



VIPROM – Victim Protection in Medicine
Digital Press Map

November 2024

Press Map

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1. Why VIPROM?

What is the Problem that we are facing?

Domestic violence (DV) remains a major problem in the European region¹ and is one of the **greatest health risks** for women as well as other victim groups such as children, men and non-binary people face in their lifetime²:

Even though many international policies have addressed DV as a serious (public) health problem and the **need for better support for victims in the medical sector**, frontline health professionals still do not have sufficient knowledge about DV and lack sufficient skills on how to **identify, communicate with and better support victims** within or even beyond their medical duty.



In addition, the **sustainable implementation and organisational anchoring** of specialised training or standardised screenings in the health sector remains a problem. This points to the need for continuous training as frequently requested by medical staff.

Thus, advocacy measures tailored to the medical sector combined with **ongoing training for medical professionals** are needed. Better medical support is of particular importance as a large proportion of DV victims who experience domestic violence initially turn to health services.

(Sources³)

¹ World Health Organization. 2019. 'The Health System Response to Violence against Women in the WHO European Region: A Baseline Assessment'. Geneva. <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2019-3780-43539-61155>

² Miller, Elizabeth, and Brigid McCaw. 2019. 'Intimate Partner Violence'. The New England Journal of Medicine (380): 850-857. DOI: [10.1056/NEJMr1807166](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMr1807166)

³ Council of Europe. 2018. '[Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023](#)'. Strasbourg; World Health Organization. 2013. '[Addressing Violence against Women in Health and Multisectoral Policies: A Global Status Report](#)'. Web Annexes. Geneva; Hooker, Leesa, Rhonda Small, and Angela Taft. 2016. 'Understanding Sustained Domestic Violence Identification in Maternal and Child Health Nurse Care: Process Evaluation from a 2-Year Follow-up of the MOVE Trial'. Journal of Advanced Nursing 72(3):533-44. doi: [10.1111/jan.12851](https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.12851); European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. 2015. '[Violence against Women: An EU Wide Survey: Main Results](#)'. Luxembourg

How does the VIPROM project address this problem?

VIPROM provides frontline responders from the health care sector...

- **training opportunities and medical educators** in different European countries and different medical institutions with the capacity to implement the curricula developed in VIPROM.
- a **best practice approach** that can serve as a model for medical institutions in other European countries, accompanied by scientific research and rigorous evaluation.
- a **Train-the-Trainer program** to ensure an organisationally embedded knowledge transfer, taking into account the special needs of the different medical stakeholders (physicians, nurses, midwives, medical students, dentists and dental students in some countries).

2. Background information on Domestic Violence – Basic Data and Statistics

- Victims of domestic violence come from all social, cultural, economic, and religious backgrounds with different age, gender and sexual orientation, including people with disabilities. It is important to understand, that there is NO “typical victim”⁴.
- While the prevalence of violence against men have been little studied to date, violence against women is better explored. The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”⁵.
- A 2018 study by the World Health Organization (WHO) on behalf of the UN Interagency working group on violence against women found that nearly 1 in 3 women worldwide have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or non-partner sexual violence or both⁶.

European Data and Statistics on DV can be found [here](#).

⁴ See Module 1 of the European Training Platform on Domestic Violence: <https://training.improdova.eu/en/training-modules-for-the-health-sector/module-1-forms-and-dynamics-of-domestic-violence/2/#Victims>

⁵ United Nations. Declaration on the elimination of violence against women. New York: UN, 1993.

⁶ Violence against women Prevalence Estimates, 2018. Global, regional and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women. WHO: Geneva, 2021

