



Towards a shared vision on lifelong learning and continuing education at the University of Leuven

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EUCEN 2017

2015 - 2016 // 2016 - 2017

- **Development** of a shared vision on LLL and CE

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1.1. KU Leuven - Figures

- 16 faculties
- 3 groups: Sc, Engin & Techn – BioMed Sc – Humanities & Soc Sc
- Research departments or units
- 11 locations in Flandres (since 2013)

- 57.284 students (june 2015)
- 11.538 personel (dec 2014)

1.2. LLL and CE - state of the art

- Very limited legislation
- Long tradition in continuing education
- Responsibility of faculties
- Central support unit LLL
- First policy paper on CE in 2014

2. Towards a shared vision: process

- Education Strategy (2014-2017): translation to a specific LLL strategy
- LLL as an important dimension of university education
- University-wide vision
- Process:
 - 1° Bottom-up approach: interviews with key people from faculties, departments and study programmes
 - 2° Advice group (chair prof. Herman Baert, expert in LLL) with members from faculties, departments, support services and students
 - 3° Interviews (14) with external partners from different sectors in society and labour market

3. Product(s)

Not one, but two strategy papers

1. Approach from the viewpoint of the **learner**: the University of Leuven as a **lifelong learning university**
LLL as a broader concept with focus on the learner and his/her learning process
2. Approach from the viewpoint of the **CE offer: University Continuing Education**
University CE as part of the educational offer, aimed at specific target groups

3.1. KU Leuven as lifelong learning university

- LLL = process that starts in bachelor/master as “*the promotion of a “want-to-learn” attitude and the competences to be able to learn*” (Van Petegem, 2011)
- LLL = part of university culture
- LLL = employability + citizenship + the joy of learning
- LLL = community building
- Create a stimulating learning environment for a diversity of learners
 - Building a LLL attitude (21st century skills) throughout the curriculum through sequencing of courses
 - Flexible and transparent learning paths (online, blended, ...)

3.2. University Continuing Education

- One specific way of LLL (update, broadening or specialisation of knowledge and/or competences)
- An essential and substantial component of the education offer of the University
- At the crossroads of education, research and service to society
- Variety of long term educational programmes and short term activities
- Design principles
 - Connecting learning needs with research findings (academic orientation)
 - Invest in sectoral and professional networks
 - Interdisciplinary courses and programmes
- A combination of organisational models

4. ULLL and the labour market (1)

- LLL - To prepare students for their future agile, flexible career with the adequate competences
- LLL - Focus on employability and citizenship
- CE – networks between researchers and labour market/alumni for detection of learning needs, and networks between faculties and disciplines (interdisciplinary courses and programmes)
- CE – different models of concertation with stakeholders

4. ULLL and the labour market (2)

Interviews with stakeholders/labour market >>> expectations towards ULLL and CE:

- added value of academic CE and ULLL
- more interaction and communication with the university
- university = known for bachelor/master; CE-offer is unknown
- provide a framework for critical reflection
- dissemination of research can be more relevant for the needs of the labour market

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Development of a shared vision on LLL and CE

2017 – ...

- **Implementation** of vision on LLL and further development of CE

- *Do other universities recognise themselves in this position?*
- *What do you think of the position taken by KU Leuven?*
- *Do you see further opportunities during the implementation process of this vision?*

Thank you very much for listening!

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