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Module 1

IGOR VITALE INTERNATIONAL S.R.L.



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How to recognise and protect yourself from online romance scams (Part 1)

A love scam starts with what looks like a sincere emotional connection online, but it's fake. In this video, we explain how scammers create fake identities to build relationships and gain trust.
These scams often happen on social media and dating apps, where emotional manipulation replaces traditional fraud techniques.

It's not about being foolish, it's about being human and wanting to connect.

Objective:

→ Introduce the definition and basic characteristics of romance scams.

Contents:

→ Definition of love scam

→ Why online environments make scams easier

→ Basic dynamics: trust, emotional involvement, manipulation

→ Examples of where it happens: dating apps, social media

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How to recognise and protect yourself from online romance scams (Part 2)

Scammers don't just target anyone randomly: they look for signs of emotional vulnerability. In this video, we explore the basic human needs we all have, like the need to feel loved or valued, and how those needs can make us more open to manipulation.

Life events like a breakup or loneliness can create the perfect storm for a scam to take root.

Objective:

→ Understand the psychological vulnerabilities that make individuals more susceptible.

Contents:

→ Maslow's hierarchy of needs

→ Emotional gaps and stressful life events

→ Cognitive biases: projection, idealisation

→ Who is at risk: not just naïve people

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The psychology of love scam victims

This video dives into how our early relationships shape the way we trust and connect with others. People with certain attachment styles may idealise online partners and ignore red flags.

We also look at how confirmation bias, seeing what we want to see, can blind us from recognising scams.

Objective:

→ Analyse psychological dynamics that keep victims stuck in fake relationships.

Contents:

→ Attachment theory (especially ambivalent style)

→ Idealization as a phase in relationships

→ Confirmation bias and cognitive rigidity

→ Traits like neuroticism, impulsivity, high trust

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How to recognise the signs of a love scam and protect the elderly

Older adults often face unique challenges like social isolation or cognitive decline.

In this video, we talk about why they may be more exposed to romance scams and how family members, caregivers, and communities can help identify warning signs like sudden secrecy or unusual financial behavior.

Objective:

- Highlight risk factors specific to the elderly.

Contents:

- Digital literacy challenges
- Mild cognitive impairment
- Warning signs: secrecy, irritability, obsession
- Role of the community in prevention

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The psychological profile of the scammer

Scammers can be individuals or part of organised networks. This video explores their psychological profile, often marked by manipulation and lack of empathy.

They build trust slowly, using believable roles like doctors or military officers, and adapt their language to the victim's emotional needs.

Objective:

→ Describe the psychological profile and strategies of scammers.

Contents:

→ Scammer profiles and fake identities

→ Use of roles that inspire trust (doctor, soldier, etc.)

→ Emotional language calibrated to the victim's needs

→ Manipulation over weeks or months

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Love bombing, gaslighting, and the stages of love scam

Love scams don't happen overnight. This video breaks down how scammers create strong emotional bonds, isolate the victim from others, and gradually introduce financial requests.
Sometimes it escalates to sextortion, where private material is used for blackmail.

Every step is part of a calculated plan.

Objective:

→ Explain the phases and manipulation techniques used.

Contents:

→ Techniques: love bombing, gaslighting, tragic storytelling

→ Gradual isolation of the victim

→ Financial requests (foot-in-the-door technique)

→ Sextortion cases

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Psychological consequences for victims of love scams

Being scammed doesn't only hurt your wallet: it can deeply affect your mental health. This video talks about the emotional consequences: feelings of betrayal, shame, and trauma.

Victims often isolate themselves, which is why it's important to offer support without judgment.

Objective:

→ Discuss the emotional toll and post-scam consequences.

Contents:

→ Relational grief and loss of identity

→ Post-traumatic symptoms

→ Why shame prevents victims from speaking out

→ Need for trauma-informed support

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Self defence strategies to protect yourself from love scams

In the final video, we focus on what you can do. From requesting video calls early on, to using tools like reverse image search, there are ways to verify someone's identity and protect yourself.

We also stress the importance of community awareness and reporting suspicious behavior to prevent others from being scammed.

Objective:

→ Offer practical tools for prevention and action.

Contents:

→ Video calls and reverse image search

→ Staying on the original platform

→ Collecting and saving communication evidence

→ Community education and digital empowerment

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