



**EUCPN**  
EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK

1. Project title

VioGén

2. Main theme

Gender base violence

3. Project purpose and outcome (in two sentences)

- VioGén is a computerized tool for Police Risk Assessment
- It includes (among others) an algorithm aimed at improving predictability of intimate partner homicides

4. Project submitter (Member State), project leader(s) and project partner(s)

- Member State: Spain
- Project leader: Ministry of Interior (Secretary of State for Security)
- Project partner: National Police of Spain

5. Links to the project's website or online reports/publications (preferably in English)

<https://journals.copmadrid.org/pi/art/pi2020a16#resumen>

<http://www.interior.gob.es/web/servicios-al-ciudadano/violencia-contra-la-mujer/sistema-viogen>

6. Short summary of the project (**max. 100 words**)

One of the most important approaches in the field of IPV recidivism prevention involves risk assessment and management. Violence risk assessment has a long history and has also been applied in numerous criminal typologies. In the case of IPV, its use is particularly important for police, who are usually in charge of case management. In daily practice, therefore, we would have a predictive interest (i.e., differentiating cases and anticipating and predicting

types of violence) focused on prevention (i.e., implementing the necessary measures so that the anticipated outcome does not occur, especially in the most serious cases).

In order to prevent both lethal and non-lethal violence, correct risk assessment is essential. If homicide is understood as the ultimate expression of violence, it could reasonably be anticipated that IPV tools would adequately predict this phenomenon in the presence of a high risk. However, in the majority of previously reported IPH it was frequently observed that the latest police risk assessments had low predictive rates

## 7. Project description

Spanish police makes an extensive use of intimate partner violence (IPV) risk assessment on a daily basis: the so-called VioGén system which records all reported cases of gender base violence in Spain. The 40% of the cases of the system are recorded by Spanish National Police Agents.

Improved prediction procedures have encouraged the search for greater refinement of IPV predictors by adjusting to specific targets, such as lethal outcomes or potential victimization of children. This is why a new version of VioGén System Police Risk Assessment have been designed and implemented: the VPR5.0 tool.

The VPR5.0 tool includes an algorithm aimed at improving predictability of intimate partner homicides (IPH). A sample of 2,159 records was used, 159 of whom were IPH victims. The sample was divided into two comparable groups of cases (IPH) and controls (N-IPH) to validate the results. The results showed that 13 out of 35 risk factors were significantly related to IPH with an effect size different to that of general N-IPH (with OR values ranging between 1.507 and 8.087). Binary logistic regression showed six significant factors that correctly classified 86.3% of the IPH. The new H-Scale performance parameters were comparable to those obtained in studies with the same objective (sensitivity 84%, Specificity 60%, OR = 8.130, AUC = .80, PPV = .19 and NPV = .97)

## 8. Project objectives

To predict the risk of lethality in gender based violence

## 9. Project outcome

### **VPR5.0-H scale.**

It is composed of 35 dichotomously coded risk factors (present/absent), provides five levels of risk: unappreciated, low, medium, high, and extreme. Factors are grouped into five dimensions: 1) history of intimate partner violence; 2) factors related to the offender; 3) indicators related to victims' vulnerability; 4) circumstances related to minors; and 5) aggravating circumstances and subjective aspects of a victim's own risk.

## 10. Start and end project, timescales and key milestone dates

From 2007 till nowadays

11. Funding (total budget and type of funding (e.g. ISEC, EUCPN Fund,...))

Ministry of Interior of Spain

12. Evaluation

As it have occurred in the previous versions of VPR, it is foreseen to develop impact studies aimed at adjust items in order to optimise it working.

13. Contact details project

Central Unit for Women and Family Affairs (UFAM)

Judicial Police General Commissariat

Directorate General for the Police of Spain

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