



News article, May 2018

## Connecting health and social care in Amsterdam

Pre-congress day of the International Foundation of the Integrated Care (IFIC)

### Lots of Inspiration!

As an excursion prior to the 18th [International Conference on Integrated Care 2018](#), Van Maar Advies organised a site visit to Amsterdam in collaboration with Vilans. The theme of the site visit was integrated elderly care. “It was very nice to validate problems we encounter in Canada and to discuss solutions with other experts”, said dr. Ruta Valaitis.

### Site visit to Amsterdam

In the morning session, the participants from all over the world shared the characteristics of elderly care in their home countries.

The aging population was a shared challenge for all countries. Also, inequalities in elderly care was an issue in some of the countries. It was interesting that different countries take a different aim in finding solutions for challenges such as the aging population. For example, Singapore tries to find solutions in innovation in robotics, whereas Israel focuses on community care and Canada involves elderly in urban planning and public transport.

### Ben Sajat Center

The first site visit was to the Ben Sajat Center. The goal of the center is to bring together researchers, professionals, and teachers in the long-term care to. By doing this, applying research is one step closer.

One example was a research about bridging the gap between care in the hospital and care at home. This was a topic we discussed a lot all day because it was one of the most important aspects of integrated elderly care.

The participants also told how centers such as the Ben Sajat Center are organized in their home countries. It was interesting to see that the Ben Sajat Center is financed by the Dutch government, where in the United Kingdom and Canada similar institutes are funded by charities. In Singapore, valorization is stimulated by forcing to have a patient of the target population of a research writing the research grant.



*Corine van Maar told about issues in the Netherlands and asked the participants from Canada, Israel, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Singapore, about issues in their countries.*



*Krijn van Beek told about the projects of the Ben Sajat Center, Wim Klein Nagelvoort gave a presentation about the work of Elaa.*

## Elaa

After this, Wim Klein Nagelvoort gave a presentation about the work of Elaa. The goal of Elaa is to have primary care work together. There was an interesting discussion about case managers like we see them a lot now in the Netherlands, and care navigators, a British model. Wim described the work of Elaa as a catalyst, making the cooperation between care givers more efficient.

## SAG Amsterdam

The second site visit was to the health center Borgerstraat of the Stichting Amsterdamse Gezondheidscentra (SAG) (Foundation for healthcare centers Amsterdam). The SAG is taking steps in the direction of integrated care, with practice assistants visiting patients in nursing homes and giving some of the primary care. This was very inspiring to the participants. “The project here works because of the communication that is present between all care givers. There is a network of relationships”, said prof. Janet Bettger from the United States.

## Enjoy the congress!

We ended the day in the bus back to Utrecht. The participants and the organization look back at a successful day. ‘It was very nice that we had enough time for questions and discussion’, according to the participants from Singapore.

*GPs, physiotherapists, and practice assistants gathered for us and explained about their work and contact with patients.*



## More information?

Please contact Corine van Maar, E: [corine@vanmaaradvies.nl](mailto:corine@vanmaaradvies.nl).

Van Maar Advies organizes inspiration tours in- and outside the Netherlands. Please go to [www.vanmaaradvies.nl](http://www.vanmaaradvies.nl) for the latest updates.