**Supplement A: Results of Main Analyses Based on Scales for Latent Functions with Established Items Only**

Table A1. Fixed effects for models of the predictors of distress (scales for latent functions based on established items only)

| Parameter |  | Model 1 | Model 2 | Model 3 | Model 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Intercept |  | 1.41\*\* (0.06) | 1.36\*\* (0.06) | 1.36\*\* (0.06) | 1.37\*\* (0.06) |
| *Level 1* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time |  | -0.00\*\* (0.00) | -0.00\*\* (0.00) | -0.00\*\* (0.00) | -0.00\*\* (0.00) |
| Age |  | -0.00 (0.00) | -0.00 (0.00) | -0.00 (0.00) | -0.00 (0.00) |
| Employment |  | -0.33\*\* (0.04) | -0.14\*\* (0.03) | -0.14\*\* (0.03) | -0.19\*\* (0.03) |
| Time\*Employment |  | 0.00\*\* (0.00) | 0.00\* (0.00) | 0.00\*\* (0.00) | 0.00\*\* (0.00) |
| Time structure |  |  | -0.02\* (0.01) | -0.01 (0.01) | -0.02+ (0.01) |
| Social contact |  |  | -0.03\*\* (0.01) | -0.03\*\* (0.01) | -0.03\*\* (0.01) |
| Status |  |  | -0.07\*\* (0.01) | -0.05\*\* (0.01) | -0.04\*\* (0.01) |
| Activity |  |  | -0.04\*\* (0.01) | -0.04\*\* (0.01) | -0.04\*\* (0.01) |
| Collective purpose |  |  | -0.11\*\* (0.01) | -0.11\*\* (0.01) | -0.09\*\* (0.01) |
| Financial strain |  |  | 0.07\*\* (0.01) | 0.06\*\* (0.01) | 0.05\*\* (0.01) |
| Competence  |  |  |  | -0.08\*\* (0.01) | -0.06\*\* (0.01) |
| Autonomy |  |  |  |  | -0.10\*\* (0.01) |
| *Level 2 (person)* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Education |  | -0.03 (0.03) | -0.06 (0.03) | -0.06 (0.03) | -0.05 (0.03) |
| Gender |  | 0.02 (0.03) | 0.01 (0.03) | 0.02 (0.03) | 0.02 (0.03) |
| -2\*log likelihood |  | 5703.77 | 5147.60 | 5089.97 | 5032.42 |
| *AIC* |  | 5656.86 | 5069.44 | 5006.25 | 4943.45 |
| *BIC* |  | 5725.11 | 5174.75 | 5117.74 | 5061.13 |
| *R*2 |  | 0.57 | 0.66 | 0.67 | 0.68 |

*Note*. The table displays unstandardized coefficients. Standard errors can be found in parentheses. Time: Days passed since answering first questionnaire. Employment: 0 = unemployment, 1 = employment. Education: 0 = low education, 1 = high education. Gender: 0 = male, 1 = female. + *p* < .10; \* *p* < .05, \*\* *p* < .01.

Table A2. Fixed effects for the prediction of the functions of employment (scales for latent functions based on established items only)

| Parameter |  | Time structure | Social contact | Status | Activity | Collective purpose | Competence | Autonomy |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Intercept |  | 3.88\*\* (0.12) | 5.45\*\* (0.14) | 4.76\*\* (0.13) | 3.99\*\* (0.13) | 3.86\*\* (0.12) | 4.44\*\* (0.13) | 4.40\*\* (0.10) |
| *Level 1* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time |  | 0.00 (0.00) | 0.00+ (0.00) | 0.00\* (0.00) | 0.00 (0.00) | 0.00 (0.00) | 0.00 (0.00) | 0.00\* (0.00) |
| Age |  | 0.01+ (0.00) | -0.03\*\* (0.00) | -0.01\*\* (0.00) | 0.00 (0.00) | 0.01\* (0.00) | 0.00 (0.00) | -0.00 (0.00) |
| Employment |  | 0.56\*\* (0.06) | 0.34\*\* (0.07) | 0.46\*\* (0.06) | 0.83\*\* (0.07) | 0.95\*\* (0.06) | 0.25\*\* (0.07) | -0.32\*\* (0.06) |
| Time\*Employment |  | -0.00 (0.00) | -0.00 (0.00) | 0.00 (0.00) | 0.00 (0.00) | -0.00+ (0.00) | 0.00 (0.00) | 0.00\*\* (0.00) |
| *Level 2 (person)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Education |  | 0.07 (0.07) | -0.01 (0.08) | 0.11 (0.08) | 0.20\*\* (0.07) | 0.02 (0.07) | 0.03 (0.08) | 0.05 (0.06) |
| Gender |  | 0.31\*\* (0.07) | -0.10 (0.08) | 0.12+ (0.07) | 0.29\*\* (0.07) | 0.13+ (0.07) | -0.04 (0.07) | 0.07 (0.06) |
| -2\*log likelihood |  | 9826.07 | 10880.96 | 10482.47 | 10624.76 | 10379.47 | 10662.46 | 9391.77 |
| *AIC* |  | 9788.24 | 10845.26 | 10446.10 | 10588.22 | 10342.44 | 10626.17 | 9352.66 |
| *BIC* |  | 9856.50 | 10913.53 | 10514.35 | 10656.48 | 10410.70 | 10694.40 | 9420.93 |
| *R*2 |  | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.69 | 0.68 | 0.67 | 0.63 |

*Note*. The table displays unstandardized coefficients. Standard errors can be found in parentheses. Time: Days passed since answering first questionnaire. Employment: 0 = unemployment, 1 = employment. Education: 0 = low education, 1 = high education. Gender: 0 = male, 1 = female. + *p* < .10, \* *p* < .05, \*\* *p* < .01.

