

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY 2023

A plea for participatory research

Research on autism has a long history. However, allowing autistic individuals to (co)decide on research is only in its infancy. @sketchnotesara made these beautiful sketch notes for us to illustrate the importance of participatory research.

Within the Academic Collaborative Centre for Autism, we strive to maximize the participation of autistic individuals with support of the Flemish government. Our research is a process of co-creation from start to finish. To this end, we collaborate with the Autistic Adults' Reading and Advisory Group ([LAVA vzw](#)) and the Flemish Autism Association ([VVA](#)).

PARTICIPATORY
Autism
RESEARCH
@sketchnotesara

We have to involve women in research about women
we have to involve L&BTQ+ people in research about L&BTQ+
We have to involve autistic people in research about autism

@sketchnotesara

People are investing more and more in autism research
but the impact on the autistic community could be better

that is why we are focussing on participatory research

@sketchnotesara

Research priorities from the autistic community

transitions, education, being bullied, sensory processing, loneliness, communication, family's training of professionals, work, executive functions, relations and sexuality, diagnosis, support, consulting throughout the lifespan, mental health, social security, awareness, gender identity.

Ladder of participation

1. inform
2. consult
3. advice
4. (co)produce
5. (co)decide

@sketchnotesara

INNOVATING BY CONNECTING
Collaborating with the autistic community in research on support for autistic individuals

PARTICIPATORY AUTISM RESEARCH
How do we organize participation in the different phases of our research?

RESEARCH PRIORITIES | RESEARCH DESIGNS | INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS
PROJECT SELECTION | DATA COLLECTION | COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

See our poster:

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIVE CENTRE FOR AUTISM

Academische Werkplaats Autisme AWA | LAVA | VLAAMSE VERENIGING AUTISME | KU LEUVEN | UNIVERSITEIT GENT | Vlaanderen is zorg | AGENTSCHAP ZORG & GEZONDHEID