Figure 1: Stages in the development of the Quality of Life in Schizophrenia (QLiS) questionnaire

| STEP 1: open-ended interviews and content analysis | Open-ended structured interviews regarding pleasure, happiness, satisfaction and quality of life with n=268 schizophrenic persons from different care settings
| | comprehensive model of quality-of-life consisting of 241 components
| STEP 2: quantification of importance and analysis of specificity | Frequency counts of components of the QoL-model + interpretation of frequencies as indicators of importance
| | Empirical study on content specificity: ratings of subjective importance of QoL-components by n=75 schizophrenic and n=68 mentally health persons
| STEP 3: development of a 130-item pilot version | Paraphrasing of every component of the QoL-model into ‘statements’ by 4 professional experts from clinical and community psychiatry
| | Transformation of statements into questionnaire items by addition of an appraisal standard and response scale; exclusion of redundant items
| STEP 4: empirical analysis of response scale formats | Comparison between 4-point and 6-point response scale based on a study with n=32 schizophrenic patients who filled in both versions of the questionnaire
| | 4-point response scale was selected since both response scales yielded similar psychometric properties and 4-point scale was preferred by patients
| STEP 5: item selection, construction of subscales, study on reliability | Application of 130-item version to measuring the QoL of n=203 schizophrenic persons from different care settings
| | Item selection based on item difficulty, means for each item, number of missing values, ordered response threshold in ordinal Rasch-model
| | Development of subscales based on theoretical considerations, subscale reliability, discrimination index, factor analyses, resulting in a 68-item questionnaire
| STEP 6: subscale testing, study on validity and retest reliability | Validation study with n=135 schizophrenic persons from different care settings, application of WHOQOL-BREF, SWN-K, MLDL-GI, PANSS
| | Test-retest study in n=49 schizophrenic outpatients with stable course of illness, 7-10 day interval
| | Construction of final QLiS based on subscale reliabilities, discrimination index, and factor analyses
| | Analysis of intercorrelations among QLiS subscales and scores and subscales of WHOQOL-BREF, SWN-K, MLDL-GI, PANSS