3. Factsheet

Project Name	VIPROM – Victim Protection in Medicine – Exploiting practical knowledge of medical staff to enhance the multi-professional contact with victims of domestic violence (CERV-2022-DAPHNE, No 101095828)
Duration	March 2023 – February 2026
Partner	In our consortium, 10 institutions and 1 cooperation partner from 5 European countries (AT, GE, IT, SE, GR) work together; including universities, medical and social organisations as well as experts from various professions with many years of expertise in the subject of domestic violence and health. More information on page 5.
Website	https://viprom-cerv.eu/
Objectives	<p>Developing curricula: Developed in participatory exchange with health professionals taken into consideration country-, culture- and organisation-specific needs.</p> <p>Implementing the curricula: The developed modules will be implemented at the level of basic training and at the level of further training for specific demands.</p> <p>Delivering a train-the-trainer programme: This programme will ensure an organisationally embedded knowledge transfer even in highly sensitive contexts.</p>
Stakeholder	Medical professionals (nurses, midwives, medical doctors, and dentists) and medical and dental students.
European Training Platform	VIPROM has developed a training curriculum tailored for various stakeholder groups within the medical sector. The curricula are based on the training materials, training tools and the information being available on the <u>European training platform on domestic violence</u> (https://training.improdova.eu/en/). The training platform provides trainers with training materials and content related to domestic violence, equipping users with the knowledge and skills necessary to teach the various stakeholder groups to be taught (nurses, midwives, medical doctors, and dentists and medical and dental students). It consists of a modular structure with 9 Modules and a separate section for trainers stratified by teaching tools (e.g., case studies, videos). All materials are evidence-based and supported by references.
Contact	Project Coordination: Prof. Dr. med. Dr. rer. nat. Bettina Pfleiderer PhD MD, Clinic of Radiology, Research group Cognition & Gender, Albert-Schweitzer-Campus 1, Building A16, D-48149 Münster, Germany E-Mail: pfleide@uni-muenster.de
Social Media	LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/viprom-cerveu

	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/vipromcerveu YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@improve_improdova_viprom/videos
Funding	VIPROM is a CERV project co-funded by the European Union.

4. VIPROM Consortium

 Institut für Konflikt Forschung	Institute of Conflict Research (IKF) – Austria
 PARIS LODRON UNIVERSITY SALZBURG	Paris Lodron University Salzburg (PLUS) – Austria
	Vienna Centre for Societal Security (VICESSE) – Austria
 european research services gmbh	European Research Services (ERS) – Germany
	GESINE Intervention (GESINE) – Germany
 RESEARCH GROUP COGNITION & GENDER	University of Münster (WWU) – Germany
 ΕΨΔΕ HELLENIC FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION 2011	Hellenic Forensic Psychiatric Association (HFPA) – Greece
 ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA DONNE MEDICO	Italian Medical Women's Association (Associazione Italiana Donne Medico – AIDM) – Italy
 SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE EMILIA-ROMAGNA Azienda Ospedaliero - Universitaria di Parma	Parma University Hospital (Azienda Ospedaliero – Universitaria di Parma – AOU-PR) – Italy
 UNIVERSITÀ DI PARMA	University of Parma (Università di Parma – UniPR) – Italy
 NCK UPPSALA UNIVERSITET NATIONELLT CENTRUM FÖR KVINNOFRID	Uppsala University (Nationellt centrum för kvinnofrid – NCK & Uppsala universitet – UU) – Sweden

5. Press Statements

Press statements by **Prof. Dr. med. Bettina Pfleiderer** (project coordinator):

“Only by breaking the silence can we, as actors in the healthcare sector, help victims of domestic violence!”

“It is not acceptable that we have too few women's shelters and such a high number of unreported cases of domestic violence!”

“We can only provide good support to victims of domestic violence if we have the necessary skills and knowledge - good training is key.”

“Healthcare workers need strategies to avoid being traumatised by supporting victims of violence. Taking care of your own self-care is not a weakness.”

6. Press Releases

Kick-off of the European-wide project VIPROM in Muenster in Germany

18. March 2023



Group picture of the consortium of the EU project VIPROM: 23 participants participated at the kick-off meeting on protection of victims of domestic violence in medicine at the University of Muenster in Germany. (Photo: WWU / Erik Wibberg)

Most people have one thing in common: they visit a primary care physician, a dentist and many also see a gynecologist/obstetrician. Those working in the medical sector therefore often meet victims of domestic violence – but many do not feel competent enough to ask about domestic violence or do not have enough knowledge to identify victims and do not know how to help victims in a targeted way. The three-year project “Victim Protection in Medicine” (VIPROM) aims to change this: Funded by the European Union with 1.6 million euros, partners from Sweden, Austria, Italy, Greece and Germany are jointly developing approaches to strengthen the topic in the medical curricula in the long term. The project is coordinated by Bettina Pfleiderer, Professor at the Medical Faculty of the University of Münster in Germany. She was organising the kick-off meeting of the international project at the beginning of March.

