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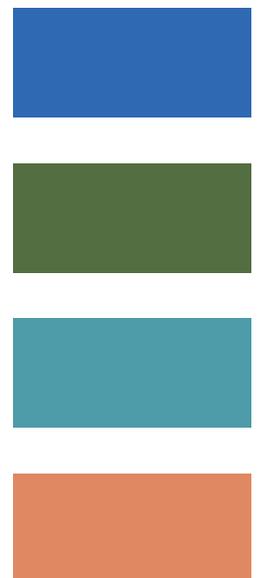


# EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK

## EUCPN Toolbox Series

No. 4

### ***Tackling domestic violence in the EU policies & practices***



In the framework of the project 'Towards a European Centre of Expertise on Crime Prevention'  
EUCPN Secretariat, December 2013, Brussels



With the financial support of the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union  
European Commission – Directorate-General Home Affairs

# Tackling domestic violence in the EU Policies & practices

## Preface

The fourth toolbox in the series published by the EUCPN Secretariat focuses on the main theme of the Lithuanian Presidency and the 2013 Best Practice Conference, which is “Prevention in Domestic Violence”. The first part of this toolbox presents an overview of existing policy and legislative measures in the EU and the EU Member States, as well as some general information on data collection and EU funding programmes related to the theme.

The second part focuses on the good and promising practices which were submitted by 18 Member States to compete in the 2013 European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA). Special attention is being paid to some important issues which are often related to cases of domestic violence and which were tackled by the award winning projects of Sweden, Belgium and Croatia. The topics covered are: victim support & attrition in domestic violence; multi-agency cooperation & the chain model; and early prevention and the role of education. This is followed by a summary of the discussions held at the Best Practice Conference (Vilnius, 11-12 December 2013), as well as some relevant conclusions formulated during the final round of the Conference by four participating experts invited by the EUCPN Secretariat.

Finally, an overview of all submitted ECPA projects can be found in the last part of this toolbox.

## Legal notice

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the official opinions of any EU Member State or any agency or institution of the European Union or European Communities.

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## Acknowledgements

This toolbox has been developed in a close collaboration between the EUPN Secretariat<sup>1</sup> and the team of the Lithuanian Presidency, who did a fantastic job in the organization of the 2013 Best Practice Conference and the European Crime Prevention Award. Therefore, we are very grateful towards Dalia Kedavičienė and the whole Lithuanian team for their input, support and feedback.

Furthermore, we would like to thank all EUCPN National Representatives, Substitutes and Academic Contact Points for their continuous support of our work, for sharing their expertise and for providing information for this toolbox.

We also particularly like to thank four experts who were willing to present and chair the various panel sessions during the Best Practice Conference, and to contribute to the content and conclusions of this toolbox: Ms. Anne Groenen (Thomas More Kempen, University College, Belgium), Mr. João Lazaro (Portuguese Association of Victim Support, Portugal), Ms. Chiara Sgarbi (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy) and Mr. John Kwaks (European Organisation of Probation (CEP))

We would also like to mention our gratitude for Ms. Frédérique Fastré of the Directorate-General Justice, Unit D2 Gender Equality of the European Commission, and Ms. Marijke Weewauters of the Belgian Institute for the equality of women and men who were kind enough to share their expertise on the subject and provide feedback and some very useful comments on the thematic paper.

Finally, we would like to thank all the participants of the European Crime Prevention Award 2013. Like in the previous editions of the Best Practice Conference and European Crime Prevention Award competition, we were incredibly touched by all participants' commitment and enthusiasm for the work they are doing day by day and for their willingness to share their experiences with co-workers from all over Europe. You truly are an incredible source of inspiration for everyone involved in the prevention of and combat against domestic violence. Thank you!

The EUCPN Secretariat

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<sup>1</sup> With the financial support of the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union, European Commission – Directorate-General Home Affairs

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## Introduction

Despite the lack of reliable and comparable data, available figures generally show that women are often the prime victims of domestic violence. The historically rooted unequal relationship between men and women is considered to be at the basis of these regrettable figures. It is for this reason that the combat against (domestic) violence against women remains a high priority for the EU and its Member States.

This toolbox is being developed to bring together the efforts made at the EU, national, and local level to prevent and combat (domestic) violence against women. These include the legislative and policy measures which set the framework in which national and local actors (NGOs, civil society, government administrations,...) need to work. At the same time, the toolbox wants to disseminate and promote the important work which is being done by other European organizations, such as the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the Women against Violence Europe (WAVE).

As usual, the toolbox is primarily written for local policy-makers and practitioners who may be confronted with these issues in their daily work. In part 2 and 3 some examples of practices implemented in various Member States are further explored. By doing this, the toolbox aims to build up and exchange practical knowledge and know-how and to inspire people working in the field of (domestic) violence against women to learn from each other.

## Toolbox elements

As usual, the theme of the EUCPN toolbox is explored from various perspectives, bundling as much information and knowledge as possible in an easy-to-read document for policy-makers and practitioners<sup>2</sup>. This fourth toolbox in the series consists of three parts:

**Thematic paper** – the first part of the toolbox is a general introduction to the theme of domestic violence and violence against women. It builds on existing research and provides information on how legislative and policy measures are developed in the EU and its Member States to prevent and combat this issue. It offers the framework for the next parts of the toolbox.

**Good and promising practices** – the second part zooms in on some important issues which are often related to domestic violence cases and which were approached in the European Crime Prevention Award winning projects of Sweden, Belgium and Croatia. The topics covered, are: victim support & attrition in domestic violence, multi-agency cooperation & the chain model, and early prevention and the role of education. Also, some conclusions which were formulated during the Best Practice Conference are listed, as well as some challenges for the future.

**Examples from practice** – one of the aims of the EUCPN is to stimulate the exchange of good practices between Member States. The third and final part of the toolbox, therefore, contains all 2013 European Crime Prevention Award entries.

<sup>2</sup>For the other EUCPN toolboxes, see: <http://www.eucpn.org/library/results.asp?category=32&pubdate=>

# Part 1

Thematic paper

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## Tackling domestic violence in the EU – policies & practices

### *Citation*

*EUCPN (2013). Tackling domestic violence in the EU – policies & practices. In: EUCPN Secretariat (eds.), EUCPN Toolbox Series, no. 4, European Crime Prevention Network: Brussels.*

# Tackling domestic violence in the EU – policies & practices

## Introduction

The aim of this thematic paper is to give a general introduction to domestic violence and how the EU and its Member States are working (together) to prevent and combat this issue.

In the first paragraph, some issues related to defining domestic violence and its *asymmetrical* relationship with gender will be discussed. The second paragraph provides an overview of how policy and legislative measures have been – and continue to be – developed at the EU level, as well as some issues related to data collecting at the European level and EU funding provided to combat (domestic) violence against women. Also, the previous work of the EUCPN on the prevention of domestic violence will be addressed. In the last paragraph, the various legislative and policy measures of the 28 EU Member States will be shortly described.

The focus of this thematic paper is on research and policy. It offers the broader framework for the toolbox' second and third part in which some concrete examples of Member States' existing practices to tackle domestic violence will be discussed.

## Domestic violence and gender

Domestic violence is a complex phenomenon and, depending on which aspect one focuses on, it can refer to different forms of violence (e.g. physical, psychological, sexual) between different types of people (e.g. (ex-)partners, parents and children, people living in the same household). Hence, there seems to be no universally accepted definition of domestic violence (Al-Ali & Lazenbatt, 2012). Often other (broader) concepts, such as violence against women, gender-based violence or intimate partner violence, are used instead of – or interchangeably with – 'domestic violence', adding to the complexity of the phenomenon.

Both men and women can become the victim of domestic violence. Nevertheless, according to the figures most commonly cited, around 90% of the victims of domestic violence in the EU are women (see e.g., EIGE, 2012). This imbalance to the detriment of women has also influenced the (inter)national debates and political agendas, especially over the past two or three decades, and the numerous legislative and policy measures taken to prevent and combat (domestic) violence *against women*. For example, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) reports in 2012 that women continue to be exposed to serious forms of violence including domestic violence which affects them disproportionately and it is, therefore, “*one of the most serious forms of gender-based violation of human rights in the EU*”.

It is important to note that the gender perspective goes beyond the mere biological differences between men and women, which are universal and invariable in time. As Decuyper (2010: 14) mentions: “[...] **gender**’ is a cultural construction built by society around the two biological

sexes. Thus, it denotes characteristics linked to the status of men and women which are not innate but are generated by society. Gender is therefore linked to a culture and to a time, and is often accompanied by stereotypes which are specific to the society concerned<sup>3</sup>. Various theories and perceived causes of (domestic) violence may lie at the basis of different explanatory models, but they are often associated with how men and women relate to one another in a given society and within the family or the intimate relationship (Dichter & Keller, 2012; Kishor & Johnson, 2004; Rodríguez-Menés & Safranoff, 2012). As the next paragraph on the development of policy and legislative measures in the EU will show, tackling (domestic) violence against women is considered to have its roots in unequal power relations between men and women as well as in gender inequality and is, therefore, considered a priority in the EU.

Despite a general acknowledgement of the ‘gender asymmetry’ in domestic violence, some academic researchers tend to stay more cautious and refer to (a smaller number of) studies which show that women are as likely as men to be the perpetrator of domestic violence (see e.g., Gadd et al., 2003; Dobash & Dobash, 2004; Fox et al., 2013; Storey & Strand, 2012). They argue that much depends on how ‘violence’ is defined, the age of the sample, the type of methodological instrument used, etc.; all variables that might lead to the variety in prevalence rates and the ambiguous findings with respect to apparent gender differences.

Little is known about the victimisation of men in domestic violence and their need for support. One study in Denmark, having conducted qualitative interviews with 12 abused men and 10 care workers at some men’s shelters, mentions the taboo and shame associated with being abused by a woman; this may cause a barrier to reporting the violence (Plauborg & Helweg-Larsen, 2012)<sup>4</sup>. However, Danish police records, data from the Danish emergency department and various survey data (on self-reported violence exposure and dating violence) show that women more than men appear to be the victim of domestic violence. If one looks at the number of contacts with the emergency department following domestic violence from a partner in the past year, women are represented six times more than men. Based on the available data, it is however not always possible to distinguish whether the partner is male or female or whether indeed it is the partner (and not another relative living under the same roof) who committed the violence (Plauborg & Helweg-Larsen, 2012).

In a summary of the 2009 report of the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, it is suggested that the context as well as the way in which the questions on violence are formulated may influence the results. According to this report, studies which focus on violence generally find that women are more often exposed than men, whereas, studies which focus on conflict report only small differences between women and men. Furthermore, the report mentions that “[...] it appears to be a question of two different types of violence. Violence directed towards women is more often repeated, and also tends to be more serious, with more negative consequences for the victim. Partner violence that is carried out by men on women continues thus to be a major social problem” (Hradilova-Selin, 2009: 5).

<sup>3</sup> See also the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention%202010%20English.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> The full report, which is published by the National Institute for Public Health, is only available in Danish and can be downloaded through the following link: [http://www.si-folkesundhed.dk/upload/partnervold\\_mod\\_m%C3%A6nd.pdf?utm\\_source=Nsfk+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=baef7aff60-NSfK\\_Newsletter\\_January\\_2013&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.si-folkesundhed.dk/upload/partnervold_mod_m%C3%A6nd.pdf?utm_source=Nsfk+Newsletter&utm_campaign=baef7aff60-NSfK_Newsletter_January_2013&utm_medium=email)

An English summary of the main results was provided by Mr. Bjarne Laursen, researcher at the Institute, and sent to the EUCPN Secretariat.

Similar results to the Danish and Swedish studies were found in a Belgian study in 2010 (Pieters et al.). In one part of the study, experts in the field of intimate partner violence and domestic violence were brought together in two focus groups with the purpose to gather in-depth information on the type of violence and the people involved and on the difficulties professionals are confronted with. Furthermore, they were invited to formulate some recommendations to prevent and to tackle the violence based on their experiences and expertise. These experts too indicated that men tend to have more difficulties to find their way to professional victim support services and to talk about the abuse they experience. Other figures in the Belgian study also showed that both men and women indicated to have been the victim of (a form of) abuse by a (ex-)partner the past year. Psychological or verbal abuse was mentioned the most, with little difference between male and female victimization. Two thirds of victims of physical abuse, on the other hand, were women and in case of sexual abuse, the victim is generally a woman (Pieters et al., 2010).

Despite the debate on gender differences and the general lack of reliable and comparable data, available figures show the seriousness of (domestic) violence, especially against women. For example, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 1 in 4 women in the European Region<sup>5</sup> who ever had a partner, reported to have experienced intimate partner violence (physical and/or sexual) at some point in their lives (WHO, 2013). Generally, women seem to be victimised more (frequently), for a longer period of time, more seriously, more physically and more often with a fatal outcome than men. In the following paragraphs, an overview of the development of policy and legislative measures to prevent and tackle (domestic) violence against women in the EU and its Member States will be given.

## Development of policy and legislative measures in the EU

Violence against women, including domestic violence against women, is considered to be “a manifestation of historical unequal power relations between men and women and a cause and consequence of gender inequality” (Council of the European Union, 2012; see also United Nations, 2013). Gender equality is an important issue on the EU agenda and tackling violence against women is considered a priority for the EU and its Member States.

Declaration nr. 19 on Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)<sup>6</sup> states that “in its general efforts to eliminate inequalities between women and men, the Union will aim in its different policies to combat all kinds of domestic violence” and that “The Member States should take all necessary measures to prevent and punish these criminal acts and to support and protect the victims”.

The EU institutions’ commitments to a strengthened policy response to combat all forms of violence against women within and outside the EU territory are reflected in a series of instruments. For example, the European Commission’s commitment is shown in the *Women’s*

<sup>5</sup> The WHO European Region includes the following countries: (i) EU Member States: Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, UK; and (ii) Non-member States: Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iceland, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine

<sup>6</sup> OJ 2012/C 326: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:326:FULL:EN:PDF>

*Charter* (March 2010)<sup>7</sup>, the *Action Plan implementing the Stockholm Programme* (April 2010)<sup>8</sup>, and the *Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010-2015* (September 2010)<sup>9</sup>.

