

Title **Workshop** : 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for social work in the Netherlands

Theme of the conference : curriculum development and the content of social work education for challenging boundaries

Language : English)

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#### Abstract

Major changes are taking place in the social domain in the Netherlands. Responsibility for child and youth care, support for vulnerable people, labour participation and educational support ( to name a few) has shifted to the municipal level. At the same time we move away from the welfare state to wards participation society. A society that promotes a strengths-based approach and encourages citizens to be more in control of their own lives, of their own communities, and eventually of society as a whole. Professionals in the social field need to adapt, so does the education of these professionals...

#### HOW?

This workshop will address key questions in these transformation for the educational program of bachelor social workers. The transition requires the development of one shared degree "Social Work" out of three, deeply rooted separate degrees for 1) Social work and social services 2) community work and 3) Social educational care. This is not a mere reshuffling of three different curricula. The challenge is to incorporate the societal changes towards a participation society that encourages citizens to be more in control of their own lives. This societal change generates continuously new initiatives. New alliances between profit and non-profit business emerge in the field of social work to support sustainable social development. Qualifications like care, support and activation are enlarged with entrepreneurial skills to scout new opportunities. At the same time in the domain of child abuse and protection, domestic violence, crime and re-offending, the licensed social worker, needs to address anti-social behavior. Besides support and talent development and pedagogical support, the social worker needs the skills to assess risks and encourage pro-social behavioral change. A broad domain, requiring general social work training, completed/thickened with knowledge and skills for the specific context of his daily work.

The challenge is to develop a new curriculum that advertises social work as a general profession, enables students to prepare for specialized working environment and is challenging and flexible enough to respond to ongoing changes in the field. Just consuming a series of courses to obtain the bachelor degree won't do the job. The formation to become social worker is a combination of required skills, knowledge and personal development for value-oriented profession. Social workers aim for realization of development, social cohesion, empowerment, social justice, human rights, collective responsibility

and respect for diversities . So the curriculum needs to facilitate personal development on a set of values in combination with knowledge and skill.

For this workshop we would like to focus on the didactic model for the formation of a value oriented Social Work, equipped with adequate skills and knowledge to address social problems at large in combination with the requirements for specific tasks in talent development, care, (educational) support or working with mandated clients .

We will present the didactic model of learning communities and personalized learning trajectories. In the workshop we would like to validate our ideas and discuss how the aim of final qualifications leads students through the curriculum.

Equipment needed: facility for powerpoint