partners are involved in view of the themes of the sessions (for instance, Coopkracht, Coopburo, ThinkCORE and the Department of Work and Social Economy were involved in a session on cooperative enterprise).

Abstract:

These sessions for and by professors and lecturers from the Flemish economic programmes are aimed at discussing the relationship between sustainable development and economy and at introducing to the teaching practice a concrete and tangible translation of the conceptual frameworks, cases and methodologies regarding SD.

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Description:

Objective:

To discuss the relationship between sustainable development and economy and to introduce to the teaching practice a concrete and tangible translation education for sustainable development.

Actions, two examples:

1. On 3 June 2014, Ecocampus restarted the learning network Economy and Business Studies with a first session on cooperative enterprise as business model for sustainable development. Keynotes were given by Coopburo, Febecoop and ThinkCORE. Afterwards, the participants, around 20 people, entered into discussions. The participants learned how cooperative enterprise does not necessarily result in sustainable enterprise, but that it does lend itself perfectly as a model for sustainable enterprise. Apart from that, they were also given plenty of practical examples to use in the classroom.
2. In 2015, the learning network was the platform for the development of a new educational tool, called EDGE. The tool helps professors and lecturers to integrate sustainability in their teaching practice, using resource management and circular economy as concrete sustainability challenges.

Results :

The results are very diverse. On the one hand, practical experiences and additional background are exchanged which lecturers can use in the classroom. Plenty of ways are also discussed to translate this into the teaching practice, to actually involve students and to make them think and engage, which goes beyond what 'they have to know for the exam'. Finally, the network creates new instruments that help making education for sustainability a part of economic and business studies

Embedding:

The Learning Network Economic and Business Studies is not structurally embedded, which means that it depends on the voluntary commitment of all parties involved. On the other hand, it is a fully-fledged part of the Sustainable Higher Education process, even more so because the economic side of the SD story is often neglected and themes like (social) innovation, entrepreneurship, green or blue economy, sharing economy, etc. are gaining interest.