

Partner Search Form
Horizon Europe
Health



Date

Deadline

CONTACT

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Organisation type

Research organisation type	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Organisation	Is your company a Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME*)? Number of employees: 28 + 5 detached from partner organization	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
	<input type="checkbox"/> University		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Company		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		

Your enterprise is an SME if:

- it is engaged in **economic activity**
- it has **less than 250 employees**
- it has either an **annual turnover not exceeding €50M**, or an **balance sheet total not exceeding €43M**
- it is **autonomous**

For the definition of SMEs, look at: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

Short introduction of key areas of institute's research:

Solentra offers transcultural mental health care to persons with a refugee background. Both children, adolescents, adults and families can come to us. It is our mission to make mental health care for this target group more accessible, efficient and qualitative, thus contributing to the third UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG3). In doing so, we start from the human rights approach and a broad ecological vision of health.

Solentra focuses first and foremost on those people who are not or not sufficiently reached by regular healthcare services. To make our specialized care accessible and effective, we have designed the PACCT® methodology. PACCT stands for "Psychiatry Assisting the Culturally Diverse Community in creating healing Ties," a combination of community psychology and transcultural psychiatry.

We also support professionals by translating our expertise and research from the clinic into hands-on training, tools and innovative services and products to provide them with tools and new insights for quality and effective counseling and care of persons with refugee backgrounds.

Our key areas of research:

PACCT methodology

PACCT is a stepped-matched care **methodology combining community psychology and transcultural psychiatry to make specialized, qualitative mental health care more accessible for persons with a refugee or migrant background**. Solentra's PACCT methodology has already received national and international recognition as a promising practice. Despite the methodology's positive effects seen in Solentra's daily practice, there's still a lack of **evidence based research on the effectiveness of the PACCT methodology to scale it up**. Therefore the next step is to conduct a doctoral evidence based research into the effectiveness of our methodology to improve the mental health of people with a refugee background on a larger scale. Furthermore, the research is important to introduce and promote transcultural psychiatry combined with community psychology in academic institutions to train health professionals.

Screening tool for prevention and early detection

Solentra offers specialized mental health care to people with refugee backgrounds. As such, clients are registered only after referral by other professionals engaged with refugees. In order to make this procedure more efficient and educational, Solentra started to develop an online screening tool in collaboration with researchers at Thomas More and developers of Zenjoy. The tool will provide caregivers with advice for proper referral, education about the screening process and tools for quality counseling if treatment proves unnecessary. The tool is still in a development phase. The ambition is to eventually deploy artificial intelligence to perfect the tool as well as to gain new insights into mental health among refugees.

Redeveloping virtual reality EMDR glasses for refugees

Redevelopment of Virtual Reality Eye Movement Desensitization and Resensitization (EMDR) glasses to effectively employ for the treatment of war trauma in the client's language. Trauma therapy is not evident for people who are unfamiliar with psychotherapy in their culture and/or for whom it is often a taboo subject. Using VR glasses in trauma therapy offers several advantages:

- outreach to clients in difficult settings such as shelters
- no more need for an interpreter with faster results
- the client can do sessions independently between sessions with the psychologist (so the VR glasses do not replace the psychologist but are complementary)

Former participation in an FP European project?

YES NO

Project title / Acronym:

Activities performed:

Expertise / Commitment offered

Description of your expertise:

Solentra is a non-profit organization with 15 years of experience and expertise in transcultural psychiatry and war and migration related trauma. We provide psychological care to an average of 1000 refugees on an annual basis. A broad ecological and human rights perspective is the foundation of our care. We see health (care) as an interplay of individual, interpersonal, community and societal factors. Furthermore, research and innovation to improve the mental health care for refugees and asylum seekers is an important part of our practice. Our operation is closely linked to the University Hospital UZ Brussel, but we are active and regionally anchored all over Belgium. This gives us a unique position in the mental health care landscape and allows us to be recognized as a niche player by the government and various stakeholders.

Keywords specifying your expertise:

Mental health, transcultural psychiatry, war trauma, migration, refugees, community psychology, prevention, early detection, training of professionals engaged with refugees

Commitment offered:

Research Demonstration Training
 Technology Dissemination Other:

Interested in participation in project types:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research & Innovation Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation Action	<input type="checkbox"/> EIC Pathfinder
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Work Programme research areas: indicate your interest

In collaboration with the *Expertise Unit Psychology, Technology & Society of Thomas More* and *Zenjoy* (a web and app designer with experience in mental health care) Solentra developed the first version of its **online screening tool**, a tool that enables professionals to better assess mental health situations in people with a refugee background.

The assessment of mental health situations in people with a refugee background is often difficult. Many people within this population experience psychological suffering and distress, but symptoms are often a result of normal stress reactions to migration and acculturation. For professionals, it is challenging to distinguish normal stress reactions from psychiatric problems. As a result, people are frequently overdiagnosed and unnecessarily pathologized. Furthermore, due to intercultural differences in symptoms and expressions of distress, psychiatric problems can go unnoticed. This can lead to underdiagnosis and late detection.

The online screening tool tackles these problems with its **unique dual function**. On the one hand, it contributes to **early detection** of mental health concerns in people with a refugee background and counteracts the under- and overdiagnosis. It does this by guiding professionals through a list of questions on symptoms and context that informs them on what to look for. On the other hand, the screening tool has an **educational function** promoting the specific expertise of Solentra. Explanatory blocks, tips and tricks promote the knowledge of those working with refugees and asylum seekers, enabling them to better assess mental health situations. **With this dual function, the tool promotes stepped/matched integrated community care:** community mobilization to create a healing context and specialized interventions when needed.

With the help of partners in research and technological development, we want to further perfect and develop the online screening tool. More specifically, we would like to incorporate artificial intelligence. Our ambition is to roll out the screening tool on a large scale, within Belgium and beyond. In this way, we hope to contribute to quick and effective health care for refugees, shorter waiting list in mental health care and quality psychosocial care. All to further the mental wellbeing of people with a refugee background

Call topic(s):

HORIZON-JU-IHI-2022-03-single-stage
 HORIZON-HLTH-2024-CARE-04-04-two stage

Do you have other partners for this topic (which partners/country)?

Profile of partner sought

Role

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> technology development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> research	<input type="checkbox"/> training
<input type="checkbox"/> dissemination	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstration	<input type="checkbox"/> other _____

Country /region

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Expertise required

Solentra is looking for partners in both technology development and research for the further development of its online screening tool. Potential partners in technology development should ideally have expertise in artificial intelligence and machine learning. Experience in the field of mental health care is a plus. Potential research partners should ideally have expertise in the development of screening tools for (mental) health care. Experience with the target group of refugees and asylum seekers is a plus.

I agree with the publication of my contact data: YES NO