Minutes – Meeting of European Implementation Networks (online)

Agenda

1. **Welcome, introductions, and recap of previous network meeting** - Barbara van der Linden

2. **Updates from the EIC** (please see slides for a summary below) – Heather Rogers

3. **Updates from networks on activities and progress**

German-Speaking Implementation Association (INFo-P) (see slides)
- Membership: 136 members on LinkedIn
- Current Activities:
    - Survey on implementation research infrastructure in German-speaking countries
    - ImpleTax project: Developing a taxonomy of German-language terminology
- Upcoming Events:
    - Implementation Café on September 5, 2024 (open to German speakers)
    - Partnership with the German Congress for Health Services Research on September 25-27, 2024

Danish Implementation Network (DIN)
- Leadership: 11 board members, primarily from implementation practice
- Primary Goal: Organizing an annual conference in Danish, with this year's theme focused on "Implementation and Systemic Change."
- Additional Activities: Regular seminars conducted in Danish

UK Implementation Society (UKIS)
- "By way of an update for UKIS we have brought new Trustees on board, and this is helping us to refresh our plans and provide new capacity. We are supporting the programme committee and the social programme for the EIE. We moved from a pay for membership to a free membership which has improved our membership size. The current struggle is in offering product/events given limited resources but there is hope with the infusion of ideas and energy of our new Trustees, including Magda who has joined the call" (Tom Jefford in meeting chat)

Spain/Basque Country Implementation Network
- Focus: Primary care and health promotion
- Recent and Upcoming Events:
    - Hosted an international conference in 2023

- o Planning another in-person conference in May 2025, open to international participants
- o Network expansion: Efforts underway to broaden the network nationally and into other settings

Implementation Network of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Membership: 150 members from both public and private sectors
- Recent Activities
  - o Secured one-time funding from CES for network secretariat
  - o Produced three 20-minute videos on implementation (available on YouTube)
  - o Conducted a board discussion on goals and a needs survey
  - o Annual Activities: Two network meetings/seminars.

Norwegian Implementation Research Network (NIMP)
- Recent Activities:
  - o Hosted the Annual Conference; proceedings to be published by the end of the year
  - o Planning webinars in Norwegian
  - o Engaged in discussions on Nordic collaboration

IMPACT Switzerland
- Upcoming Events:
  - o Planning a [conference in English in Geneva this September](#) (details available via link)
  - o [Two webinars](#) are also planned, with details to be shared through EIC

Portugal
- Nathalie Blackburn is working to establish a Portuguese implementation network
- Currently developing an introductory course on implementation
- Planning a pre-conference session at the European Public Health Conference in Lisbon

Greece
- Katarina Iliopoulou is keen to introduce implementation and behavioural science to Greece
- Exploring ideas from other experienced network founders to start a Greek network

Belgium
- Launch of a Belgian network, currently focused on defining its mission and vision
- The network has 8 members, primarily from Flanders, with plans to expand into the French-speaking regions of Belgium

Netherlands Implementation Collaborative (NIC) (see slides)
- Goals: Strengthening infrastructure for implementation to promote change in Dutch healthcare
- Ongoing activities
  - o Website development featuring resources on training and research
  - o Creation of a consultation tool
  - o Development of an Implementation Science agenda
  - o Support: Received a grant from the Ministry of Health and ZonMw for network coordination
  - o Future plans: Working towards becoming a financially sustainable independent society, potentially with paid membership

4. **Presentation & discussion:** Investments of the Netherlands Implementation Collective (NIC) (see slides)

Implementation Science Practitioner Training Programme, Certification, and Intervision from the Netherlands - Gerjanne Vianen and Barbara van der Linden

The new Dutch training programme, which began in November 2023, is designed for 40 fellows and focuses on developing Implementation Science Practitioner competencies as outlined by Metz et al. The programme covers key areas including Implementation Science knowledge, personal and relationship development, and contextual understanding. Participants also engage in implementation projects and Intervision sessions. Upon completion, fellows will have the opportunity to apply for certification through the Netherlands Implementation Collaborative (NIC).

