

# Cooperation in multi-professional teams

## Factsheet

### Challenges in working together in multi-professional teams

- Different organisational tasks, visions, values, goals, and intentions.
- Different rules, regulations and working mechanisms.
- Different tools and instruments for assessing and reporting the risk of domestic violence.
- The data collected by different professions are not comparable due to differences in the way the data is collected, the way it is stored and the lack of data.
- Differences in the understanding of what constitutes domestic violence and the impact on different professions.
- Lack of understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various professions.
- High staff turnover in organisations impairs communication, as it takes time for trust to develop.
- The definitions and terms used differently by individuals and organisations.



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Find more information on domestic violence in [Module 1](#).



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See a [video](#) to the role of multi-agency cooperation.

### Domestic violence in times of disasters

Quarantine, restrictions, closed schools, home office, short-time work, financial worries, and fear of the future – all these factors have the potential to cause increased stress in relationships and family life. It is therefore suspected that there has been and will continue to be a significant increase in violence at home.

#### Some risk factors included:

- Health and mental health problems increased during a lockdown situation, as health-related services are only accessible to a limited extent. This had a negative impact on the health status of individuals, increase their stress levels and often resulted in an increase in violent assaults.
- Economic insecurity or unemployment is accompanied by financial worries can reinforce destructive coping mechanisms.
- Violence always has to do with power. In times of crisis and isolation and the associated feelings of helplessness, loss of control and powerlessness, violence is supposedly a means of regaining control and power.
- Language barriers, closures of contact points or the fact that social workers are only present on site to a limited extent due to the protective

- measures can made access to support services considerably more difficult.
- Victims were also reluctant to take advantage of support services for fear of contracting COVID-19.

## Helpful sources

They can be found [here](#).

(1) Kersten, J., Burman, M., Houtsonen, J., Herbinger, P., & Leonhardmair, N. (Eds.). (2023). *Domestic Violence and COVID-19: The 2020 Lockdown in the European Union*. Springer.