



Social work education beyond transition in the Netherlands

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Overview



- ❖ Dutch society anno 2017
- ❖ Social policy in the Netherlands: the transition
- ❖ New challenges for social professionals
- ❖ Innovation program for social work education

The Netherlands anno 2017



- ❖ 17 Miljon people on 41.500 square km
- ❖ Urbanisation, 9 million people live in around cities
- ❖ Globalisation and diversity of population
- ❖ Social cultural dividing lines
- ❖ Ageing: 18 % > 65,
53%> 40 years of age



Vulnerable people in the Netherlands



More than 1 million people lives below the poverty line

90.000 Households are client of foodbank

30.000 People are homeless

220.000 Severe psychiatric disorder

65.000 Alcohol and drugs addiction

367.000 Children use youth aid

220.000 Elderly experience extreme

loneliness

43 % Moderately to seriously overweight

18 % High to excessive use of alcohol



Social Policy: from welfare (care) state to civil society



- The economic crises triggered a debate about the welfare state, the role of the state, market and citizens.
- Within the social domain critics on expertocracy, fragmentation and growing expenses
- Promoting civil initiatives: 'Big society' (voluntary work, family support),
- Withdrawing government,
- Reduction of costs



New roles for social work

Employment Social work in the Netherlands (FcB, 2017)

- ❖ 70.843 social workers in 2016, 75% permanent employment contract, 10% flexible contract, 10% independent established.
- ❖ Employment opportunities are gradually increasing (specially in youth care)
- ❖ Social work after the transition: new roles and jobs
 - ❖ Social brokers in neighbourhoods strengthening the basic social infrastructure
 - ❖ Social work generalists in interdisciplinary district teams
 - ❖ Social work specialists in residential settings or in neighborhoods

- ❖ Collaborating with citizens, volunteers, family carers
- ❖ Interdisciplinary professional cooperation, cooperation with local government, dealing with differences of interest
- ❖ Profiling the profession, coping deprofessionalisation
- ❖ Working in a market driven context

New demands for social work education



Social work education in the Netherlands



18 Universities offer bachelor social work, 50,000 students

11 Universities offer master social work, 1000 students

91% graduates employed after 18 months, 2014

Since 2005 transformation of schools of higher vocational education to universities of applied sciences.

Bachelor courses:

- General social work (+MA)
- Social case work
- Community development (+Ma)
- Social educational care work
- Social pedagogy (+MA)

Pivot point: two advisory reports 2014



About future of Social work

- ❖ Improve the knowledge infrastructure
- ❖ Improve professional organisations, training and registration
- ❖ Set requirements for quality of social work

About the future of Social work education

- ❖ Improve the profile of social work education, new name: Social Studies
- ❖ Improve the knowledge base to educate reflective practitioners
- ❖ Develop recognizable specialization routes
- ❖ Embed social work education in regional context

Generic kwalifications Social work education



All universities decided to develop a generic bachelor cours social work

Three core qualifications / learning outcomes

- ❖ Promoting social quality and social functioning of people and their social context (primary living situation, groups and networks, communities)
- ❖ Working in an organizational and policy context: strengthening the organizational conditions within which social work takes place
- ❖ Promote one's own professionalism and the development of the profession

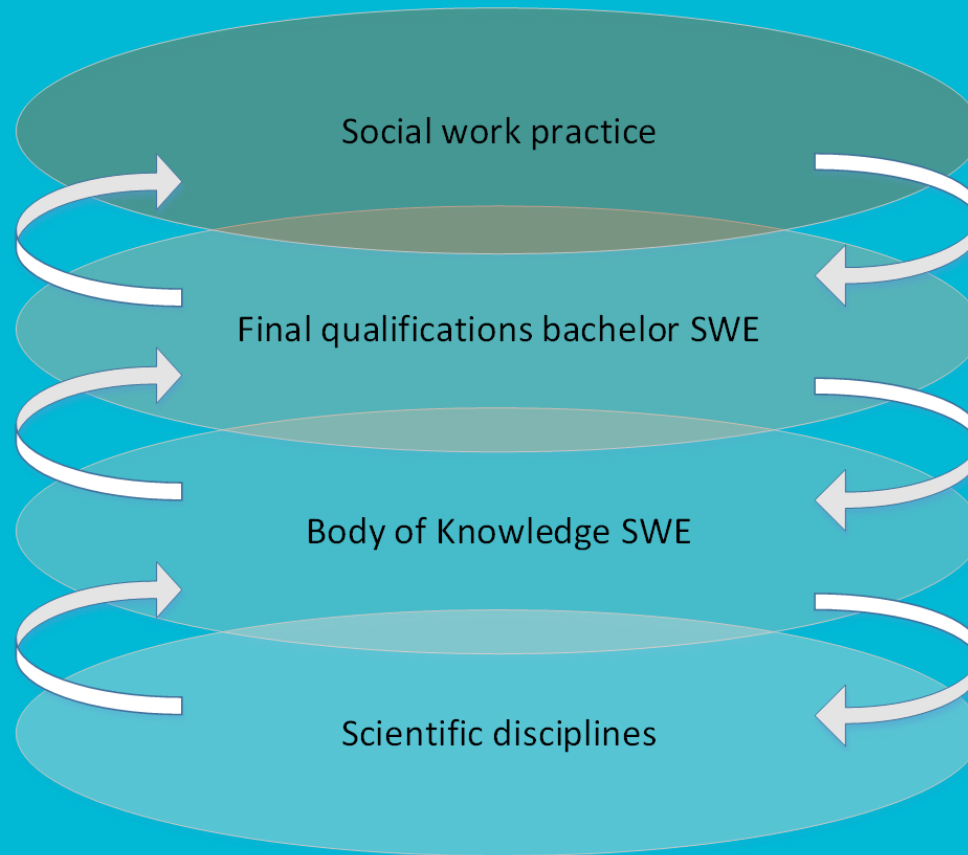
Specialisations in Bachelor SW



Specialisations are derived from social policy context and decentralisation acts and also related to registration requirements

