

## Action Atelier proposal for Higher Education Summit, UHasselt

Rethinking Economics ULB is the local section representing the international movement 'Rethinking Economics' at the Free University of Brussels (ULB). For our event "Repenser l'économie", that took place the 12th of March, we created a workshop called '**The Rethinking Economics Fresk**', based on the concept of 'La fresque du climat' (<https://climatefresk.org/>).

The workshop is split into 4 parts:

### 1) Neoclassical economy

This first part aims at presenting the neoclassical school of thought in economics and what is mostly presented to us in our economic courses. There are 6 main points: what is microeconomics? what is macroeconomics? what is neoclassical theory? and the 3 assumptions coming from the famous sentence 'rational individuals who maximize their utility in an equilibrium market'.

### 2) Other schools of thought in economics

In this second part, we have a set of cards presenting some other schools of thought in economics: marxism political economy, the post keynesian school, feminist economics, ecological economics, decolonial economics, behavioural economics, institutional economics and the austrian school. We also present some of their characteristics: the purpose is to match the name of the school of thought with the cards describing them as well as with the characteristic cards.

At this point, the shape of an iceberg is drawn with the neoclassical economy, as the tip of the iceberg, and the heterodox schools, as the hidden part of it.

### 3) History of economics thoughts

This part aims at giving context on how we ended up with this "iceberg" and with such a narrow approach to economics. The different cards, presented in a timeline form, present great economists we know (Smith, Keynes, Marx, Ricardo, etc.) and we end up introducing other women and racialized people in the history of economics.

### 4) Pluralism & other social sciences point of view and revendications

The last part is about looking at the definition of pluralism and how other social sciences define the economy and approach it.

The first test of our workshop was on Saturday 12th of March. The participants were mainly not economics students. We have had, so far, very good feedback: they learned a lot, it was participative and very complete. Our workshop has potential for transformation as it demonstrates why a pluralistic approach of economics is beneficial for education. It teaches students how different issues can benefit from different approaches, in order not to repeat the mistakes of the past, as well as to offer solutions for current challenges such as climate change and social inequalities.

For the Higher Education Summit from the 6th to the 8th of september, we would improve and translate the different cards into English.