

Writing Retreats for Research: Roles, Results and Reflections from the VALID Project in Vietnam

Presentation at the Department of Public Health's Global
Health Section, November 4, 2021

By Tine Gammeltoft, Dan Meyrowitsch & Ib Bygbjerg

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN



SDU



VALID objectives:

- To generate new knowledge about the role of informal social support in everyday disease management among people with type 2 diabetes,
- To develop, implement and assess a pilot intervention programme that aims to enhance everyday diabetes management,
- To strengthen research capacity and research collaboration.

- **VALID (Informal Support for Diabetes Management in Vietnam):**
- *Partners:* Thai Binh University of Medicine and Pharmacy; University of Southern Denmark; University of Copenhagen,
- *Funding:* DK Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- *Components:*
- **Ethnographic study (extended case study) (WP1)**
- **Cross-sectional surveys with people with diabetes + their informal social supporters (WP2)**
- Pilot intervention: diabetes clubs and classes (WP3)
- Research capacity building (WP4)

Writing retreats have multiple aims:

EXPLORING: To explore data sets with a view to setting joint writing/publication priorities,

SHARING: To discuss interpretations and implications of findings,

LEARNING: To enhance research capacity (in a broad sense: writing skills; knowledge of the publication landscape; authorship rules and expectations; etc),

TEAMBUILDING: To strengthen participants' sense of being a team and working as a team,

WRITING 😊

Preparing for the Ninh Binh retreat

- Reviewing the project's publication plan (developed at project start, including plans for authorships)
- Going over data sets
- Developing a retreat program



Program: VALID Writing retreat November 24-30, 2019

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7.30-9.00		Joint project meeting (all): Taking stock and planning the week	Travel from TB to Ninh Binh	8.00 Five brief presentations (Dat, Cuong, Dan, Dieu, Diep) on the topic: "What is my article about?"	8.00 Brief reports from groups + discussion	WP1 and WP2: Writing groups WP3: Meetings at TBUMP	WP3: Pilottesting Q3, cont.
9.15-11.00	Airport pick-up, travel to Thai Binh	"Working with data" workshops* facilitated by Dan (WP2-3) and Tine (WP1) (stocktaking)	Introduction: How to make the move from data to articles? (Jens) Authorship and research integrity (Tine)	Writing groups	Writing groups		
		Lunch 12-14					
PM 14-17	16.30-18: WP3 meeting (Tuc, Ngoc Anh, Jens, Tine=	Stakeholder workshop at TBUMP	Working in writing groups on international articles	Writing groups, cont.	Joint project meeting: developing a roadmap for the coming time	WP1 and WP2: Writing groups, cont. WP3: Pilottesting Q3	
		Dinner 18.30					



Writing groups at the retreat:

- Group 1: Dieu, Diep, Ib (WP2)
- Group 2: Dan, Dat, Cuong, Thanh, Bai, Hieu (WP2)
- Group 3: Ai, Dung, Duc Anh, Tine (WP1)
- Group 4: Ngoc Anh, Tuc, Jens (WP3)



Learning



Exploring and sharing





Teambuilding

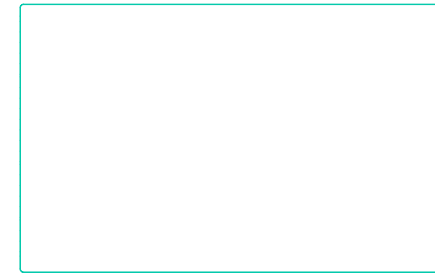
1
0

Writing



What came out of it?

- A joint foundation for thinking and writing (not easy to measure as an output, but important),
- Inspiration and a sense of collectivity (also not easy to measure),
- WP1 output: two conference presentations + three international articles,
- WP2 output: three international articles + others in pipeline





CHEZ LOAN,
28.11.2019

“With many thanks for company, inspiration, interaction, thoughts, fine food & drinks – and beautiful environment, to: Ai, Anh, Cuong, Dieu, Diep, Hieu, Huong, Thanh, Vu, Dan, Jens, Tine. From: Bắc Ib”



Thank you for listening!

