

# DOES THE DUTCH KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMME PROVIDE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE?

Authors: M.C.O. Kersten en H. Timmerman



## Introduction

Research and practice both aim to improve the quality of care in order to provide a good quality of life for service users. Both researchers and healthcare providers acknowledge that having direct support staff applying state of the art approaches contributes to this. However, a gap between research and practice hinders effective knowledge transfer.

## Context

### The Dutch knowledge programme

In the Netherlands there has been a reinforcement and expansion of the professionalism of healthcare providers in order to improve quality of care and quality of life. Therefore, in 2005 the Dutch Association of Health Care Providers for people with Disabilities (VGN) started a national level knowledge programme. This programme stimulates and facilitates member organizations to develop a knowledge policy within their own organization. It consists of three components:

- development of knowledge
- knowledge sharing
- application of knowledge

### Facts, figures and context of the Dutch healthcare for disabled citizens\*

Dutch population in total	17.000.000
Adults with an impairment	1.900.000
Service-users with intellectual and/or motor disabilities and/or hearing and/or visual impairments	200.000
Healthcare providers employed in member organizations of VGN	159.000
Member organizations of VGN	165
Umbrella Organization VGN	1

\* source: [www.zorgkompas.nl](http://www.zorgkompas.nl); [www.vgn.nl](http://www.vgn.nl)

## BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN THE DUTCH KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMME

