

## Appreciative Inquiry on Informal Learning and Connecting

AEGEE workshop at Spring AGORA Twente 2012, May 3.

Prof. Dr. Joseph W.M. Kessels

In this workshop we explore new ways of organizing your professional development in an informal setting, applying the valuable experiences that are available in your social network.

Traditionally, learning activities that focus on the development of skills and competences require formal training and courses, with distinct roles for teacher-instructors and learner-students. They are based on a gap analysis pointing at the lack of knowledge, skills and capabilities. The trainer is in command because he or she knows what is missing and how to fill the gaps.

However, it is worthwhile exploring new approaches that do not focus on what is absent, but what is already there, and how to build on it. The learner works on his strengths, the talents that he or she is proud of and applies strategies that have proven to be helpful in the past. The learner is in the driver seat. The social network of colleagues and co-learners is a rich resource for advancement, with mutual benefits.

This workshop is of special interest for AGORA participants as it offers an opportunity to explore new perspectives on professional development of active students, while connecting with likeminded spirits, in a joyful and appreciate manner.