

Information for Participants in the Research Project and Declaration of Consent

General Information about the Research Project “Exploring Neurodivergent Experiences in a VR Quiet Room“ of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

The Research Group for Human-Computer Interaction and Accessibility plans to conduct a user study with neurodivergent participants in which the accessibility and usefulness of a virtual quiet room in a VR gaming setting is to be evaluated.

The goal of this project is the human-centered establishment of needs and preferences of neurodivergent people regarding accessibility of VR technology, especially regarding opportunities for sensory self-regulation.

1. Course of the Project

Initial contact will take place online. People interested in participating can book an appointment through the booking portal or contact the study team via email to arrange an individual appointment.

The session itself takes about 90 minutes and is structured into five parts:

1. You provide written consent to participate in the study and fill out a consent form for bank transfer of the participant reimbursement.
2. You answer questions about your demographic information (e.g., age, gender, type of neurodivergence) and previous VR experiences, and complete questionnaires about your current mood and symptoms of motion sickness.
3. You are given the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the VR technology.
4. You play a VR game for up to 15 minutes. During this time, observational notes about your use of the game will be taken.
5. After playing, you complete questionnaires about your mood, motion sickness, player experience, and sense of presence. Afterwards, you participate in a semi-structured interview about your impressions of the VR game.

Using VR may temporarily cause discomfort such as dizziness, nausea, or feelings of unease. You may pause, skip parts of the study, or withdraw from participation entirely at any time without giving reasons and without any disadvantages.

Audio from the interview parts will be recorded. The recordings will be scientifically analyzed. For this purpose, a so-called transcript will be set up. This means that the audio recordings are transcribed according to certain rules. Afterwards, the audio recordings will be deleted. The transcripts will be anonymized and then analyzed.

You will be offered EUR 30 for your participation. This payment will be made by bank transfer. For that, you have to provide the necessary processing information (i.e., name, address, IBAN, BIC).

2. Participation Conditions

Inclusion criteria: age ≥ 18 , neurodivergent (e.g., ADHD, Autism, dyslexia; no formal diagnosis needed), ability to give informed consent, willingness to try the VR game, proficiency in either English or German

Exclusion criteria: strong susceptibility to motion sickness, conditions or impairments incompatible with VR exposure (e.g. epilepsy, vision differences, motor differences), inability to provide informed consent

3. Use of the Data in the Research Project

Every questionnaire, observational note, and every audio recorded is marked with a participant ID. The participant ID is assigned by the interviewer and consists of letters and numbers that have no reference whatsoever to your name (i.e. no initials, etc.). When the audio recordings are transcribed, any identifying information will be replaced with non-identifying codes, e.g., "My name is Anna-Lena and I live in Karlsruhe" will be transcribed to "My name is [P1] and I live in [city]". After transcription, the audio recordings will be deleted. Data from the study will only be published in aggregated or anonymous form, so that it will not be possible to identify individuals. E.g., an individual age will only be published in ranges (e.g., "P1's age is 20-25 years."). If quotes from participants are published, these will not contain any identifying information.

The allocation of the participant ID to your name can be found in a list. This list and your declaration of consent will be kept separately from the research data in electronic format. The list can be accessed by the project head only.

The bank transfer information does not contain the participant ID and is stored separately from the research data. Using this information, it will not be possible to allocate the research data to your person. The research team passes the bank transfer information to the finance management division of KIT via encrypted data transfer. The finance management division of KIT then initiates the transfer. After the bank transfer process is initiated, we will delete the bank transfer information.

Your contact details will only be stored for the time of the study and then deleted. Even if you have signed the declaration of consent, you can terminate your participation anytime without having to indicate the reasons. If you wish to do so, the data collected will be deleted completely or partly. This is possible only before the allocation table and contact data are deleted. Afterwards, the data can no longer be allocated to individuals.

Contact Persons

If you have questions, concerns, or doubts, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Declaration of Consent

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(Date, last name, first name of participant)

I have read the general information about the research project “Exploring Neurodivergent Experiences in a VR Quiet Room“ and consent to my participation in the research project and the associated processing of my data. My consent also covers the collection of data on my state of health (i.e., my type of neurodivergence and other conditions that might affect my interaction with VR technology).

I am aware of the fact that consents must be given voluntarily and may be refused or withdrawn (also separately) without the indication of reasons and without any negative consequences for me. I know that in the case of the withdrawal of my consent, lawfulness of processing based on my consent until its withdrawal will not be affected. I have understood that I can withdraw my consent simply by mail to the contact person named in the information and that refusal or withdrawal of my consent will not result in any negative consequences for me.

I have received the information on the collection of personal data in the research project “Exploring Neurodivergent Experiences in a VR Quiet Room“.