

Musical Care International Network

Small Grants Scheme 2023

Report on Outcomes

Project Title: Completion of the content validity process of a music therapy assessment tool called Musical Functional Assessment Profile in Autism (MFAP).

PROJECT CODE: 38936

Author Name: Nuria Marsimian

Email: nuriamarsimian@gmail.com

Profession: Music therapist

Affiliation: Director of Postgraduate Course Music Therapy and Autism Spectrum. Italian Hospital of Buenos Aires. Argentina. Early career independent researcher.

Country: Argentina

Aims

The project sought to complete the content validity process of the assessment tool called Musical Functional Assessment Profile in Autism (MFAP), created and developed since 2018 by the music therapist Nuria Marsimian. MFAP assessment tool provides qualitative and descriptive information about of the functionality of the child on the Autism Spectrum based on what is observed in the musical experiences during the first assessment sessions.

During this project, MFAP completed its content validity in the Spanish language, the original language in which it was written and developed. For this purpose, was essential to review MFAP's items with a group of experts so as to determine their relevance, clarity of formulation and appropriate format in terms of cultural, gender and linguistic aspects.

Actions done

A group of experts was conformed according to the stipulated selection criteria, namely, Spanish speaking Latin American music therapist working in the field of Autism Spectrum. At the end of the recruitment a total of eight experts participated in the group. The content validity process was previously explained to the experts and informed consent was requested for participation in the project.

A first meeting was held in which the items modifications in the MFAP tool were presented to be reviewed by the experts. The first four MFAP domains were presented. For the first round, four forms were sent, corresponding to MFAP domains 1 to 4, to assess the clarity, relevance, and adequate formulation of the items in terms of linguistic, cultural and gender aspects.

After this, a second online meeting was held to communicate the results of the reviews. The content of some items was clarified and modifications in the formulation of some items were suggested. Likewise, the modifications of the items in the following three MFAP domains were presented.

For the second round the experts revised MFAP domains 5 to 7 from three forms, assessing clarity, relevance, and adequate formulation of the items in terms of linguistic, cultural and gender aspects.

After this, a final online meeting was held to communicate the results of the content validity process. The content of some items was clarified and modifications in the formulation of some items were suggested. As a conclusion, a summary of the substantial modifications of the tool items was provided. Relevant topics that appeared during the meetings were pointed out, which will allow future improvements in the MFAP assessment procedures.

Outcomes and/or (planned) outputs

The planned outputs will be editing a MFAP digital manual and dossier and organizing training for music therapist in the field.

Relevance to the Musical Care International Network's aims

In terms of the relevance to the Musical Care International Network's aims, this project advanced musical care research and supported for further development of a music therapy assessment tool. It involved the collaboration of Latin American Spanish-speaking music therapist, working in the area of music therapy and the autism spectrum. It was opened to the participation of the Musical Care International Network members who speaks Spanish. This project promoted equity and inclusion, given that until now, the creation, development and written manuscripts of the MFAP tool has not received any kind of funding and also considering that in Latin American countries research resources in music therapy are scarce.