



Psychological and psychiatric comorbidity in persons with a visual impairment



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Robert Coppes Foundation

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Presenters

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- Elena Weber from Regional Institute Rittmeyer for the Blind - www.istitutorittmeyer.it
- Janka Braun and Emese Tóth from Budapest School for the Blind - www.vakisk.hu
- Ana Petrinec and Emina Šišić-Anđelić from Center for education and rehabilitation 'Vinko Bek' - www.coovinkobek.hr
- Marit van Buijsen from Robert Coppes Foundation (RCF) - www.robertcoppes.nl

And who are you?

Raise hand if:

- You provide care or have experience in providing care to persons with comorbid psychological or psychiatric problems
- You have experience with an Erasmus-project

Write in chat:

- What would you like to learn from this webinar?

Programme

- The project
- Good practice for persons with a visual impairment and ...
- Case discussions
- Our experiences
- Conclusion & questions

PsyCoVIA project

- Psychological and psychiatric comorbidity in adults with visual impairment
- Exchange knowledge and experiences
- Six Transnational Project Meetings (TPM)
- Book of Good Practices
- Ultimate goal: Better assist service users

Six TPM's

Organization	Country	Theme	Date
Robert Coppes Foundation	The Netherlands, Vught	Personality Disorders & Psychoses	January 2020
Center for education and rehabilitation 'Vinko Bek'	Croatia	Eating Disorders & Addiction	June 2021 (online)
Budapest School for the blind	Hungary	Behavioral Disorders	October 2021 (online)
Rittmeyer Institute for the blind	Italy	Autism Spectrum Disorders	May 2022
Berufsforderungswerk Halle	Germany	Depression & Anxiety	September 2022
Robert Coppes Foundation	The Netherlands, Nijmegen	Post-traumatic stress disorders	October 2022

Format TPM

- **Expert's talk**
- **What's the situation**
- **Case discussions**
- **Social activities**

External evaluator

- Evaluation by questionnaires and interviews
- Each TPM the results of the previous TPM were presented
- Based on these results improvements to the format were made

THEME 1

**Attachment, Charles Bonnet Syndrome,
Personality Disorders and Psychoses**



Good practice

- **Being aware of attachment status**
- **Charles Bonnet Syndrome**
- **Be aware of the causes of psychosis, treatments need to be adapted and take more time**
- **Importance of a trusting relationship**

THEME 2

Addiction and eating disorders



Good practice

- **Addiction and eating disorders by DSM**
- **Interdisciplinary approach to rehabilitation**
- **Holistic approach to a client**
- **No significant difference in eating disorders between sighted and blind people**

THEME 3

Behavioral disorders



Good practice

- **Mentalization based attitude**
- **Being a mirror for the service user (behavior, feelings)**
- **Strengthen self-confidence**
- **Find individual motivation**
- **Importance for client to feel accepted**

THEME 4

Autism Spectrum Disorders



Good practice

- **Having a combination of a visual impairment and autism spectrum disorder can be experienced as a challenge.**
- **Autism is complex disorder that impairs many aspects of people functioning.**
- **The causes of autism are not yet sufficiently known.**
- **Autism and visual impairment: pathological variables that condition and interact with each other.**
- **Effective treatments that can reduce some of the secondary problems associated with autism.**

THEME 5

Depression and anxiety



Good practice

- **The eye disease and its effects have an impact on the psyche - but depression and anxiety also have an impact on visual performance**
- **Interdisciplinary cooperation and good diagnostics are important - do not trust any single measurement result, take several and different ones**
- **Watch out for misinterpretation of symptoms, esp. Male depression**

THEME 6

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)



Good practice

- **More likely to experience traumatic events**
- **Impact is bigger**
- **Treatment is possible**

Case discussions

- Cases were described using a standard format
- Discussions were facilitated by a procedure → socratic intervision method
- Different groups, different effects

Experiences

Germany

Italy

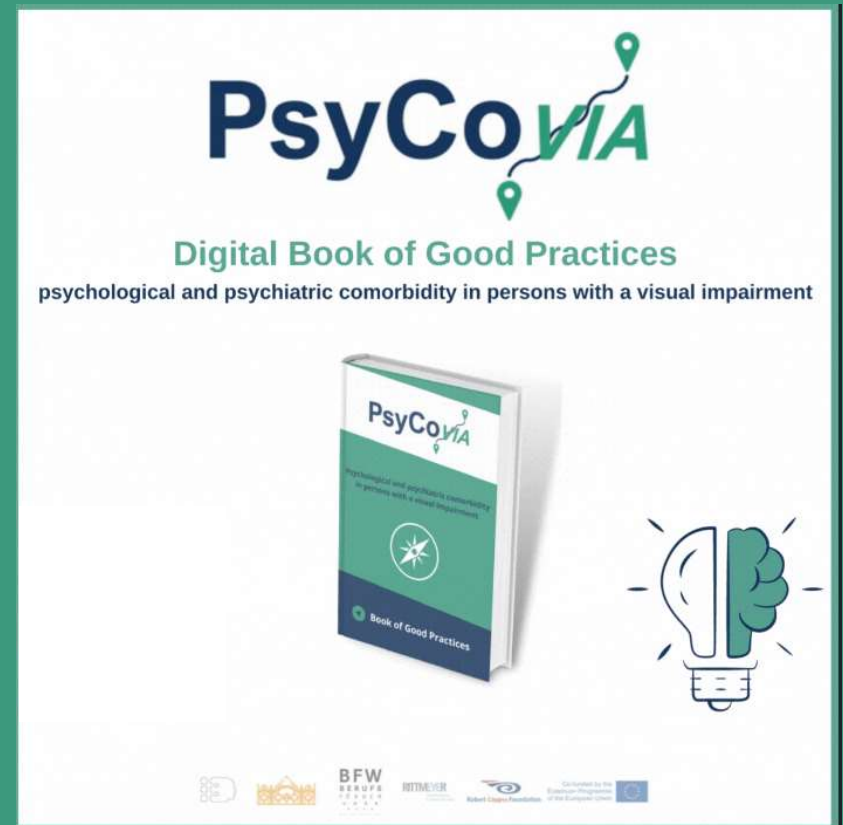
Hungary

Croatia

The Netherlands

Book of Good Practice

[https://robertcoppes.nl/
psycovia-2/](https://robertcoppes.nl/psycovia-2/)



Questions?