

# BLENDED SOCIAL WORK IN FLANDERS, BELGIUM. Two Good Practices:

 APPSTORE FOR WELL-BEING AND MENTAL HEALTH



STUDIES WITHOUT WORRIES



What's in a name?

Appstore

Screening Framework

Examples

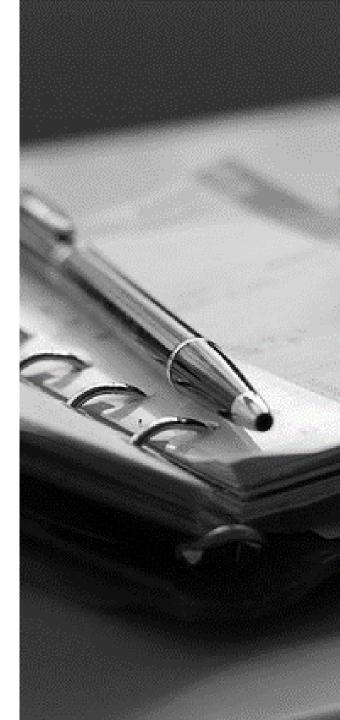
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Questions



### What to expect

- Blended Social Work?
- Appstore
- Screening framework
- Examples
- Presentation Studies without worries
- Questions?



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### Who are we?

- Lien Coppejans
- Lecturer Bachelor and Associate Degree Social Work
- Counselor students with disabilities
- 10 years experience as psychotherapist at social services
- Help develop online programme: studies without worries



#### Charlotte Vanbleu

- Lecturer Online Social Work
- Researcher and project employee in the Expertise Network People, Society and Digitalisation
- 10 years experience as Social worker in the Centre for General Welfare with young people





### What's in a name: Blended Social Work

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What pops up in your mind if you think about this term?



Or Go to: Wooclap.com. Event code: KQZKRG





### What's in a name: Blended Social Work

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What pops up in your mind if you think about this term?





### What's in a name: Blended Social Work

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- Combination of
  - face-to- face contacts
  - online contacts
  - the use of online tools and applications
- between a social worker and any person in search of help
- Tailored to the target group





### What's in a name: Blended Social Work

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Two Good Practices of Blended Social Work

- The Appstore for well-being and mental health for citizens and social professionals
- Studies without Worries: an online self-help programme for students at Artevelde that can be used when supervising students





### Apps and tools ... take a look

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### Apps and tools... take a look

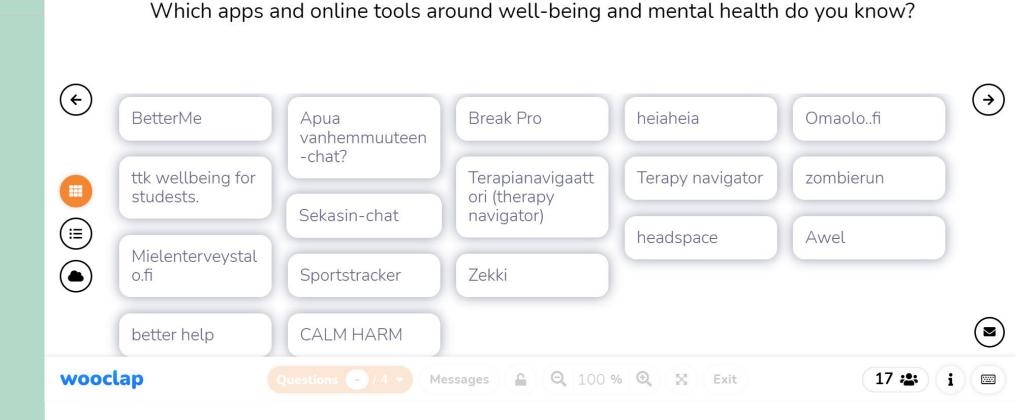
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### Apps and tools... take a look

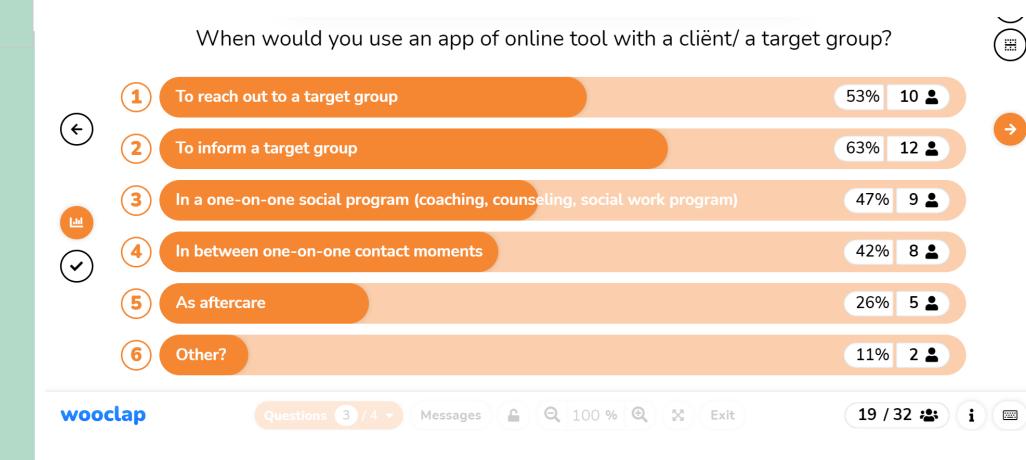
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# An appstore for Well-being and Mental Health in Flanders

