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National Report 2017

Luxembourg



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Report Details

Organisation: SSLMG (Société Scientifique Luxembourgeoise de Médecine générale)

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Organisations/programmes:-

What types of activities related to preventing domestic violence has/have your organisation/s carried out in the last three years?

SSLMG is the Société Scientifique Luxembourgeoise de Médecine Générale (SSLMG) and it is the association that initiates, promotes and sustains scientific projects, research in general practice, and postgraduate training in Luxembourg.

The activities related to preventing domestic violence that the organisation has carried out in the last three years, alone or in collaboration with ALFORMEC (Association luxembourgeoise pour la formation médicale continue) have been mostly educational and training activities to raise awareness among GP trainees and GPs and to increase detection and prevention.

What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention to your organisation/s? Please focus on the last three years.

- Collaboration between organisation and stakeholders: It is important to have good collaboration of all the stakeholders because if we increase the awareness and the number of diagnoses and referrals but do not have the expected answer from the other levels, it is not efficient. It is mandatory to provide proper care to our population building a strong system that cares about the whole family, victims and perpetrators.
- Lack of knowledge and skills: Unfortunately, there is still a long way to go to train the whole system at any level, but fortunately the efforts are currently directed to it.



Country:-

Please give an overview of general situation in your country regarding work with perpetrators.

By international comparison, Luxembourg has a well established and regulated law in the area of domestic violence, a close and cooperative network of counselling centres for victims and perpetrators, as well as far-reaching campaigns against domestic violence.

Regarding the work with perpetrators, there are some ongoing programs at the moment, provided by associations working with perpetrators, Riicht Eraus and infoMann, and by ALUPSE (Association luxembourgeoise de pédiatrie sociale) that works with young perpetrators. And more initiatives will be implemented in the future, from next year on, not only for perpetrators but for domestic violence in general.

Please give an overview of your country's criminal and civil responses to domestic violence, especially any changes within the last 3 years? (i.e. what are the most important legal and policy measures and how have they been implemented?)

On the 8th of September 2003, Luxembourg adopted a Law on domestic violence which established an advisory body, acting under the supervision of the Ministry of Equal Opportunities, which examines the implementation and enforcement of the relevant legislation. Luxembourg undertook legislative initiatives as well with the adoption of the Act on Domestic Violence, which regulates the expulsion of a perpetrator from the family home.

This law was amended in July 2013 and another reform of the Domestic Violence Act is being implemented as part of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which will offer better protection for the children above all.

The implementation of this law is regularly discussed within the framework of the *Comité de coopération entre les professionnels dans le domaine de la violence* that was completely reformed in July 2013. This body consists of representatives of the police, prosecutors, various ministries, social services such as SAVVD or Riicht Eraus. The panel meets 4 times per year, providing a yearly report to the Government Council with the latest figures, which will also be available to the media and the general public in the future.



Please tell us the progress your country has made in relation to Istanbul Convention (particularly Article 16 on work with perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence/abuse).

Luxembourg signed the Convention on the day of the Treaty opening (11 May 2011) but it has not yet been ratified. However, the draft Bill, aimed at implementing the Istanbul Convention, is currently being assessed by the Luxembourg Parliament. The Draft Law foresees amendments to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Law of 8 September 2003 on domestic violence and the Law of 29 August 2008 on free movement of person and immigration. Among other changes, female genital mutilation (FGM) will now constitute a crime; children as direct or indirect victims of violence, will be taken care of by the social services specialised in domestic violence, and the concerned ministries (police, justice, health) must collect annual data disaggregated by sex, age and victim-perpetrator relationship. An inter-ministerial working group was set up in 2016 to work towards ratifying the Istanbul Convention, and the current 2015-2018 National Action Plan for Gender Equality makes reference to the Istanbul Convention and defines its ratification as one of the priorities for the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Health.

Do you know any other organisations/programmes in your country that carry out domestic violence perpetrator work? If yes, please detail them.

There are two associations working with male victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, as well as trying to prevent violence:

- Riicht Eraus is a service provided by the Luxembourg Red Cross that works with perpetrators of domestic violence. Their goal is to reduce violence at its source by leading the perpetrator to take responsibility for their violent behaviour and acknowledge their emotions and feelings. Email: riichteraus@croix-rouge.lu
- infoMann is a consultation service for men in distress (including victims of violence and trafficking), run by the non-profit organisation actTogether asbl, that provides help, support and accommodation. Email: info@infomann.lu.

Additionally, there are other domestic violence services:



- Luxembourg's national domestic violence helpline, Fraentelefon (12 344), by phone and online, is also available in different languages: Luxembourgish, French, German, English and Portuguese.
- ALUPSE (Association luxembourgeoise de pédiatrie sociale) works with young perpetrators.

Best practice:-

Tell us about best practice in work with perpetrators in your country.

The previous ones that have been mentioned. For example, the counselling centre Riicht Eras for perpetrators of domestic violence offers counselling and therapy, and all the offenders are obliged to visit it. The consultations have consistently increased in recent years, suggesting that this service that is provided is being more and more accepted.

Needs and recommendations:-

What needs to be done in order to prevent domestic violence in your country (regarding work with perpetrators)?

It is well known that preventing and responding to domestic violence requires a multi-sectorial approach and needs to be addressed as a public health problem. For these reasons, there is a need of:

- More resources, not only to deal with perpetrators, but also to strengthen the prevention of and responses to intimate partner and sexual violence, including primary prevention – stopping it from happening in the first place (WHO).
- More structured pathways, monitor and analyse, in order to provide evidence of what is the most effective intervention.
- Collaboration between all the stakeholders.
- More public awareness campaigns and primary prevention campaigns that should be developed by a multidisciplinary team to work at different levels, according to WHO recommendations.



- More advocacy and counselling interventions to improve access to services for survivors of intimate partner violence and home visitation programs involving health worker outreach by trained nurses. Both have been effective in reducing such violence.
- Enact and enforce legislation and develop and implement policies that promote gender equality by: ending discrimination against women in marriage, divorce and custody laws, ending discrimination in inheritance laws and ownership of assets, improving women's access to paid employment and developing and resourcing national plans and policies to address violence against women (WHO, VAW 2017).
- More training, to increase the knowledge and the skills of all the actors involved. All the professionals that take a role with regard to domestic violence need to receive special education on violence and perpetrators.
- To provide comprehensive services, sensitize and train health care providers in responding to the needs of survivors and perpetrators holistically and empathetically.
- To prevent recurrence of violence through early identification of women and children who are experiencing violence and providing appropriate referral and support

What are the most important tasks and steps that you feel should be focused on in your country in order to tackle domestic violence on a general level?

- Better coordination between the sectors involved in prevention of, and response to, sexual violence (including health services, social services, forensic medicine and lab services, police/ investigation, and the legal system)
- Proper pathways and resources are needed for these actors and sectors, as well as a proper analysis to provide evidence
- Training for all the stakeholders

