

MESAFE (MEntal health for aviation SAFETY)



Contractor

Deep Blue

Consortium Members

None

Contract period

30/04/2022 - 29/04/2024

Budget

350 000 €

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Main objectives

This research project assesses new medical developments for the early diagnosis as well as treatment of mental health conditions which could pose a safety risk for aviation and would consequently lead to pilot and air traffic controller (ATCO) unfitness or the limitation of their medical certificate for safety purposes.

Currently, there are no specific, validated mental health assessment methods for aviation use, incorporating the specific operational needs, to address the issues identified. MESAFE research details the specific needs, develops novel assessment methods through proof of concepts, and assesses the applicability of existing methods for use in the aviation environment.

Impacts & benefits

The benefit of this research project are as follows:

- evidence-based recommendations for updating the mental health requirements in Part-MED and Part-ATCO.MED in line with the medical developments;
- evidence-based recommendations for mental health assessment methods suitable for aeromedical fitness assessments;
- an impact assessment of the recommended regulatory changes clustered into safety, social, economic, operational;
- a mental incapacitation risk assessment process (MIRAP) to support the decision-making of aeromedical examiners and medical assessors for the assessment of the safety risk of mental incapacitation on operations;
- guidance material on the updates to the fitness assessment of applicants for aeromedical examiners and medical assessors;
- guidance material on mental health assessment and the updates to the fitness assessment of applicants for peer support groups and the trained peers involved in the peer support programs; and
- material to support the management of the proposed changes, e.g., presentations of the results obtained under this contract and training material suitable for professional audiences.

