

# Social Economy Projects

in Kuurne (Belgium)

**“What-Why-How ?”**

@base congres

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3. **mission** - "Why begin ?"
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5. **finances** - "What is the cost ?"
6. **(after) tomorrow ?**  
- "What are the possible problems to expect ?"

## Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

### 1. local social policy plan – Kuurne situated

- the municipality of Kuurne has a surfac of **1000 ha** and a population of **12.700 inhabitants**
- In Kuurne lives **220 foreigners** (= not EU-subjects)
- Kuurne is known as **festive municipality**
- Kuurne has a **industrial site**
- Kuurne is partly **urbanized**, partly **green space**

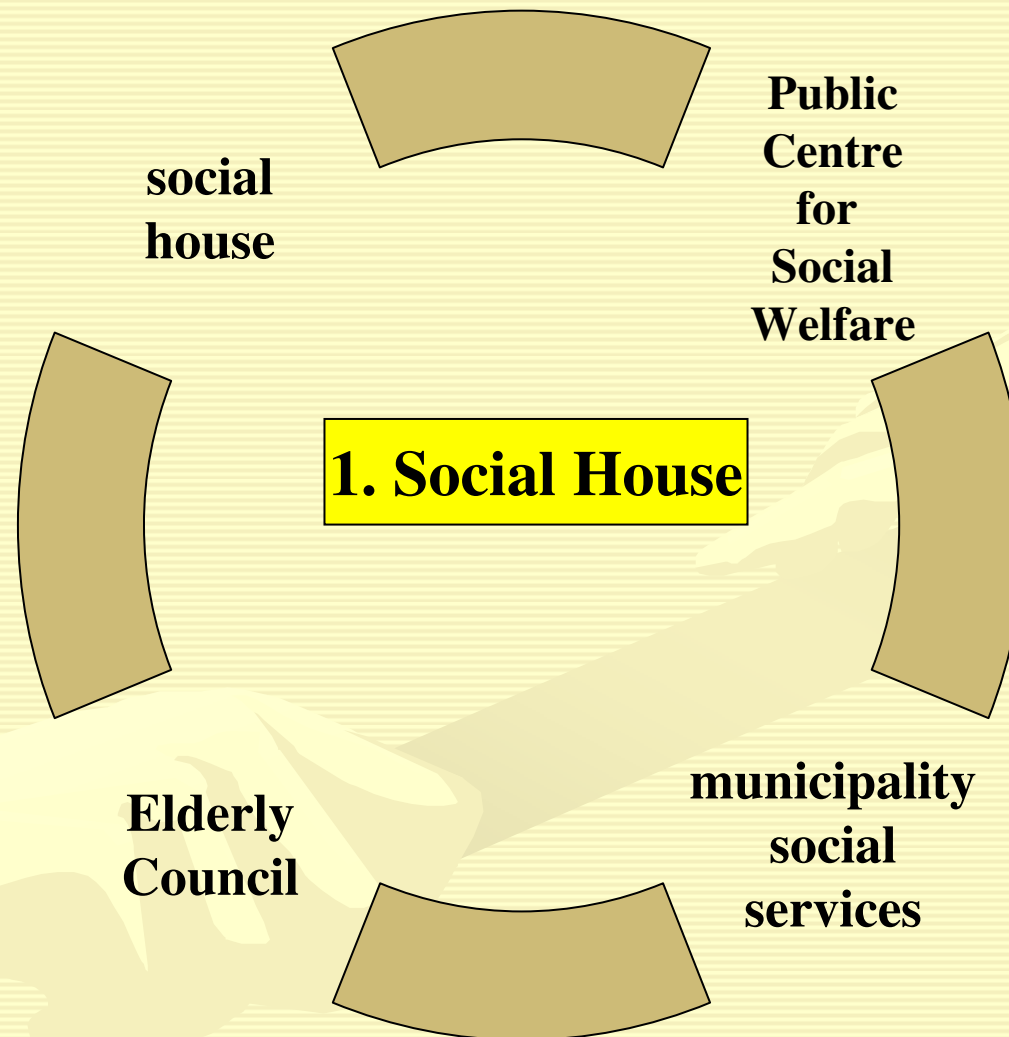
# **Social Economy Projects in Kuurne**

## **1. local social policy plan - pillars**

- 1. social house**
- 2. local agency for employment**
- 3. local agency for social services at home**
- 4. community services**

