



Reinventing the body of knowledge for social work education in the Netherlands

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- ❖ Social policy in the Netherlands
- ❖ New challenges for social professionals
- ❖ National innovation program for social work education
- ❖ Generic body of knowledge

Criticism social domain

- Expertocracy
- Fragmented expertise
- Hospitalization
- Rising costs

Social Policy: from welfare state to participation society

- Promoting civil initiatives: 'Big society' (voluntary work, family support)
- Withdrawing government
- Decentralization: transfer of finances, tasks and responsibilities to municipalities and citizens (right to challenge)
- Legislation: 3 D's (Social support act, Long-term Care, Youth, labor participation)

New demands for social work education



Starting social professionals

- New tasks and challenges: facilitating of and cooperating with citizens

Dealing with the tension between

- De-professionalization: citizens take over tasks of social professionals, especially in local communities
- Stronger demands on professionals in complex social situations

Role change:

- arranging care instead of providing care
- increasing statutory registration requirements

Alignment social work education: not only reactive but also critical and proactive

Social work education in the Netherlands



18 Universities (UAS) offer bachelor social work, 50,000 students

11 Universities (UAS) offer master social work, 1000 students

(91% graduates employed after 18 months, 2014)

Bachelor courses:

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

National association for social work education

Innovation of Social work education



Aim: strengthening the identity and profile of social work and social work education in the Netherlands

- Reflective practitioners: prepare students for complex social work
- T-shaped social professionals: generalist and specialist
- Specialisms: Youth, Long-term care, local social work
- Generic: competencies and body of knowledge

Generic body of knowledge



Challenges

- Improve scientific knowledge base of the curriculum
- Invest in academic knowledge development of students
- Invest in evidence based social work

Knowledge in social work education



Aim: (re)define a generic body of knowledge for social work that is mandatory for at least 50% of the content of all bachelor courses

Delphi method

40 practice experts (UAS) and 8 academic professors interviewed in 3 rounds about:

- Definition
- Demarcation
- Design
- Content

of the body of knowledge

Definition & criteria

Definition: The whole of conceptual and fundamental knowledge of social work that should be mastered by all graduates of the bachelor courses for social work.

