

Development of a Social Return on Investment Study of Nature-Based Social Prescribing

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Introduction

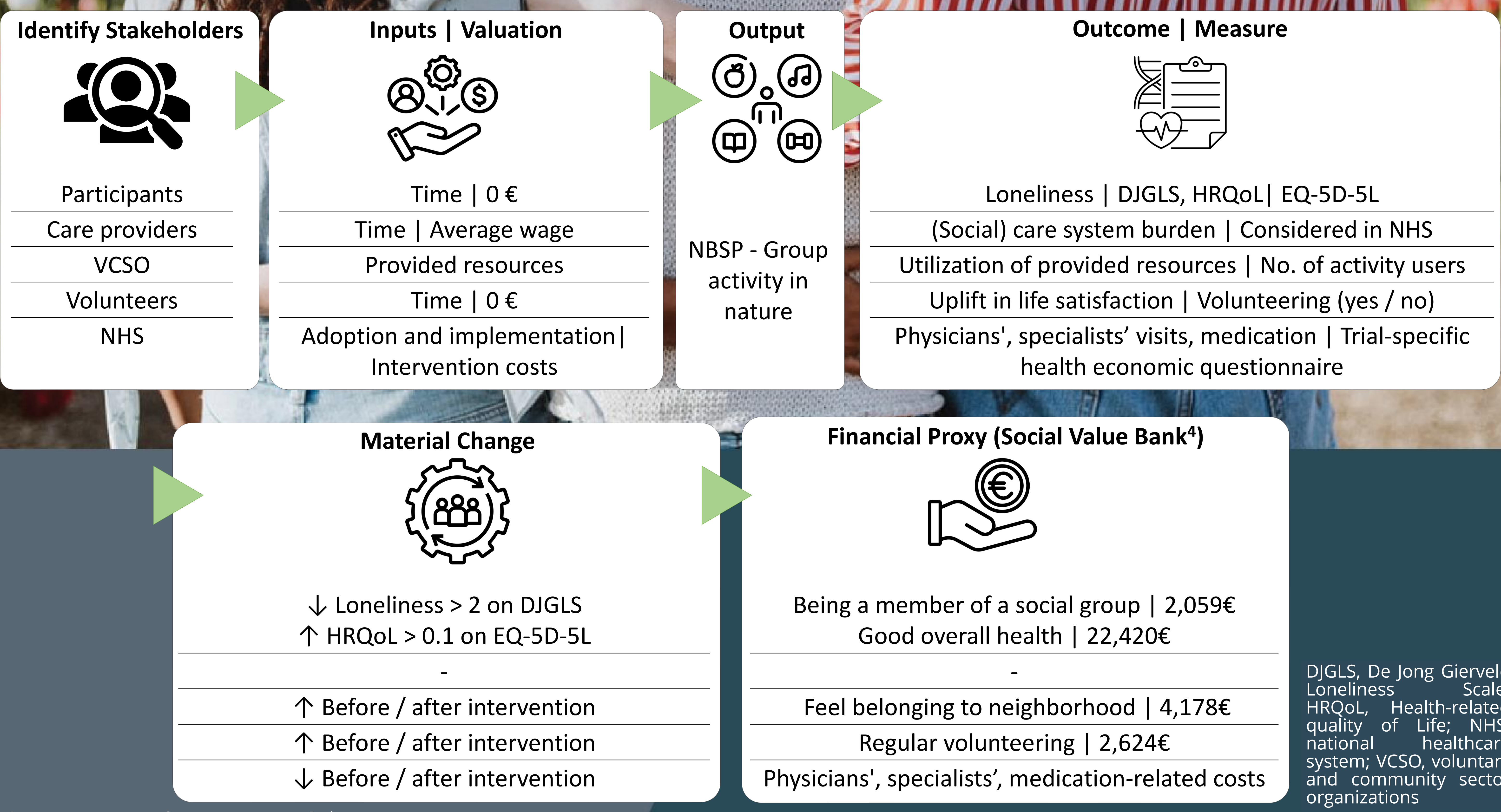
Loneliness is a significant public health concern with negative effects on physical and mental well-being¹. One type of intervention to alleviate loneliness is called nature-based social prescribing (NBSP). We aim to study the social value generated by an investment in NBSP interventions.

Methods

We searched for methods and guidelines to consider social, environmental, and economic impacts beyond financial effects of a NBSP intervention. This approach complements our cost-effectiveness analysis along the randomized controlled trial (RCT) in Barcelona and decision-analytic modeling study conducted within the EU-project RECETAS^{2,3}.

Results

The concept of a Social Return on Investment (SROI) study based on the RCT was chosen. Following key principles and stages⁴ (Figure 1), stakeholder identification, outcome mapping, and measurement were performed. If a material change is observed in the RCT, annual financial proxies, retrieved from the Social Value Bank⁴ and standardized to 2023 Euro, are attached per participant.



DJGLS, De Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale; HRQoL, Health-related quality of Life; NHS, national healthcare system; VCSO, voluntary and community sector organizations

Figure 1. Stages for a SROI study⁴

Conclusion

The SROI approach quantifies the total social value generated by each Euro invested in NBSP interventions based on the RECETAS trial results. The SROI ratio will be calculated by dividing the social value by the total costs. Engaging stakeholders and experts from the RECETAS trials will validate and support the study's quality to inform healthcare decision-makers for optimal resource allocation.