

TANDEM – A joint trauma competence measure for Nordic countries?

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WORKSHOP

Across Nordic countries, Trauma informed care (TIC) has become a widely applied approach to meet the needs of children exposed to child abuse and neglect. However, since TIC is a theoretical framework rather than a specific method, there may develop local ideas of how it should be translated into practice. Moreover, to this date, we know little of how all ongoing TIC courses and education programs pay off in terms of actual raised competence.

Therefore, all regional and national trauma competence centres in Norway came together to develop a validated standardized instrument that measures trauma competence: TANDEM (Trauma and development education monitor). TANDEM is our 'operationalisation' of TICs core principles.

TANDEM is web based and completed in around 10 minutes. It comprises 54 items covering six domains: Readiness, Agency, Reflexivity, Knowledge, Practice and Organisational culture. It is completed both before and after attending a trauma education program. In that way, it allows us to measure participants learning outcomes. The pre-scores also help us to adjust the program to the competence needs of the attending service or group.

In addition, TANDEM registers characteristics of the education program, such as its comprehensiveness, pedagogic approaches, and its management/organisational support. It also registers characteristics of course/program attenders, such as type and level of education, work affiliation and prior trauma education. This allows research on predictors for higher or lower learning outcomes, so that future education programs can be designed on information on "what works for whom".

In the workshop the developers of TANDEM will briefly present the instrument (in an English translation), and illustrate how it can be applied in practice. Then, we will engage participants in the following activities:

- 1) To complete the TANDEM questionnaire online (the response is anonymous).
- 2) To discuss eventual adjustments that would make the domains and items of TANDEM applicable across Nordic contexts.
- 3) To discuss opportunities for joint TANDEM implementation or research projects across Nordic countries.