

Growing evidence suggests that traumatic life events may increase the risk for psychosis. However the mechanisms of how trauma increases the risk is unknown. The aim of the project is to investigate the mechanisms of how early trauma increases the risk for psychosis among people in age between 18 – 35 years. A fundamental assumption of the project is to fill the gaps in the knowledge on mechanisms of psychosis proneness. For the first time the role of trauma will be investigated in the interaction with cognitive (the way people interpret life events) and personality factors (personality traits) in the context of the risk for psychosis. Our team has presented in previous studies a model in which we have shown that personality interacts with cognitive biases in predicting psychosis proneness among young healthy people. Our project will add trauma to previous model and will allow for a systematic verification of our predictions among people at a high risk for psychosis. We will assess 6000 people from Krakow, Wroclaw and Warsaw in order to find out 200 people with at risk states for psychosis (ARMS). Final sample of 200 people with the highest risk for developing psychosis will be comprehensively evaluated on psychiatric condition, cognitive functioning, personality and a history of traumatic life events. After 12 months of the initial assessment all participants will be re-evaluated in order to investigate whether ARMS status together with all the risk factors evaluated predict a development of psychosis (or other psychiatric disorders). We are convinced that obtained results from the project not only will enrich theoretical knowledge, but will provide also a valuable data that will inform clinical practice by delivering model on the risk for psychosis. The project will make a difference in understanding the mechanisms of the risk for psychosis and thus will improve existing therapies for the patients.