The certification process, organized by NIC, aims to establish a comprehensive database of implementation experts to ensure quality assurance and provide recognition by employers and funders. The certification, which will include Intervision as a component, is expected to be available by mid-2025.

In Belgium, a similar implementation support programme offers 18 months of training for primary care professionals. Gerjanne and Ashley plan to collaborate on this initiative. Comparable training programmes also exist in Germany and Switzerland, and this topic will be further discussed at the European Implementation Event (EIE) in Newcastle.

5. **The European Implementation Event 2025** (please see slides for a summary below) – Leah Bührmann

A meeting of the networks will be scheduled for autumn 2024 to discuss their contributions to EIE2025.

The EIC Board 2023-2026

Jackie Dwane
University of Limerick, Ireland
EIC Board Member

Heather Rogers
Biocruces Bizkaia Health Research Institute, Spain
Chair of the EIC

Nadina Peters
Norwegian centre for violence and traumatic stress studies, Norway
EIC Board Member

Barbara van der Linden
ZonMw, The Netherlands
EIC Board Member

Andy Bray
Centre for Effective Services (CES), Ireland
EIC Board Member, Treasurer

Thekla Brunkert
University of Lucerne, Switzerland
EIC Board Member

Lauren Clack
Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care, University of Zurich, Switzerland
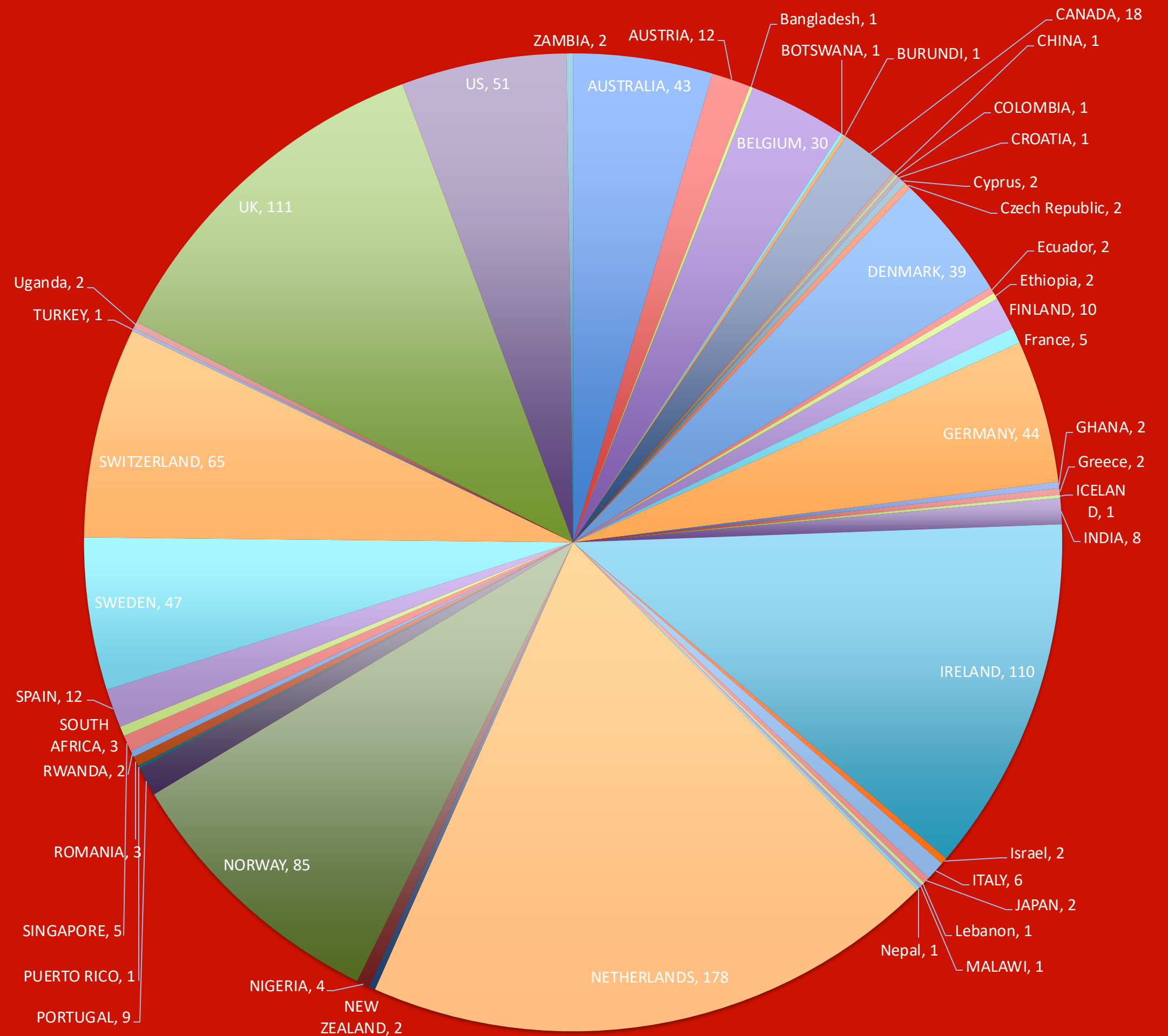EIC Board Member

