



My name is Marga Wapenaar

I have been working as a district nurse since 1982.

In 1998 I specialized as a Mother and childcare-nurse and worked at several “healthy baby clinic” (baby’s and toddlers till 4 years old) in little villages in the countryside and in Leiden, a town with 120.000 inhabitants in the western part of the Netherlands. House visits and consultant hours at an office: health baby clinic.

I have been a member of Work Council (Ondernemingsraad) of this organization for several years.

I did an education as a Nurse Specialist Children and Young adults in 1991- 1993.

In januari 1995 I started with the education necessary for IBLCE –exam. I’m an IBCLC since 1997.

In this organisation I was involved in( lactation) education for nurses and pediatric doctors.

In 2002 I started my private practice as a lactation consultant in Leiden. I do help 250 mother and baby-couples in one year with breastfeeding problems.

2002 was also my first year as a educator/teacher at Hogeschool Utrecht( one day/week) where we educate lactation consultants to be for the IBLCE-exam .

In my period as the president of NVL (2004 -2010) we organized a system with insurance companies to reimburse the lactation consultant hours for breastfeeding mothers . One of the Dutch/German lactation consultants was a member of VELB. We worked closely together to enlarge this European association. I was present in the inspiring meeting in München with all presidents of LC associations in Europe.

I learned a lot about myself in this period: networking is one of my favourite activities , necessary to go further in the organisation of our new profession LC. How an association works to achieve their goals is also a challenge that I like to work on. I always try to find/discuss the structure of a plan/organisation .

I believe in working together to increase the status of LC’s. Not only in the Netherlands, also in Europe and the rest of the world. It is very important to be transparant in everything. I always try to understand what is going on from different sites of the same story.

In this difficult time for European lactation consultants I want to give my time and energy to solve problems and to give input in a future for ELACTA