- Because social workers and helpseekers don't know the possibilities
- Because blended social work is the future
- As 'appstores' for the sector are already popping up here and there
- Because the demand for an overview of reliable apps and tools is rising
- Because there's a lot of 'rubbish' online
- Because Covid19 gave the use of online tools a boost
- To allow any citizen to access and/or to refer to online support



### **Project partners**

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### **Demarcation of the Appstore**

- For both citizens and social professionals
- 'Apps' = broad term
  - Smartphone applications
  - Interactive websites
  - Wearables/VR (future)
- Apps with focus on ...
  - ... wellbeing
  - ... mental health
- Mhealth Belgium = complementary platform for mobile applications CE marked as medical devices



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Screening



### Requierments to be published?

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What should an app or tool meet to be userfriendly in a social work practice?

Wooclap.com. Event code: KQZKRG





### Requierments to be published?

Questions



Go to wooclap.com and use the code KQZKRG



What should an app or tool meet to be userfriendly in a social work practice?

FREE FOR EVERYONE

















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### Screening

- A "screened app"= any app or online tool screened by more than 30 questions based on the developed screening framework (based on research)
- Inclusion or exclusion of apps
- Publication on appstore if most of the questions were answered satisfactorily
- No quality label
- No rating



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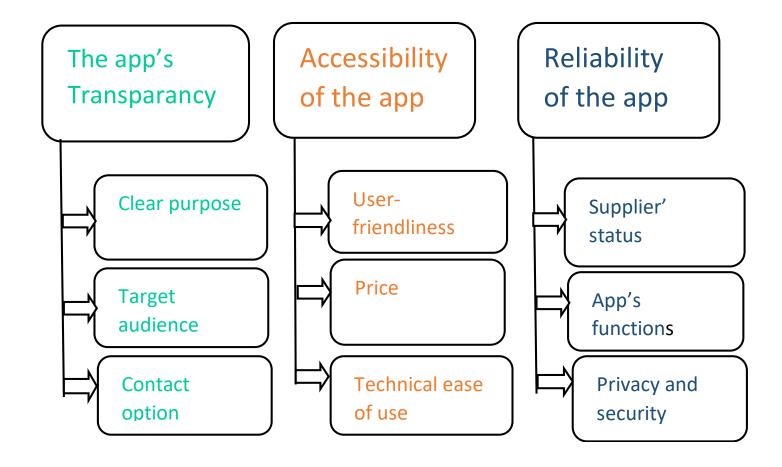
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### • cartevelde university of applied sciences

### The screening framework



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### Finding your way in the appstore

- Filtered search is possible
- Each app description includes a short and a more extensive description on following topics:
  - Purpose of the app
  - Target audience of the app
  - Description of the specific functions
  - Price, supplier, languages, central themes
  - Quality assessment:
    - On the transparancy
    - On the accessibility
    - On the reliability

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### **Favourites Page**

- = a special selection of tools and apps for your organisation on one page
- to make it easier for staff (social workers) to have the apps and tools they work with most or that are most useful to them, all close together on one page
- Or/and to help your target group get started with a selection of apps that are most useful to them
- An example: 'Student Guidance Centre'.

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### Let's have a look



### **Onlinehelp Appstore**

#### Usefull Applications for well-being and mental health in English

This page contains useful applications and tools in English. The apps and tools collected here can be used by social workers, psychologists, counsellors or anyone working with people and aiming to perpetuate or strenghten their well-being and menthal health.

