ABSTRACT

The Relationship Between Pilots' Emotional Intelligence and Risk Attitude: New Hypotheses for Selection and Training

This research project was developed by IT-APA in collaboration with IUSVE University - Venice, with the aim of investigating the link between Emotional Intelligence (EI), emotion dysregulation, and an individual's risk attitude.

The research hypothesis was formulated on the basis of findings from a study conducted by Italian researchers (Luciani et al., 2022), which demonstrated a relationship between emotion dysregulation and risk attitude during flight. In light of this evidence, a new applied proposal was developed in which it was hypothesized that intelligence could act as a mediator between the difficulty in identifying adaptive strategies and the final emotional response (Zuin and Pellizzari, 2023).

The effect of the emotional response on risk attitude during flight was analyzed through the administration of five psychometric instruments assessing EI, emotion dysregulation, emotion regulation, coping ability, and risk attitude.

Thanks to the collaboration with Air Dolomiti, the five aforementioned questionnaires were administered to 124 pilots via Google Forms.

The results of the present study highlight the central role of Emotional Intelligence as a mediator that mitigates the impact of emotion dysregulation and the pilot's risk attitude. Emotional Intelligence is associated with greater self-confidence in emotional suppression, in risk perception, and in safety-oriented behaviors; EI is linked to a lower use of avoidant coping which, in turn, is associated with a higher risk propensity.

Instead, the presence of moderate self-confidence and the capacity for emotion regulation through the mediation of emotional intelligence suggest that pilots with good emotion management tend to maintain a balanced risk perception and a level of self-confidence that exposes them neither to excessive caution nor to risky behaviors.

This implies that the research findings offer new perspectives for selection and training, as EI appears to play a role in fostering behaviors oriented towards maintaining Safety.Authors

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