

# ICED–2014

## ***Flemish Network of Educational Developers (FNED)***

### **Introduction**

LNO<sup>2</sup> (Lerend Netwerk van Onderwijsondersteuners ) is a Flemish association aimed at accomplishing educational development in higher education. The network aims at educational development through exchange of research and practice in higher education between educational developers.

The network wants to :

- 1) stimulate the professionalization of educational developers in higher education,
- 2) develop and visualize their professional identity,
- 3) stimulate quality development in higher education.

The network started in 2009 and has been active under the name of LNO<sup>2</sup> since 2010. Since 2013 the network is not only for educational developers working at universities and university colleges, but also for educational developers working at centres for adult education that offer programmes at level 5 of the European Qualification Framework (EQF) and Vlaamse Kwalificatie Structuur (VKS).

The most important activities of the network are a newsletter that appears five to six times a year, Special Interest Groups and a yearly conference in May/June.

### **Coordination of the network**

The coordination of the network is in hands of a yearly changing coordinating team. Since 2013 five institutions for higher education are in charge of coordinating the network: besides 2 or 3 university colleges and 1 or 2 universities, also 1 centre for adult education joined the coordinating team.

The current coordinating team consist at:

- Hogeschool PXL (university college)
- Artevelde Hogeschool Gent (university college)
- HoGent (university college)
- CVO Kisp (centre for adult education)
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (university)

### **Successful activities**

On May 20 2014 the yearly conference took place in Hasselt at Hogeschool PXL with 120 participants. The theme of the conference was 'Flipping the support: andere mogelijkheden, nieuwe opportuniteiten' (Flipping the support: other possibilities, new opportunities). One keynote at the beginning of the day focused on the changing foci within the domain of educational development, a second keynote closed the conference by enlightening the role of educational developers as change managers. In between participants could participate at interactive sessions, choosing between 10 contributions of educational developers from different institutions and 3 sessions organized by Special Interest Groups.

It was the first time SIG's could organize a theme-session during the conference. Three SIG's took the opportunity and all three sessions had a high amount of participants. With the SIG-sessions during the conference the coordinating team wants to strengthen the relationship between the network and the SIG's. Earlier in the year news about SIG-activities was included in the newsletter of LNO<sup>2</sup>. In

April 2014 a new SIG started. The coordinating team plans to meet with the chairmen of the SIG's at least once a year.

The coordinating team works at a strategic plan for the coming 5 years and asks feedback at some stakeholders.

### **Difficulties**

The network experiences a growing need for more professional and steady support. The coordinating team plans to discuss this with different partners in higher education and aims at support of the Flemish government.

The financial status of the network does not allow to invite international speakers at the conference. The network hopes to find enough (sponsoring) money to enable this next year or the year after.