However, the app's descriptions are in Dutch, but, if you click on the app and scroll down, you will see under 'Gebruik met professional' (= use with a professional):

'You can download here a description of this app in English'

- Go to: <a href="https://www.onlinehulp-apps.be/favorieten/onlinehelp-appstore">https://www.onlinehulp-appstore</a>
  apps.be/favorieten/onlinehelp-appstore
- Click on the app and scroll down, there you see: You can download here a description of this app in English

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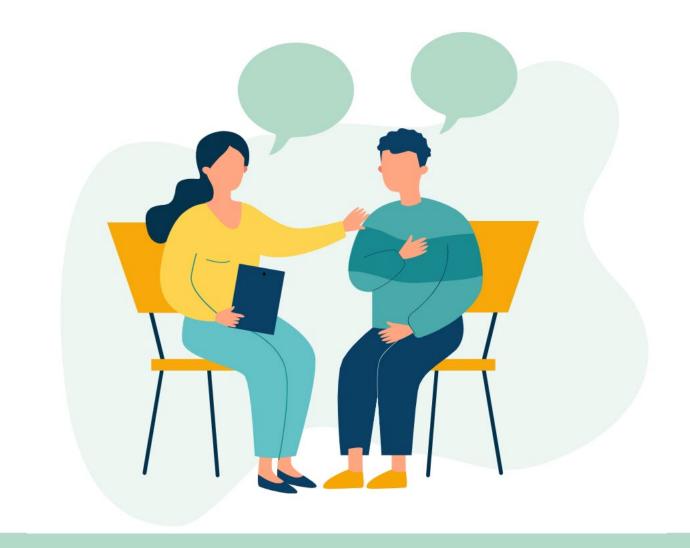
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### A few examples

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### **Combined Minds**

- For who: network of young people with mental health who want to support
- What: Offering support to family, friends and informal carers around their fears, depression, self-injury, screen addiction and eating disorder



#### How:

- Information about these 5 topics
- Explanation on what you can do as environment
- Activities
- Tools to create a safety plan with a young person
- Referral to organizations, books, links,.. That can help supporting
- Self-care tips
- ....

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### How are you

- For who: everyone who wants to monitor their mood
- What: frequently recording one's mood to gain insight in influencing circumstances



- How:
  - Recording your mood through simple emojies
  - Displaying this clearly in statistics



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### **Breathe with Sesame**

- For who: children from 2 to 5 years and their parents
- What: Learn problem solving through small games



#### How:

- Problem solving skills in 3 steps:
  - Breathe to calm down
  - Thinking about plans to solve the problem
  - Deciding what plan to try out
- Via games and videos practising this steps again and again
- Supporting tips for parents

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### In practice

#### What's in a name?

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### Onlinehulp-apps.be now:

- 140 apps
- 15 FAQ's
- Information about the screening
  - Under short headings
  - In downloadable text
  - In schematic form
- Number of visitors in Flanders:
   in February 2022 => 22311
   in February 2023 => 42653

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# How the appstore reaches citizens and social professionals

- Social media (Facebook and Instagram) with a strategy and content planning
- Workshops in general (seminars, networking events)
- Workshops tailored to specific social organizations
- Growing brand awareness



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### What about Finland?

# Do you have something similar to the appstore?

Do social workers here often use apps and tools in their working practise?



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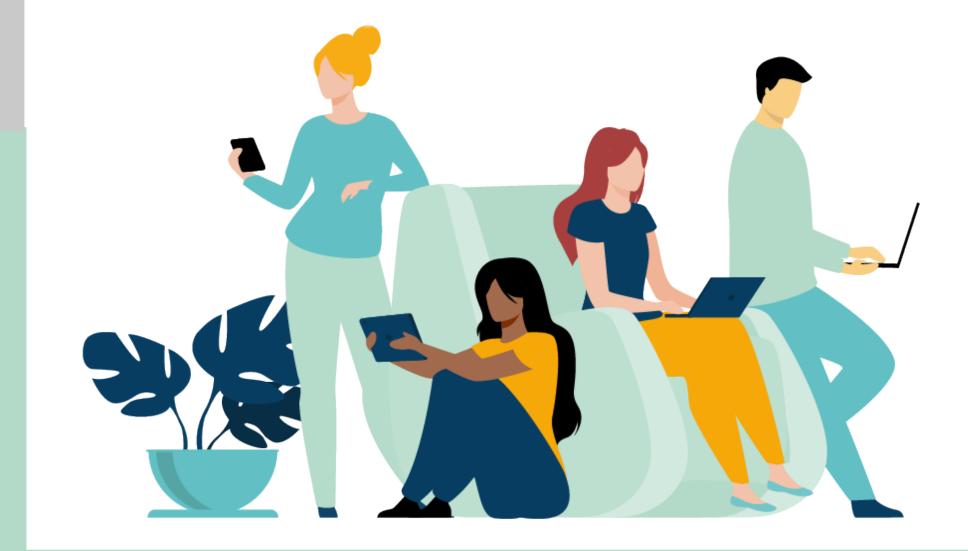
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### Vragen?



https://www.onlinehulp-arteveldehogeschool.be/in-english/



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