The European Parliament's commitment to ending gender-based violence is shown in the *Resolution of 5 April 2011 on priorities and outline of a new EU policy framework to fight violence against women*<sup>10</sup>, the *Resolution of 6 February 2013 on the 57<sup>th</sup> session on UN CSW: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls*<sup>11</sup>, the recent oral question 84/13 and the current discussion on a legislative own-initiative report by European Parliament Member (MEP) A. Parvanova<sup>12</sup>.

The Council of the EU reaffirmed its commitment to eliminating violence against women in the *conclusions on the Eradication of Violence Against Women in the European Union* (2010)<sup>13</sup>, in the *European Pact for gender equality for the period 2011 – 2020* (2011)<sup>14</sup> and, more recently, in the *conclusions on Combating Violence Against Women, and the Provision of Support Services for Victims of Domestic Violence* (2012a)<sup>15</sup>.

## 1. EU legislation, policy, data and funding

### EU Legislative measures and policy

To ensure minimum standards on the recognition and respectful treatment, protection, support, access to justice and the compensation and restoration of victims of crime in all Member States, some legislative measures, first proposed in the European Commission's *Victims Package* in 2011<sup>16</sup>, have recently been adopted, including:

- The *Directive 2011/99/EU* on the European protection order in criminal matters<sup>17</sup>
- The *Directive 2012/29/EU* on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime<sup>18</sup>
- The *Regulation (EU) No 606/2013* on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters<sup>19</sup>, complementing Directive 2011/99/EU

The European Protection orders (one for civil matters and one for criminal matters) ensure that victims of violence can still rely on restraint or protection orders issued against the perpetrator in their home country if they travel or move within the EU.

*Directive 2012/29/EU* on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime aims at ensuring that victims of violence, and in particular domestic violence, can count on EU-wide protection

<sup>7</sup> See: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/president/news/documents/pdf/20100305\\_1\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/documents/pdf/20100305_1_en.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0171:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>9</sup> See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0491:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>10</sup> See: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2011-0127&language=EN>

<sup>11</sup> See: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+MOTION+B7-2013-0049+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

<sup>12</sup> See: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&mode=XML&language=EN&reference=PE522.850>

<sup>13</sup> See: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/113226.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/113226.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> See: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/119628.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/119628.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> See: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/134081.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/134081.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0274:FIN:en:PDF>

<sup>17</sup> See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:338:0002:0018:en:PDF>

<sup>18</sup> See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:315:0057:0073:EN:PDF>

<sup>19</sup> See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:181:0004:0012:en:PDF>

and support even before reporting the crime; that they are treated with respect and dignity and have access to justice and compensation, whatever their nationality and wherever in the EU the crime took place (European Commission, 2011a).

In 2012, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) published a report on the *Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States: Violence against Women – Victim Support* (EIGE, 2012) which supported the Council Conclusions on *Combating Violence Against Women, and the Provision of Support Services for Victims of Domestic Violence*<sup>20</sup>. In these Conclusions, the Council of the EU took note of the outcome of the *European Conference on Combating Violence Against Women in the EU* and the European Police College (CEPOL) Presidency Conference on *Overcoming Attrition in Domestic Violence through Policing*<sup>21</sup>, both organized under the Cyprus Presidency, and the *EU Handbook of Best Police Practices in Overcoming Attrition in Domestic Violence Cases*, developed by the Cyprus Police (Council of the EU, 2012b)<sup>22</sup>. The Council called on the Member States to make use of this EU Handbook to “*improve the registration and handling of complaints received [...] by police, judicial, health, social and other relevant authorities, agencies, institutions and NGOs, that work in the field of violence against women [...]*”. It has also called on the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Member States to designate 2015 the *European Year on Zero Tolerance for Violence against Women* (Council of the EU, 2012a).

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) also published an opinion on *Eradicating domestic violence against women* in 2012, reaffirming its commitment to combating domestic gender-based violence and formulating a series of recommendations for the EU Institutions and Member States. For example, in the area of prevention, the EESC recommended “*develop[ing] a domestic violence prevention policy by creating places where women can go for multidisciplinary support, with specialized staff and resources and through inter-ministerial action plans to engage men and young people in the elimination of domestic violence*” (EESC, 2012: 21)<sup>23</sup>.

## EU responses to initiatives undertaken at the Council of Europe and the United Nations level

The 2011 *Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence* seeks to:

- Protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence;
- Contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and promote substantive equality between women and men, including by empowering women;
- Design a comprehensive framework of policies and measures for the protection of and assistance to all victims of violence against women and domestic violence;

<sup>20</sup> See: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lisa/134081.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lisa/134081.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> For more information, see: [https://www.cepol.europa.eu/index.php?id=news-details&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=489&cHash=1f73ebf267e62db7f965fcd5eea29a2](https://www.cepol.europa.eu/index.php?id=news-details&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=489&cHash=1f73ebf267e62db7f965fcd5eea29a2)

<sup>22</sup> To read the draft of the EU handbook of best police practices in overcoming attrition in domestic violence cases, click here

<sup>23</sup> See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:351:0021:0026:EN:PDF>

- Promote international cooperation with a view to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence;
- Provide support and assistance to organisations and law enforcement agencies enabling them to adopt an integrated approach to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence.

Preventative measures the Convention calls upon are:

- Awareness raising campaigns or programmes among the general public in cooperation with various actors in society (human rights institutions and women's organizations, NGOs,...)
- Education on non-stereotyped gender roles, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution, gender-based violence,... both through formal and informal education, as well as in the media
- Training of professionals dealing with victims and/or perpetrators on the prevention and detection, including prevention of secondary victimization, on gender equality, the needs and rights of victims,... with focus on multi-agency cooperation
- Preventive intervention and treatment programmes to teach perpetrators to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships
- Participation of the private sector and the media in setting self-regulatory standards and in developing and promoting skills among children, parents and educators on how to deal with content of a sexual or violent nature

For the first time in Europe, the Convention sets legally binding standards to prevent violence against women and domestic violence, protect victims and punish perpetrators (EESC, 2012). The Convention is open for signature, not only by Council of Europe member states, including the 28 EU Member States, but also by the European Union. So far, only eight countries have ratified the Convention, three of which are EU Member States. 17 other Member States have signed the Convention but not yet ratified it<sup>24</sup>. Last year, the Council, in its Conclusions, called on the Member States to ratify and implement the Convention (Council of the EU, 2012a).

At the international level, the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which took place in March 2013, focused on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls<sup>25</sup>. In the final report, the UN Commission (2013: 3) pointed, for example, to *“the persistence of obstacles that remain for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, and that the prevention of and response to such violence require States to act, at all levels, at each and every opportunity in a comprehensive and holistic manner that recognizes the linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, [among others] crime prevention”*<sup>26</sup>. The UN Commission, therefore, called on all actors to ratify the international Conventions, to strengthen and implement national legal and policy measures and to address the structural and underlying causes and risk factors of violence against women. In addition, it urged them to strengthen multisectoral services, programmes and responses to violence against women and to improve the evidence-base by focusing on qualitative and comparable data collection as well as on the exchange of best practices.

<sup>24</sup> See CoE website for overview: <http://www.conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=210&CM=8&DF=03/12/2013&CL=ENG>

<sup>25</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>

<sup>26</sup> See: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/2013/27](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2013/27)

## EU data collection on domestic violence

There is still a lack of international comparable administrative and survey data on violence against women and domestic violence, due to differences in definitions and types of violence covered, differences in methodologies, in time frame, sample characteristics, etc. Supported by the European Commission, important actors in the field of violence against women, such as the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and Women against Violence Europe (WAVE), have been working hard to fill this gap<sup>27</sup>.

At the request of the European Parliament, FRA started an EU-wide survey in 2010, interviewing 40.000 women across the 28 EU Member States, to collect comparable data on the extent, frequency and severity of violence against women in the EU, including data on women's experience and access to the police, healthcare and victim support services<sup>28</sup>. The results will be presented in the first quarter of 2014 in order to provide reliable and comparable data on women's experiences of violence.

EIGE is also working more and more on violence against women. Since 2011, EIGE has been undertaking several studies mapping existing data and resources on several forms of violence against women, including sexual violence, domestic violence and female genital mutilation, as well as on the sources of administrative data at the national and international level<sup>29</sup>.

As mentioned above, at the end of 2012, EIGE published a report which included the legislative and policy developments in the area of domestic violence against women in the context of the EU follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as an overview of the support services for victims of violence against women.

EIGE will present a long term work plan at the end of 2014 with the aim to improve data collection on violence against women at the EU level, for example, by looking at various possibilities to organize a follow-up of the survey FRA is currently undertaking, and through a close collaboration with Eurostat.

WAVE is a network of NGOs composed mainly of European women's non-governmental organizations working in the field of violence against women and children<sup>30</sup>. Since 2008, WAVE has been publishing a yearly country report, collecting data from 46 European countries and focusing on different issues related to violence against women, such as the existence of and access to women support services, helplines, shelters, etc., the situation of migrant women, the analysis of research and administrative data.

In the framework of the Daphne programme (see below), WAVE conducted the *PROTECT II* project in 2011-2012 which resulted, amongst others, in some guidelines for systematic and reliable data generation<sup>31</sup>. They also collected the data for EIGE's 2012 report on the progress

<sup>27</sup> For an overview of international activities in the field of data collection on gender-based violence in the EU, see also EIGE (2013): <http://eige.europa.eu/content/document/international-activities-on-data-collection-on-gender-based-violence-across-the-EU>

<sup>28</sup> See: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2012/fra-survey-gender-based-violence-against-women>

<sup>29</sup> See also EIGE's contribution to the EUCPN's European Crime Prevention Monitor Report (2013/2): Measuring and tackling domestic violence in the EU - forthcoming

<sup>30</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.wave-network.org/content/woman-against-violence-europe-wave>

<sup>31</sup> For more information, see: <http://wave-network.org/content/protect-ii-capacity-building-risk-assessment-and-safety-management-protect-ii>

of EU member States in the provision of support services for women victims of intimate partner violence to meet their commitments to the Beijing platform for Action<sup>32</sup>.

## EU funding programmes

Through the Daphne<sup>33</sup> and Progress<sup>34</sup> programmes, national administrations and organizations active in the field of violence against women can receive operating grants from the European Commission. In 2013, the Commission awarded 3,7 million euro to support Member States' activities to raise awareness on violence against women. A further 11,4 million euro will be awarded to NGOs working with victims. In the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, both programmes will be merged into the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme. The Justice Programme will supplement these funds, especially in the area of victims' rights.

## EUCPN and domestic violence

Since its establishment in 2001, the EUCPN has also considered the prevention of domestic violence as an important part of its work. Over the years, the EUCPN website has gradually expanded, becoming a major source of information on research, Member States' strategies & policies and good practices related to crime prevention, amongst others domestic violence.

Also during the subsequent EU Presidencies, domestic violence was often chosen within the EUCPN as an important topic to work on. In fact, since 2004 domestic violence has been continually on the EUCPN agenda through various workshops and knowledge exchange sessions, but also by regularly selecting it as the (main or sub) theme of the Best Practice Conference which is held annually and brings together policy-makers and practitioners from all EU Member States to share their experiences<sup>35</sup>. Table 1 gives a short overview of the work done on domestic violence within the EUCPN since 2004.

| Year | Initiator       | Activity   |
|------|-----------------|--|
| 2004 | The Netherlands | Domestic Violence as one of three topics chosen for the Best Practice Conference.  |
| 2005 | Luxembourg      | Organisation of a seminar on domestic violence.  |
| 2006 | Austria         | Organisation of a seminar on domestic violence and development of a compilation on domestic violence legislation frameworks in several Member States. The report is available on the EUCPN library page on the website ( <a href="http://www.eucpn.org/download/ReportDomesticViolenceWorkshop(Vienna_May2006).pdf">http://www.eucpn.org/download/ReportDomesticViolenceWorkshop(Vienna_May2006).pdf</a> ) |
|      | United Kingdom  | Development of a good practice and crime prevention policy page on the EUCPN website with information on domestic violence.  |

high-risk-victims

<sup>32</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.wave-network.org/content/eige-%E2%80%93-review-implementation-beijing-platform-action-eu-member-states-violence-against-women>

<sup>33</sup> For more information on the Daphne programme, see: <http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/programmes/daphne/>

<sup>34</sup> For more information on the Progress programme, see: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=327>

<sup>35</sup> Part 2 of this toolbox will go more into detail about the Best Practice Conference.

