



Informal care
Vulnerable groups
Volunteer effort
Domestic and sexual violence
Social cohesion
Diversity
Organizational development
Professionalisation



Netherlands centre
for social development

Social work, international exchange seminar Evidence Based Practice: Not why, but how?

Introduction

Evidence based practice (EBP) in social work is discussed widely and linked to different models or practices. In this document we propose a one-day international seminar, monday the 24th of October 2011 to exchange models and practices which are relevant and deserve attention. This introduction deals with the kinds of questions that arise in this domain and the possible answers we want to discuss.

Discussions and questions

For a comprehensive overview we only state some discussions and questions. In the annex we highlight them more extensively.

- Which models will we discuss: models of practice (cf Nutley, 2007, 2009), knowledge sets (reviews, guidelines, database), knowledge use (implementation), grown practices or deliberate choices?
- Which evidence is desirable and attainable in social work: the range of qualitative and quantitative research results and how do we assess them? Or will the experience of the professional and the clients be sufficient?
- Is the client or citizen involved in EBP, in the evidence, his 'preference' or as an active participant?
- What exactly do we aim for: the use of the evidence, a systematic practice?
- How do we reach what we aim for: a developmental model, but which?
- What is the role and involvement of the different players: the professionals (of course), but what about policy makers, including financiers (of course), social scientists, educators. Do we address them, do we include them and will we succeed in that?
- Limitations of EBP: which political, practical and scientific interests and pitfalls lead or hinder our choices and endeavours?
- What are the boundaries of social interventions: from individual interventions to social policy?
- Common and specific factors (methods): do we have to be modest about the specific methods or can we have it both ways?

International exchange

Some challenges:

- International exchange is sufficiently accessible by reading and publishing in the right journals, visiting the right web pages etc
- International exchange offers an opportunity to discover hidden research practices, discussion and concepts .
- International exchange, in addition to journals, is necessary because a lot of the knowledge in social work cannot be found in international journals, or English web pages, due to high standards of peer reviewed journals (publication bias) or a language threshold (national journals and web pages are not regularly in English in non-English speaking countries).

Possible outcome of seminar

- a network/meeting platform .
- to exchange information on how to disseminate EBP, possible collaboration in testing various instruments et cetera.
- to discuss common interests, developments, practices and research questions on EBP.
- a common publication.
 1. contributions from several countries, each describing five well developed interventions at national level which have not yet reached the status of evidence based but are interesting enough to show to each other and establish as interesting for further development and research).
 2. different models to be discussed in the meeting.

Background of MOVISIE

Movisie is the Netherlands centre for social development. As one of the initiators¹ of this proposal, our point of departure is that we aim for EBP in social work. We do this by:

- setting up a database of well documented interventions in the social sector,
- stimulating research and the quest for research methods useful in and suitable for the social sector,
- implementing the ideas and the results of EBP as a sound and necessary basic element in the fields of:
 - social work
 - relevant institutions (knowledge centres, higher education)
 - policy development.

At this moment over 50 methods or interventions are described in our database in the fields of e.g. participation, social case work, domestic and sexual violence, volunteer work and loneliness.

If you are interested, please subscribe at: www.movisie.nl/seminarEBP

Concerning content of the meeting you can contact:
[Martijn Bool](#) , by phone +31307892209

Practical questions can be adressed at [Daniëlle Pickering](#), by phone +31307892222

More information about Evidence Based Practice see [here](#)

MOVISIE

MOVISIE is the Netherlands centre for social development. We support and advise professional organizations, volunteer organizations and government institutions. Our aim is to contribute to a society in which people are empowered to full capacity.

Contact us

MOVISIE is a learning organization willing to work with other countries and to share experiences in international cooperation. Are you interested in our work? Would you like to know more about our projects or do you want to cooperate with us? Feel free to contact us.

www.movisie.nl/english