

Yes, We Can 1 – #EIE2021

Presenters: Tom Jefford (Family Psychology Mutual); Bianca Albers (Centre for Evidence & Implementation); Pauline Goense (ZonMw) – U.K. / Germany / Netherlands

It's my party and I'll cry if I want to

The Wicked Problem

Time and time again, studies show that social workers are open to the idea of evidence-based practice (EBP) but struggle to *really* practice it in routine service settings. In other words: EBP, while having been debated intensely in different ways, is still a rare and - at best - upcoming phenomena in many policy and service organisations. Why have social workers in many European countries been so late to the EBP and implementation party – or have not even joined it, yet? Even more important, and the focus of this session: ***How can we enthuse and motivate social work to embrace evidence and bridge the implementation gap?***

Background

The facilitators of this workshop are either qualified social workers and/or have been working with evidence uptake in social work for some time. It seems to us that social work as a profession is evidence light – even in European countries that are traditionally strong on evidence use in human services. Pockets of research-supported interventions are present but the use of evidence, implementation science and evaluation seem to founder on the rocks of good intentions at best and wither on the vine of *we just don't like it*.

We are interested in exploring more about the structural, leadership and system issues which are at play in different European countries. Perhaps we should look at social work training, maybe at leadership, certainly at values. Complaining from the side lines isn't good enough, so let's try to find some solutions and actions to draw social work across the threshold and invite them to join the party. What can we put out on the table to entice them in and ensure that they stay?

Who is this for (target audience)?

If you are a social worker, practitioner, organisational leader or policy maker working in and with social work, then join us. We would also be keen to involve researchers who teach, train and educate social work professions and others working to spread the EBP and implementation love in social work in different countries.