|                   |                |  |
|-------------------|----------------|--|
| 2007              | Portugal       | <p>Domestic Violence as the main topic of the Best Practice Conference. The Swedish project “An integrated domestic violence programme in Malmö” won the 2007 European Crime Prevention Award.</p> <p>More information on the winning project and all other projects which competed for the 2007 European Crime Prevention Award can be found on the EUCPN website (<a href="http://www.eucpn.org/eucp-award/entries.asp?year=2007">http://www.eucpn.org/eucp-award/entries.asp?year=2007</a>)</p> <p>A final state of the art report “Understanding and challenging the domestic violence phenomena within EU countries. Towards the development of an European consciousness.” was published in 2009 and can be downloaded on the library page of the EUCPN website (<a href="http://www.eucpn.org/download/EUCPN_DV_report_En_Final.pdf">http://www.eucpn.org/download/EUCPN_DV_report_En_Final .pdf</a>)</p> <p>This report also covers the main conclusions regarding domestic violence of the 2007 Best Practice Conference.</p> |
| 2008<br>–<br>2009 | Belgium        | <p>The start-up of a new EU project “Domestic violence tackled in partnership”, led by Belgium and in collaboration with Sweden, Hungary, Spain and the Netherlands.</p> <p>The project aimed to optimize the qualitative integral approach developed in the Belgian province of Limburg, and involved an thorough evaluation and optimization of this approach. Planning of a European conference at the beginning of 2011 to share the final results.</p>  |
| 2009              | EUCPN Board    | <p>A part-time Research Officer was appointed to conduct some research activity on domestic violence.</p> <p>At the request of the European Commission, the Research Officer completed a report on ongoing projects and instruments at the national and EU level to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence.</p> <p>A short version of the report can be downloaded on the library page of the EUCPN website (<a href="http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECOverviewVAW.pdf">http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECOverviewVAW.pdf</a>)</p>   |
|                   | Czech Republic | <p>Members of the EUCPN consider the EUCPN as a useful and quick tool to receive direct information, for example, by launching a call on a concrete topic.</p> <p>In 2009, the Czech Republic launched a call to gain information on existing programmes for domestic violence perpetrators in other Member States.</p>  |

|      |                                       |  |
|------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2010 | Belgium                               | <p>Domestic Violence as one of five topics chosen for the Best Practice Conference. Participants had the opportunity to discuss these topics in plenary sessions and interactive workshops.</p> <p>Based on these discussions, some key conclusions were drawn regarding domestic violence and shared with the EUCPN Members. They were also reported to the appropriate EU Working Groups.</p> <p>An overview of these conclusions can be found in the annex of the EUCPN's 2010 Annual Report, downloadable from the website (<a href="http://www.eucpn.org/download/AnnualReport2010_Adopted.pdf">http://www.eucpn.org/download/AnnualReport2010_Adopted.pdf</a>)</p> |
| 2011 | EU Trio –<br>Spain, Belgium & Hungary | <p>Under the common theme of the Trio of the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies “A secure home in a safe community through prevention, policing and restoration” in the first half of the year, a comprehensive publication about the outcomes of discussions on the prevention of domestic violence as well as some other topics was presented and disseminated to the crime prevention audience.</p>  |
|      | Belgium                               | <p>Progress on the EU project “Domestic violence tackled in partnership”, led by Belgium and in collaboration with Sweden, Hungary, Spain and the Netherlands.</p> <p>A scientific evaluation of the integrated approach of domestic violence in the Belgian province of Limburg was carried out; a description of different EU multi-agency approaches of domestic violence and a literature review on European best practices were conducted; research visits to the Netherlands, Sweden and Spain were organized.</p>   |
| 2012 | Cyprus                                | <p>Domestic Violence as one of three sub-themes chosen for the Best Practice Conference.</p> <p>A knowledge exchange session on domestic violence was organized with the EUCPN Members. Some of the results of this session are discussed further in this toolbox (see p.37 – 38).</p>   |
|      | Belgium                               | <p>Final EU seminar on the EU project “Domestic violence tackled in partnership”, led by Belgium and in collaboration with Sweden, Hungary, Spain and the Netherlands.</p>   |

|      |           |  |
|------|-----------|--|
| 2013 | Ireland   | A knowledge exchange session on domestic violence was organized with EUCPN Members. Some of the results of this session are discussed further in this toolbox (see p.37 – 38).   |
|      | Lithuania | <p>Domestic Violence as the main topic of the Best Practice Conference. The Swedish project “the Relationship Violence Centre (RVC)” won the 2013 European Crime Prevention Award, honourable mentions were made for the Belgian and Croatian projects. The conclusions of the Best Practice Conference and the winning projects, as well as all other projects which competed for the 2013 Award, are discussed in far more detail in part 2 and 3 of this toolbox.</p> <p>A handbook including the main conclusions of the Best Practice Conference and an overview of good practices is forthcoming and will be circulated through the EUCPN website.</p> |

Table 1: EUCPN activities related to domestic violence since 2004.  
Source: EUCPN Work Programmes and Annual Reports.

## 2. Legislative and policy measures in the EU Member States

As mentioned in the 2012 report of EIGE, currently almost all Member States have implemented a National Action Plan (NAP) with measures to combat domestic violence against women<sup>36</sup>. Table 2 gives an overview of the NAPs addressing violence against women in the EU Member States.

| MS <sup>37</sup> | National Action Plan  | Period                        |
|------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| AT <sup>38</sup> | <p>No real NAP on VAW; legal basis is the Austrian Federal Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence from 2003 respectively 2009, which are amended when necessary (last time in 2013) which helped to continue the rethinking process with respect to the issue of domestic violence.</p> <p>Action Plan to Fight Human Trafficking</p> <p>NAP for the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation</p> | <p>2012-14</p> <p>2009-11</p> |
| BE               | <p>National Action Plan to combat intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence</p> <p>To read the action plan (Eng.):</p> <p><a href="http://igvm-iefh.belgium.be/nl/binaries/NAP_Engels_tcm336-133536.pdf">http://igvm-iefh.belgium.be/nl/binaries/NAP_Engels_tcm336-133536.pdf</a></p>  | 2010-14                       |
| BG               | <p>Yearly national programme for prevention and protection from domestic violence adopted by Council of Ministers Decision № 207/29.03.2013</p> <p>To read more info (Bulgarian only):</p> <p><a href="http://www.mvr.bg/Prevenция/prevenция_domashno_nasilie.htm">http://www.mvr.bg/Prevenция/prevenция_domashno_nasilie.htm</a></p>   | 2013                          |

<sup>36</sup> For more information, also see EIGE's contribution to the EUCPN's European Crime Prevention Monitor Report (2013/2): Measuring and tackling domestic violence in the EU - forthcoming.

<sup>37</sup> 'MS' = Member State

<sup>38</sup> AT = Austria; BE = Belgium; BG = Bulgaria; CY = Cyprus; CZ = Czech Republic; DE = Germany; DK = Denmark; EE = Estonia; EL = Greece; ES = Spain; FR = France; FI = Finland; HR = Croatia; HU = Hungary; IE = Ireland; IT = Italy; LT = Lithuania; LU = Luxembourg; LV = Latvia; MT = Malta; NL = The Netherlands; PL = Poland; PT = Portugal; RO = Romania; SE = Sweden; SI = Slovenia; SK = Slovakia; UK = United Kingdom

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| CY | National Action Plan for preventing and combating violence in the family To read the action plan (Greek only):<br><a href="http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/downloads/actionplan_2010-2013.pdf">http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/downloads/actionplan_2010-2013.pdf</a><br>No new (post-2013) action plan announced yet  | 2010-13            |
| CZ | National Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence<br>To read the action plan (Eng.):<br><a href="http://www.mpsv.cz/files/clanky/12194/5_material_NAP_15-04-2011_en.pdf">http://www.mpsv.cz/files/clanky/12194/5_material_NAP_15-04-2011_en.pdf</a>   | 2011-14            |
| DE | Second Action Plan of the Federal Government to Combat Violence against Women, with the establishment of a free national hotline<br>To read the action plan (Eng.):<br><a href="http://www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Broschuerenstelle/Pdf-Anlagen/aktionsplan-Il-gewalt-gegen-frauen-englisch,property=pdf,bereich=bmfsfj,rwb=true.pdf">http://www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Broschuerenstelle/Pdf-Anlagen/aktionsplan-Il-gewalt-gegen-frauen-englisch,property=pdf,bereich=bmfsfj,rwb=true.pdf</a>   | 2007-ongoing       |
| DK | New National Action Plan on domestic violence, including new elements such as help to male victims and dating violence among young people<br>To read more info (Danish only): <a href="http://www.miliki.dk/">http://www.miliki.dk/</a>  | 2014-17            |
| EE | Development plan for reducing violence<br>To read the action plan (Eng.):<br><a href="http://sgdatabase.unwomen.org/uploads/Development%20Plan%20for%20Reducing%20Violence%20for%20Years%202010-2014.pdf">http://sgdatabase.unwomen.org/uploads/Development%20Plan%20for%20Reducing%20Violence%20for%20Years%202010-2014.pdf</a>   | 2010-14            |
| EL | National programme for prevention and combating of violence against women (implementation period extends to 2014)<br>To read the action plan (Eng.):<br><a href="http://www.isotita.gr/en/var/uploads/english/NATIONAL%20PROGRAMME%20ON%20PREVENTING%20AND%20COMBATING%20VIOLENCE%20AGAINST%20WOMEN%202009-2013.pdf">http://www.isotita.gr/en/var/uploads/english/NATIONAL%20PROGRAMME%20ON%20PREVENTING%20AND%20COMBATING%20VIOLENCE%20AGAINST%20WOMEN%202009-2013.pdf</a>  | 2009-13            |
| ES | National strategy for the eradication of violence against women, including a part on gender-based violence in the immigrant population<br>To read the action plan (Eng.): <a href="http://www.msssi.gob.es/ssi/violenciaGenero/EstrategiaNacional/pdf/Estrategia_Nacional_Ingles.pdf">http://www.msssi.gob.es/ssi/violenciaGenero/EstrategiaNacional/pdf/Estrategia_Nacional_Ingles.pdf</a>  | 2013-16            |
| FR | Interministerial plan for the fight against violence against women<br>To read the action plan (French only): <a href="http://sgdatabase.unwomen.org/uploads/Plan%20Interministeriel%20de%20lutte%20contre%20les%20violences%20faites%20aux%20femmes%202011-2013.pdf">http://sgdatabase.unwomen.org/uploads/Plan%20Interministeriel%20de%20lutte%20contre%20les%20violences%20faites%20aux%20femmes%202011-2013.pdf</a><br>A new plan has been presented, d.d. 22 November 2013, for the next 3 years<br>To read the action plan (French only): <a href="http://www.prevention-delinquance.interieur.gouv.fr/fileadmin/user_upload/03-Champs_d_action/Aide_aux_victimes/4e-planVFF_22112013.pdf">http://www.prevention-delinquance.interieur.gouv.fr/fileadmin/user_upload/03-Champs_d_action/Aide_aux_victimes/4e-planVFF_22112013.pdf</a> | 2011-13<br>2014-16 |
| FI | Action plan to reduce violence against women<br>To read the action plan (Finnish only):<br><a href="http://www.stm.fi/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=1087414&amp;name=DLFE-12304.pdf">http://www.stm.fi/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=1087414&amp;name=DLFE-12304.pdf</a>   | 2010-15            |
| HR | National security strategy of family violence<br>To read the action plan (Croatian only):<br><a href="http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2011_02_20_422.html">http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2011_02_20_422.html</a>   | 2011-16            |
| HU | National gender strategy - National strategy promoting the equality of men and women – directions and targets. To read the action plan (Eng.):<br><a href="http://www.szmm.gov.hu/download.php?ctag=download&amp;docID=21986">http://www.szmm.gov.hu/download.php?ctag=download&amp;docID=21986</a>  | 2010-21            |

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| IE | National strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence<br>To read the action plan (Eng.):<br><a href="http://www.szmm.gov.hu/download.php?ctag=download&amp;docID=21986">http://www.szmm.gov.hu/download.php?ctag=download&amp;docID=21986</a>   | 2010-14            |
| IT | National action plan against gender violence and stalking<br>To read the action plan (Eng.):<br><a href="http://www.szmm.gov.hu/download.php?ctag=download&amp;docID=21986">http://www.szmm.gov.hu/download.php?ctag=download&amp;docID=21986</a><br>Financing of new action plan is awaiting approval  | 2010-13            |
| LT | National strategy for combating violence against women (2010-12) and a plan of implementing measures (2013)<br>To read the action plan (Lithuanian only):<br><a href="http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=351089&amp;p_query=&amp;p_tr2=2">http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=351089&amp;p_query=&amp;p_tr2=2</a><br>New draft of National Programme of Prevention of Domestic Violence and Assistance to Victims, currently being prepared  | 2010-13<br>2014-20 |
| LU | National action plan for equality of women and men<br>To read the action plan (French only): <a href="http://www.eucpn.org/poldocs/NAP_LU.pdf">http://www.eucpn.org/poldocs/NAP_LU.pdf</a>  | 2009-14            |
| LV | National family policy guidelines<br>To read the guidelines (Latvian only): <a href="http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3583">http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3583</a><br>Action plan for National family policy guidelines for the implementation of the guidelines<br>To read the action plan (Latvian only): <a href="http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=4167">http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=4167</a>  | 2011-17<br>2012-14 |
| MT | No real national action plan yet but domestic violence issues are mentioned in the national action plan on poverty and social exclusion<br>Annual reports by the Commission on Domestic Violence.<br>To read the reports: <a href="https://secure3.gov.mt/socialpolicy/family/domestic_violence/dom_violence_annual_reports">https://secure3.gov.mt/socialpolicy/family/domestic_violence/dom_violence_annual_reports</a><br>For more information on Malta's efforts regarding violence against women, including domestic violence: <a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/countryinformationpages/malta/NationalReport_en.asp#TopOfPage">http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/countryinformationpages/malta/NationalReport_en.asp#TopOfPage</a> | 2008-10<br>2006-11 |
| NL | No real national action plan but a nation-wide approach on violence in dependency relationships with a progress report every semester.<br>To read the last progress report (Dutch only): <a href="http://www.huiselijkgeweld.nl/beleid/landelijk/kamerbrief-juli-2013-over-voortgangsrapportage-geweld-in-afhankelijkheidsrelaties">http://www.huiselijkgeweld.nl/beleid/landelijk/kamerbrief-juli-2013-over-voortgangsrapportage-geweld-in-afhankelijkheidsrelaties</a><br>Specific action plans on forced marriage and elderly abuse.   | Ongoing            |
| PL | National action plan for counteracting domestic violence<br>To read the action plan (Eng.): <a href="http://sgdatabse.unwomen.org/uploads/Poland%20-%20National%20Action%20Plan%20for%20Counteracting%20Domestic%20Violence.pdf">http://sgdatabse.unwomen.org/uploads/Poland%20-%20National%20Action%20Plan%20for%20Counteracting%20Domestic%20Violence.pdf</a>   | 2006-16            |
| PT | IV National plan to fight domestic violence<br>To read the national plan (Portuguese only): <a href="http://dre.pt/pdf1s/2010/12/24300/0576305773.pdf">http://dre.pt/pdf1s/2010/12/24300/0576305773.pdf</a><br>New National Plan for Prevention and Combat of Domestic and Gender Violence, currently under public consultation   | 2011-13<br>2014-17 |
| RO | National strategy for the protection and promotion of the rights of children<br>To read the national strategy (Romanian only): <a href="http://www.copii.ro/Files/Strategia%20Nationala%20in%20domeniul%20protectiei%20dreptu.pdf">http://www.copii.ro/Files/Strategia%20Nationala%20in%20domeniul%20protectiei%20dreptu.pdf</a><br>No new (post-2013) action plan announced yet but the law on domestic violence has recently changed.   | 2008-13            |

