

Social Accountability in Practice

Organising institution:

University of Ghent

Faculty/Department/Programme/External partners:

Programmes Medicine, Social Work and Social Welfare, Sociology and Health Promotion

Abstract:

A multidisciplinary project week at University of Ghent

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Jan De Maeseneer:
jan.demaeseneer@Ugent.be

Website:

<http://thenetcommunity.org/>

Related literature:

[See additional annex](#)

Description:

Each year, the Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care of the University of Ghent organises a project week for a multidisciplinary group of students (programmes Medicine, Social Work and Social Welfare, Sociology, Health Promotion). This nicely illustrates the university's social accountability.

During this week students are confronted with families living in poverty. On the basis of this, they

- gather information about a neighbourhood in the 19th century belt in Ghent;
- make a 'community diagnosis';
- look for solutions that are fed back to local stakeholders.

In practice it concerns small teams of students who visit neighbourhood residents and their carers in deprived neighbourhoods. They combine their experiences with public health data to arrive at a community diagnosis. The students are monitored by local physicians and social workers. The ultimate goal is to have students design an (interdisciplinary) intervention for a community health problem. There are, for instance, specific neighbourhoods where a large number of asylum seekers reside who do not even have access to health care. At the end of the project week the students can present their diagnosis and intervention to community workers and policy makers who give feedback about the results.