

**CGL** Cologne Game Lab

Technology Arts Sciences TH Köln



GEFÖRDERT VOM



Initial efficacy of a new goal-oriented intervention for impulsive and sensation-seeking adolescents involving a digital game and MI-based interview



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# **Project and Conflict of Interest**

#### **SOLVE\***

- Funding
  - German Federal Ministry for Education and Research
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I have no further potential conflicts of interest to report.

#### Cooperation between

- Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW | German Institute on Addiction and Prevention Research, Prof. Michael Klein
- Technical University of Cologne | Cologne Game Lab, Prof. Emmanuel Guardiola
- University of Amsterdam | Developmental Psychology, Prof. Reinout Wiers









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<sup>\*</sup>Development and evaluation of an innovative game-based preventive intervention for adolescents with increased risk for substance misuse and dependencies.



# Prevention of harmful risk-taking





#### Premises of the Intervention

### What motivates risk-taking?

- Behaviors are usually performed in the service of certain goals (Goal Systems Theory, Kruglanski, 2002)
- E.g. Smoking as means to reach goal of relaxation (Kopetz, Lejuez, Wiers, & Kruglanski, 2013)
- Formation of a behavioral intention is determined by motivation to perform a behavior in light of alternative options and in the context of currently active goals (Theory of Reasoned Goal Pursuit (Ajzen & Kruglanski, 2019)

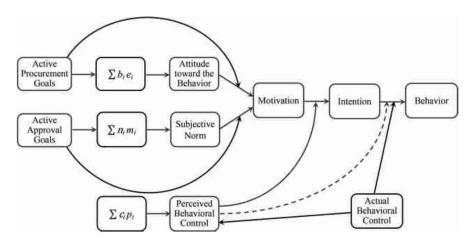


Figure 1. Theory of reasoned goal pursuit.  $\Sigma b_i e_i = \text{summed products of behavioral beliefs times outcome}$  evaluation;  $\Sigma n_i s_i = \text{summed products of normative beliefs times significance of social referent; and } \Sigma c_i p_i = \text{summed products of control beliefs times power of control factors.}$ 



#### Premises of the Intervention

## **Personality and Risk-taking**



- Impulsigenic personality inclinations are associated with a pattern of motives for risk-taking behavior<sup>1</sup>
  - including a pattern of goals, needs and cognitive processing styles
  - SU & other risk-taking behavior in daredevil
     adolescents can often be regarded as a means to fulfill
     associated goals and needs

# **Intervention Components**

## F2F

- Reflection on Personality
  - Future Orientation<sup>1</sup>
- MI spirit & techniques<sup>2</sup>

## Game

- Stealth Learning
- Theme (planning risky activities)
  - Goal & Mechanics
  - Daredevil problem scenarios

## F2F

- Self-control strategies
- (Stop & Think, Decisional Balancing of ST / LT consequences, Social-emotional Problem-solving)
  - MI & CB-T techniques



# Evaluation of initial efficacy and acceptance (Pilot randomized clinical trial)

## Sample

- 13-16year old adolescents with elevated sensation seeking and/or impulsivity scores (SURPS, Woicik, Stewart, Pihl & Conrod, 2009)
- N=60 (plus drop-out rate)
- Requirements:
  - Sufficient German language skills
  - No serious cognitive impairments
  - Not currently in in-patient psychiatric treatment or Addiction treatment
  - practice partners from youth welfare, schools, addiction prevention, out-patient youth psychiatry
  - Flyers, on-site visits, social media campaign

#### **Procedure**

- F2F:
  - Trained psychologists in MI and CB-T techniques
  - semi-structured guide
  - Audio-recorded
  - 50 min per session
- Smartphone Game:
  - 2 versions (hash brownie scenario/without)
  - Android smartphones
  - Use data is logged (retention rate, duration of use, number of log-ins)

# **Study Design**

#### Sample:

Impulsive/sensation-seeking adolescents (13-16 years), screened by SURPS and other inclusion criteria

2-armed pilot RCT, embedded qual study IV = Intervention Group

#### Group 1:

- **√** F2F
- ✓ Game
- ✓ Brochure

#### Group 2:

- ✓ Game
- **✓** Brochure

- Sociodemographics
- Relevant Risk-taking activities (past 30 days)
  - Choice according to relevance & subj. positivity/negativity
  - Engagement
  - Willingness to Engage
  - SU frequency (past 30 days)
- Use & Acceptance of Game

- Relevant Risk-taking activities (past 30 days)
  - Engagement
  - Willingness to Engage
  - SU frequency
- Use of self-control strategies, motivation
- Contribution of intervention components\* (game, interviews) and contextual factors on risk-behavior, intentions and use of self-control strategies

T0: Baseline
Intervention starts

-7 days

Intervention

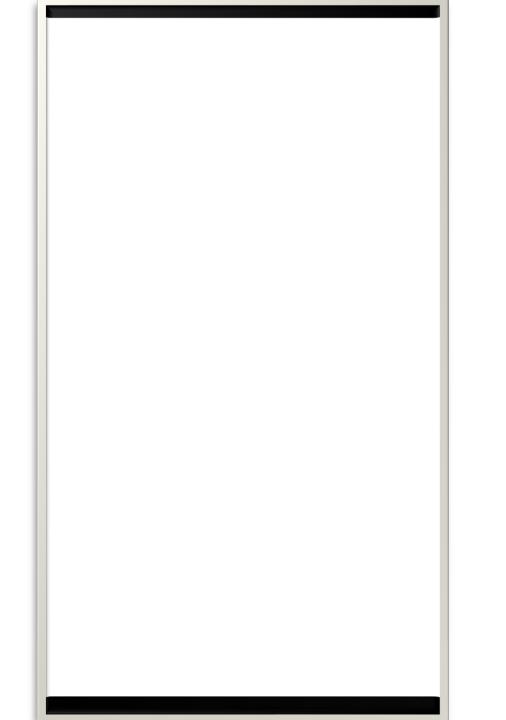
finished

|Time for risk-| taking

activities

**T1: Post-intervention** 

T2: 1 mth postintervention





https://www.instagram.com/solve.game/



https://www.facebook.com/SOLVEgame-100186662665202

# Thank you for your attention!

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