

Julia Kuhlmann¹, Sarah Benz¹, Anna Sandionigi², Sonja Jeram³, Sammie Jansen⁴, Peter van den Hazel⁵, Miriam Weber⁶, Gordana Ristovska⁷, Maddie White⁸, Dirk Schreckenberger¹
¹ ZEUS GmbH, Center for Applied Psychology, Environmental and Social Research, Hagen, Germany; ² Quantia Consulting SRL, Milano, Italy
³ National Institute of Public Health, NIJZ, Slovenia; ⁴ National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), The Netherlands
⁵ INCHES Network, Ellecom, The Netherlands; ⁶ City of Utrecht (CoU), Utrecht, The Netherlands
⁷ Institute of Public Health of Republic of North Macedonia, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia; ⁸ Department of Social Epidemiology, ⁸ Bremen University, Bremen, Germany

INTRODUCTION

The EU Horizon 2020 project Equal-Life (Early Environmental quality and life-course mental health effects) is a multi- and interdisciplinary project studying the impact of physical, social, and internal exposomes on children's and adolescents' cognitive development and well-being¹. As a holistic approach is needed to address these different exposomes², stakeholder interviews were conducted first to get an overview regarding practices and guidelines within Europe as well as experts' knowledge about different exposures and potential gaps that need further consideration.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

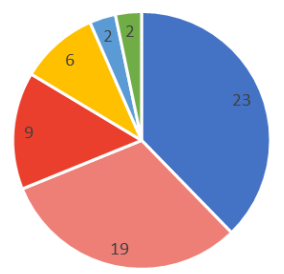
An interview guideline was developed covering the following topics:

- **Mental health and cognitive development in children and adolescents:** stakeholders' professional involvement in activities or policy making with respect to children's and adolescents mental health and cognitive development, physical and social exposures as well as combinations of these two, harmful settings

- **National mental health plans for children and adolescents:** knowledge of national mental health plan, consideration of national mental health plan in daily work, gaps in national mental health plan
- **Collaboration with other stakeholders:** potential collaborations with other stakeholders involved in the topic of children's or adolescents' mental health and cognitive development, how does this collaboration look like, is there a need for more collaborations

The interviews were audio-recorded with the permission of the participants. Transcripts were made of each recording and the interviews were analysed according to Mayring's qualitative content analysis³.

Type of organization



■ Non-profit organisation ■ Governmental institution ■ Municipality
 ■ Research institution ■ Private sector ■ Profit organisation

Figure 1: Type of organization

Table 1: Overview of participants

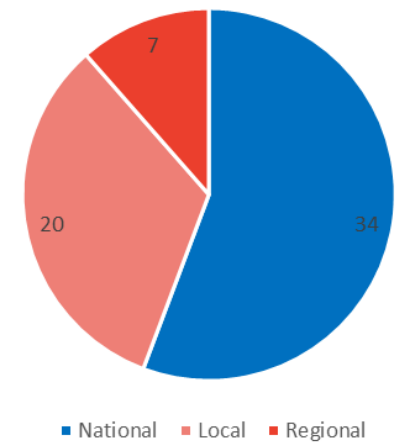
Variables		Number of participants
Country	Germany	12
	The Netherlands	10
	Austria	9
	Slovenia	6
	Sweden	6
	Italy	5
	Switzerland	3
	Belgium	2
	Macedonia	2
	Croatia	1
	Greece	1
	North Ireland	1
	Scotland	1
Serbia	1	
Slovakia	1	
Role of stakeholder	Specialist	18
	Policy maker	11
	Promoter	10
	Manager	9
	Researcher	7
	Policy adviser	4
	Policy adviser + policy maker	1
	Researcher + policy adviser	1
Work field	Public health	18
	Social	12
	Educational	9
	Mental health	8
	Environmental safety	5
	Urban planning	5
	Physical health	4

RESULTS

In total, 61 interviews were conducted. Table 1 shows the number of participants per country, role of stakeholder, and the work field.

Figure 1 depicts which type of organization the participants belong to and Figure 2 gives an overview of the level of the organization. The interviews are currently being analysed.

Level of organization



■ National ■ Local ■ Regional

Figure 2: Level of organization

References

¹van Kamp I, Persson Waye K, Kanninen K, Gulliver J, Bozzon A, Psyllidis A, Boshuizen H, Selander J, van den Hazel P, Brambilla M, Foraster M, Julvez J, Klatter M, Jeram S, Lercher P, Botteldooren D, Ristovska G, Kaprio J, Schreckenberger D, Hornikx M, Fels J, Weber M, Braat-Eggen E, Hartmann J, Clark C, Vrijkotte T, Brown L, Bolte G and Equal-Life team. Early environmental quality and life-course mental health effects: The Equal-Life project. *Environmental Epidemiology* 2021;6(1):e183. DOI: 10.1097/EE9.0000000000000183.

²Benz S, Kuhlmann J, van den Hazel P, Weber M, Jeram S, Sandionigi A, Jansen S, Ristovska G, White M, Psyllidis A, Teeuwen R, Ahrens J, Schreckenberger D. Stakeholder involvement in research on health impact of environmental exposure. *Proceedings of the 14th ICBEN Congress on Noise as a Public Health Problem*; June 18-22, 2023; Belgrade (Serbia).

³Mayring, P., Fenzl, T. *Qualitative Inhaltsanalyse*. In: Baur, N., Blasius, J., editors: *Handbuch Methoden der empirischen Sozialforschung*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS; 2019



This study is part of the EU-project Equal-Life, which has received funding from the EU Horizon 2020 programme, GA No 874724