|    |  |                        |
|----|--|------------------------|
| SE | Action plan of 2007 for combating men's violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationships – measures<br>For more information (Eng.): <a href="http://www.government.se/sb/d/14974/a/171721">http://www.government.se/sb/d/14974/a/171721</a><br>To read the full 2007 action plan (Eng.): <a href="http://www.government.se/content/1/c6/09/87/69/6138ac76.pdf">http://www.government.se/content/1/c6/09/87/69/6138ac76.pdf</a>   | 2011-14                |
| SI | Resolution on the national programme on the prevention of family violence<br>To read the action plan (Eng.): <a href="http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti__pdf/resolution_prevention_familij_violence_09_14.pdf">http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti__pdf/resolution_prevention_familij_violence_09_14.pdf</a>   | 2009-14                |
| SK | National action plan for the prevention and elimination of violence against women<br>To read the action plan (Slovak only): <a href="https://lt.justice.gov.sk/Attachment/Materi%C3%A1l_doc.pdf?instEID=53&amp;attEID=7567&amp;docEID=46239&amp;matEID=1201&amp;langEID=1&amp;tStamp=20090309132717543">https://lt.justice.gov.sk/Attachment/Materi%C3%A1l_doc.pdf?instEID=53&amp;attEID=7567&amp;docEID=46239&amp;matEID=1201&amp;langEID=1&amp;tStamp=20090309132717543</a><br>New national action plan in the process of approval | 2009-12<br><br>2014-19 |
| UK | Call to end violence against women and girls – Action plan<br>To read the action plan (Eng.): <a href="http://sgdatabse.unwomen.org/uploads/Action%20Plan%20on%20VAW%20-%202011.pdf">http://sgdatabse.unwomen.org/uploads/Action%20Plan%20on%20VAW%20-%202011.pdf</a>  | 2011-15                |

Table 2: NAPs in EU-Member States addressing violence against women  
Source: EIGE (2012) – Updated with information from EUCPN National Representatives

As EIGE (2012) already mentioned, there is a great variety in the focus, content and implementation of national action plans. Sometimes, an explicit link between VAW and discrimination and human rights is made, like for example in the NAPs of Belgium, Germany or Ireland. The focus can be on violence between partners or within the wider family, whether or not including child maltreatment or a gender perspective. Sometimes domestic violence (DV) includes forced marriage, honour-based crimes and/or pays specific attention to vulnerable groups like migrant women or women with disabilities. The content often varies, covering training and awareness raising, prevention and violent behaviour modification, and victim support<sup>39</sup>.

Most EU Member States criminalize domestic violence against women but again, a wide variety of approaches can be observed. This goes from including DVAW into existing general criminal laws, to turning violence against an intimate partner into a public interest crime, to considering violence between family members as an aggravated offence or even explicitly introducing DV as an offence in criminal law (EIGE, 2012). The consequence of these differences is that prosecution is not uniform across the EU and DVAW is still perpetrated with impunity.

Other measures which are mentioned in EIGE's report (2012) are protection orders, perpetrator programmes and training for professionals. However, similarly to the NAPs and criminal laws, great differences exist between the Member States and reliable, comparable data is practically non-existent. Nevertheless, it is clear that gaps remain in combating (domestic) violence against women. There is often no uniform and systematic approach. Existing measures also suffer from a lack of sustainable funding, and in many countries there is hardly any knowledge on their effectiveness.

<sup>39</sup> For more details, see EIGE (2012: 22): <http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Violence-against-Women-Victim-Support-Report.pdf> and EIGE's contribution to the EUCPN's European Crime Prevention Monitor Report (2013/2): Measuring and tackling domestic violence in the EU - forthcoming

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# Part 2

## Good and promising practices: Best Practice Conference and the European Crime Prevention Award



## Good and promising practices: Best Practice Conference and the European Crime Prevention Award

The Best Practice Conference (BPC) is organized each year in December, bringing together practitioners and policy makers from all over Europe to share their experiences.

Since 2004, the BPC has been linked to the competition of the European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA). The ECPA competition aims to publicly award good or promising practices in the field of crime prevention through an assessment by a jury made up of experts from various Member States.

The ECPA is open to all EU Member States who can submit any theme-related project, initiative or package of measures which was successfully implemented to prevent crime and complying with the following criteria (EUCPN, 2013a):

- i. The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme.
- ii. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives. Evidence of impact in reducing crime or increasing safety shall rate over evidence of other kinds of outcome.
- iii. The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.
- iv. The project shall be based on co-operation between partners, where possible.
- v. The project shall be capable of replication by organizations and groups in other Member States. Therefore, submissions should include information on the financial costs of the project, the source of funding, the implementation process and relevant source material.

Figure 1 shows the number of entries for the ECPA since 2004.

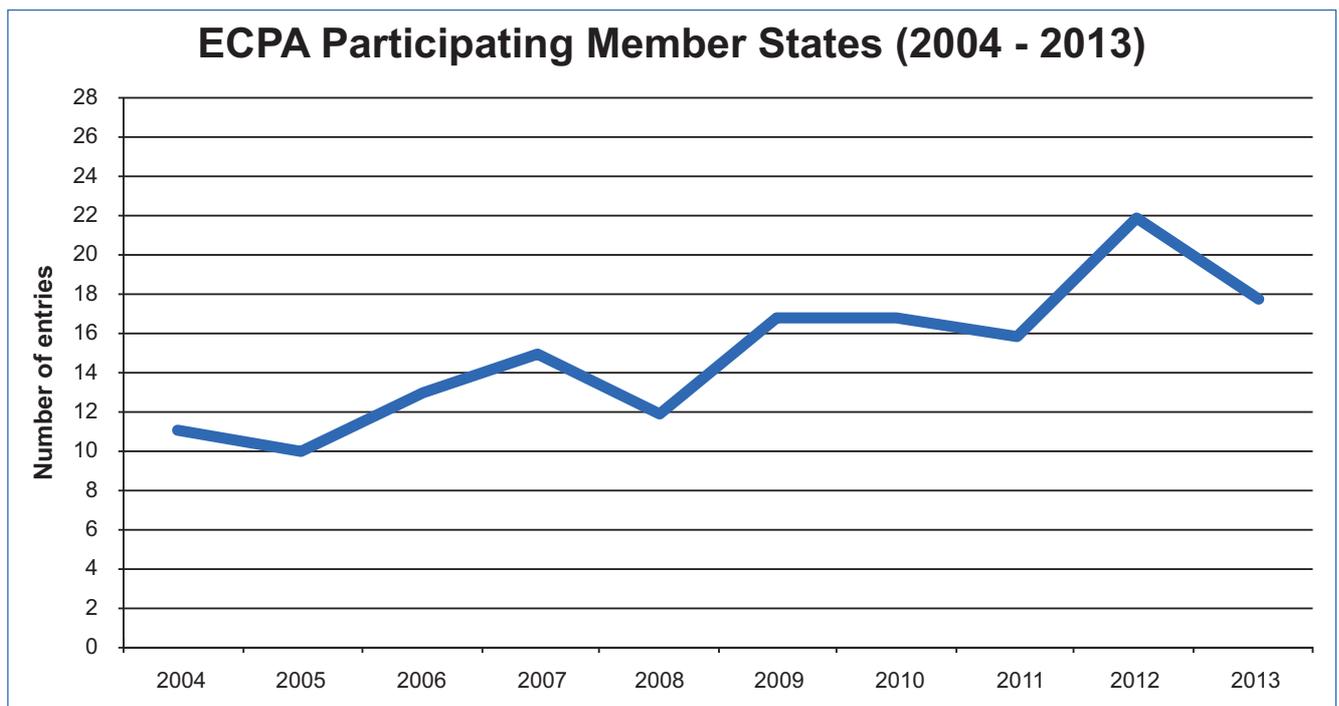


Figure 1: Number of ECPA participants per year 2004 – 2013  
Source: EUCPN website

With the attendance of around 150 participants from all over Europe each year, the BPC and ECPA can be regarded as cost-effective instruments to quickly and directly circulate good crime prevention ideas from other cities, municipalities, countries and organisations which are faced with similar challenges. Since 2012, the winning initiative is awarded a financial sum of €10.000 and the two honourable mentions receive €5.000 each (EUCPN, 2013a; 2013b). The complete Rules of Procedure of the ECPA can be downloaded on the EUCPN website<sup>40</sup>.

## 1. Good and promising practices in domestic violence - General overview of the ECPA 2013 theme and entries

This year's BPC was organised by the Lithuanian Presidency on 11-12 December 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The general theme was '**Prevention in domestic violence**'. In the call for entries, which was launched in July 2013, domestic violence was defined as *"any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between persons who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Anyone can experience domestic violence and it can occur in all types of relationships regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, wealth and geography."*

The Presidency chose to focus on six sub-themes related to the theme of domestic violence:

1. Violent behaviour modification programmes and its influence on the prescription of punishment;
2. Social support mechanisms for victims of violence;
3. Risk assessment and its influence on the reasoning of protection;
4. Mediation in domestic violence;
5. Tactics and obligatory actions of primary reaction;
6. Legal methods and technical instruments of victims protection.

In total, 18 countries submitted a project – the second highest number of participants so far – under four of the six sub-themes mentioned above: violent behaviour modification programmes, social support mechanisms, risk assessment and tactics. On top of that, some countries shared 'additional projects' – 10 in total – related to domestic violence.

On 11-12 November 2013, the ECPA jury met in Vilnius, Lithuania, to assess this year's entries. As prescribed, the jury is composed of up to eight members – no more than two per Member State – of the (i) current EU presidency, (ii) the former EU presidency, and (iii) the two incoming presidencies. This year's jury was attended by:

- Mr. Evaldas Visockas and Ms. Kristina Smirnova for Lithuania
- Mr. Doncha O'Sullivan and Mr. Trevor Noonan for Ireland
- Mr. George Halivopoulos and Ms. Anastasia Chalkia for Greece
- Ms. Mr. Nicola Palmiero and Ms. Isabella Mastropasqua for Italy

<sup>40</sup> See: <http://www.eucpn.org/pubdocs/ECPA%20RoP%202013.pdf>

The jury was chaired by Ms. Dalia Kedaviciene, EUCPN Chair during the Lithuanian Presidency, and support was given by Ms. Rosita Vanhauwaert and Ms. Belinda Wijckmans of the EUCPN Secretariat.



In part 3 of this toolbox, facts sheets of all ECPA entries are included. The next paragraphs will first look closer into the three projects which were particularly honoured by this year's jury members.

### 1.1. Three projects in the picture: victim support & attrition, multi-agency cooperation & the chain model, and early prevention & the role of education

Although all projects were found remarkable by the jury and praised for their efforts to prevent domestic violence, three projects really stood out according to the jury. These were:



**The ECPA 2013 winning project of Sweden on the Relationship Violence Centre (RVC).** Led by the Social Services Administration of Stockholm City. The project was praised by the jury for its scientific approach, its direct focus on the victim and its integrated approach. The project has clear and specific goals and a modest investment, which makes it more capable of replication in other cities and regions. An external evaluation found that there was a real increase in the prosecution rate where the RVC was involved, which shows its effectiveness.



**The Belgian project 'CO3' was given the honourable mention of 'Best cooperation'.** This project is led by the Province and the City of Antwerp. Despite it currently being only a pilot project and seeming a bit costly, the jury praised it as a good example of how harmonisation between services working on domestic violence can be achieved. It is methodologically solid, has done an impressive problem analysis, and focuses not only on victims and perpetrators, but also on the entire family. It is a promising project and it would be interesting to look at it again in a year or two.



**The Croatian project 'Living life without violence' received the honourable mention of 'Best early prevention'.** This project is led by the Ministry of Interior, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Croatia, and in cooperation with some local NGOs and government. Its focus on early prevention among young people was very much appreciated by the jury. The project tries to tackle the traditional view on women and, therefore, tries to break the generational cycle, which is very valuable. Some more information on the actual impact would be useful to get a more solid evidence base.

For a more detailed description of these and all other projects submitted, see part 3 or the EUCPN website<sup>41</sup>.

In the following paragraphs, the focus will be put on some important issues which are often related to domestic violence cases and which were tackled in the award winning projects of Sweden, Belgium and Croatia.

### 1.1.1. Victim support and attrition in domestic violence

The Swedish RVC was set up to provide support to victims of domestic violence, to improve the collaboration between the police, social services and the prosecutor and to empower victims so as to enable them to press charges and move their complaint through the criminal justice system, potentially resulting in more prosecutions and convictions. The latter is often a problem in cases of domestic violence: victims are not willing or unable to engage with the criminal justice system, leading to cases 'dropping out' somewhere along the way. This is referred to as attrition.

<sup>41</sup> See: <http://www.eucpn.org/eucp-award/entries.asp?year=2013>.

Besides the underreporting of incidents of domestic violence to the police, domestic violence cases have a high risk of failing to go through the whole process of legal proceedings. This may be due to victim- or system-related factors. For example, the way the complaint is handled by the police and other social and legal authorities, the decisions made by the prosecution and the courts, or the decisions taken by the victims themselves (Hester & Westmarland, 2005; Pavlou, Zobnina & Veis, 2012). In the Swedish example, the majority of the domestic violence cases reported to the police between 2002 and 2006 was discontinued due to insufficient evidence, which may mean that either the victim does not want to participate in the investigation, or there is a lack of witnesses or no documented injuries, etc. In terms of the protection of victims and the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, but also in terms of deterrence and prevention of repeat victimisation, it can be easily comprehended that attrition is a major challenge for everyone involved in the criminal justice system.

