



Conceptualization and development of ICF-based needs assessments in Germany following the German "Participation Law"

5-11 October 2019

Banff, Canada

Poster Number

WHO/CTS to insert

Liane Simon^{1,2}, Michaela Kirschneck^{2,3,4}, Sven Kottysch^{1,2}, Sandra Kus^{2,3,4}, Michaela Coenen^{2,3,4}

¹ Medical School Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

² ICF Research Branch, a cooperation partner within the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in Germany

³ Institute for Medical Information Processing, Biometry and Epidemiology – IBE, Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research, LMU Munich, Germany

⁴ Pettenkofer School of Public Health, Munich, Germany

Abstract In 2017, the German Bundesteilhabegesetz ("Participation Law") was passed. The Bundesteilhabegesetz aims to strengthen and improve participation and empowerment of persons with disabilities and to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Germany. Consequently, efforts to reorganize the system for (re)habilitation and for integration of persons with disabilities have begun. The law also requires the implementation of a standardized needs assessment based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). Due to the federal structure of Germany, individual federal states have developed their assessment procedures. For small children there is a plan to replace the existing assessment strategies by restructuring the forms that have been used to date. We report on the conceptualization of standardized needs assessments for (small) children, adolescents and adults in Germany.

Introduction

In Germany, the **Bundesteilhabegesetz** (BTHG; "Participation Law") was passed in 2017. The BTHG aims to:

- implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Germany
- strengthen the empowerment of persons with disabilities and
- improve their participation.

The BTHG prescribes the mandatory implementation of an ICF-based needs assessment for persons with disabilities. Because of Germany's federal structure, all 16 federal states are called upon to develop respective assessment tools for children, adolescents and adults.

For small children (0-6 years) there is a plan to develop a uniform instrument that could be applied in all German states.

The aim of this poster is to report on the conceptualizations of standardized needs assessments for small children, adolescents and adults in Germany.

Results

Various instruments have been developed under the leadership of the provincial governments. Different federal states developed similar or common instruments (see Table 1 and Figure 1; federal states marked with identical colors share similar instruments). The degree in which the ICF is implemented in the instruments varies greatly.

For small children (0-6 years) there is a plan to develop a uniform instrument that could be applied in all German states.

Results continued



Federal states	Needs assessment	Level of specification in ICF classification
Bremen	BedarfsErmittlung Niedersachsen (B.E.Ni.)	ICF chapters (1 st level) (rating 0-4)
Hamburg	Hamburger Gesamtplan	2 nd level ICF categories (free text)
Berlin	Teilhabeinstrument Berlin (TIB)	ICF chapters (1 st level) (free text)
Saarland	Not defined	Not yet available
Schleswig Holstein	Not defined	Not yet available
Thuringia	Integrierter Teilhabeplan (ITP)	2 nd and 3 rd level ICF categories (rating 0-4)
Saxony	Integrierter Teilhabeplan (ITP)	2 nd level ICF categories (rating 0-4)
Rhineland Palatinate	Individuelle Gesamtplanung Rheinland-Pfalz	Not yet available
Saxony-Anhalt	ICF Erhebung Sachsen-Anhalt	Not yet available
Hesse	Integrierter Teilhabeplan (ITP)	2 nd and 3 rd level ICF categories (rating 0-4)
Mecklenburg Western Pomerania	Integrierter Teilhabeplan Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (ITP M-V)	ICF chapters (1 st level); 2 nd level ICF categories (free text)
Brandenburg	Integrierter Teilhabeplan (ITP) (planned)	Not yet available
Northrhine-Westphalia	Bedarfsermittlungsinstrument NRW (BEI_NRW)	ICF chapters (1 st level) (free text)
Baden-Württemberg	Bedarfsermittlungsinstrument Baden-Württemberg (BEI_BaWü)	ICF chapters (1 st level); 2 nd level ICF categories (rating 1-4)
Bavaria	Bedarfsermittlungsinstrument Bayern (BEI-Bay) (planned)	Not yet available
Lower Saxony	BedarfsErmittlung Niedersachsen (B.E.Ni.)	ICF chapters (1 st level) (rating 0-4)

Table 1: Needs assessments tools in the 16 federal states and their levels of specifications regarding the ICF.

Federal states marked in identical colours share similar tools (see also Figure 1).



Figure 1: Federal states in Germany and needs assessments tools.



In the area of early childhood there are the following aspects that need to be considered in particular:

1. Difficulties in **describing participation especially in early infancy**. We receive notifications of rejection of treatment because of the "fact that children of this age do not participate".
2. The **identification** of the environmental factors, influencing the child's functioning has to be **made by parents and health professionals though they are environmental factors themselves**. This requires a high degree of reflection and communication skills.
3. Early childhood intervention in Germany is organized in interdisciplinary organizations. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs advises that the **usual drawing up of an "interdisciplinary intervention and treatment plan" should be maintained** instead of implementing one of the mentioned assessment tools. Therefore, there are several drafts, including the ICF-CY into these plans. The German Association of Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Intervention (VIEFF e.V.) is developing a draft, that could be applied nationwide.

Conclusions

The existing needs assessments tools were mainly developed along the conceptualization of the ICF. There are different tools that have been implemented in the 16 German federal states. Needs assessments tools differ regarding their level of specification. In early childhood it is noticeable that the special features that led to an independent ICF-CY version do not yet fit together easily.