

CASE STUDY

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Problem

Children and adults suffer more than any other age group from different forms of violence. To guarantee the well-being of children, it is by civil law the duty of the state to assess the level of potential risk to children. Based on this assessment, state agencies assign measures of support to children and families. However, until now, there has been a great variety of assessment practices and no consensus regarding the criteria and methods to be applied. This has led to a growing concern for basing such assessment practices on scientific research and for the development of tools for assessing risks and resources.

Solution

The Bern University of Applied Sciences and the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts have developed an assessment tool based on the most recent research and professional discourse in both the national and the international realm. It is designed as a web application, which was developed in cooperation with a private sector partner to increase applicability. Thus the tool can be used on all conventional electronic systems without any further resources. It provides a novel way for dealing with the task of assessing risk and recommending state measures in child protection cases. The tool is being marketed and sold by both schools of higher education, which also offer training sessions for using the tool.



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