Leah Bührmann
Northumbria University, UK
Scientific Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

The EIC counts **943 members** from **48 countries** with an average growth of 12 members per month (Oct 2023).

EIC membership is free of charge and open to anyone with an interest in implementation.

KEY EIC ACTIVITIES 2023 June – now

2023 JUNE - **now**

- Three-monthly Board meetings
- EIC Member engagement
- Support EIC Working Groups and research projects

2022 SEP - **now**

- Co-PI of the European Implementation Mapping Project

2023 JUNE

- Annual meeting of the European Implementation Networks
- EIE2023: 2-day conference, 350 attendees

2023 AUG

- Finalization of the registration of EIC in the Swiss Handelsregister

2023 OCT

- General Assembly and Board elections

2024 JAN

- UNC Scholarships

2024 JAN - now

- Start planning EIE2025

2024 MAR - APRIL

- Teaching at Barcelona Technology School

2024 MAY

- EIC Board Meeting in Dublin, Ireland, with a focus to update the EIC's activity planning for 2024-2026

EIC WORKING GROUPS

The EIC focuses on creating links between the individuals and groups working in implementation science and practice across Europe by establishing **open working groups**

➢ **EARLY CAREER IMPLEMENTATION PROFESSIONAL (ECIP)**

77 members, regular WG meetings, involvement in the EIE2023 programme planning, EIE2023 activities, involvement in research project, weekly "Writing Hour"

➢ **IMPLEMENTATION IN PHYSIOTHERAPY**

Working Groups in preparation:

➢ **IMPLEMENTATION IN SOCIAL WORK**

➢ **IMPLEMENTATION EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

➢ **EIC BOARD ALUMNIS**

➢ **QUALITATIVE IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH (EIC – QIR)**

Implementierungs-**N**etzwerk für **Fo**rschung und **P**raxis

INFo⟷P

German Speaking Implementation Association

Who we are

- Founded in **2017**
- **Steering board** (including ImpSci researchers from Austria, Germany, Switzerland; in honorary capacity)
  - Marie-Therese Schultes
  - Monika Sztankay
  - Leah Bührmann
  - Monika Finsterwald
  - Julia Klug
  - Tina Quasdorf
- **Network associates** from various disciplines, free membership
- **Communication**: LinkedIn group (n=136) & quarterly newsletter
- **Contact**:
  - implementierungsnetzwerk@gmail.com
  - https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12042484

Our goals

- Provide **networking opportunities** for German speaking implementation researchers & practitioners

- Enhance the **visibility of implementation science** in German speaking countries

- Support the **building of expertise** inside and outside the network
  - Peer-learning
  - Focus on transfer (e.g., ImpSci teaching group)

- **Target group**: Colleagues from research AND practice → Mutual exchange & learning

- **Disciplines & practice fields**:
  health, education, social work, economy

Current activities

- **Promote ImpSci survey**: Study on implementation research infrastructure in German speaking countries (lead: Marie-Therese Schultes)

- **ImplemenTax**: Development of a taxonomy of German language implementation science terminology (ImpSci teaching working group, lead: Silke Kuske)

- **Implementation Café**: Informal virtual forum to discuss questions and challenges re implementation projects, upcoming in **September 5 & November 28, 2024**

- **Website Update**: www.implementierung.eu

- **Conference partnership**: 23rd German Congress for Health Services Research (Potsdam, incl. INFo↔P network meeting **September 25, 2024**)

INFo↔P meet-up
EIE Basel 2023

NIC Update and Presentation on
ISP Training programme, Certification and Intervision

Leo Jetten, coordinator Netherlands' Implementation Collective
Gerjanne Vianen, project leader Certification
Barbara van der Linden, project leader Intervision

➢ Goal:
- Increase the ability and willingness to implement, learn and change in the Dutch healthcare system
- NIC as a widely supported dynamic and learning implementation network, developing into an independent entity

➢ Activities:
- Website with overview of training programs
- Online certification system i.s.n.
- Hybrid reflection 'service' with methods and tools for implementation solutions i.s.n.
- Supports implementation research
- Organizes meetings in network of experts and advises on Intervision

NIC in short

- 130 official members at start of independent NIC association (will start this year)
- Subscriptions newsletter: 289
- Website www.nederlandsimplementatiecollectief.nl (+/- 1200 views a month)
- LinkedIn group members: 469
- Basic funding from Ministry of Health (until end 2025 probably / with special interest in the implementation of hybrid pathways in care and cure)
- Steering committee/board
- Coordinator at ZonMw (and secretary and communication) BU LSH/digital health
- Committees:
    - Implementation Research,
    - Education and Training,
    - Methods and Tools,
    - Networking and Intervision

Implementation Science Practitioner (ISP) training program

➢ **Improve implementation infrastructure**

- training implementation fellows
- linking research – practice
- bridging the gap
- building learning communities / networks

➢ **Present capacity insufficient**

- 2010-2013: 10 fellows (8 UMC / STZ)

NIC Nederlands Implementatie Collectief

40 Implementatie Science Practitioner fellowships **awarded**

juni 2023

by ZonMw

ISP – Training Program

Led by consortium:

- Academic University
- University of Applied sciences
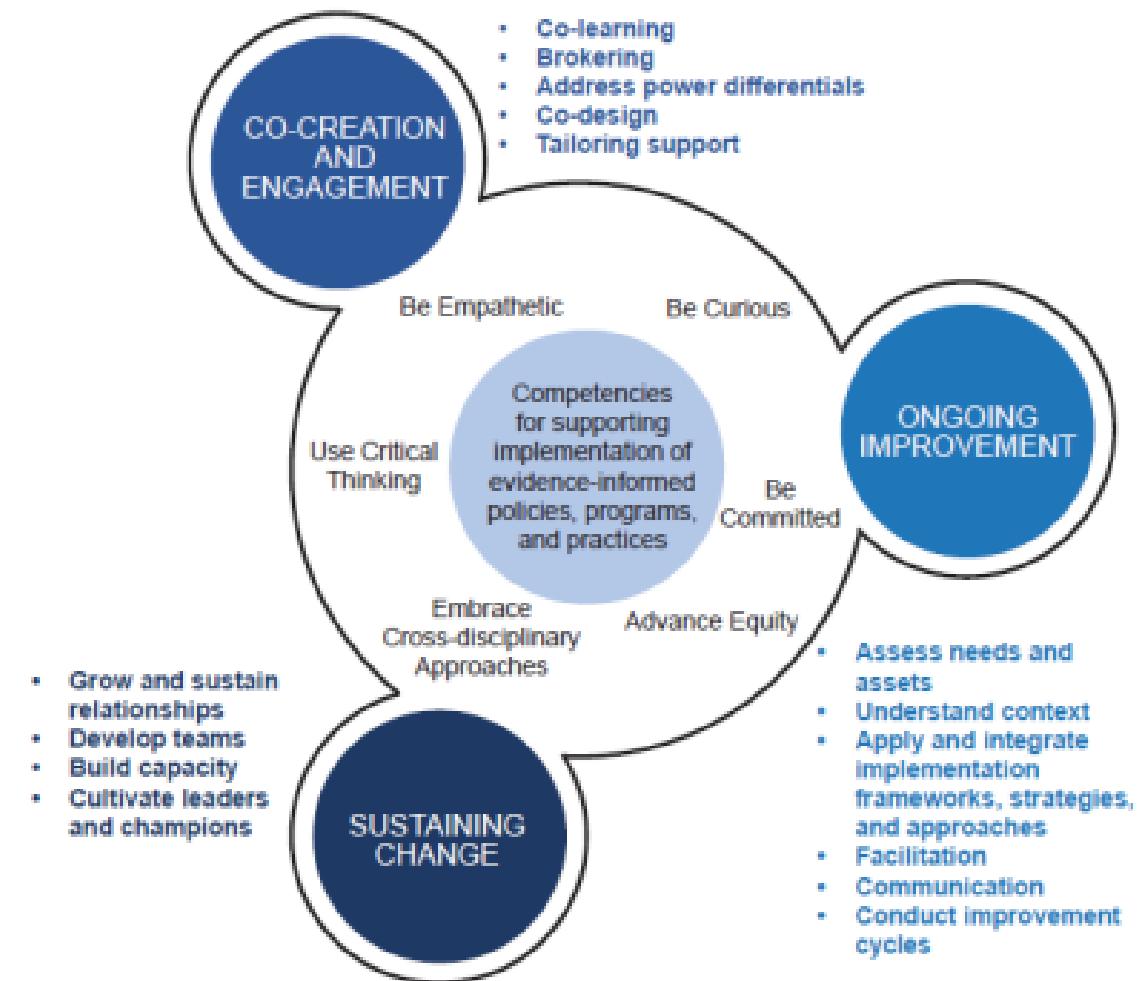- Practice development center