As mentioned in paragraph 3.1. (cfr. supra), overcoming attrition in domestic violence was one of the priorities during the Cyprus Presidency in 2012. A report was commissioned by the Cyprus Police (Pavlou, Zobnina & Veis, 2012) in preparation of the *EU Handbook of best police practices on overcoming attrition in domestic violence cases* (Council of the EU, 2012a; 2012b), containing an extensive literature review and an analysis of existing strategies and good practices from various EU countries. According to this report and the handbook, the most promising and successful interventions in increasing victims' cooperation and reducing attrition rates shared a number of characteristics, which can also be found in the Swedish project on the RVC as shown in table 2 below.

| Cyprus Police report   | Swedish RVC   |
|--|---|
| <b>Multi-agency cooperation</b> between various agencies involved in handling cases of domestic violence   | The RVC provides a unifying link between public sector agencies, primarily the police, social services and the prosecution authority, as well as between the victim and these agencies  |
| <b>A victim safety-centred approach</b> to primarily ensure the victim's safety in the whole process and, thereby, increasing the victims' willingness to cooperate with the criminal justice system | The RVC supports the victim during five counselling sessions, offering immediate psychosocial support, and provides contacts with social services, health care, documentation of injuries, protective accommodation and the police  |
| <b>A case-by-case individualised approach</b> (e.g., taking economic, cultural and ethnic differences into account) rather than applying the "one size fits all" principle                           | Victims are contacted within 48 hours after the offence – of partner or honour-related violence – has been reported to the police by a social worker who will listen to their situation and respond to it   |
| <b>Transparency of procedures</b> , for example, by providing timely information about their case and informing them about their rights  | Through the counselling sessions, the RVC offers information about the legal process, the contacts with the police and a thorough understanding of the work of the police, prosecutors and courts   |
| <b>Engaging the victims</b> and responding to their needs to the greatest extent possible  | The counselling sessions use evidence-based working methods and are solution-focused. The sessions engage the victims, making them feel that they are participants in their own process of change and building their strength by talking about resistance, instead of describing them as passive and weak |

Table 2: Main characteristics of successful interventions identified in the Cyprus Police report (Council of the EU, 2012b: 13) and related to the Swedish 2013 ECPA entry

External evaluations of the Swedish RVC project showed that 42 per cent of the ‘RVC cases’ resulted in prosecution, compared to just 24 per cent in cases in which RVC was not involved. Furthermore, the feedback of the victims supported by the RVC was very positive and the collaboration between the police, the social services and the prosecutors has improved.

### 1.1.2. Multi-agency cooperation and the chain model

Similarly to the Swedish RVC, the Belgian CO3 project is based on a multi-agency cooperation, bridging the work of the local administrative authorities (i.e. the city and province of Antwerp), the police and justice, and the social services. CO3, however, is taking it one step further with a comprehensive or integral approach and through the establishment of a *supra-organisational* cooperation which puts the client at the centre: a **C**lient-oriented **O**rganisation involving **3** partners.

Domestic violence indeed touches upon a variety of areas and services: health, judicial, welfare, etc. Setting up a multi-agency approach to tackle domestic violence stems from the idea that a well-organised partnership can achieve more than each individual organisation on its own (Wyckmans et al., 2012). By cooperating, the individual organisations or services ‘cross boundaries’ which can lead to new insights, but which can be challenging at the same time, especially in terms of reconciling the goals and basic principles of, for example, the criminal justice system and the welfare services, or the allocation of resources (Hague, 1997; Rosenbaum, 2002; Verhoeven et al., 2007).

To make sure such partnerships can work efficiently and effectively, it is believed that the cooperation needs to be more binding in nature than just informally exchanging information through a loose-knit network (Logar, 2006; Wyckmans et al., 2012). To establish these closer (binding) links and coordinate the work with all the partners involved, a chain model has been introduced.

The idea of a chain model is that the work processes of various partners are matched and aimed at a common goal with the client being at the centre of the collaboration. As Wyckmans et al. (2012), inspired by the work of Logar (2006) and Cropper et al. (2008), point out, the intensity of a collaboration can vary widely in the way their individual activities are integrated and their resources and responsibility for the outcomes are shared. The authors distinguish four types of collaboration, based on the degree of intensity (2012: 52-53):

- **Cooperation:** an informal, loose-knit network of services/organisations but without integration of activities or shared resources or responsibility.
- **Coordination:** still a voluntary network with jointly defined problems and integration of activities on the organisational level. Resources are still separate and there is not necessarily a mutually shared responsibility. The Dutch ‘Security Houses’ (i.e. Veiligheidshuizen) are mentioned as an example for this type of collaboration.
- **Collaboration:** a more formal and ambitious network with an agreed action plan and collective goals. Resources and responsibilities are mostly shared.

- **Integration:** a formal network in a new common structure, collaborating on a daily basis, with a common mission, integrated activities, shared resources and mutual responsibility for the outcomes. Examples mentioned are the MARACs (UK) (also see: Robinson, 2006)<sup>42</sup>, Family Justice Centres (USA, UK) and CO3 (BE).

In the CO3 project, the various partners start from a common action plan in which the family is at the centre. Instead of the 'client' (in this case the family) having to go from one organisation to the other, which generally means repeating a 'new intake' conversation and procedure within each organisation, the multi-agency partnership, as a whole, focuses on the family and only one intake procedure is needed to activate a whole chain of activities. This is well-illustrated in figure 2 below.

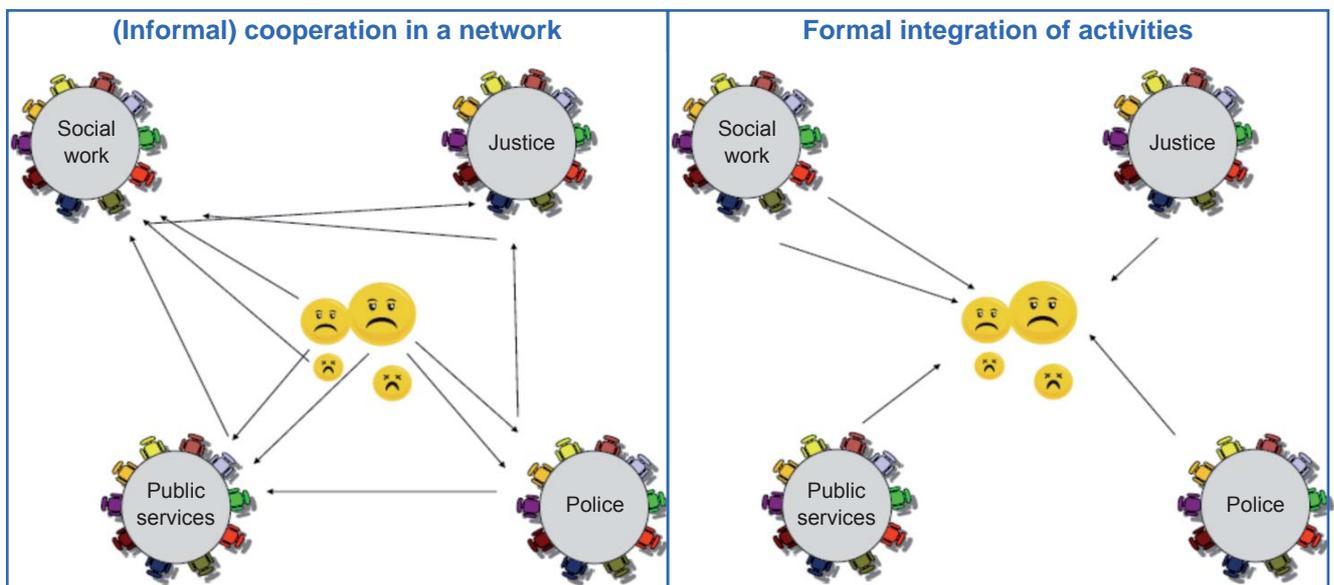


Figure 2: Informal cooperation between services vs. an integrated client-centred approach  
Source: CO3 presentation during Best Practice Conference, 12 December 2013<sup>43</sup>

As mentioned, the chain model implies that a joint work process guides the activities of the working team when a domestic violence incident is reported. As shown in figure 3 (below), in case of CO3, the different team members, coming from the various organisations involved, are physically located together and a common registration tool is used to strengthen the partnership and raise efficiency and effectivity.

<sup>42</sup> For more information, see: [http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/Information\\_about\\_MARACs.html](http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/Information_about_MARACs.html)

<sup>43</sup> To see full presentation, click: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/?file=2013\\_ECPA\\_PPT\\_BE.pdf&type=18](http://www.eucpn.org/download/?file=2013_ECPA_PPT_BE.pdf&type=18)

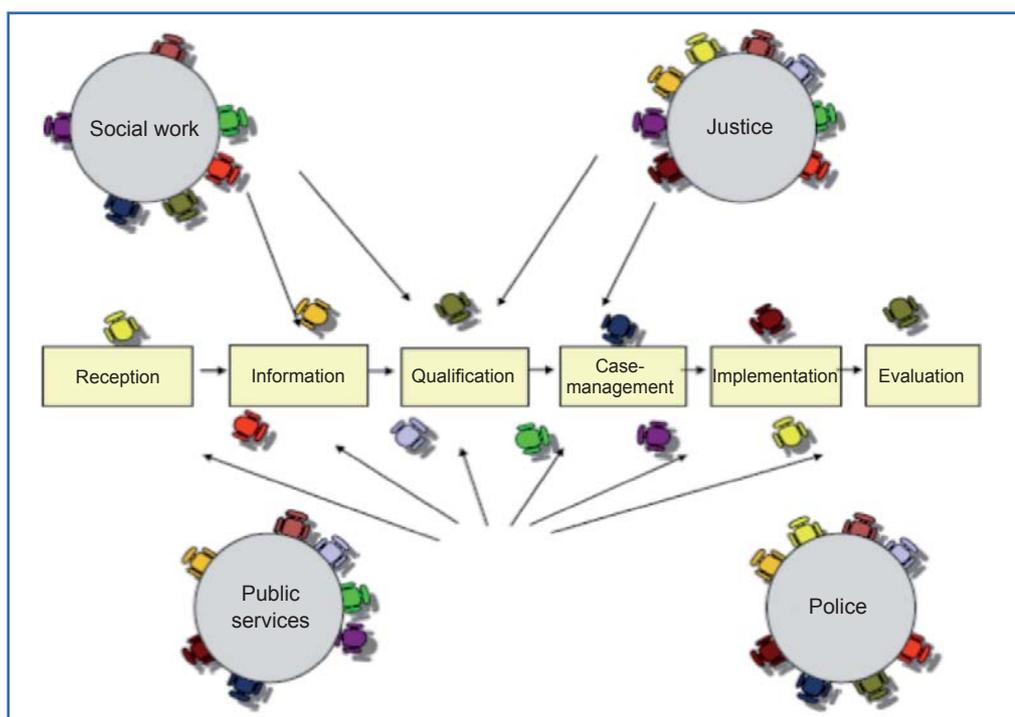


Figure 3: The CO3 chain model

Source: CO3 presentation during Best Practice Conference, 12 December 2013<sup>44</sup>

As can be seen in figure 3, from the moment a case is reported, the whole team is involved in processing the information, assessing the problem and the risk, developing and implementing an action plan with the emphasis on the strengths of the family concerned, and evaluating the effects of the interventions. In the process, an individual case manager is appointed to closely follow up the case.

Currently, the CO3 project is still in a pilot phase. An impact evaluation is forthcoming in 2014.

### 1.1.3. Early prevention and the role of education

The Croatian project 'Living life without violence' is targeting young teenagers, aged 13-14 years, through interactive workshops at school, conceptual art programmes and interactive youth debates. Furthermore, the project includes a general awareness-raising campaign involving leading local community figures and famous artists. The aim of the project is to create a culture of non-violence and tolerance by sharing knowledge on the causes and consequences of violence and on what steps to take when confronted with violence or negative incidents. The project is also working on interpersonal relationships through a personal, non-violent engagement in order to prevent the transmission of violence from one generation to the next.

Research indicates that primary prevention programmes in education may help change attitudes, build resilience and set guidelines for healthy relationships (Hester & Westmarland, 2005; Gadd et al., 2013). The importance of these programmes and the role the educational system can play in reducing the social acceptability of violence against women and domestic violence are, therefore,

<sup>44</sup> To see full presentation, click: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/?file=2013\\_ECPA\\_PPT\\_BE.pdf&type=18](http://www.eucpn.org/download/?file=2013_ECPA_PPT_BE.pdf&type=18)

generally acknowledged. For example, in the *conclusions on Combating Violence Against Women, and the Provision of Support Services for Victims of Domestic Violence*<sup>45</sup>, the Council of the EU called on the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Member States to “[p]ay attention to primary prevention of violence against women, inter alia by recognizing the role of the educational system as one of the primary sources of socialization and as a key transmitter of traditional and cultural and social norms which can also include negative elements such as gender stereotyping and rigid gender roles that are conducive to violence against women.”

Often, school-based prevention programmes focus on relationship or dating violence between teenagers. These programmes are developed to help adolescents establish healthy partner relationships and prevent patterns of violence which can last into adulthood (De La Rue et al., 2013). Early (primary and secondary) prevention programmes on relationship violence through education, however, vary considerably and their (long-term) impact is not always easy to measure or convincing (see e.g., Fellmeth et al., 2013; WHO, 2009). The young participants of such early prevention programmes need to be followed up through quite a number of years to be able to tell whether or not these programmes are effective in reducing (domestic) violence, and these data are often lacking (Wolfe & Jaffe, 1999).

The UK based research project *From Boys to Men*<sup>46</sup>, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, is trying to explore what can be done to reduce the number of young men becoming perpetrators of domestic violence (Gadd et al., 2013). Based on a survey of around 1200 13-14 year olds, the researchers found that, for both boys and girls, there was a significant association between being a victim or a perpetrator of relationship violence and ever having witnessed emotional and/or physical violence between their parents at home (Fox et al., 2013). In other words, those who had been a victim in their own dating relationship were also more likely to have perpetrated compared to non-victims, and those who had witnessed violence within the family were also more likely to report to have been a victim or a perpetrator in their own relationship compared to those who had never witnessed violence at home. Furthermore, the results showed that there were significant barriers to seek help – whether as victims, perpetrators or witnesses – from adult professionals, especially for boys.

