

From practical issue to research question

A guide for practitioners and researchers in education

Detect and examine issues together and formulate the most useful research question



IDENTIFYING ISSUES

Seek out a practical issue and examine it together like practitioners and researchers. Problems are not equally easy to detect and can present themselves from various directions.

Favourable conditions for quicker issue detection

- Within existing networks
- Innovative research behaviour
- A fresh pair of eyes (external) that provide a different perspective
- A sense of safety when proposing and assembling issues
- Encouragement to ask questions



ANALYSING THE ISSUE TOGETHER

Bring perspectives and insights together in an investigative and repetitive process. Involve practitioners, researchers, end users and other stakeholders.



Favourable conditions for joint analysis of the issue

- A respectful and evenly matched relationship: willingness to understand one another
- Open dialogue: free and open contribution of one's own ideas
- A culture of research and interaction: practitioners and researchers are curious, investigative and innovation-oriented
- Process supervision or support
- Clearly defined issue supported by both educational practice and researchers: a relevant and broadly supported question has greater value
- Financing or co-financing and sufficient time for the process of demand articulation



Tips for practitioners

- Come forward with your issues, don't be shy
- Be outspoken in your contact with researchers
- Build support for your assumptions and insights



Tips for researchers

- Keep an eye out for practical issues
- Share your questions and assumptions with practitioners
- Involve others, including practitioners, in your method of argumentation and reasoning



AGREEING ON AN APPROACH

Decide on the next step together: how will we collaborate? How will we divide up the roles?

- Formulate a solidly supported ambition, owned by the collective: practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders
- Can we make use of pre-existing insights, or should we initiate research?
- If so: formulate a broadly supported research question
- Account for any possible conflicts of interest in your discussion



This is an abstract of the publication *'From practical issue to research question'*. See www.kennisrotonde.nl

