

## **Abstract for “New Visions and New Divides: Well-being in the Post-welfare State Society”**

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‘The traditional Welfare State is going to be replaced by the Participation Society’, King Willem Alexander said at the opening of the parliamentary year 2013-2014. In the vision of the present government, the Dutch will have to rely less on the social security and social services as organized by the state and to take more responsibility for their own well-being and that of their next of kin, friends and neighbours included. The ‘traditional’ welfare state now accounts for 75% of all government expenditures and 30% of the Dutch GDP, tendency rising. This is no longer sustainable and in the vision of the cabinet of Mr Rutte it is not only essential to curb the cost of the welfare state, but also better for society as a whole to rely more on mutual solidarity and support. What is overlooked, however, is the already growing disparity in position between the generations, the workers with and without steady jobs, the high and low educated, the people with or without a strong social network, etc. Partly as a consequence of the welfare state itself we see new social and economic divides emerging, not conducive to the feeling of well-being in society nor to the development of a participation society. We will look into these new divides and identify the prerequisites for well-being in a post-welfare state society.