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

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2015 - 2016 // 2016 - 2017

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3. Product(s): two strategy papers
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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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