

**“Enhancing Interprofessional
Collaboration and Learning for
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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Title	BUILDING A BRIDGE WHILE WALKING ON IT: DEVELOPING AN INTERPROFESSIONAL CARE NETWORK OVER A TEN YEAR PERIOD
Type	Oral Presentation High-Quality Learning and Collaborations in the Health Workforce
1st Author	MARLOES VAN BOKHOVEN
Co-Authors	MARLOES VAN BOKHOVEN
Country	THE NETHERLANDS
Abstract N ^o	TUFH822
Content	<p>Background The population of elderly in The Netherlands is doubling within the next 10 years. As this population often suffers from multiple health problems, interprofessional care is needed to support the patients' quality of life. Initiatives to establish interprofessional care networks often end after an initial project phase. Our aim was to establish and continuously develop a lasting care network, which now exists for 10 years and to reflect on the lessons that can be learnt from it. Methods We used the principles of action research (plan, act, observe, reflect) as a methodological approach and a Community of Practice as a setting to work in. The Community of Practice consists of: primary health care professionals, social care professionals, senior citizens, municipality, nursing home, local housing agency and knowledge institutions at vocational and scientific levels. Results We first developed a lasting organization structure and collaboration routines. Subsequently we worked on improvement of collaboration and care through joint quality improvement projects. In a next phase we extended the network. The lessons learnt so far were translated into an interprofessional training program for students. Conclusion Learning and innovating collaboratively in a care network is time consuming and never ends, but it is a promising way to improve interprofessional collaboration.</p>