

# Guidelines for IOP Stigma Scales Translation, Back-translation and Concept Checking

## Introduction

To make the translations of any of the IOP stigma scales as comparable as possible, we request that all studies which do not use English as their first language undertake the following work. The reason for this is that equivalent language versions of this instrument will make it possible for us to carry out valid and to meaningful comparisons with the results obtained using different languages.

## Translation stage

Please translate the scale into the desired language and ensure that the translator has the local (target) language as his/her first language, and has English as his/her second language. Then discuss this translation within your study team to resolve any disputed items.

## Back-translation stage

Next back-translate scale into English, using a different translator whose first language is English and whose second language is your local language. Your study team then meets to discuss this back-translated version and to compare it with the original English version, leading to any further revisions that are necessary, and a list of the remaining disputed items for discussion with the focus group. Contact researchers listed below at the Institute of Psychiatry at this stage for any further advice on the intended meaning of the items.

## Focus group stage

To carry out what is called 'concept checking' (which means validating the scale items with a group of people similar to those who will be interviewed), it is necessary for you to arrange one focus group. This should include of 6-10 individuals. The co-ordinators need to control both the questions to be asked and the group dynamics. The co-ordinators need to introduce the scale, and then to discuss each questionnaire item in turn to ask for comments from the participants on the phrasing of the items and how far they are understandable. Tape-record the meeting and after the meeting prepare a summary outlining the most important ideas and conclusions. Then prepare your final local language version of scale, using the information you have gathered from all these stages.

**If you have any further questions, please contact:** Professor Graham Thornicroft  
[Graham.Thornicroft@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Graham.Thornicroft@kcl.ac.uk) or Dr. Sara Evans-Lacko  
[Sara.Evans-Lacko@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Sara.Evans-Lacko@kcl.ac.uk)

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For more detailed guidance on this procedure please see the attached paper:

Knudsen H., Vazquez-Barquero J., Welcher B., Gaité L., Becker T., Chisholm D., Ruggeri M., Schene A., Thornicroft G., and the Epsilon Study Group (2000). Translation and cross-cultural adaption of outcome measurements for schizophrenia: EPSILON Study 2. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 176, s39, 2/1-7.