

AKTION ÖSTERRAICH – TSCHECHISCHE REPUBLIK: FINAL REPORT

Project No.: DZS/2021/07216

Title: STIPO-R: International Comparative Study and Implementation of the Tool into the Academic Curriculum of Mental Health Professionals

In this report we are going to reflect the course of cooperation and fulfilment of the goals stated previously for this project. At the beginning of the project, we defined two major areas of cooperation regarding the Structured Interview of Personality Organization-Revised (STIPO-R) – a semi-structured interview for the assessment of the personality functioning of patients suffering from personality disorders.

The first goal of the project pointed to set up the conditions and parameters for conducting an international comparative study of the psychometric properties of the STIPO-R. In this regard we were able to: 1. harmonize the test battery, which is necessary for the evaluation of the validity of the STIPO-R; 2. find the intersection regarding the sample composition in terms of sample size and the diagnoses included in the study. These achievements are now reflected in the preparations of a grant application on the Lead Agency principle (WEAVE 2022), which should be ready for submission by the end of February. Thanks to AKTION project we were able to compare the possibilities of both institutions from the perspective of patient recruitment and the needs for implementation of other specialized facilities, as e.g., Suchthilfe Wien and two PhD students interested in the topic. These issues were discussed following the lecture entitled: ***Structured interview of personality organization (STIPO) in addictology: Possible bridge between academic knowledge and clinical practice?*** This lecture¹ took place on the 14th of October 2021 as a part of the Dr. K.D. Riegel's visit at the Medical University of Vienna in October 10-15 2021. Unfortunately, a visit of Dr. V. Blüml at the Charles University in Prague could not be realized due the pandemic situation and family reasons.

The second goal of the project focused on the development of an international interactive training course for the STIPO-R, which could be conducted via e-learning platforms. Because of several technical problems connected with the uniform e-learning platform, which might be used simultaneously by the students at both universities and the relatively small range of health care professionals interested in the measure, we gave up the efforts to harmonize the very different on-line environments of both universities. This task would probably require much more time, involvement of IT professionals (which would go far behind the scope and possibilities of this project), and the benefits would be questionable. Considering all these obstacles we decided to concentrate on the development of the document entitled: **Structured Interview of Personality Organization-Revised (STIPO-R): Common Standards for the Introductory Training Course**. This document² defines requirements needed to be fulfilled by every health care professional, who wants to use the STIPO or STIPO-R in the clinical or

¹ See PDF attached.

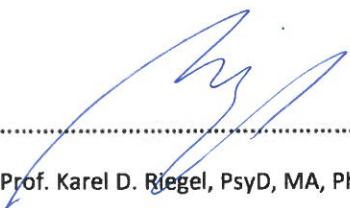
² See PDF attached.

research practice and might be considered the official guideline for training in administration, scoring and interpretation of the STIPO protocols in Czech Republic and Austria. We believe, these standards define the structure and components which must be included in every course on STIPO or STIPO-R and provide a common frame without being too rigid, because the final choice how the course will be conducted (i.e., on-line or in person) is left to the teacher. At the same time, the teacher is responsible for the quality of the course, which might be optimal when the proposed structure is maintained.

To sum up, taking in consideration the promised results of the project, we are now in preparations of the international grant proposal WEAVE 2022 entitled: ***Personality functioning in patients with substance use disorders***. This project offers interesting publication possibilities and further cooperation of the senior and junior researchers from both countries. We were able to create common standards for conducting introductory training course in STIPO and STIPO-R and we have a shared on-line database for insertion the data from the ongoing comparative study on the STIPO-R.

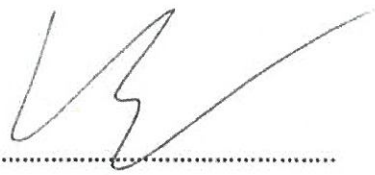
Written and signed in Prague and Vienna, January 26th 2022.

Responsible for the veracity of the report:



.....

Assist. Prof. Karel D. Riegel, PsyD, MA, PhD



.....

Assoc. Prof. Priv.-Doz. Victor Blüml, MD, MA, PhD