Another EU project, funded under the Daphne III Programme (cfr. supra), examined domestic abuse prevention education programmes delivered in schools in the UK, France and Spain based on various focus groups with young aged 10-11 years, and 13-14 years (Fox et al., 2014). The first results showed that attention should be paid to three areas: (i) the programme content, (ii) the teaching methods and, (iii) the educators/facilitators. Based on the results of these focus groups in the UK, the researchers drew the following preliminary conclusions:

- **Programme content:** Educators should be aware that there is a difference between greater awareness and a greater understanding of the issue. Also, attention should be paid to miscommunication related to gender. For example, the focus on male perpetration and female victimisation may lead to boys becoming disengaged. Gender-related issues need to be addressed carefully and in a more thoughtful way.

<sup>45</sup> Adopted 6 December 2012, [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/134081.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/134081.pdf)

<sup>46</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.boystomenproject.com/>

- **Teaching methods:** A ‘one size fits all’ approach should be avoided. Programmes should be more responsive to the needs and experiences of the students/pupils in the group.
- **Person(s) leading the programme:** Teachers, in close collaboration with the whole school and external organisations, seem to be in the best position to lead the programme, as long as they have the confidence and the skills to effectively do so and to cope with the discomfort which may be experienced by the group.

With ‘Living life without violence’, the Croatian project is addressing a few of the issues mentioned in this paragraph. The project includes both general awareness raising, through a strong presence in the media and involving well-known people, and direct preventative work with young teenagers using dynamic and interactive working methods engaging the teenagers in various ways:

- The **interactive workshops in school** are led by the police, an NGO and the UNDP in close collaboration with the teachers and educators.
- The **conceptual art programme** consisting of thematic plays and theatre where the teenagers are taught to think in a new and unfamiliar way and by means of performances and direct communication with the actors or through music and songs to encourage positive attitudes.
- The **interactive debate** on the issues of non-violence, tolerance and discrimination, including writing essays about violence and how to address it, discussions during which critical thinking is encouraged and meetings with police and other state authority representatives, international and civil society organizations to actively include the teenagers within the wider community and encourage reports of violence.

## 2. Provisional conclusions of the 2013 Best Practice Conference

As mentioned, this year’s Best Practice Conference brought together policymakers, researchers and practitioners from all EU Member States who are active in the field of domestic violence. The aim was to create the opportunity to share and disseminate experiences and knowledge, and present good practices in preventing domestic violence.

Presentations were given by various international organisations, such as the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) and Amnesty International. Furthermore, four panel sessions were organised and included the presentations of all the ECPA entries. Each of these sessions was introduced and led by an expert invited by the EUCPN Secretariat.

- Session 1 on “Tactics and obligatory actions of primary reaction”, chaired by Ms. Anne Groenen of Thomas More Kempen, University College, Belgium
- Session 2 on “Social support mechanisms for victims & general awareness raising”, chaired by Mr. João Lazaro of the Portuguese Association of Victim Support, Portugal
- Session 3 on “Risk assessment & early prevention programmes”, chaired by Ms. Chiara Sgarbi of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy
- Session 4 on “Violent behaviour modification & inter-agency cooperation”, chaired by Mr. John Kwaks of the European Organisation for Probation (CEP)

The four experts were also invited to participate in the final conclusion round at the end of the Conference to share their viewpoints on the topic and the presentations of the good practices, point out some challenges for the future and formulate a few recommendations.

Currently, the Lithuanian Presidency is developing a Good Practice Handbook on prevention in domestic violence, containing all the presentations of the ECPA projects, as well as some additional practices from Lithuania and other Member States. The handbook will also contain conclusions on prevention of domestic violence, based on the keynote speeches and the summaries of all the discussions, and some final recommendations for European practitioners. The handbook is planned to be published in the first part of 2014.

The following list gives a short overview of some provisional conclusions and recommendations mentioned by the experts in the final conclusion round, based on their own experience and in response to the projects presented during the panel sessions. They are also related to some of the issues described under 4.2 (see above).

- The importance of a **multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach** was underlined several times. These shouldn't be just empty words. Real efforts should be made to work together and engage various stakeholders in the process.
- This also means daring to enter into discussion despite various viewpoints. **Stepping away from a consensual and monolithic approach** was seen as the right way forward.
- It is useful to have someone who actually coordinates the work when collaborating with multiple agencies or services. For example, **an independent case manager** (not related to the police, justice or welfare) who coordinates and follows each individual case, is worth investigating further.
- **Partnerships** between civil society and state agencies, whatever the level, would be highly recommendable.
- It was mentioned that the work should be **victim-centred**. It is important to create certain tools to prevent the recurrence of domestic violence, e.g. on **risk assessment**, but the help and the support of victims need to be the ultimate goal.
- **Trained professionals** should have decent knowledge about the dynamics and different profiles of partner violence and be able to make an assessment of the situation, using reliable risk assessment tools as well as their intuition and involving both the victim and the perpetrator.
- **General awareness raising** by public campaigns is recognised as important work in the prevention of domestic violence and creating intolerance to violence.
- Efforts should be made to reveal the violence that is often hidden at home. An **increase in police reporting**, therefore, can be a good sign that people are finding their way out of violence. It is necessary to look beyond mere figures.
- **Early prevention** through school-based interventions could be helpful to modify violence-tolerant attitudes and behaviour by tackling them at a young age.
- It is recommended to work both at the EU and national level and take **cultural differences as well as the context** into account. For example, one cannot assume that the idea of gender and family and violence is the same in the North and the South of Europe.
- Since domestic violence and gender-based violence are issues almost every EU country is faced with, it is extremely important to **exchange ideas, knowledge, practices and research**.

## Challenges for the future in the prevention of domestic violence – EUCPN knowledge exchange

Despite great efforts being done to tackle violence against women and domestic violence, there are still quite a few challenges lying ahead. In the December 2012 Conclusions<sup>47</sup>, the Council of the EU recognised that more needs to be done in coordinating and funding victims support services, in targeted prevention programmes, training for professionals and improving data collection, both at the national and EU level. These and other aspirations are likewise mentioned in various other reports, conclusions and recommendations of several international and EU organisations, some of which have already been mentioned, such as EIGE and the EESC (see above).

As mentioned above, the theme of domestic violence also regularly reoccurs within the work of the EUCPN. During the Cyprus and the Irish Presidencies, in 2012-2013, some knowledge exchange sessions were organised during which the Members were asked to share their viewpoints on the major challenges their countries are faced with related to the prevention of domestic violence. Additionally, they were invited to indicate what knowledge or practice to respond to domestic violence would be useful to receive from other jurisdictions.

Regarding the major challenges, the main issues raised were the following:

- One important challenge mentioned is the need for a **general change in culture and attitude** towards domestic violence. Despite all efforts being made, there still seems to be too much lenience towards domestic violence. It can no longer be considered as a matter of privacy, but should be regarded as a responsibility of the state and the society as a whole.
- In raising public awareness the importance of **the role of the media** is also being recognised. Therefore, keeping close connections with various media and regularly launching campaigns are important challenges.
- This should go together with **encouraging victims, but also witnesses and even perpetrators, to come forward.**
- **Improved data collection and registration** which will support the development of **more efficient action plans** is considered to be a high priority, but a major challenge as well.
- The need for **establishing risk assessment criteria and an automated information system** which can be shared by police and judicial authorities to ensure the maximum effectiveness of victim protection strategies.
- More **investment in primary prevention** through awareness raising, training and education. Also, more efforts need to be made to **reach the immigrant population.**
- More investment in working with **children as witnesses** of domestic violence, but also in working with **violent perpetrators** and **re-socialisation programmes.**
- Repeat victimisation is still quite high, so more efforts need to be made **to raise the effectiveness in handling domestic violence cases**, e.g. by continuous training of professionals, setting up specialised intervention units, developing a transparent and effective procedure to follow-up such cases and investing in perpetrator or behaviour modification programmes.

<sup>47</sup> See : [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lisa/134081.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lisa/134081.pdf)

- The **involvement of civil society, NGOs and other organisations** needs to be better encouraged.
- More attention should also be paid to **violence against the elderly, violence between same-sex partners and violence by women against men.**
- Finally, a better **transfer of knowledge and best practices** within and between EU countries.

As an EU-wide Network, the EUCPN plays a significant role in exchanging information, knowledge and practices between Member States. By doing so, Members can learn from each other in finding other and better ways in preventing and tackling domestic violence. Additionally, the EUCPN also serves as a platform where specific questions for information can be directly asked to all Members.

Besides sharing what is already known, it is equally important to examine what (type of) information is lacking or needed by all or some EU countries. Therefore, during the Irish Presidency, the question was what knowledge or practice to respond to domestic violence would be useful to receive from other jurisdictions. Obviously, some of the answers were closely linked to the challenges just mentioned but some new issues were also raised.

- Examples of **good practices on honour-related violence.**
- Ways of working on **prevention in certain (vulnerable) groups**, e.g. disabled people, elderly, children and youth, perpetrators.
- Methods of **risk assessment** and their influence on the arguments for protection.
- The **effectiveness of mediation** in domestic violence cases.
- **Legal measures**, such as the restraining or protection order, and the legal steps schools, social and health care services can take when they suspect and/or detect a case of domestic violence.

As one expert concluded during the Best Practice Conference in Vilnius:

“Fighting against violence is a permanent task, for the victims and for the next generation.  
It never stops!”

# Part 3

## Overview ECPA 2013 projects



## CO3 (BE)

*"A good example of how harmonisation between services working on domestic violence can be achieved"*



### Short description:

Violence in the family is a social issue which staff members of different organisations are often confronted with. A case study carried out among different services of the City of Antwerp, Belgium, showed that on average six organisations are in contact with the family concerned. To be as efficient as possible, a better harmonisation between the services was necessary.

Hence, in the City of Antwerp a permanent inter-agency collaboration has been set up between (1) the police and judicial authorities; (2) the aid and social care services; and (3) the local administrations. These partners are brought together as part of one client-oriented organisation: CO3. By collaborating on the basis of a chain model, the different working methods are being tuned in to one another in a common action plan in which the family (the client) is at the centre. Each family is assigned to a 'case manager' who follows up the cooperation between the different organisations. Not only the facts of violence which occurred are discussed, but also the underlying problems within the family. In order to prevent repetition, emphasis is laid on the protective factors. The strengths of the family (e.g., social network, relationship with the children) are the starting point of the action plan.

### Start/duration:

Since 2012 and still ongoing as a pilot project until 2014.

### Background research:

Context and case analysis; problem analysis before the start of the project.

### Budget:

The operational cost is spread among the chain partners. Regular, existing budgets are used as much as possible.

Extra funds for the project were provided by the City and the Province of Antwerp, in a 50/50 arrangement, for the process supervision (2010-2011) by a consultancy office (€300.000) and for the scientific research (€60.000).

### Type of evaluation:

Process evaluation. Impact evaluation currently being conducted, report expected at the beginning of 2014.

**Actor conducting evaluation/timing:**

Internal: CO3-group transmits status reports to the local and supra-local steering committee quarterly.

External: Researcher of the University of Tilburg, The Netherlands, and a researcher of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

**Type of data collection method:**

Qualitative, exploratory and descriptive research; context and case analysis (workshops, discussions, interviews and observations,...).

**Further information**

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_BE.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_BE.pdf)

## Stop domestic violence (BG)

*"A good local project and a modest budget which makes replication easily possible"*



### Short description:

A study in 2000 revealed that one in four women becomes the victim of domestic violence in Bulgaria. Furthermore, given the economic and financial crisis, this number is increasing. Along with the existing prevention methods, the need for new approaches became clear.

This project, which was set up by the joint efforts of the Bulgarian Regional Police Directorate and the NGO NAIA in Targovishte, aims to (i) facilitate the access of professionals working in this area (psychologists, social workers, teachers, medical doctors, etc.) to literature by creating a databank on all aspects of domestic violence; (ii) increase the involvement of citizens in the prevention of domestic violence; and (iii) increase the number of victims sharing their experiences and seeking help. In order to achieve these goals, a thematic website was developed and made up of a forum and a chat room.

### Start/duration:

Started May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

Police statistics and observation/analysis of court orders before the start of the project.

### Budget:

Regular, existing budgets are used as much as possible. For personnel, logistics, manpower and materials, a total of €750 was used.

Future expenditure: €60/year for hosting the website and €300/month for an NGO consultant.

### Type of evaluation:

Monitoring and process evaluation. No impact evaluation yet.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

Internal: through periodic meetings of the working team during which achievements are evaluated (actual results are compared with expected ones) and adjustments are made if necessary.

External: in the future by the Regional Police Directorate – Targovishte and the regional and local governments.

### Type of data collection method: /

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_BG.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_BG.pdf)

The project's website: [www.noviolence.netii.net](http://www.noviolence.netii.net)

## Prevention of domestic violence in the City of Brno – An interdisciplinary approach (CZ)

*"A broad local strategy responding to domestic violence, including the full chain and involving partners from different institutions"*



### Short description:

The project aims to provide short-term immediate support to domestic violence victims, medium-term change of practice and long-term enhancement of prevention and general public awareness. More precisely, it presents a complete system of preventive information and instruction on how to monitor and distinguish the first symptoms of domestic violence and how to deal with them in all age categories (children to grandparents). For victims of domestic violence, the project also provides a complex information system, including all possible contacts to protective and care institutions.

Currently, the project continues to enhance the extensive media campaign with more audio and video spots and a growing number of media partners (local, regional and national partnerships, special LCD monitors in medical and education facilities, large-scale LCD screens in public spaces).

### Start/duration:

Since 2006 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

Survey by the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Science and research done by the Centre for Empirical Surveys for the NGO White Circle of Safety before the start of the project.

### Budget:

Detailed information on used materials, infrastructure and human resources since 2006. The total budget used for the period 2006-2012 is €62.300, and the estimated budget for 2013 is €9.300.

