

# BETTER: weB accEssibiliTy for people wiTh mEntal disoRders



## 1 Background

The Web is an essential tool for participation within knowledge-based societies<sup>1</sup> and it is important to ensure no access barriers that make it difficult to perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with websites exist<sup>2</sup>.

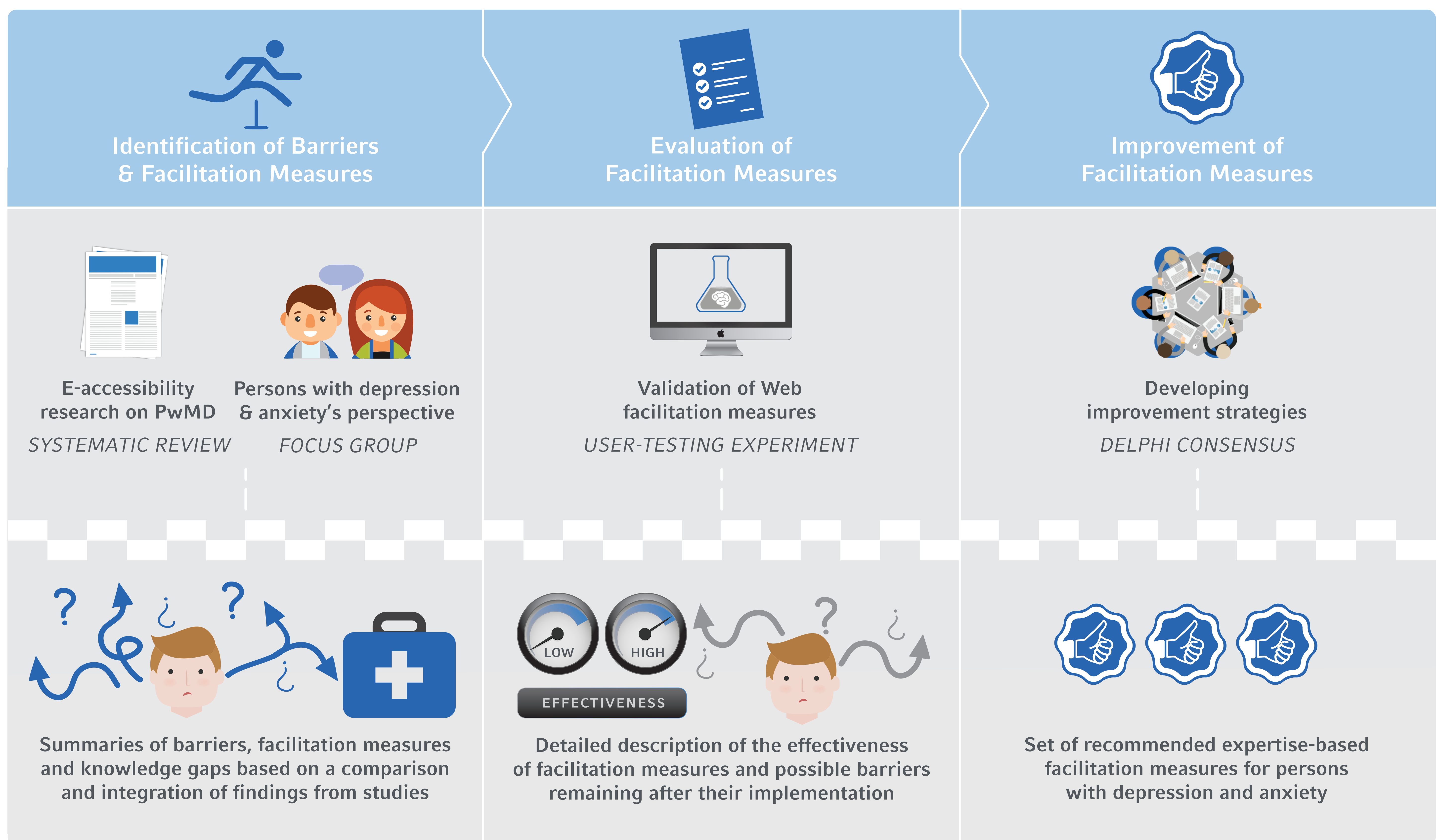
Great effort has been put towards facilitating Web access for people with sensory impairments and physical disabilities<sup>3-4</sup> but little direct research attention has been given to people with mental disorders (PwMD)<sup>5</sup>.

It is important to identify and address the Web accessibility barriers PwMD may experience as these barriers can negatively impact how much they benefit from the Web in several ways including convenient Web-based treatment options and increased societal participation.

## 2 Relevance of BETTER

- Results from Web-based treatment methods are promising but there is much room for improvement and better accessibility is key here.
- Knowledge of how Web modifications can lead to improved access by PwMD will also help create a more all-inclusive and powerful Web from which even more people can benefit and make a contribution.
- A comprehensive understanding of the barriers people with mental disorders encounter on the Web is vital for devising ways to effectively address accessibility for this population.

## 3 Research Plan: Phases of BETTER including aims, studies and expected outcomes



## 4 Implications of the adoption of BETTER's recommendations: Benefits for PwMD, academia, government, business and the wider society

- PwMD will likely enjoy improved access to the Web which can enhance their participation in society and Web-based treatments as well.
- Governments, businesses and other organisations are expected to be more informed about how they could better comply with article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which focuses on accessibility.
- It is anticipated that BETTER will stimulate further Web accessibility mental disorder-specific research.



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