



## Interdem Academy Fellowships 2015

*Final report on research exchange – Hanneke Beerens*

My name is Hanneke Beerens and I work as a PhD student at Maastricht University. My research is about quality of life of people with dementia, and I am interested in real-time observational study methods. The INTERDEM fellowship has given me the opportunity to work at the University of Bradford for three months. I am happy that I seized this opportunity with both hands.

The School of Dementia Studies in Bradford has a lot of expertise in the field of real-time observational study methods. They developed the Dementia Care Mapping (DCM) tool, which is a highly valued and extensively validated method to do real-time observational research. During my stay in Bradford, I will be comparing our own observational method, the Maastricht Electronic Daily Life Observation – tool (MEDLO-tool) with DCM. Furthermore, I will be working on a joint publication, will follow a DCM training, and will collaborate in ongoing projects. Finally, I will foster exchange of knowledge between Maastricht University and the University of Bradford by giving presentations about my work and experiences at both universities.

My colleagues from the University of Bradford have welcomed me several weeks ago. So far, I have experienced my stay as very inspiring. I've already had the opportunity to talk with a lot of professionals in the field of dementia research, but also with people with dementia and their caregivers. It has also been very interesting to participate in the Dementia Awareness week. I am looking forward to the next weeks and will write a final evaluation after my stay.