

Project Overview

Development of a Methodology for the Digital Assessment of Risk and Protective Factors and the Prevalence of Risk Behaviours as a Foundation for Strategic Planning of Prevention in the Community (DIGIPREV)

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INTRODUCTION

Effective prevention of risk behaviours among children and youth requires the systematic collection and use of data on risk and protective factors within the community. In the Republic of Croatia, there is currently no standardised, digitally supported system that enables continuous assessment of factors associated with young people's developmental outcomes and their use in the strategic planning of prevention efforts.

The DIGIPREV project is based on the Social Development Model, which highlights the importance of individual and contextual factors within the family, school, peer environment, and community for the development of prosocial or risk behavioural patterns. The project develops and validates a digital assessment methodology that enables scientifically grounded, timely, and locally tailored planning of preventive strategies.

PROJECT GOAL

The main objective of the project is to examine the theoretical Social Development Model by developing and validating a digital methodology for assessing protective and risk factors associated with the development of behavioural problems among children and youth, with the aim of enabling scientifically grounded planning of preventive strategies in communities.

Specific objectives:

1. Empirically test the theoretical assumptions of the Social Development Model in the Croatian context.
2. Validate the digital version of the CTC Youth Survey.
3. Develop and test a digital user interface for assessing risk and protective factors, the prevalence of risky behaviours, and latent profiles of young people.
4. Ensure the transfer of data to decision-makers and support its application in local preventive planning.

METHODOLOGY

- Development of a digital version of the CTC Youth Survey.
- Psychometric validation of the digital version of the survey.
- Testing of the digital user interface in one county.
- Pilot implementation of the survey with at least 600 participants.
- Examination of the reliability, validity and measurement properties of the instrument.
- Data analysis using advanced statistical methods:
 - Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA)
 - Multi-group confirmatory factor analysis (MG-CFA)
 - Structural equation modelling
 - Latent profile analysis
 - Trend analysis
- Iterative development of the digital user interface through: testing, adaptations & incorporation of user feedback

INNOVATIVENESS OF THE PROJECT

1. The first digital version of the CTC Youth Survey adapted for the Croatian context.
2. Use of advanced statistical analyses (CFA, MG-CFA, latent profiles).
3. Automated generation of scientifically grounded local profiles.
4. An interactive link between science and local policy.
5. The first digital system in the Republic of Croatia for monitoring risk and protective factors and youth risk behaviours over time.
6. A modular design enabling adaptation to communities while preserving validity.

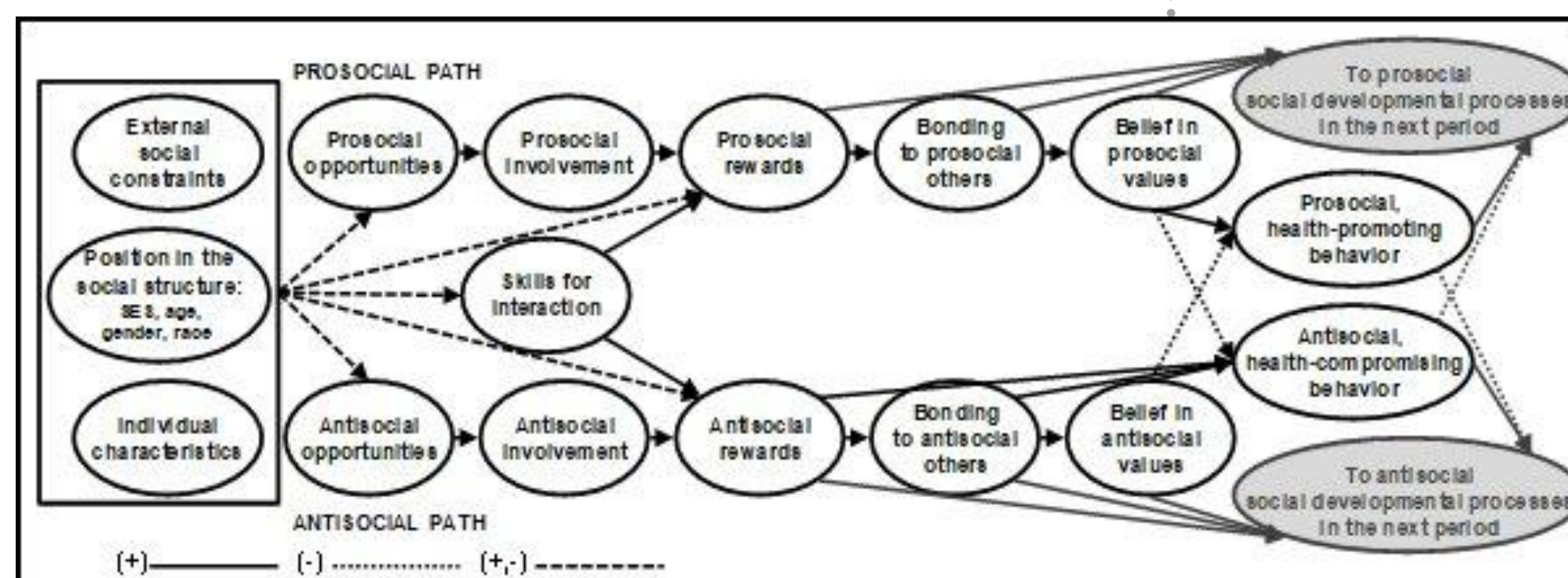
PROJECT INFO

DIGIPREV

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The project is being implemented in partnership with Varaždin County and the Croatian Academic and Research Network, CARNET.

Figure 1. Social Development Model (Cambron et al., 2019)



EXPECTED RESULTS

Expected project outcomes include:

- a confirmed Social Development Model in the Croatian context
- a validated digital version of the CTC Youth Survey
- a developed and tested prototype of the digital user interface
- generated local profiles of risk and protective factors
- developed recommendations for strategic preventive planning
- a stable version of the digital system ready for implementation in multiple communities
- trained decision-makers in using data to shape local preventive strategies