Reviewer's report

Title: Norm Values and Psychometric Properties for the German Health Regulatory Focus Scale – Results of a Representative Survey

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Reviewer: Juana Gómez Benito

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript aims to provide norm values and information on the psychometric properties of the German Health Regulatory Focus Scale (HRFS), which could be of interest in the clinical field. However, there are shortcomings and descriptions too general in the manuscript that limit their contribution and relevance.

First, the manuscript does not discuss widely the findings of the psychometric properties of the instrument in other studies and with other populations, as well as the results of other instruments that evaluate the same construct and its comparison with the scale evaluated by the authors. Another shortcoming observed in the manuscript is that neither in the introduction nor in the discussion do the authors mention or compare their results with those obtained with similar instruments, such as the Health Regulatory Focus Scale (HRFS) by Ferrer, Lipkus, Cerulli, McBride, Shepperd, & Klein (2017), or the Promotion or Prevention Scale (PM-PV Scale) by Nieroda, Keeling & Keeling (2015). Beyond an improvement in the representativeness of the sample and the proposal of norm values for the German population, what could be said regarding the psychometric quality of the instrument in relation to others that evaluate the same construct? In the clinical and technical field, why is this instrument more relevant than others? What variables have been found in other studies that can act as mediators regarding the health regulatory focus?

Second, the method section is not organized properly because it would be convenient for the authors to present the participants first, then the instrument(s), the procedure and finally the analysis.

In addition, it is necessary to clarify:

- Regarding the selection of the participants, it is not clear if the selection was made by families or inhabitants of the selected households who were over 18 years of age, or if a participant was selected from each household.

- The regions of Germany to which the participants belonged are not mentioned and if this is also representative of the population.

- A socio-economic status variable is needed since it is a variable that can affect the measured variable.

- It would also be convenient to have some indicator of diagnoses received or chronic diseases.
- It would also be important to take into account if immigrants participated in the sample and if there were differences in this regard.

Third, why were the variables education and socioeconomic status not used to establish invariance? These variables have been recognized in some studies as relevant variables in terms of the variable measured by the scale. In this same line, it would be interesting to have taken into account cultural variables such as regions of Germany or with respect to immigrants and non-immigrants to assess invariance.

Fourth, given the weaknesses mentioned by the authors regarding the samples used in previous studies with this same instrument, in the present study the psychometric quality of the scale had to be analyzed more in depth. In addition, and because the main contribution of the manuscript is to provide the normative data, this aspect should be discussed in greater depth and the user should be made aware of the type of normative data that is provided, as well as the interpretations that can be drawn from them.

Finally, the discussion of the manuscript is very poor and it presents a summary of the findings but there is no real discussion of the results, which undermines the interest and scope that this manuscript may have. The authors also do not discuss the limitations of the study.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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I am able to assess the statistics

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