Table A3. Fixed effects for the prediction of distress by the respective function of employment (scales for latent functions based on established items only)

| Parameter |  | Time structure | Social contact | Status | Activity | Collective purpose | Competence | Autonomy |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Intercept |  |  2.08\*\* (0.08) |  2.49\*\* (0.08) |  2.55\*\* (0.07) |  2.23\*\* (0.07)  |  2.31\*\* (0.07)  |  2.44\*\* (0.07) |  2.80\*\* (0.08) |
| *Level 1* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time |  | -0.00\*\* (0.00) | -0.00\*\* (0.00) | -0.00\*\* (0.00) | -0.00\*\* (0.00) | -0.00\*\*(0.00) | -0.00\*\* (0.00) | -0.00\*\* (0.00) |
| Age |  |  0.00 (0.00)  | -0.01\*\* (0.00) | -0.00\*\* (0.00) | -0.00 (0.00) |  0.00 (0.00) |  -0.00 (0.00) | -0.00 (0.00) |
| Employment  |  | -0.26\*\* (0.03) | -0.29\*\* (0.03) | -0.24\*\* (0.03) | -0.20\*\* (0.03) | -0.14\*\* (0.03) | -0.29\*\* (0.03) | -0.39\*\* (0.03) |
| Time\*Employment |  |  0.00\*\* (0.00) |  0.00\*\* (0.00) |  0.00\*\* (0.00) |  0.00\*\* (0.03) |  0.00\*\* (0.00) |  0.00\*\* (0.00) |  0.00\*\* (0.00) |
| Respective function |  | -0.13\*\* (0.01) | -0.13\*\* (0.01) | -0.18\*\* (0.01) | -0.16\*\* (0.01) | -0.21\*\* (0.01) | -0.16\*\* (0.01) | -0.19\*\* (0.01) |
| *Level 2 (person)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Education |  | -0.01 (0.03) | -0.02 (0.03) |  0.00 (0.03) |  0.02 (0.03) | -0.02 (0.03) | -0.02 (0.03) | -0.02 (0.03) |
| Gender |  |  0.08\* (0.03) |  0.01 (0.03) |  0.05+ (0.03) |  0.08\*\* (0.03) |  0.05+ (0.03) |  0.01 (0.03) |  0.05+ (0.03) |
| Respective function |  | -0.17\*\* (0.01) | -0.20\*\* (0.01) | -0.24\*\* (0.01) | -0.20\*\* (0.01) | -0.23\*\* (0.01) | -0.23\*\* (0.01) | -0.31\*\* (0.01) |
| -2\*log likelihood |  | 5455.66 | 5295.85 | 5034.99 | 5228.83 | 5025.32 | 5143.57 | 5065.61 |
| *AIC* |  | 5398.25 | 5237.05 | 4975.64 | 5170.27 | 4966.34 | 5084.46 | 5006.90 |
| *BIC* |  | 5478.90 | 5317.70 | 5056.26 | 5250.91 | 5046.98 | 5165.07 | 5087.56 |
| *R*2 |  |  0.59 |  0.60 |  0.62 |  0.61 |  0.63 |  0.61 |  0.61 |

*Note*. The table displays unstandardized coefficients. Standard errors can be found in parentheses. Dependent variable: distress. Employment: 0 = unemployment, 1 = employment. Education: 0 = loweducation, 1 = high education. Gender: 0 = male, 1 = female. + *p* < .10, \* *p* < .05, \*\* *p* < .01.

Table A4. Multilevel analyses for testing the mediation of employment status changes on within-person changes in mental health by within-person changes in the functions of employment (scales for latent functions based on established items only)

|  |
| --- |
| Mediator |
|  |  | Time structure | Social contact | Status | Activity | Collective purpose | Competence | Autonomy |
| Average indirect effect |  | -0.07\*\*\*[-0.09; -0.06] | -0.04\*\*\*[-0.05; -0.03] | -0.09\*\*\*[-0.11; -0.07] | -0.13\*\*\*[-0.16; -0.12] | -0.18\*\*\*[-0.21; -0.16] | -0.04\*\*\*[-0.06; -0.03] | 0.03\*\*\*[0.02; 0.04] |
| Average direct effect |  | -0.19\*\*\*[-0.23; -0.16] | -0.22\*\*\*[-0.25; -0.17] | -0.16\*\*\*[-0.20; -0.12] | -0.13\*\*\*[-0.17; -0.09] | -0.08\*\*\*[-0.12; -0.04] | -0.21\*\*\*[-0.25; -0.16] | -0.29\*\*\*[-0.33; -0.25] |
| Total effect |  | -0.26\*\*\*[-0.31; -0.22] | -0.26\*\*\*[-0.29; -0.22] | -0.25\*\*\*[-0.29; -0.21] | -0.27\*\*\*[-0.31; -0.23] | -0.27\*\*\*[-0.31; -0.22] | -0.25\*\*\*[-0.29; -0.20] | -0.26\*\*\*[-0.31; -0.22] |
| Proportion mediated |  | 0.28\*\*\*[0.22; 0.33] | 0.15\*\*\*[0.12; 0.22] | 0.35\*\*\*[0.28; 0.43] | 0.50\*\*\*[0.42; 0.62] | 0.69\*\*\*[0.59; 0.83] | 0.17\*\*\*[0.12; 0.24] | -0.12\*\*\*[-0.17; -0.05] |

*Note*. Numbers outside brackets are unstandardized coefficients; numbers inside brackets are upper and lower limits of 95% confidence intervals. Each mediation analysis accounted for the effects of time, employment, and the interaction of employment\*time; \*\*\* *p* < .001.