### Type of evaluation:

Monitoring and process evaluation. No impact evaluation yet.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

Internal: by the interdisciplinary project team.

External: by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

### Type of data collection method:

Quantitative and qualitative monitoring tools and techniques (monitoring, observations, participants' feedback,...).

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_CZ.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_CZ.pdf)

Website of the interdisciplinary team in Brno: <http://idtbrno.cz>

## Counselling for men – against violence (DE)

*“The involvement of the victim in the assessment of the need for intervention is seen as a strength”*



### Short description:

This project was set up to complete the chain of intervention against domestic violence. It considers domestic violence against women as a part of discrimination of women in society and, therefore, aims to stop the violence not only for society but also as regards personal changes. The project offers counselling for men who perpetrate violence against their (former) partner.

On the one hand, the project aims to call the perpetrators to account for their acts and to learn them social-cognitive competencies which develop non-violent behaviour. On the other hand, the project's goal is to tackle the social problem in all parts of its psychosocial work with the clients and in the area of public relations, especially aimed at men. The group and single setting aim to stop violent behaviour, coach for alternatives to traditional masculinities and develop respectful conflict strategies in the family. The social training is performed by two psychologists (one female and one male with equal rights and duties) and takes at least half a year. The (former) partner is also engaged if possible. The project cooperates with a women's counselling centre in an intensive case management. Men are referred to counselling either by an institution or their partner, but they can also come voluntarily. A fundamental element for the work is the Berlin cooperation structure. Migrants who do not speak German fluently can be counselled in English or with the support of interpreters.

### Start/duration:

Since 1999 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

Expert opinion and conference with experts before the start of the project.

### Budget:

Information on used materials, infrastructure and human resources since 2008.

Since 2008 the project has been funded by the Berlin Justice department: €95.000. Additionally, the project is supported by interpreters for clients who cannot speak German or English; Trainees from universities are doing research and support employees in the development of software, documentation, evaluation, counselling,....

### Type of evaluation:

Monitoring, process and impact evaluation.

**Actor conducting evaluation/timing:**

External: by the University of Osnabrück (2000-2004), by the welfare organisation Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband Berlin (every half a year since 2008), by thesis students of the Humboldt University Berlin and the University Innsbruck Beate Rohrer.

**Type of data collection method:**

Quantitative and qualitative data collection; new system of data processing and analyses via SPSS.

**Further information**

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_DE.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_DE.pdf)

Other references on the evaluation of the project (in German only): <http://www.wibig.uni-osnabrueck.de/download/studie-wibig-band3.pdf>

## Conversation instead of domestic violence (DK)

*"This is a good example of a project that derives from a simple idea, is well-implemented and generates good results"*



### Short description:

The prevalence of violence in Greenland is five times as high as in Denmark, and homicide and sexual offenses are 12 times more prevalent than in Denmark. Also, the risk of repeat domestic violence is great in families where there is no follow-up after the incident.

In the Greenlandic City of Sisimut, the police visited the family, as a pilot project, the day after the incident in order to tell the family about the observations they made. During the visits, the first purpose was to get a good understanding of what had taken place and what was exactly the nature of the problem. They then discussed how to move on from the current situation and who needs what kind of help, and finally, the focus lays on preventing a similar incident from occurring again. Because of the experience gained in this pilot phase, with revisiting the family and enabling 'conversation instead of domestic violence', it was decided to expand this project to the whole of Greenland and furthermore, to have the police and the municipalities enter into a partnership to visit the family together the day after the incident. This approach was chosen because it has been a priority throughout the process to anchor the project in already existing local authorities and (human) resources, so as not to have the central authorities impose a procedure to the local authorities, and risk violating institutions or cooperation already in place and functioning.

### Start/duration:

Pilot project: January 2010 – June 2010.  
Implemented nationwide in July 2012 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

Police statistics before and after.

### Budget:

Own budget for the salaries of the policemen and municipal employees.

### Type of evaluation:

Mainly monitoring and process evaluation. Impact analysis of the nationwide project due in 2014.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

Internal: by the Greenland Police in collaboration with the municipalities through monthly monitoring reports and qualitative and quantitative analyses.

### Type of data collection method:

Quantitative and qualitative monitoring tools and techniques (monitoring, debates,...).

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_DK.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_DK.pdf)

## Dating violence (EE)

*"This project is a good example of early prevention in domestic violence by raising awareness among the youth"*



### Short description:

Because of a lack in early prevention, the police implemented a proactive preventative approach and was inspired by the Teen dating abuse survey 2005 originating from the United States of America.

During class room lectures, the project explains to youngsters the seriousness of domestic violence cases, how violent relationship symptoms can occur already at the first date and how hard it is to get out from them later on. Additionally, the project promotes positive attitudes, healthy relationships and gives examples on how to achieve them. Early awareness can help young people recognize the risk of partner behaviour and accurately estimate the specificity of the interaction. Perception of violence in close relationships and responding at a relatively early stage can help prevent potential psychological and physical injuries and reduce aggression in close relationships. Knowledge of expression can contribute to positive relationships and to violence condemnatory attitudes among young people.

### Start/duration:

Started as a pilot but was implemented nation-wide from October 2011 until May 2013.

### Background research:

Police statistics and existing survey data; own data collection through a survey among 1.600 students (age 15-18 years), the results of which were published by a project leader of the Western Police in a diploma thesis of the University of Tartu.

### Budget:

Part of everyday routine activities; some extra costs for the printing of leaflets and an armband with a non-violent message.

### Type of evaluation:

Mainly monitoring and process evaluation. Outcome evaluation in progress.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

Internal: by the police and cooperating partners.

Type of data collection method:

Quantitative and qualitative monitoring and data collection (survey, participants' feedback,...).

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_EE.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_EE.pdf)

Project materials (in Estonian only): <https://www.politsei.ee/et/enetus/yle-eestiline/projekt-kohtinguvagivald.dot>

## The Family assistance unit as an Expert team on providing assistance to the victims of domestic violence (ES)

*"This project presents a good structure for organising police and prosecution to tackle domestic violence"*



### Short description:

In 2004, the legislator provided a legal framework to strengthen specific provisions in the field of domestic violence. This framework is based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary protection of ill-treated women, including all fields: prevention, education, social, employment, health care, assistance, security and guaranteeing victim's rights.

This also helped the Family assistance units (SAF teams) develop and improve their scope of duties. These units are deployed throughout the national territory. They are a comprehensive police service that is working 24 hours a day. They provide a special expert and tailored assistance to domestic and gender violence victims. Special attention is given to the most vulnerable groups (women, minors, disabled and elderly people). On the one hand, these units carry out operational activities concerning the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed within the family. On the other hand, assistance activities are carried out as well and there is coordination with other institutions to comprehensively respond to the problem and provide advice, transfer, follow-up and protection of these victims.

### Start/duration:

Services for Women's Assistance (SAMs) established in the '80s and evolved to Family Assistance Unit (SAF) teams which are still active today.

### Background research:

Police experience and developed within a new legal framework.

### Budget:

Integrated in normal daily police work funded by the Spanish Cuerpo Nacional de Policia and the State Annual Budget.

### Type of evaluation:

Broader programme containing a multitude of activities and outputs, like e.g. the Comprehensive Tracking System. Special Police Performance Protocols exist to follow up the activities, but no specific information on process or outcome evaluation related to individual activities.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing: /

### Type of data collection method: /

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_ES.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_ES.pdf)

## Jussi-work (FI)

*"The project is filling a gap in the system, as it is oriented towards violent perpetrators"*

THE FEDERATION OF  
MOTHER AND  
CHILD HOMES  
AND SHELTERS



### Short description:

The first women's shelter services were developed in Finland in the 70's to support the victims of violence but there was no particular support available for perpetrators. Jussi-work is based on the assumption that the perpetrator needs support not only to manage his own issues but also for the violence to stop. Jussi-work reduces violence by helping men stop their

harmful behaviour. It supports men to find non-violent ways of problem solving, as well as helping men live safely with themselves and their families (help in a crisis, therapeutic discussions and counselling). Furthermore, Jussi-work participates in the general discussion in society and influences the general opinion towards searching help in a crisis. Jussi-work is part of the wider family-centred service and the method of approach in the membership associations.

### Start/duration:

Started as a project in 1994 and is still ongoing.

### Background research: /

### Budget:

The project is mainly funded by the Finnish Slot Machine Association (Ray) and by the municipalities.

Expenses for 2012 were €750.000 containing the salaries of 17 personnel, state costs, materials, the coordination and management of the project.

### Type of evaluation:

Monitoring, process and impact evaluation.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

Internal: by the project team.

External: research on the Jussi-work through customer satisfaction and the effects of the work on the lives of men and their families.

### Type of data collection method:

Quantitative and qualitative monitoring and data collection (survey, participants' satisfaction, interviews, group discussions,...).

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_FI.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_FI.pdf)

Information on the external evaluation of the project (in Finnish only): <https://ensijaturvakotienliitto-fi.directo.fi/tyomuodot/vakivaltatyo/jussi-tyo2/>

Quality criteria of the violence work (in Finnish only): <http://www.ensijaturvakotienliitto.fi/>

## Valenciennes scheme against domestic violence (FR)

*"This project has a good broad-based domestic violence strategy, both looking at the perspective of the perpetrator and the victim"*



### Short description:

This scheme brings together institutions and associations operating in the district of Valenciennes in order to accompany victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, based on a pathway logic. Three types of actions are implemented: 1. Support to victims and emergency care until they can regain their autonomy; 2. Attending perpetrators who join the scheme either voluntarily or by judicial mandate; 3. Coordination, evaluation and observation of the Valenciennes Observatory on Domestic Violence. The scheme is based on the collective work of its members and on partnerships, which consists of professionals and volunteers. It implements prevention on three levels: 1. By offering schools awareness days on the topic of violence in love relationships and on gender equality; 2. By offering early

treatment of marital problems through an information campaign on family matters and marital counselling; and 3. By protecting victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, and working on their social and professional reintegration (material support, emergency accommodation, training in marital relations, support groups for adults and children, fast social investigation, judicial control and judicial mediation).

### Start/duration:

Since June 2006 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

National administrative data from the National Institute of Statistics (INSEE) and local data collected by the police, the justice system and local associations.

### Budget:

Global budget is €307.142, comprising the activities of the various associated partners: the 'global scheme for attending domestic violence' (AJAR), the 'coordinator for domestic violence' (CIDFF of Valenciennes) and the 'actions for the prevention of and fight against domestic violence' (La Pose).

### Type of evaluation:

Mainly monitoring and process evaluation.

**Actor conducting evaluation/timing:**

Internal: by the organisations participating in the scheme.

External: by the financial backers and in the future a global assessment by the Observatory on Domestic Violence.

**Type of data collection method:**

Quantitative data collected through monitoring and saved in a common database (number of people attending, number of victims and suspected perpetrators with demographic characteristics, rate of reoffending and revictimisation).

**Further information**

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_FR.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_FR.pdf)

## Living life without violence (HR)

*"This project is a good example of a project that focuses on early intervention/primary prevention among young people"*



### Short description:

The project focuses on the prevention of predominantly domestic violence and is targeted at young teenagers (13 - 14 years old). The project is aimed at creating a culture of non-violence and tolerance, and includes 3 components: 1. Interactive workshops; 2. Conceptual art programmes; and 3. Interactive youth debates. The components support young people acquire knowledge on the causes and consequences of violence as well as on the necessary steps which need to be taken when violence occurs. Youngsters are encouraged to choose the proper reactions on negative incidents and create their connection with individuals, friends and the whole environment, through a personal non-violent engagement. The police is involved in every aspect of the project implementation, in collaboration with an international organisation, civil society organisations, artists and the local community.

### Start/duration:

Since November 2010 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

Analysis of national recorded statistical crime indicators by the Ministry of Interior and other authorities. Scientific and expert research and problems detected through the National Strategy.

### Budget:

Joint contributions by the Ministry of Interior, the local government and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The total budget used for 2010–13 was €59.327.

### Type of evaluation:

Mainly monitoring and process evaluation.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

Internal: by the project partner United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of the educational institutions of the Republic of Croatia.

### Type of data collection method:

Quantitative data collected through questionnaires and statistically analysed on success rate, frequency and type of violence in the target group's living environment, understanding of the concept of violence prevention, perception of trust in the police, etc.

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_HR.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_HR.pdf)

Project brochure (in Croatian only): [http://www.mup.hr/UserDocsImages/topvijesti/godina2010/studeni/ZZBN/zivim\\_zivot\\_bez\\_nasilja.pdf](http://www.mup.hr/UserDocsImages/topvijesti/godina2010/studeni/ZZBN/zivim_zivot_bez_nasilja.pdf)

## Not a private matter! (HU)

*"This is a good example of a project that started as essential police involvement in the community and moved further to more specialised police care"*



### Short description:

The core of the project is to provide information to different groups of citizens (potential victims, professionals and general public), which can be done by means of personal contact (patrolling, visiting network and education programmes) as well as by electronic and mass-media communication. The project reacts to the needs of intervention not only stemming from the national approach to the prevention and reduction of domestic violence, but also from the specific, local demands of citizens

who are at risk of this kind of crime. These conditions have determined the means and modules used and implemented within the framework the project. The project is based on four modules: 1. Policed services targeted to potential victims via patrolling among inhabitants living separately in low density areas; 2. A 'visiting network' for those inhabitants living in block house areas; 3. Information on the phenomenon of domestic violence and victim support possibilities provided via age-specific programmes within the education system among children, and university training programmes among future professionals; and 4. Modern tools to provide the proper flow of information via websites, an electronic newsletter and the press to inform the general public on the issue.

### Start/duration:

Various modules which were developed and introduced between 1997 and 2012.

### Background research:

Criminal and municipal statistics, e.g. data from the early warning system. Own research through measurement of preliminary situation and background, citizens' satisfaction and SWOT analysis.