Start: November 1, 2023

ISP-Fellows

Overview program

Implementation case

Program in numbers

- 18 months
- 2x two day seminar
- 4x offline full day sessions
- 7x online half day sessions
- 3x half day together with implementation team (board member/manager)
- 8x intervision in subgroups
- 3x inspirational site visits
- 3x telephone progress reports
- 1x assessment
- 1x closing conference

Implementation Support Practitioner Profile
Domains and Core Competencies

- Co-learning
- Brokering
- Address power differentials
- Co-design
- Tailoring support

CO-CREATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Be Empathetic   Be Curious

Competencies for supporting implementation of evidence-informed policies, programs, and practices

Use Critical Thinking   Be Committed

ONGOING IMPROVEMENT

Embrace Cross-disciplinary Approaches   Advance Equity

- Grow and sustain relationships
- Develop teams
- Build capacity
- Cultivate leaders and champions

SUSTAINING CHANGE

- Assess needs and assets
- Understand context
- Apply and integrate implementation frameworks, strategies, and approaches
- Facilitation
- Communication
- Conduct improvement cycles

Portfolio

April, 2025 → Apply for certification

N!C Nederlands Implementatie Collectief

Metz, A., et al (2020). Implementation support practitioner profile: Guiding principles and core competencies for implementation practice.

Certification 1/2

➢ Goal: To achieve certification for implementation experts

- Overview of implementation experts

- Quality assurance / improvement

- Recognition (employers, also for funders)

➢ Desk research / interviews

- IMP-expert has both know-how of IMP-science ánd IMP–practice

- Keep it simple; make it meaningful

- Application NIC registration in database, renewal in xx? years

- Assessment Committee

- Business model for NIC?? What may it cost?

Certification 2/2

➢ Criteria / requirements / recommendations: 1 profile (with specialization?)

- Prior education – Health, Care, Welfare

- Implementation expertise – training / practice / free space

- Implementation experience – researcher / project leader / process facilitator, advisor

- Competencies (leadership, deploying models/frameworks, building a team,...)

- Products, guidance, portfolio

- Intervision (recommended for 1st registration; requirement for re-registration)

➢ ISP Core Competencies Self-Assessment (ISCA-tool, Allison Metz & colleagues)

➔ *work in progress*

Intervision:
"a peer-led group reflection method"

"Intervision is a form of guidance in which the participants systematically discuss an input, particularly aimed at the competences of communication, cooperation or professionalism, of one of them"

Common and often required in (health care) professions

Terminology: supervision, coaching, support
Issues:
- Supported or self guided?
- Content driven and/or personal development
- in own setting or independent
- how to organize, monitor and learn?

Pilot project 2024-2025: examples in training programme and existing and new groups in health care
Recommendations for NIC, September 2025

Questions?
Discussion:
Are there comparable developments in your countries related to training programmes, certification and/or intervision? (or different terms) for implementation science and/or practice?

We team up with the UK/Ireland Implementation Research Conference!

EIE2025 Co-hosts:

EIE2025 Planning Structure

EIC Board

Management Committee
Chair: Bianca Albers

Confriends (Event Planners)

Bernadette Corrigan (KCL)

ECIP Committee Leah Bührmann (EIC Secretary) Nadina Peters (EIC BM)

Social Program Committee Tom Jefford (UKIS)

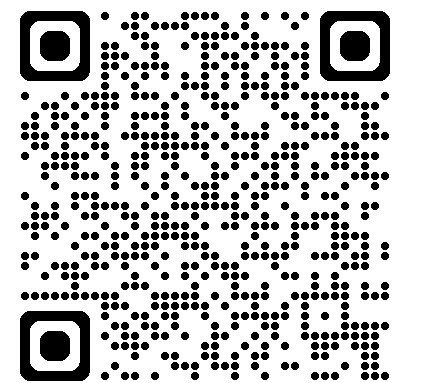Program Committee Heather Rogers (EIC Chair)

Poster Committee Alexandra Ziemann (Former BM)

Programme Committee

- Professor Annette Boaz, King's College London
- Andrew Bray, Centre for Effective Services (CES) & EIC Board
- Dr Wendy Burton, York University & UKIS
- Dr Lauren Clack, University of Zurich, CH & EIC Board
- Jacqueline Dwane, University of Limerick & EIC Board
- Professor Tracy Finch, Northumbria University

- Dr Louise Hull, King's College London
- Dr Brian Mittman, Kaiser Permanente, USA
- Professor Tim Rapley, Northumbria University (from Oct)
- Dr Heather Rogers, BioBizkaia Health Research Institute, ES & EIC
- Professor Jane Sandall, King's College London
- Dr Barbara van Linden, ZonMw, NL

https://implementation.eu/eie2025-conference-committee

Key dates 2024

Key dates for EIE2025 **attendees**

Registration opens	September 2024
Night Owl registration closes	TBD
Early Bird registration closes	TBD
Registration closes	May 2025
Call for abstracts opens	September 2024

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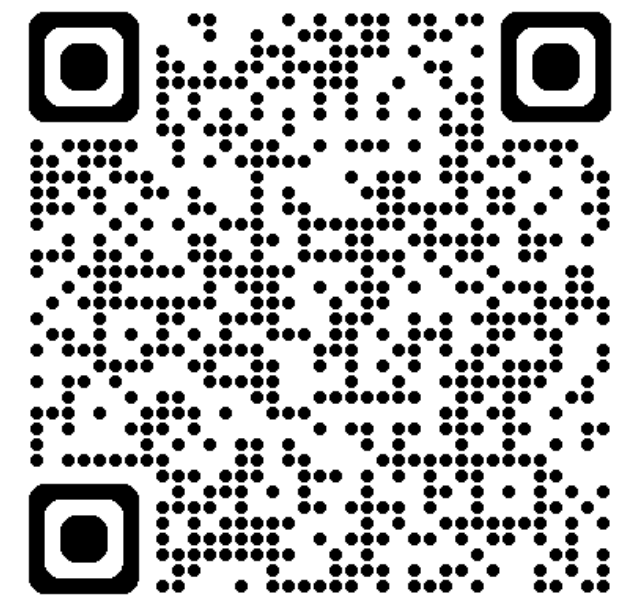
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https://implementation.eu/eie2025/ - In progress

How you can get involved

EIE2025 Partner

Facilitating & networking

Promoting

Reviewing

At EIE2025: Network sessions

Your ideas!