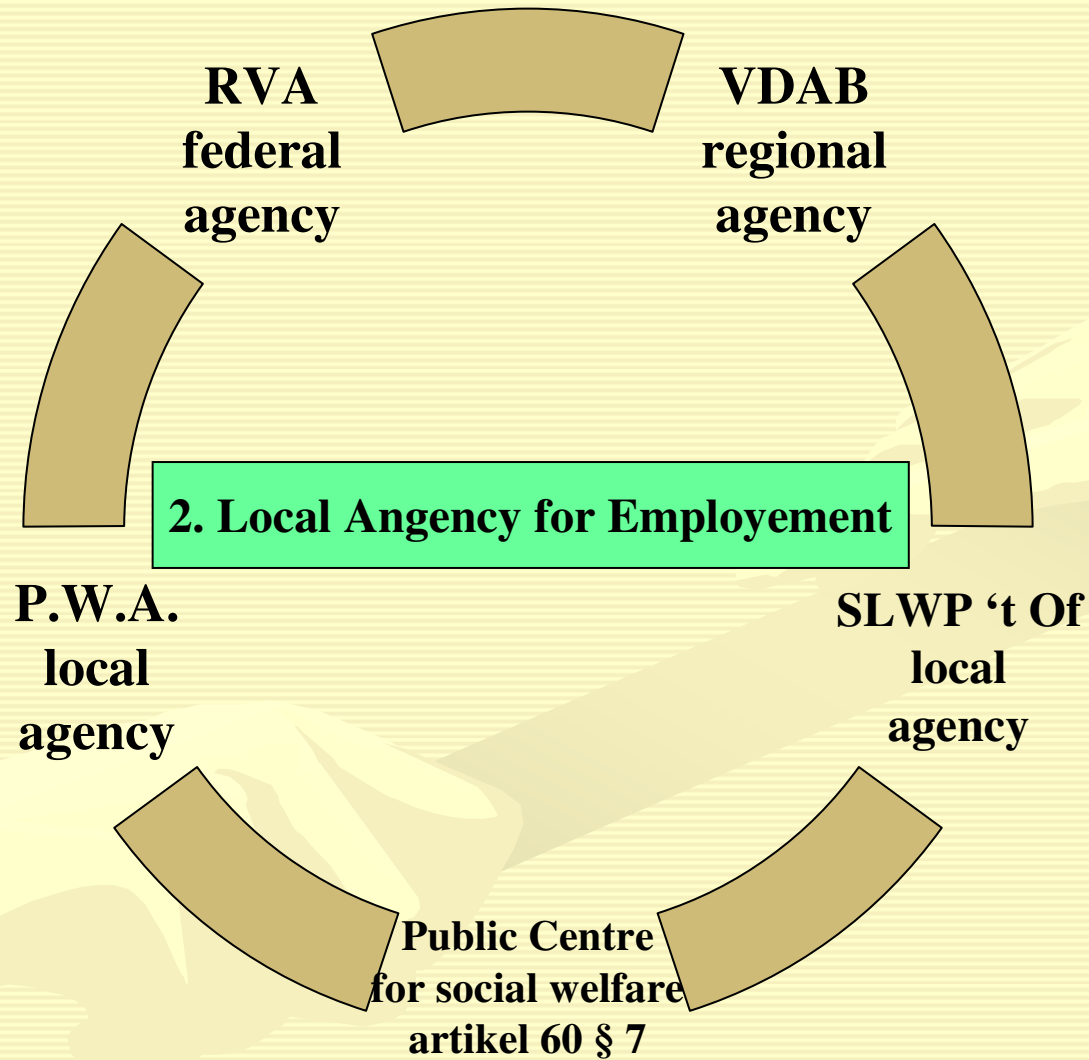
# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 1. local social policy plan – social house



# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 1. local social policy plan – local employment



# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 1. local social policy plan – social services at home



# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 1. local social policy plan – community services



## Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

### 2. historically

- **before 1997** "social consultation Kuurne"
- **since the Social Impulse Foundation** (1997) Kuurne makes a local social policy plan, in which the community police with 3 inspectors was one of the pillars
- in the **spring of 1998** there was a collaboration between the municipality-the public centre of social welfare-the regional institute of society improvement (RISO)

## Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

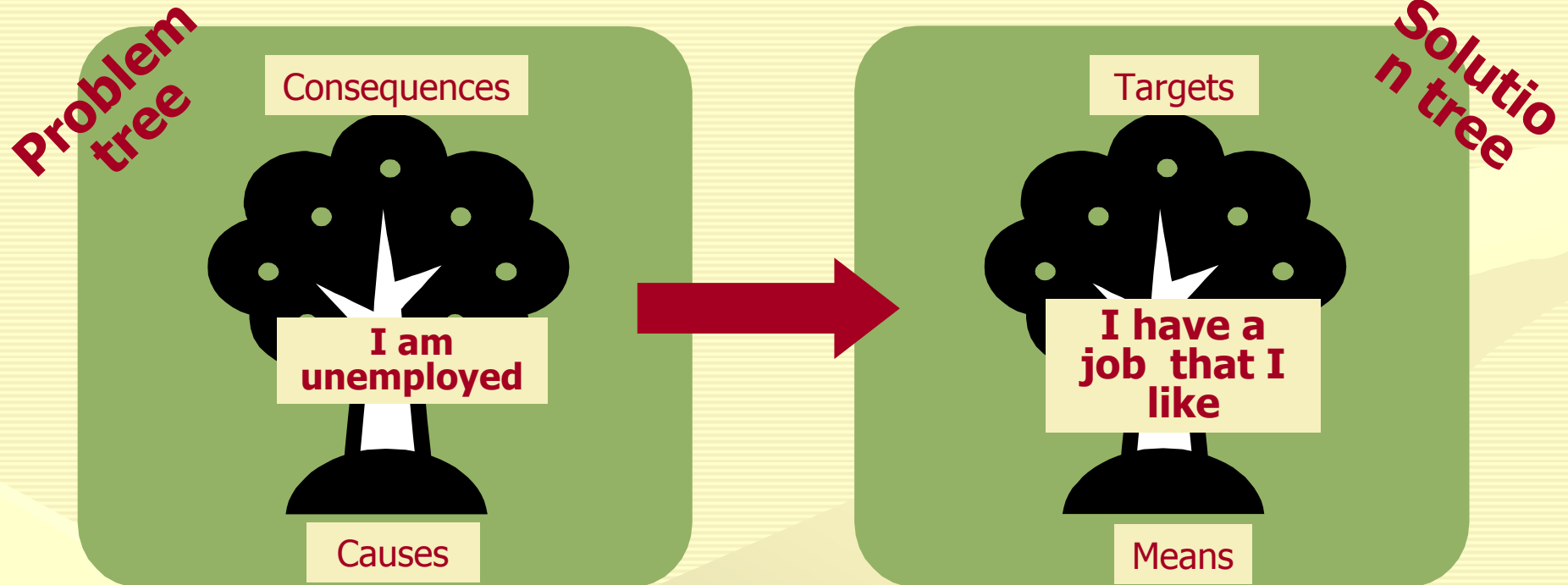
### 2. historically – local social policy

- on **the first of March 1999** a half time social worker is working in a social quarter of Kuurne, named "Spijker en Schardauw"
- in **1999** the Local Platform for Employment ordered an investigation among the long term (>2 y.) unemployed and all people receiving social benefits according to the DIP-method (= Purposeful Intervention Planning)

## The unemployed from Kuurne speak...



- target group: all LT-unemployed (>2y.) + all people receiving social benefits
- methodology: "purposeful intervention planning (DIP)"



- results: two courses of action
  - ✓ training and education with a view to regular employment
  - ✓ services in the immediate living environment -> developed into BIK

## Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

### 2. historically – local social policy

- on **the 26th of september 2000** the municipality and the public centre for social welfare created an association Quarter Initiatives Kuurne
- the **association Quarter Initiatives Kuurne** takes care with European support (= Equal I & II) projects in collaboration with a neighbour city Harelbeke the quarter working in "Spijker en Schar dauw" (= nursery, children's work, elderly work, repair of clothes, community restaurant, ...)

