

Research Clinic

Supervisors;

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Title of Clinic; Participation of citizens within the project 'A healthier and happier The Hague'

Number of Students 2

Major: GPH, GED, Elective

(Pre-) requisites: basic understanding of Dutch (passive and active)

Research context

The Hague is one of the most segregated cities in the Netherlands with high healthcare expenditures and a fragmented organisational health structure. Thus, there is high urgency to tackle health problems in The Hague. Recently, the local healthcare and welfare organisations, together with the City Council and supported by the LUMC Campus in The Hague, started a collaboration to make 'The Hague a healthier and happier city'. The project will focus on vulnerable groups of citizens (elderly, people with cardiovascular diseases and citizens with severe psychiatric disorders) in deprived neighbourhoods, starting with a population health management approach and focusing on the societal impact of health problems.

The experience of citizens belonging to one of the aforementioned groups with professional interventions will be one of the leading notions in the project. In addition to getting insight into their experience, the project also aims to investigate in citizens and citizens' organisation participation in the design of personal interventions and communal arrangements. Citizen's co-ops seem to play a promising role. An assessment of and analyses of success factors of citizen's co-ops and other forms of participation will be the final aim of the project; and results will be implemented in the entire The Hague project.

LEARNING AIMS:

- Understand the backgrounds of aforementioned health problems among vulnerable populations within deprived neighbourhoods in the Hague;
- systematic search and meta-analysis of existing literature/ evidence/ best practices about the role of citizens in the design, the organisation and implementation of social policies, especially according citizens' co-ops.
- Acquiring skills in qualitative research methods: interviewing and evaluation of these interviews of citizens and professionals about the added value of coop's in the The Hague project.

TIMELINE AND ACTIVITIES

February;

Systematic search and Meta-analyse existing literature;

March/April:

Visit successful and promising initiatives throughout the country and evaluate to what extent they might be useful within the The Hague context. What are the 'lessons learned'?

May:

Discuss the outcome of the investigation with citizens and patients within the The Hague project, to collect information about their preferences and alternative models of participation by citizens.