



Implementing N -Lited in low-vision rehabilitation

Turid Borgestrand Øien*¹ and Jeanette Bremer Nielsen²
 1 Aalborg University, BUILD, Copenhagen, Denmark *tuo@build.aau.dk
 2 Center for Special Education, CSU-Slagelse, Denmark



The study of the implementation process of N -Lited, a new lighting assessment in low-vision rehabilitation, provides insights of the co-existence of competing and complementing lighting paradigms. The change processes involved represent new approaches to the knowledge of professionals working with lighting.

N-Lited

“Better Light, Better Living” (BLBL) is a new protocol for lighting assessments developed by Center for Special Education (CSU), Slagelse, Denmark. The new approach has been largely inspired by lighting design and involved a more context-specific assessment, focusing on the social and physical context of the visually impaired, and understanding the lighting as part of *their* everyday life. The method has shown to improve quality of life of CSU’s clients[1].

But how can initiatives like BLBL be shared and scaled across a community of practice, when the method represents a new approach to lighting than the existing practices?

Our paper analyzes the implementation process, in the project N-Lited from 2022-23, where the method was taught and tested in seven low-vision centers across Denmark. The local practices constituted of materials, competences and meaning [2], the N-Lited manual [3] and other course-material, observations of the course, and narratives of the course participants were included in the study.

Findings and discussion

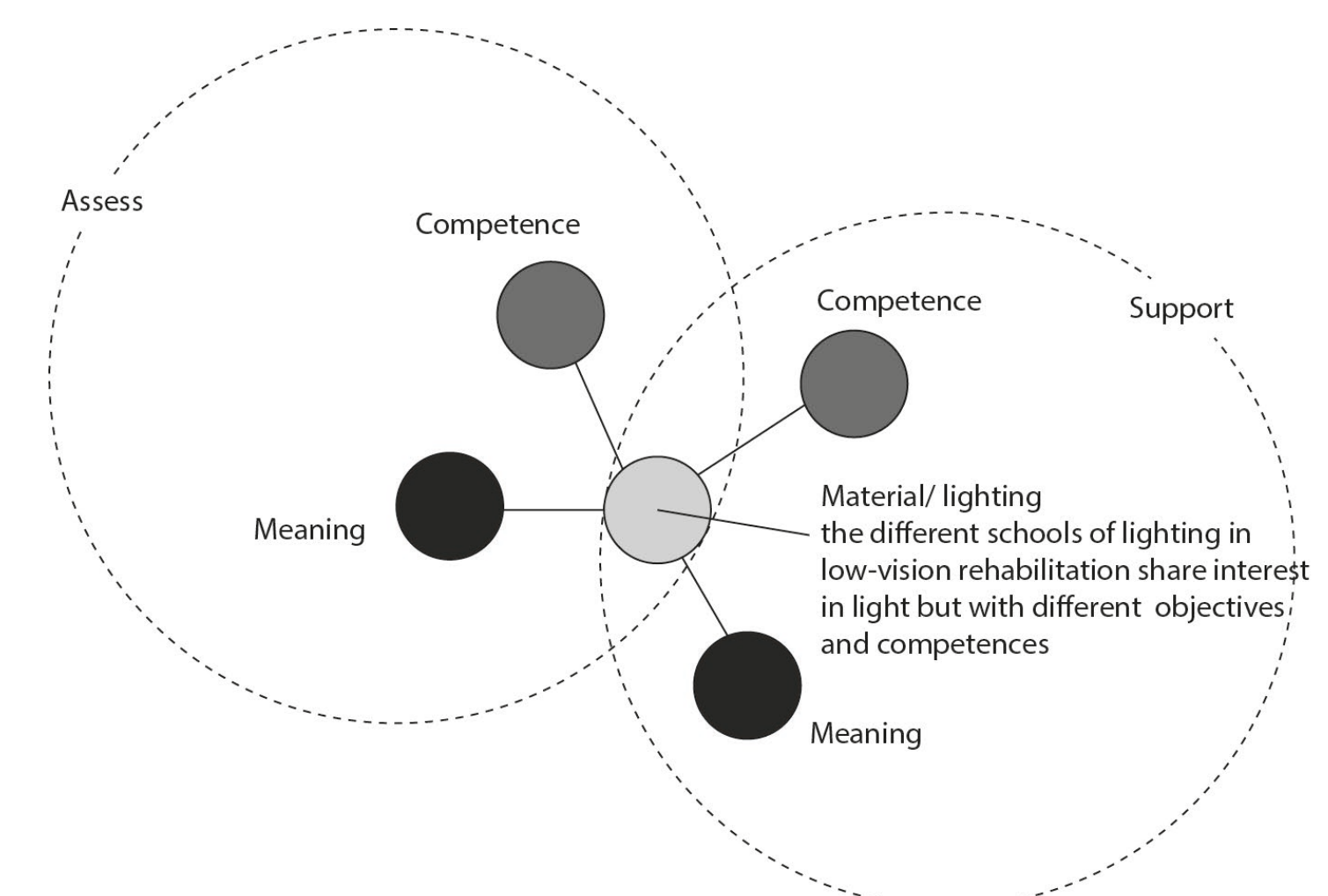
The role of lighting in low-vision rehabilitation changes with the new approach, resulting in complementing and competing paradigms. N-Lited represents an approach to lighting where the visual comfort and the practice knowledge of seeing and assessing the light, goes beyond physics and the measurable - adding meaning [4]. Identifying the meaning and affordance of the visually impaired in their everyday life guided the consultants in providing the relevant measurements.

In navigating between the uniformity of the structure and the flexibility decided by the context, the metrics and tools played an important role as part of the shared language in the practice community. In addition to the more instrumental knowledge of light, the competences of coordinating between measurements and meaning, required a reflexivity towards the role of light in the assessment and in the rehabilitative process.

The changing role of lighting, represents different meanings and competences in the practical application, facilitating the act of assessment and the act of support, which is highly relevant for most socio-technical applications of light.



Example of an “activity photo” taken from the participant’s point of view, with measurements. From the N-Lited Manual [3].



The changing role of lighting, represents different meanings and competences in its practical applications.

Aknowledgements

The project has been funded by the Velux Foundation.

VELUX FONDEN



References

- [1] Øien T B Jacobsen A M Tødten S T Russotti T Ø Smaakjaer P and Rasmussen R S 2023 Impact of lighting assessment and optimization on participation and quality of life in individuals with vision loss *Occupational Therapy in Health Care* 37 3 426-443
- [2] Shove E Panzar M and Watson M 2012 *The dynamics of social practice: Everyday life and how it changes* SAGE Publications.
- [3] Center for Specialundervisning 2023 *N-Lited metoden. Lysudredning hos personer med synsvanskeligheder* CSU Slagelse
- [4] Norman D 2023 *Design for a better world* MIT Press



One of the facilitators demonstrating different lighting scenarios with the course participants. Foto: CSU.