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# Lessons learned from case study ZonMw *'Participation Unlimited'*

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# Introduction

- South of the Netherlands / Someren / 19.500 inhabitants
- Metropole region of Eindhoven (755.313, 21 municipalities)
- As a local elderman I need and want to be an idealist
- Being an idealist I'm in need of a realist to achieve goals
- Inclusion is my ideal
  - and a red line through my career from 1980 as a male nurse assistant till now as an elderman
- Focus on possibilities,
  - Not blindstaring on disabilities (not even on this international day of persons with disabilities...)
  - Do not judge the past, tomorrow you're in it...
- Importance of technology
  - not as a goal but as one of the means to improve quality of life and inclusion
- Importance of working together with regional partners to reach impact
  - Alone you go faster, together we come further
- Chairman of ZonMw-commission '*Participation Unlimited*'

## ZonMw '*Participation Unlimited*'

- ZonMw funds innovative projects
  - On health and inclusion
  - On behalve of the ministry of Health, Wellbeing and Sports
- 'Participation Unlimited' focuses on inclusive participation of persons with disabilities in the education system and labour market
  - Nothing about us without us
  - Participation of persons with disabilities from start till the end of the project
- One of the projects:
  - CASE Project digi-colleague: focuses on blended learning

## This session

- *How regions try to achieve and strengthen a ‘digital infrastructure for all’ through approaches of regional development in collaboration with municipalities, civil society organizations, social service providers, social administration, business, politics, and universities.*
- So in this presentation
  - Not completely focused on technology
  - highlight on the regional collaboration and aspects of this project
  - Role of the municipality in such a development

## Case: Project Digi

- A technical tool that trains adolescents with intellectual disability, basic skills necessary for daily work. E-learning
- Interview skills, planning, routine
- Bases on the needs and wishes of people with intellectual disability
- Collaboration with different stakeholders: Higher education system, healthcare organisations, municipalities of 12 different regions, ICT-organisation.
- Municipalities need to be convinced of added value for society, to ‘chip in’.
  - Whether persons with disabilities do or do not have a care provider, they are a full member of the community
  - If they do, it is often a win-win scenario
- In this case: 12 municipalities aid in the implementation of the tool in different education systems.
  - They made a financial contribution
  - That makes them co-owner, co-responsible, co-winner

## Lessons learned

- When performing such a project, it is essential to make it a co-production with persons with disabilities from the start!
- The project should be based on the needs en requirements of both the persons with disabilities as ‘the labour market’.
- A collaboration with relevant stakeholders is essential. Often, the municipality is a valuable partner. But how to involve them?
- The durable uptake of the results of a project is often hard to ensure. The municipality can often play a key-role.
- Society needs to recognize that including people with a disability on the labour market is an opportunity, of which we can all benefit on the long term, instead of a burden!

## Questions for you

- How do you incorporate the input of people with disabilities in your projects?
- How do you involve the local government / municipality in your projects and why?
- Digitalization comes with a lot of benefits but also challenges. People with disabilities aren't always able to use the soft- and hardware. How do you cope with these challenges?
- If we want to keep sight on solutions, opportunities and possibilities of tomorrow, how can we prevent on single focus on costs.