

Presenter's name: Isabel Stolz

Degree, affiliation:

Curriculum vitae:

Isabel Stolz:

- Since 2021 Research Associate and Lecturer at German Sports University Cologne (CSU)
- Founder of EQUITEDO®-App in cooperation with Research Associate at Research Institute for Inclusion through Physical Activity and Sports – affiliated Institute of German Sports University Cologne (GSU)
- Since 2017 Lecturer in the International Sports Science Masters Program University Foro Italico, Rome
- Since 2013 Research Associate at Research Institute for Inclusion through Physical Activity and Sports – affiliated Institute of German Sports University Cologne (GSU)

Franca Rosiny: M.A. Rehabilitation, Prevention and Health Management

- since 2024 research assistant at Research Institute for Inclusion through Physical Activity and Sports
- 2020 – 2023 Research assistant at the Institute of Psychology; Section Health & Social Psychology
- 10/2017 – 09/2021 B.A. „Sport and Health in Prevention and Rehabilitation“ at the German Sport University Cologne

Category: Oral presentation

Topic: Special program / projects

Authors:

Stolz, I. Research Institute of Movement and Neurosciences, German Sport University Cologne; Research Institute of Movement and Neurosciences, German Sport University Cologne

Gabriel, L. Research Institute of Movement and Neurosciences, German Sport University Cologne

Frerich, D. Equestrian Sport and Riding Therapy Center of the Gold-Kraemer-Foundation, Paralympic Training Center

Rosiny, F. Research Institute of Movement and Neurosciences, German Sport University Cologne

Anneken, V. Research Institute of Movement and Neurosciences, German Sport University Cologne; Equestrian Sport and Riding Therapy Center of the Gold-Kraemer-Foundation, Paralympic Training Center

Dieste, G. AINISE International working Alliance, in favor of Healthy Equine Interactions

Heimsath-Rhodes G. The Federation of Horses in Education and Therapy International AISBL (HETI)

Title: VALIDATION TRIALS OF THE ENGLISH- AND SPANISH-LANGUAGE EQUITEDO ASSESSMENT APP - STANDARDIZED MEASUREMENT IN EQUINE ASSISTED SERVICES (EAS)

Keyword 1: research methods

Keyword 2: quantitative assessment

Keyword 3: Equine assisted interventions

Abstract:

Background/Aims: Joint data collection in international Equine Assisted Services (EAS) and subdisciplines has been challenging in the past years in terms of terminology and clarity in intervention targets and intended intervention outcomes. In the scientific discourse, the need for both common and consistent language was identified in the past years, to realize joint international projects and generate a systematization of scientific data against the background of cultural diversities. The international EQUITEDO collaboration-project aims to contribute to a standardized documentation and valid scientific evaluation of EAS findings, by validating a German-language ICF-based assessment- tool for the measurement of EAS into the English and Spanish languages. The digital assessment tool is based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) of the World Health Organization (WHO) and was developed in an extensive scientific process (Horse: Evaluation, Documentation – Study) within two years and four months (01.09.2019-31.12.2021, N=265). EAS intervention periods can be automatically evaluated by the app, so that clients' improvements can be precisely recorded in regard to different submodules of therapy specifics. Also diagrams and charts of progress can be output automatically.

Methods: The initial tool underwent development through a mixed-method approach, incorporating focus group methodology involving a total of 17 experts in the field of Equine-Assisted Services (EAS) to construct the assessment tool. Qualitative data was linked to the ICF classification system via the Cieza' Linking Rules by two independent assessors to create an ICF-based EAS assessment tool (Cieza et al., 2019). Explorative and confirmatory factor analyses were performed for the elaboration of the model construction and confirmation of the model structure (N=116, N=265). Furthermore, psychometric properties indicated validity and reliability.

Results: In the international EQUITEDO collaboration-project, the assessment tool was subsequently translated to English and Spanish according to the TRAPD guidelines (Harkness, 2003) and relinked to the English and Spanish versions of the ICF. Each translation was conducted by two independent translators, who translated and retranslated each test-item into the target language and word by word back. Afterwards they linked the translated version to the Spanish or English version of the ICF. Following this, the phases of review, adjudication, and pretest were undertaken to achieve consensus and ensure practicality for Equine-Assisted Services (EAS) practice. During this process, translations underwent discussion and modification with experts from both English and Spanish-speaking Equine-Assisted Therapy (EAT) fields to identify cultural variations and refine the tool for optimal alignment with the target language. The final versions were adapted for digital data collection and validation within EAS practice across English- and Spanish-speaking regions. Currently, the assessment tool is undergoing trials within EAS practice in both Spanish- and English-speaking countries. Subsequently, it will undergo examination and validation concerning its psychometric properties.

Conclusions: The research approach according to Harkness (2003) has proved to be a valid procedure to develop internationally compatible assessments. The long-term vision is to make data from different countries comparable, on the common international basis of the ICF by WHO. Ensuring the comparability of the design, implementation, and organization of the validation studies, a strict study protocol was followed, in order to determine EAS aims and effects objectively, reliably, and validly and subsequently relate test-items to international health-related domains of the WHO. The EQUITEDO assessment-tool is designed for the use in EAS practice as a digital web app, to depict the effects and document the progress of EAS and associated services in a prospective longitudinal manner in the common international language of the WHO.