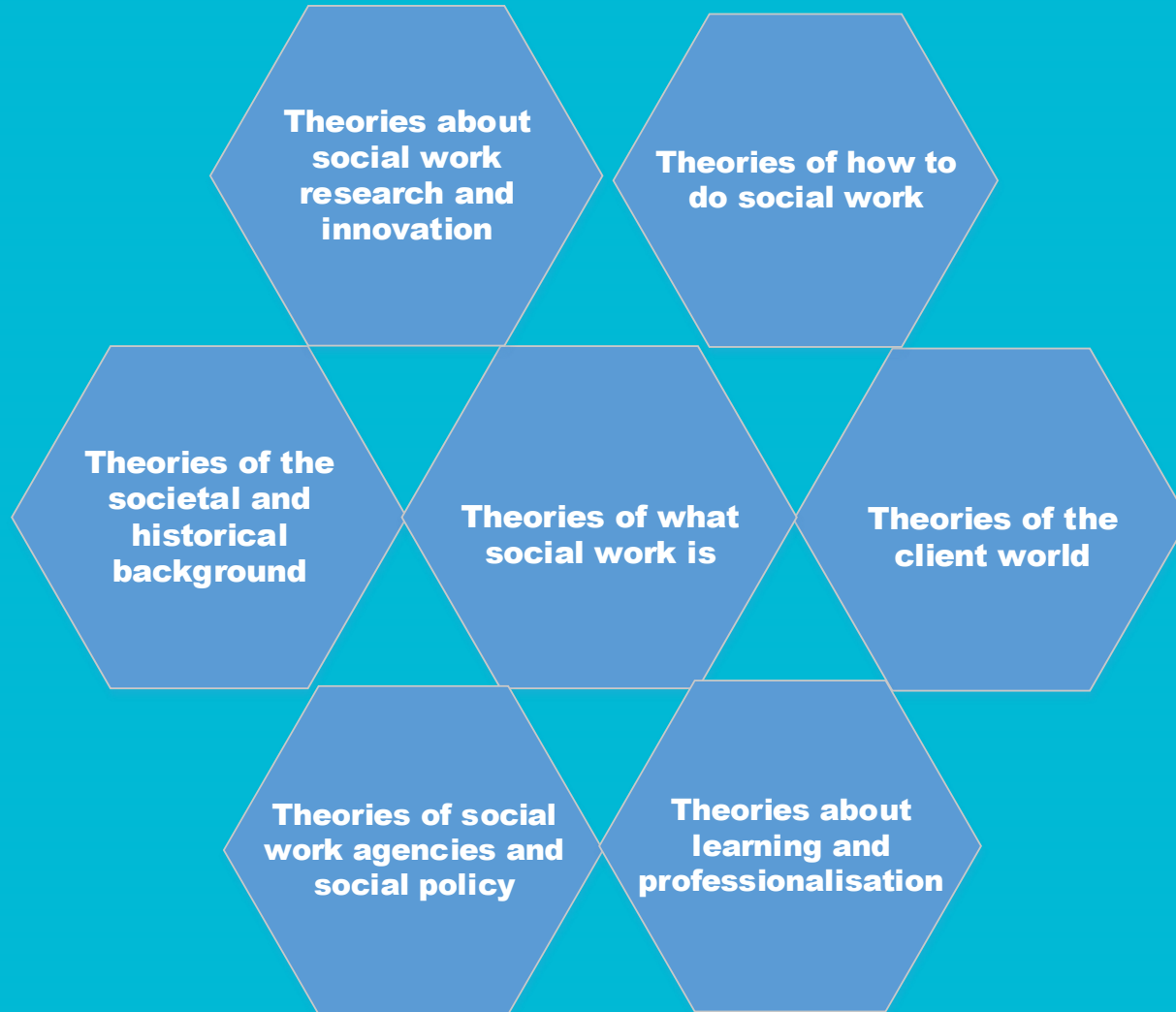
Criteria

- Practice based
- Science based
- Education based
- Sustainable

Types of knowledge

- Generic Theories, Practice models and Perspectives

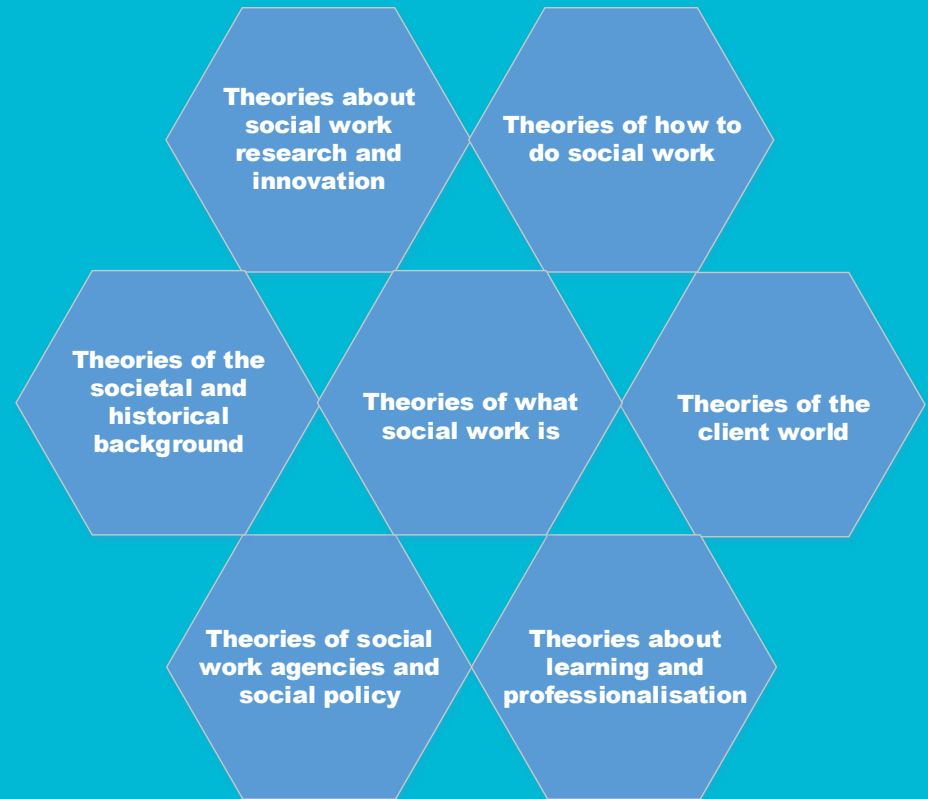
Structural elements: 7 building blocks



Filling in the contents

Scientists

- Sociology & Cultural Anthropology
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Psychology & Pedagogy
- Communication
- Governance
- Politics
- Law
- Health



Practice experts



Thank you for your attention

