Due to the particular significance of cognitive deficits, it is very important to identify them accurately at an early stage. Strategies for identifying cognitive deficits are presented in an EPA guidance paper. To improve cognition in patients with schizophrenia, it has been suggested to combine pharmacotherapy with neuropsychological training. A meta-analysis showed the positive effect of cognitive remediation programmes in schizophrenia. While the strategies available today for the treatment of cognitive dysfunction are useful and should be implemented, it is hoped that pharmacological add-on strategies will come onto the market to have a greater effect on cognitive impairments.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

WS024

Crisis support in practice

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.213

Abstract: An experienced practitioner describes the fundamentals of crisis support and Psychological First Aid – the knowledge base for the ongoing work in Västra Götalandsregionen, Sweden, using VR to practice crisis support. How is crisis support defined and what is the difference between crisis support and psychological treatment? What is the aim of crisis support? The presentation includes current knowledge about how humans react in a crisis, in the acute phase as well is in the longer term. What are the guidelines for providing Psychological First Aid and how can we implement them in practice?

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

WS025

Crisis Support VR: Bridging the Gap in Psychological First Aid Training -from initial idea to real virtual training

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.214

Abstract: This presentation will explore the development and implementation of the Crisis Support VR project, funded by the VGR Innovation Fund and involving five hospitals and primary care. In today's society, the need for crisis support is more pressing than ever. However, we identified a significant gap in opportunities to practice Psychological First Aid. To address this, Region Västra Götaland collaborated with VirtualSpeech to create a system that has been tested by hospital staff, emergency services, and crisis support teams. This presentation will detail the project's journey from its inception to its current state, highlighting the challenges and successes encountered along the way.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

WS026

Overview of Existing Research on Crisis-Support Training in Virtual Reality

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Abstract: This presentation will provide an overview of existing research on crisis-support training in virtual reality, highlighting both the opportunities and challenges of utilizing this training method. It will review current research trends in the field, identify gaps in knowledge, and propose directions for future research initiatives. Studies on crisis-support training that utilize a virtual reality training approach for professionals working with children and adolescents will also be presented.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

WS027

Attitudes towards generative-AI based Virtual patient systems in crisis support training

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Abstract: While generative AI (genAI) has made significant advances, millions of people are facing humanitarian crises, resulting in the denial of their basic human rights. One humanitarian response to addressing humanitarian crises is crisis support teams with knowledge of psychological first aid (PFA). In humanitarian crises, skilled practice in PFA by crisis support teams can strengthen the mental health of affected individuals, which can be crucial to ensuring societal well-being. At the same time, there are major challenges in training crisis support teams in PFA. With advancements in genAI, there are opportunities to develop virtual patient systems to enhance PFA training for crisis support teams. This presentation will share preliminary data collected through the genAI-agents survey, which explores technological openness, attitudes and learning through genAI and genAI-based virtual patient systems in healthcare education as well as specifically targeted questions to the genAI-based VP system Crisis Support-VR. This survey is a part of a larger project focusing a central research question Does Crisis Support-VR enhance the skills and ability of crisis support teams to deliver effective PFA, thereby strengthening the mental health of individuals affected by humanitarian crises with two interconnected sub-goals; • to empirically explore health and medical staff within children, youth and adult services learning in Crisis Support-VR, • to develop an educational module for training and practice opportunities in PFA to support and help national and international organizations train crisis support teams in applying PFA to children, youths an adults affected by humanitarian crises.

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WS028

Practical application of VR in crisis-support training

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Abstract: Psychological First Aid is (thankfully) not something most people use daily – yet it's crucial for responders to be trained, confident and fully prepared for unexpected emergencies. So how can we ensure this readiness? The answer is AI avatars in virtual reality! At VirtualSpeech, in partnership with Region Västra Götaland, we've developed AI roleplay simulations that enable crisis and emergency teams to not only practice their psychological support skills but also receive personalized feedback on their performance and tips for improvement.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

WS029

Open questions in ethics of virtual training

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.218

Abstract: In recent years, developments in Generative artificial intelligence (genAI) have opened new possibilities for continuous education that were recently only science fiction. However, genAI introduces several ethical considerations and ethical issues continue to appear. These include privacy, ownership, accuracy, bias, psychological impact, and environmental impact. In this workshop we will consider where these ethical issues might specifically intersect with the development and implementation of genAI in training professional conversational skills in the context of professional mental health support. Understanding these ethical issues is important for ensuring positive and sustainable impact on society and individual health. As a part of this workshop, we consider theoretical issues, but we will also look at methods to ensure the development of ethical and trustworthy genAI systems, including transparency and human-in-the-loop methods, along with quality and risk management systems. Moreover, when considering worker health, it is will be important that future work empowers workers to continue to develop in their field, without introducing additional harms such as accessibility problems or exposure to harmful imagery or interactions.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

WS030

Current situation in Europe : different prospective

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Abstract: Introduction. Previous evidence showed significant discrepancies in psychiatric services utilization between migrants and reference populations in Europe. An important barrier for migrants to Europe is the lack of adequate legal entitlements. Sometimes these barriers are mistakenly attributed to cultural differences and misunderstandings because the term 'culture' may be used as a putative politically correct expression reifying social differences and neglecting discrimination. Our study aims were to evaluate incidence and characteristics of psychiatric hospitalizations of migrant patients compared with reference populations and to assess how the COVID-19 pandemic affected admissions. Methods. All patients admitted to the psychiatric ward "SPDC-Malpighi" of the Bologna Mental Health Department, Italy, from 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2020 were included. Differences in sociodemographic and clinical characteristics were tested by migrant status. Incidence rate ratios of hospital admissions by migrant status were estimated via Poisson regression considering population-at-risk, gender, and age-group. Results. Migrants had higher hospitalization rates due to any psychiatric disorder (IRR=1.16). The risk was especially pronounced among women (IRR=1.25) and within the youngest age-group (IRR=3.24). Young migrants had also a greater risk of compulsory admission (IRR=3.77). Regarding admissions due to a specific diagnosis, we found relevant differences in hospitalization rates for psychosis, mood disorders, and personality disorders. Finally, migrants were more likely to be admitted via the Emergency Department and less likely to be referred from a specialist. Discussion. During the year of pandemic (2020) we observed an increase in the proportion of migrants admitted voluntarily or compulsorily. Migrants, especially those from the youngest age-group, had higher hospitalization rates for any disorder. Younger migrants were also at higher risk of compulsory treatment. The distribution of psychiatric admissions during the pandemic period seemed to have further increased discrepancies in mental healthcare needs and provision between migrants and the reference population. Tailored interventions and policies are urgently needed to address this issue. Keywords Psychiatric admissions · Migrants · Pandemic · Compulsory treatments References: Tarricone I, D'Andrea G, Galatolo M, Carloni AL, Descovich C, Muratori R; Bo-East Psychiatric Admissions Study Group. Psychiatric Admission Among Migrants Before and During Pandemic: a Retrospective Study in Acute Psychiatric Ward in Bologna, Italy. J Immigr Minor Health. 2023 Jun;25(3):507-521. doi: 10.1007/s10903-023-01464-7. Epub 2023 Mar 23. PMID: 36952152; PMCID: PMC10034892.

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