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Profile:

Title: The Transition of Social Policy in the Netherlands: from a Welfare State to a Participation Society

Description: There are big changes ahead for the Dutch social policy, due to political choices and drastic government budget cuts. The social sector has to cope with a liberal vision on healthcare/welfare/social services which has a substantial impact on the sector. One of the major consequences is that there is going to be a shift in the underlying financial/organizational infrastructure (decentralization: from the national to municipal government). Therefore much more has to be done with less budget. Innovation is a key in these times of transition. Both the sector as a whole as the welfare organizations as the individual professionals have to transform and innovate their role, organization and position within the civil society. But also the paradigm within the society has to change because of this transition: instead of the government, the civil society has to become more responsible to organize themselves and take care for family/friends/neighbors etc.

Objects/aims:

- Give an insight in the Dutch social policies
- Give an insight in the transition that is going on due to political and financial choices
- Give concrete examples of innovations within the sector of (Care/)Welfare and social services. With a special focus on the emergence and development of social community teams.
- Show that social policy change can also be seen as a chance instead of threat

Workshop: In the workshop we want to give an insight of the Dutch situation and the impact of these policy changes. In addition we want to present which innovations are now being seen as a result of the transition:

- Innovation within specifically Youth Care and Welfare (Civil Power Conferences and social network strategies)

- Innovations within municipal social services: working within the local community with so called social community teams instead of working from institutes at a distant from communities.

Innovation of the role of the social worker: as a generalist instead of a specialist. We want to integrate an interactive element for the workshop attendees. Example: create a social community team, how should it be presented within a local community, do they need an office/physical workplace, which disciplines need to be a part of the team etc. Example 2: Ethical debate about political and financial choices: social versus liberal view, governmental responsibility versus civil responsibility.