

Sustainable education design office

How should the curriculum be changed so that it is adapted to the vision of a regenerative, inclusive, and sufficiency-oriented economy? That's the main challenge and topic for this conference. One of our answers is proved to be successful in our region. Now we would like to scale up this project, and this conference gives us the perfect opportunity to find the right people to do so. This project is initiated by the Sustainability Education Centre, embedded in the Department Of Environment of the Flemish Government.

The current pace of change is too low for the needed transformation towards a society fitted in the doughnut. This counts for our society, but also in our higher education institutions (HEI). There are structural barriers (eg. organizational and financial) that hinder structural changes in the profiles of competences, the curricula and the teaching and evaluation. This is where our organization enters.

We offer support to partners in the field of higher education who dare to take the path to sustainability education. This change can go from the level of a course to the level of the entire institution. Our commitment depends on the case and context. Our most successful and preferred cases commit to profound change. There we use our toolbox (design thinking, participation and stakeholder management, communities of practice) to facilitate a change trajectory.

Our former trajectories with more than 3 HEI's have led to concrete structural changes or paradigm shifts towards sustainable education. These outcomes are designed in co-creation with committed partners and tailor made for HEI. Because we believe; in a transforming world we all design together.

Now we know our offer works, we want to upscale this project. This takes the form of a "sustainable education design office". An office dedicated to facilitating profound change in the HEI's. This office will share knowledge on the tools to facilitate change. Next to this, we want to attract facilitators who want to unroll these trajectories in the HEI's. For this we are looking for funding and partners, because we can't do this with our current workforce alone. And why only concentrate our focus to Flanders? The expertise we developed and the effort we do can easily be multiplied in other regions. Therefore, we want to do a call of action for all organizations who want to cooperate in the upscaling of this project.

On the one hand we search for possible facilitators who want to participate in our sustainable education design office. They have, or want to achieve, the competences needed to facilitate these change trajectories. And they have the time to facilitate these trajectories. On the other hand, we are looking for people and organizations who want to cooperate in the upscaling of this design office. This cooperation can take many forms, where searching for funding and making the international network are for now the biggest challenges.

We believe we found a proper answer to the current challenges we face. Let's join forces and design that unique context for profound change in the sector we all want it: higher education. This way students will graduate with the right competences to transform our society.