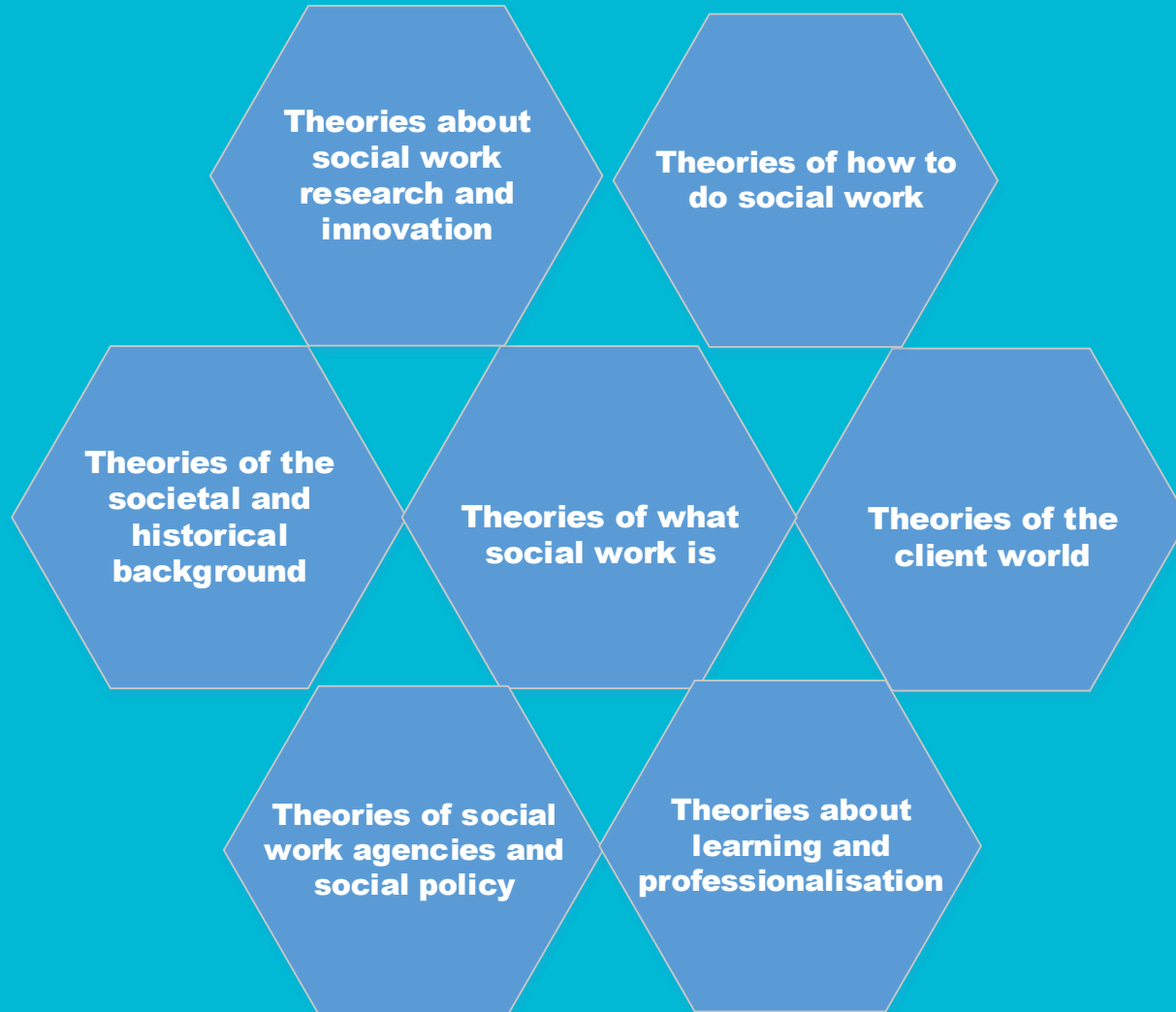
- ❖ Social work in communities (Social support act)
- ❖ Social work with youth
- ❖ Social work in Long time care (Service users with disabilities)

Body of knowledge: bridging sciences with social work practice



Structural elements BoK

7 building blocks



Innovations of methods in social work education



Learning

Deep learning concepts: self regulated learning, experiential learning, reflective learning

Educating

Blended learning: digital platform to connect learning contexts in school, in practice, at home

Learning communities: alignment of education, research and practice

Assessment: assessment of and for learning

Challenges for social work education



- ❖ Educate competent, reflective and innovative practitioners.
- ❖ Implementation of the body of knowledge of social work
- ❖ Development of the triangle between education, research and practice
- ❖ Contribution to the profiling of social work

Thanks for your attention

