

FALCO user involvement in the FALCO research project

(F/E) Presentasjon av forskning / Presentasjon basert på erfaringskompetanse

14.10-14.35, Spor 1: Auditorium 3

The presentation will be held in English

Speakers

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Abstract

User involvement has become increasingly important across various disciplines, including research. Individuals with lived experience possess a unique expertise that cannot be replaced by professional knowledge. Genuine user involvement means engaging users in all phases of the process. It is not about users serving as mere tokens—names on a page to meet funding criteria. There are many examples of what can be termed "tokenism," which refers to "the practice of making only a superficial or symbolic effort to be inclusive of members of minority groups" (Wikipedia, 2024). FALCO aims to conduct research on music therapy within the field of substance abuse and has made significant efforts to establish user involvement. The research project consists of various work packages. The goal of the work package focused on user involvement is to facilitate participation throughout the entire research process, ensuring that users are key actors contributing to the project's conclusions.

FALCO is an international project involving researchers and user specialists spread over seven EU-countries. Thus, user involvement can be a method to achieve knowledge that would otherwise not be produced. It helps uncover shared challenges related to economic, cultural, and research traditions and differences (Skjeldal, 2021; Karlsson & Borg, 2021). We advocate for user involvement to be central from start to finish and for user representation to be taken seriously in all societies, in every country, across national borders.

References

Karlsson, B., & Borg, M. (2021). *Samarbeidsbasert forskning: demokratisk kunnskapsutvikling i psykisk helse- og rusarbeid* (1. utgave.). Gyldendal.

Skjeldal, E. (2021). *Kritiske perspektiver på brukermedvirkning*. Universitetsforlaget.

Wikipedia (2024). <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokenism>