Working in neighbourhoods - working towards inclusion of older migrants?

IMISCOE congres Care for and social well-being of older migrants



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Neighbourhoods as 'ideal' places to organise care and social services

- Ageing in place 'good' for maintaining independence and levels of well-being
- Needs-based, close to clients and their networks
- Good fit with turn to 'active citizenship': emphasis on neighbourhood inhabitants, not on minority groups...





Working in neighbourhoods

- Neighbourhood-based 'teams' for access to care and support
- Low-threshold I&A centers for outreach and prevention



Working in neighbourhoods: challenges

- Staffing of, division of responsibilities within neighbourhoodbased teams subject to change
- Struggling with new roles: responsiveness to clients' needs, hesitating to make decisions ('handelingsverlegen')



Reaching out to older migrants

- Organised cross-linkages between professionals:
 - neighbourhoods: regular meeting opportunities for professionals working in the neighbourhood
 - city-wide: e.g. 'Divers Den Haag', 'Diversiteitscafé Nijmegen'
- Ad-hoc linkages with neighbourhood teams:
 - recruiting new key figures ('sleutelfiguren') for (new) migrant groups
 - staff at day care centres, hospitals
 - personal assistants





Reaching out to older migrants: challenges

- The Hague: tension between size of groups of older migrants and valuation (hours paid) of professionals with cultural SKC
- Nijmegen: tension between neighbourhoods where older migrants live and places where culturally specific care is offered
- Needs-based work in neighbourhoods for older migrants:
 - is first about trust-building
 - includes 'translation' work; helping people see their own role



Propositions

- Local governments should put much more effort in monitoring agreements about cultural sensitivity with the care providers they contract. If they don't, too much pressure for reaching out to older migrants is placed on professionals with a migration background
- In order to reach out to older migrants who have not used long-term care and social services before, it is necessary to grant them easier access to care and social services