# Collective services in 'Spijker en Schardauw'

## 1) children's work

-daily: flexible, occasional  
kindergarten (0 – 3 year)

-after school: help for homework  
+ neighbourhood youth work (4 – 12 y.)



# Collective services in 'Spijker en Schardauw'



## 2) elderly work

- entertainment and meeting
- shopping, transportation  
(e.g. to market, day care  
centre)
- meal provision



## 3) sewing, ironing & mending workshop + odd-job service

## 4) maintenance of common parts of the living complex (e.g. removing litter, flower tubs...)

## Collective services in 'Spijker en Schardauw'

- 5) community restaurant +  
kitchen (e.g. receptions)
- 6) meeting, pc-corner + enter-  
tainment in community centre





## Individual services for all inhabitants of Kuurne

- help in the household by means of service cheques – system
  - ✓ Regular housekeeping such as cleaning, doing laundry, cooking...
  - ✓ NOT odd-jobs such as gardening, painting & papering...
  - ✓ Client pays 6,7 € / hour per cheque
  - ✓ Service provider receives 21 € from government (14,3 € from taxes)
  - ✓ BIK : 175 clients / households
  - ✓ 28 employees (= 17,6 FTE) via service cheques system



## Transport of 'less mobile' persons



- ✓ **Since april 2005**
- ✓ **For every person from Kuurne who is 'less mobile' and**
- ✓ **cannot find an alternative**
- ✓ **1.5 € to get in + 0.38 € / kilometer**
- ✓ **in partnership with npo Care and Welfare**

## Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

### 2. historically – local social policy

- the municipality (social service) and the public centre for social welfare are **in 2002** in Kuurne melt together in the "social house" (pilotproject)
- semestrial consultation between the social house - the municipality and the social housing company "Own Gift Own Help"

# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 3. the mission

the social economy projects contributes to :

- a **secure and liveable** municipality
- guarantee the **safety and equality of rights** in the society and in the municipality
- the **integral relief and care** for housing, in social matters and policecare

# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 4. the strategy

- community oriented public-private
- pro-actif and problem oriented
- integral
- rule enforced if necessary
- quick, flexible and adequate reaction
- transparent & open culture
- professional
- efficient apply of the supports

# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 5. the place of the local authority

 **motivator**

**local social policy plan**

 **financier**

**regional & European support (ESF)**

 **initiator**

**set up or stimulate association(s)**

 **cooperator**

**regular consultation  
concluding engagements**

# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 5. the place of the local authority



### well-balanced local policy plans

- ⊕ sufficient consultation with all actors
- ⊕ with realizable aims
- ⊕ with feedback to the people and to the persons concerned

# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 5. the place of the local authority

### **good functioning staff**

- ⊕ PLOEG/TEAM (Plann, Lead, Follow up, Evaluate & Being appreciated)
- ⊕ get rid of inequality in employment with equal functions (retirement, wages, statute, ...)

# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 6. (after) tomorrow ?

### **bottle-necks**

- statute of the collaborators ?
- statute of the executive staff ?
- local versus regional action ?
- participative versus contractual collaboration ?
- the need for a regional assistance and coaching ?

# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 6. (after) tomorrow ?

### possible solutions ?

- local social policy plan
- regional & European support
  - \* werk@waardig
  - \* regional consortium for welfare
  - \* provincial region oriented actions
- consultations - projects vs. statute

# Social Economy Projects in Kuurne

## 6. (after) tomorrow ?

### instinctive approach

(family with three : politics - administration - people)

- desperation
- believe in the theory
- unbelieve in the practice
- angry about wrong situations
- there is still hope (no arrogance, no jealousy)