

**Abstract submitted to the ESPAnet NL-VL Farewell Conference of Prof. Dr. Trudie Knijn
Parallel Stream Session B.1: Social work and justice**

Abstract title: “The development of an Integrated-Rights Practice in the Flemish field of socio-juridical services to tackle non-take-up of rights.”

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Background and purpose:

In Flanders, a renewed Decree on Local Social Policy (Decree of February 9th 2018, Belgian Law Gazette February 26th 2018) introduced the concept of ‘Integrated-Rights Practice’¹ (IRP). In brief, IRP aims to guarantee social rights by creating local interorganizational networks that foster generalist, pro-active, outreaching, strengths-based and participative social work interventions (Boost, Elloukmani, Raeymaeckers and Hermans, 2018a).

In our presentation, we will focus on an ongoing project in which IRP is applied to the specific field of socio-juridical practice in Antwerp. In this project, interorganizational collaboration between different social work services is expanded with partners from the field of justice (courts, lawyers, magistrates, ...) in an effort to lower existing thresholds that impair access to justice and lead to non-take-up of rights.

In order to evaluate this innovative practice, we use the CAIMeR-model developed by Blom and Morèn (2010). Earlier research (Boost et al., 2018b) has shown that this model is specifically apt to describe and substantiate how specific social work interventions lead to a certain outcome while taking into account the specific context in which they are performed. Guided by the theoretical structure of CAIMeR, we designed a methodological framework in which we combine structured direct observations, semi-structured interviews, focus groups and quantitative analyses of registration data to tackle our main research questions:

- (1) Does implementing IRP in the field of socio-juridical practice in Antwerp lower thresholds to assistance and services?*
- (2) Does implementing IRP guarantee that social rights of service users are adequately explored and realized?*

As this abstract relates to ongoing empirical research, we will limit our presentation to a description of our theoretical and methodological framework and the preliminary results of the qualitative analyses of observation and interview data.

¹ In Dutch, the concept of Integrated-Rights Practice is captured by the term ‘Geïntegreerd Breed Onthaal’.