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

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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; www.vgn.nl

BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN THE DUTCH KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMME

DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

Example

In 2015 the National Programme on Disabilities 'Gewoon Bijzonder' started in order to stimulate the development, distribution and implementation of knowledge.

Role of VGN: initiator and lobby

APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Example

The competence box (2009) and the 'Disability Care Body of Knowledge' framework (2012) are used to match the curricula of vocational trainings, service trainings and additional trainings with the competences and knowledge needed by healthcare workers who provide care and support for individuals with disabilities.

Role of VGN: initiator

RESEARCH

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Example

The Knowledge Square for the Disability Care Sector is a network with many partners. It provides a structure to facilitate knowledge sharing mainly for healthcare workers. A website, conferences, communities of practice and workshops are used to customize, disseminate and share knowledge.

Role of VGN: initiator

WORKING COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL LEVEL KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMME

The existence of a longterm vision

Continuously showing the added value

multidisciplinary collaboration

Interactive communication about our work

Connection by means of network platforms PRACTICE

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