

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: CA 18124

STSM title: Methodology of the research concerning the attitudes of young people (students) towards sexuality

STSM start and end date: 16/03/2021 to 30/03/2021

Grantee name:

PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

The purpose of the STSM is to create the research methodology concerning the young peoples` (students`) attitudes towards sexuality. More precisely, together with prof. Osmo Kontula from Vaestoliitto – Finnish Family Federation, we wanted to adjust his questionnaire about sexual attitudes (among other things) – A Study of human relations, sexual lifestyles and attitudes 2007 – for the application on the population in Belgrade, Serbia (students from College of social work) and, if possible patients of Dermatological Clinic). The aims of our work are to start examining the attitudes towards sexuality in Serbia, since the surveys like this were not performed. For this reason, this survey will enable us to gather the important data concerning sexual attitudes of young people in Belgrade, Serbia. Besides that, based on prof. Osmo Kontula`s questionnaire, we will be able to compare the data already gathered (for many years) about sexual attitude, in Finland with those that will be collected in Serbia.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSM

During the two weeks period – prof. Osmo Kontula and me were going through the questions in his questionnaire in order to select the ones that could be applied to the subjects in Serbia. Besides that, we were also working on the modification of certain questions so that they will be more in accordance with Serbian population. We were also creating a certain number of new questions in order to be suitable for the students. All of that followed and was also intermingled with a very detailed discussion and analysis of the situation as well as differences between our two countries concerning social, economical, cultural, sexual and other important issues. Prof. Kontula was also sharing his rich research experiences from Finland with me and that was very helpful for defining the questionnaire in the best possible way and thus avoiding the obstacles he was facing during his long research career. I was sharing my clinical experience with him too. Besides that, we were discussing with great care the special issues connected with the languages (English, Finnish and Serbian), that included the work on precise defining the meaning of certain words in order to choose the right word and sentences formulations that will, in the best possible way, reflect the essence of the questions having in mind the spirit of the Serbian language as well. We also worked on choosing, changing and creating questions that will cover the demographic features of the sample discussing and having in mind the specific situation and circumstances in Serbia. The attention was also paid on analysing the ways in which the questionnaire will be given to the sample. Two possible variants were discussed: a paper form and the online form. The final decision will be applied due to the epidemic situation in Serbia in the time of application of the questionnaire. If the circumstances allow, the survey will be performed in vivo at the College of social work in Belgrade and if or when not, the online form will be applied. The survey planned to be performed at the Dermatological clinic will be done in the paper form having in mind the best possible number of people answering the questionnaire. While analysing the results the statistic SPSS program will be used in order to enable the comparison of the results acquired in Finland and Serbia.

Besides that, during our work on the questionnaire, we talked also about the material we were writing about. We found lots of similarities in our views connected with sexuality and also differences in approaching the issue of sexuality. Prof. Osmo Kontula has a huge research experience and I work with patients at the Institute of mental health for more that 26 years. Based on that and our inspiring discussions we decided to join our efforts and creativity as well as differences in approaching this issue and to write a book together. The working title (for now) is – Key to your sexuality.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

During the STSM performed in Finland between 16th and 30th of March in difficult situation complicated with COVID pandemic, we defined and finished a questionnaire. We agreed about the demographic data that will be collected. Based on prof. Osmo Kontula`s questionnaire, we created a version that will be applied to the students (and if possible, patients`) population in Belgrade, Serbia. We defined the way of performing the survey as well as the statistical program that will enable the analysis of the acquired data. We also defined that we will compare the results from Serbia with the results already gathered in Finland. Prof. Kontula and I already begun to work on the material for our book that will be connected with the issue of sexuality, as the addition to previously agreed agenda.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

We are planing to continue our collaboration by writing the papers for the journals connected with sexual issues, based on our research results. Besides that, we are planning to widen the data that could be gathered by the questionnaire that we finished in order to have a bigger sample from Serbia. We also talked about the idea of connecting with colleagues from other European countries from our action in order to get comparable data from their countries. We will continue to work on our book about sexuality.