Domestic violence includes both, physical and psychological abuse of power in a relationship in a close personal environment. It can affect all social groups, whether women, men, children or disabled persons. Professionals know: only few victims turn to the police due to fear – and many do not seek help elsewhere. “This is where we, the medical sector, come into play,” says Bettina Pfleiderer, “Statistically, we, in the medical sector, see victims at least once a day – often we are the only first line responders. If we fail to recognise the symptoms of violence, we leave victims alone.”

Medical professionals need to be prepared better for this important, yet challenging task by training. In developing new teaching strategies and formats as well as teaching materials, VIPROM follows two approaches: “On the one hand, we want to develop innovative training simulations for the different groups of first line responders, and on the other hand, initiate programmes for teachers who lead the training sessions,” says Bettina Pfleiderer. In addition to general information on domestic violence, communication strategies and risk factors, the project focuses exemplarily on the fields of surgery, gynecology and psychiatry/psychosomatics. While professionals working in surgery are confronted with serious physical injuries, for example in the emergency room, pregnancies are a risk factor for victims of domestic violence that can escalate the abuse. Many victims who experience psychological domestic violence have no external injuries, but they are no less traumatised and can develop for example depression. After three years of development, evaluation and optimisation under the umbrella of VIPROM, the concepts should result to a compulsory curriculum in the long term.

The partners will use and expand materials on domestic violence provided by the training platform of the previous EU project IMPROVDA (www.training.improdova.eu) to tailor the trainings to the different stakeholder groups of VIPROM (midwives, nurses, physicians, dentists, medical and dental students) and adapt them to the national context, too. “Each partner can enrich the range of results through its particular strengths,” Bettina Pfleiderer emphasises. “We in Münster, for example, have a lot of experience with the use of simulation patients in the teaching of medical students.” [Source](#)

VIPROM Team Wins Prestigious Wrigley Award for Innovations in Dental Education!

08. July 2024

Big Win for VIPROM Team in Germany!



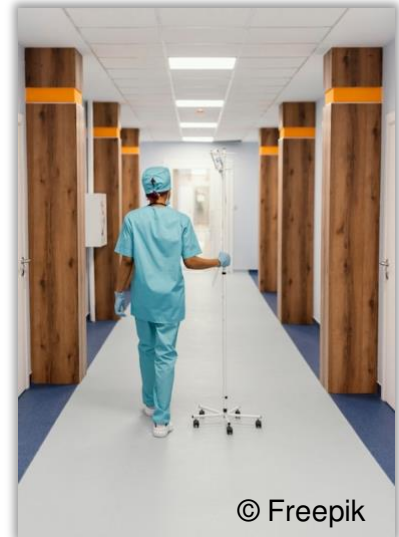
We're thrilled to announce that the VIPROM coordinator, Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfeleiderer, and her team—Madeleine Stöhr, Greta Heule, and Dr. Jana Bregulla—have won the prestigious **Wrigley Award 2024**, clinching **1st prize** in the **“Medical Practice and Society”** category!

Their innovative **training tools and materials for dentists and dental students**, focusing on **“Child Dental Neglect,”** have set a new standard in dental education. The team is already gearing up to roll out tailored training sessions on this critical topic.

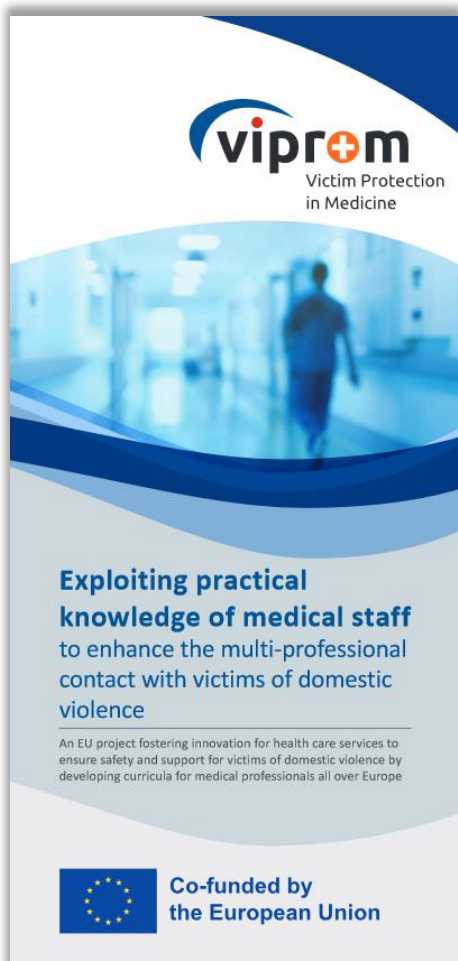
Since 1994, the Wrigley Award has celebrated excellence in caries prevention research and practice, and this year, Bettina Pfeleiderer proudly accepted the award on behalf of the University of Münster-VIPROM team at a dental congress in Leipzig, Germany. [Source](#)

7. Pictures

Note: Add ©VIPROM when using the pictures. All pictures can be downloaded in high quality [here](#).

