

The **EU-VIORMED** aims at:

1

Describing forensic psychiatry services as they exist today, in 2018, across the European Union;

2

Identifying risk factors for violence in an international forensic sample of people with schizophrenia spectrum disorder;

3

Testing for the very first time in a related EU sample two methods of violence risk assessment in people with schizophrenia spectrum disorders;

4

Exploring what works for these often marginalised patients, their families and their carers, at an operational, clinical and ethical level.



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EUROPEAN STUDY ON RISK FACTORS FOR VIOLENCE IN MENTAL DISORDERS AND FORENSIC CARE: A MULTICENTRE PROJECT



The **EUropean Study on VIOlence Risk and MEntal Disorders** (EU-VIORMED) is a new collaborative research project aimed at improving the **quality of forensic psychiatric care in Europe**. Forensic psychiatry spans a challenging physical and ethical space between the needs and rights of patients, the public and the criminal justice system, and between treatment and public protection.

Forensic psychiatric services in one form or another exist in every European state, but their design, operational models, clinical resources and guiding principles differ markedly. Today they are expanding in some member states, while contracting in others.

One consequence of these differences in forensic psychiatric care is that research to help **understand the nature of the association between violence and severe mental disorders** has been inconsistent.

If we could better understand the factors that increase the risk of violence in severe mental disorders, then we would be in a better position to design more accurate means of assessing that risk, and to identify more effective treatments to reduce that risk.



The EU-VIORMED project aims to support the harmonisation of forensic psychiatric care pathways across Europe in order to improve the quality of forensic psychiatric care across member states. The assessment and treatment of mentally ill offenders must aim at the accurate formulation and understanding of the complicated relationship between mental disorders and risk of violence to self and others.

