

# Nijland & Kroes Expert centre for education and care

The Netherlands



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Role in the project collaborate in workpackages 3:interdisciplinary in-service training development. Based on the list of competencies developed in WP2, develop a transdisciplinary multi-level in-service modular training. Nijland & Kroes will support in the other workpackages. In 2015, Nijland & Kroes will host the partner meeting and a symposium.

Who we are? Nijland & Kroes is an organization which provides support for children and youth with a disability and complex support needs, their parents, professionals and other caretakers. We provide advice on (multiple) difficulties in care and education. We also offer individual or psychological assessment, a separate environment which acts as a second home, coaching or training. We do research, develop training modules and instruments and professionalizing staff. Our way of working is ordinary, workable and adapted. We aspire to organize the possibility of including children and youth with a disability in normal schools. With these activities we promote social inclusion. The team of Nijland & Kroes consists of 15 staff: behavioural scientists, applied psychologists, coaches, trainers and other professionals. We are a team with a professional approach and a personal touch.

In our organization we strive towards the greatest participation and independency that is possible for children & youth. We would like them to take part in family and peer activities, to become autonomous. Our motto presents our way of thinking: 'Where normal and special meet'. Where meetings take place, there is always space for movement and change. Whether it's about an advice, an answer or solution, in our meetings we focus on the child in his or her situation and relatives. In this dynamism, Nijland & Kroes functions as a bridge. Through conversations and dialogues, we draw goals and help them to expand and achieve them. We offer opportunities in lasting results for development, education and connections. Our practical way of thinking and working suits perfectly in recent social trends and political decisions. In this way we contribute to a professionalization of care and education which is future-proof

## Activities

We developed and educate a trainingprogram for professionals who are working with children with special needs. (especially for children and youth with complex and intense support needs). This is a trainingsprogram forprofessionals who are working in a care-environment and in an educationenvironment. And we developed an assessmentinstrument for teachers, caretakers and students to define and describe the (special) needs of the children and students. We also train professionals to use the instrument and we help to implement.

## International networking

We participate in a few international networks: Downkids international [www.downkidsinternational.com](http://www.downkidsinternational.com) and the international Feuerstein Institute (Jerusalem). And now for the Enablin+ project we particaptie with the international partners.

## National networking

For the Enablin+ project, we cooperate with professionals and parents' organisations working in the field of profound and multiple disability in the Netherlands; EMG-Platform ([www.emgplatform.nl](http://www.emgplatform.nl)), the University of Groningen, especially with prof. Vlaskamp (Research Centre on Profound and Multiple Disabilities. (<http://www.rug.nl/gmw/pedagogy-and-educational-sciences/research/researchpmd/>).

In the project Nijland & Kroes will collaborate with: Calibris, the national knowledge centre for vocational education of care and wellbeing also responsible for the certification of learning on the job centres and establishment of qualifications. In line with these tasks they are also establishing qualifications in "zorg en welzijn en sport" (care and welfare and sport). This is all to support the on-the-job vocational training programmes. They support employers to have sufficient staff with the right skills available. Independent of the situation Calibris acts as a consultant, initiator, intermediary, director, financier or researcher. They operate in a dynamic environment with a variety of stakeholders facing complex tasks and profound change. All with a clear goal in mind; a competent workforce and a well-balanced labour market.

Alongside Calibris we will also cooperate with the Windesheim and Saxion Colleges for Special education in the Netherlands. Nijland en Kroes has large network of professionals in the care and education sectors as well as parents that are able and willing to contribute. We have followed a boy with multiple disabilities for many years. This boy is the real life case that underpins our holistic and interdisciplinary view and practical approach.

In parallel to the project Enabling+ we have been involved with the development of a curriculum (as part of mytyleducation) for professionals in care and education. This could be a great example for the project.