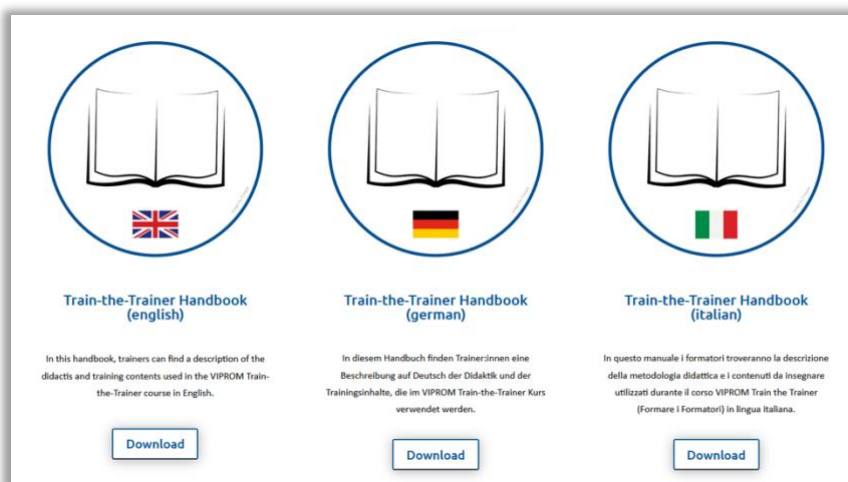


8. Additional Material

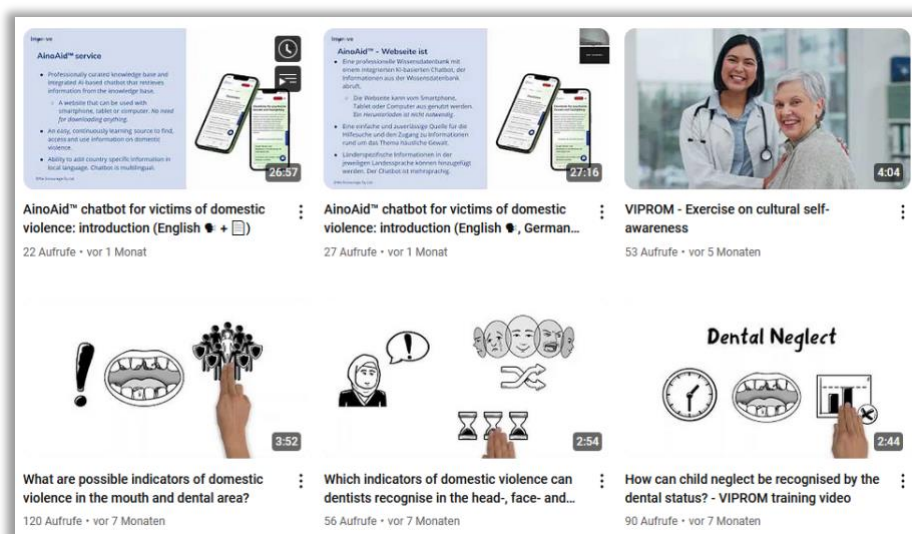


Our Flyer can be downloaded through [this link](#).

[Train-the-Trainer Handbook](#) (available in: EN, GER/AT, SE, IT, GR)



Videos of the EU-Projects VIPROM, IMPRODOVA and IMPROVE can be found on our [Youtube-Channel](#).



9. Outlook ad Events

European Webinar Series

In spring 2025, VIPROM will conduct a Europe-wide webinar series. Starting on 4th of March with the kick-off-webinar, medical professionals can learn about forms and dynamics of Domestic Violence, stereotypes, communications with victims, medical assessment and much more. Registration for the webinar series will be open in mid-December 2024 through the [VIPROM website](#). The webinars will be held in English.

„VIPROM on tour!“

Here you can find our [calender](#) with project-related events and conferences.

10. Contact



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