### Budget:

Financially supported through local funds from the municipalities as well as from national agencies: in 2004, the Ministry of Interior invested 3.800.000 HUF (ca. €12.500), in 2011, the Ministry of Interior contributed another 4.734.352 HUF (ca. €15.800) and in 2012, the National Development Agency contributed 4.525.263 HUF (ca. €15.100). Several parts of the projects are self-sustaining. The budget mainly goes to the visiting network and patrolling by two police officers at least once a week, for 6 hours which costs around 94 million HUF/year (ca. €314.000/year). Furthermore, the budget of the Ministry and municipalities covered the equipment and safety technology tools, brochures and hand-outs, for a total of 0.5 million HUF (ca. €1.600).

### Type of evaluation:

Monitoring, process and impact evaluation.

**Actor conducting evaluation/timing:**

Internal: by the stakeholders involved in the various modules.

External: University of Szeged Faculty of Sociology through annual surveys.

**Type of data collection method:**

Quantitative and qualitative (self-)monitoring and data collection (surveys, target groups' feedback, number of reported crimes,...).

**Further information**

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_HU.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_HU.pdf)

Project-related websites (in Hungarian only):

<http://palyazat.gov.hu/>

<http://www.bulisbiztonsag.hu/>

<http://www.azevhonlapja.hu/>

[http://www.kim.gov.hu/index\\_hu.html](http://www.kim.gov.hu/index_hu.html)

<http://www.iga-bg.org/>

## Men ending domestic abuse (MEND) (IE)

*"This project is well-implemented and transferable;  
there is a high level of public awareness raising and it includes professional training"*



### Short description:

The MEND programme provides a challenging but safe space for men to get support and change their abusive behaviour. It works in a radical way with men to develop skills and insights that will enable them to change their behaviour so that their lives and that of the ones they love can be free from the tyranny of violence and abuse. Besides, it also provides a service for the partners or ex-partners of the men in the programme. Currently, four programmes are operating, including the following stages: 1. Initial screening and risk assessment, 2. One to one work as appropriate for those who pass the initial screening, and 3. An intervention programme of 32 weeks. Referrals are made to the programmes by courts, probation officers, social workers, healthcare workers, spouses or partners of the men concerned or the men themselves.

The programmes are designed to make changes in both cognitive thinking and behaviour of the men who attend them with the aim of 1. Helping men stop being violent and abusive, 2. Helping them learn how to relate to their partners in a respectful and equal way, 3. Showing them non-abusive ways of dealing with difficulties in their relationships and cope with their anger, and 4. Keeping their partners safe from further violent and abusive behaviour.

### Start/duration:

Since 2002 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

1997 report of the Task Force on Violence against Women, including prevalence figures of domestic violence and various studies and research; investigation of best practice principles and minimum standards of practice for domestic violence perpetrator programmes and associated women services from Respect UK.

### Budget:

Funded by the Irish Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based violence (Cosc) with money provided by the Department of Justice and Equality. The project is granted €250.000/year for all assessment and pre-programme work, programme facilitation, administration and partner support work.

### Type of evaluation:

Monitoring, process and impact evaluation.

**Actor conducting evaluation/timing:**

Internal: by programme partners.

External: a nation-wide study performed by an external consultant commissioned by the Department of Justice & Equality; the regional initiative South East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (SEDVIP) is developing tools to assess the value and impact of the work; various local programmes have been evaluated externally.

**Type of data collection method:**

Quantitative and qualitative monitoring and data collection (survey, participants' feedback,...)

**Further information**

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_IE.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_IE.pdf)

Evaluation report of external consultant: <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Evaluation.pdf/Files/Evaluation.pdf>

## The land of Fire-flies – Pilot programme on prevention of violence against small children (PL)

*"This is an innovative, interesting and clever project targeted at a very young age group"*



### Short description:

The background and inspiration of this programme is the parable entitled 'The Land of Fire-flies'. The first phase of this project entails the presentation of the parable, which forms the matrix of the whole prophylactic work. The next phase is to increase the awareness of violence phenomena in the family, via continuation of the fairytale, which refer to problems or situations successively included in the story. The fairytale is a natural form of expression, which involves fantasy and imagination of the child. The creation line, which is attractive and tailored to the recipient, will in a natural way engage the child in the programme activities. The innovative character of the programme allows to reach children

who were victims of crime or are still in the risk group (early intervention), as well as to influence children through the development of emotional competences and education on the avoidance of violence threat and abuse, and on seeking assistance in a difficult situation (prophylaxis).

### Start/duration:

Started on Augustus 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 as a pilot project for 5 months. Will be implemented in the area of Sosnowiec.

### Background research:

Qualitative research conducted in 2010-2011 by the Social Policy Department of the city of Sosnowiec; police and judicial statistics.

### Budget:

The total budget of the pilot project was 192.000PLN (ca. €46.000): 51.430PLN funded by the city of Sosnowiec (ca. €12.300) and 141.500PLN by the Ministry (ca. €34.000). This included wages, implementation, equipment, material, etc.

### Type of evaluation:

Monitoring, process and impact evaluation.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

External: by external evaluator who was involved in the pilot project from the start.

### Type of data collection method:

Qualitative data collection, action research (participatory observation, individual interviews with the children's parents, the programme coordinator, experts, nursery staff & voluntary workers).

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_PL.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_PL.pdf)

Other project material (in Polish and English) on the project website: [http://swietliki.moc-wsparcia.pl/?page\\_id=35](http://swietliki.moc-wsparcia.pl/?page_id=35)

## E- MARIA – European Manual on Risk Assessment in Domestic Violence/ Gender-based violence (PT)

*“The project is soundly implemented, it acknowledges the importance of risk assessment in a strategy and it can be replicated in other countries”*



### Short description:

E-MARIA, which is funded by the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Commission of DG Justice, intends to improve the intervention on domestic violence and intimate partners violence by developing innovative approaches and instruments for risk assessment and management, in order

to increase the prediction of re-assault and promote safety and security of victims of violence. The project outcomes are: a European manual on risk assessment, a training package for professionals, which includes six modules on relevant aspects related to Intimate partner violence and a training package for women survivors. The project outcomes are specially directed at law enforcement officers, legal practitioners and frontline professionals. It also targets all professionals who intervene in the field of domestic violence, taking into account that the implementation of risk assessment and management has an impact on all levels of intervention. Moreover, E-MARIA directly addresses women survivors for whom training sessions were developed.

### Start/duration:

From June 2011 until July 2013.

### Background research:

EU context related to domestic violence: consultation of the EU Directives and the Istanbul Convention, academic research, news, statistics.

### Budget:

The project was funded by the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Commission (DG Justice) and the total amount granted for the two-year project was €349.765, which included the staff costs, the travel expenses, materials, etc.

The project partners and other collaboration organisations also contributed voluntarily.

### Type of evaluation:

Mainly monitoring and process evaluation.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

Internal: by the project partners.

External: by three experts in the field.

**Type of data collection method:**

Quantitative and qualitative monitoring and data collection (self-evaluation methods, questionnaires, group discussions, expert feedback, output evaluation,...)

**Further information**

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_PT.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_PT.pdf)

## Relationship violence centre (RVC) (SE)

*"The Relationship Violence Centre (RVC) operates as a bridge between the police, prosecutors and the social services, which makes an integrated approach possible"*



### Short description:

A large proportion of those who report domestic violence to the police either do not want to, are afraid or do not have the strength to participate in the police investigation. This makes the work of the police and the prosecutor more difficult. It leads to a large proportion of such police investigations being discontinued without prosecutions, due to a lack of evidence.

The Relationship Violence Centre (RVC) was initiated in order to 1) provide support to the victims of domestic violence at the critical time subsequent to the registering of the police report, so that they have the will and strength required to participate in the police investigation; 2) facilitate the collaboration between the police, prosecutors and the social services in cases of domestic violence; and 3) ensure that more reported cases of domestic violence also result in prosecutions. The RVC is composed of two trained social workers who, within 48 hours of a police report on domestic violence, contact the victim and provide support in the form of five counselling sessions. The RVC shares the premises of the police and works in close collaboration with the police, prosecutors and the social services. In the critical phase following the incident being reported, the RVC serves as a link between the agencies involved and provides contacts to protective accommodation, the subsequent police investigation, possible healthcare needs etc. The support provided by the RVC is intended to motivate the victim to participate in the police investigation and ensure that the victim receives the information she/he needs about the legal process.

### Start/duration:

Started as a project between 2007 and 2011, then permanently implemented in 2011 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

Police statistics on reported offences and statistics on the work of social services and the prosecution office.

### Budget:

The project is funded by the Stockholm County Administrative Board, the police, the social services administration and the Swedish Prosecution Authority, and employs two full-time, specially trained social workers.

### Type of evaluation:

Monitoring, process and impact evaluation.

**Actor conducting evaluation/timing:**

External: four evaluation carried out between 2008 and 2012 by the Social Science Department of the Ersta Sköndal högskola in Stockholm.

**Type of data collection method:**

Qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods in a total of four evaluations (stakeholders' feedback, questionnaires, monitoring statistics, in-depth interviews, multivariate statistical analyses,...).

**Further information**

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_SE.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_SE.pdf)

Four evaluation reports (Swedish only):

2008: <http://esh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:416176/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

2009: <http://esh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:533627/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

2010: <http://esh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:416176/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

2012: <http://kunskapsbanken.nck.uu.se/nckkb/nck/publik/fil/visa/392.pdf>

## Train the trainers (SI)

*"A good example of a model for police training and of how police forces can work in a more efficient way"*



### Short description:

Professional handling of domestic violence is a field of work that requires an officer with a great deal of knowledge and the right skills to work with people. Dealing with this issue involves working with families, parents and children and the ties between them: biological but, even more, psychological attachment and perhaps even dependency.

This project, with its sub-projects, enables the police officers receiving emergency calls, the officers arriving first at a crime scene and the officers investigating on domestic violence cases to comprehend the extensiveness and complexity of domestic violence. The training is delivered by experienced colleagues – police and criminal investigation officers, and includes the dynamics of violence, the circle of violence, victims' survival strategies, and all factors of minimising the causes of violence by perpetrators. Officers are able to study in depth the legislative regulations, implemented regulations as well as the case of law. For qualified trainers, the project will continue in the form of regular training meetings aimed at an in-depth study of individual cases and acquiring additional expert knowledge and communication skills.

### Start/duration:

Since August 2011 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

Changes in penal/civil legislation in 2008 forced all sectors involved in the prevention of domestic violence to adopt their internal rules; a nation-wide study carried out in 2010.

### Budget:

Part of everyday regular duties; all experts involved carried out the project-related work on their own initiative and without remuneration. The training sessions were organised in police facilities with minimal accommodation and subsistence costs; all material was provided by the police.

### Type of evaluation:

Only information monitoring and participants' satisfaction.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

Internal: by the project team.

### Type of data collection method:

Participants' satisfaction through questionnaires and group feedback.

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_SI.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_SI.pdf)

## Pandora's box (SK)

*“Pandora's box provides consultations, raises awareness and reaches groups that are not always easy to reach, like pregnant women”*



### Short description:

Pandora's box, which was financed by the School fund of the European Social fund, aimed to improve the availability and quality of care services of UsMothers. The main goals of the project were 1. New services for the target group by establishing the Women's Club, launching e-counselling and an internet discussion forum; 2. FEMFEST, an event aimed at the wider public and high-schools, promoting gender equality and equal opportunities; 3. Educational courses on methods for helping the target group, with the aim of networking the helping professionals; and 4. Create a structure and develop a database with information about gender equality, domestic violence and services offered for the target group in rural areas in the Presov district. It aimed to reach employees implementing social inclusion politics, women from socially disadvantaged populations after their maternity leave, citizens in disadvantaged situations and other groups in danger of or experiencing social exclusion.

### Start/duration:

From March 2010 until February 2012.

### Background research:

Data from Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, international data, academic literature, own data collection, expert opinions, etc.

### Budget:

The project was financed by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the School Fund of the European Social Fund as well as own resources. The total budget used was €74.000.

### Type of evaluation:

Monitoring, process and impact evaluation.

### Actor conducting evaluation/timing:

Internal: by project team.

External: by the Intermediary Bodies under Managing Authorities of the Social Development Fund.

### Type of data collection method:

Qualitative and quantitative data collection (survey, document analysis, expert colloquium and discussions,...).

### Further information

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_SK.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_SK.pdf)

## Making safe (UK)

*“A strong project that reaches both victims and perpetrators in domestic violence cases; that uses innovative technologies and is based on a strong cost-benefit analysis”*



### Short description:

Previously, victims and children of domestic abuse were removed from the family home and re-housed in a refuge, while the perpetrator usually stayed in the family home, so usually the victim returned to the perpetrator.

The Making Safe Scheme is a multi-agency initiative that provides positive intervention in incidents of domestic abuse.

The scheme is the initiative of the Scarborough, Whitby, Filey and Ryedale Domestic Abuse Forum and aims to address the number of repeat victims and repeat offending across the City of York and North Yorkshire. The scheme works with female and male victims and their family ensuring their safety is paramount. Work with female offenders does apply to parts of the scheme and is identified within the appropriate sections within the making safe service protocol. Work is also undertaken with Male perpetrators in conjunction with the National Probation Service, Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) that challenges the offender’s behaviour and encourages them to change it.

### Start/duration:

Since December 2005 and still ongoing.

### Background research:

Police records and statistics (number of repeat domestic violence incidents, homeless figures, number of victims in refuges, cost of re-housing victims and children).

### Budget:

The project was funded by the North Yorkshire Supporting People for victim and offender workers and for accommodation; by the Scarborough & Ryedale District Council for emergency accommodation for perpetrators and security upgrades to victim’s properties; and by the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA).

The total funding agreed was £133.500 (ca. €162.000) from March 2008 for 3 years: £83.000 (ca. €100.000) to provide victim workers, £35.000 (ca. €42.500) to provide offender workers, £5.500 (ca. €6700) to provide sanctuary, including securing victims’ homes, and £10.000 (ca. €12.000) to provide emergency Bed & Breakfast to offenders released from custody.

**Type of evaluation:**

Monitoring, process and impact evaluation.

**Actor conducting evaluation/timing:**

Internal: annually by the project team.

External: by the University of Wales in 2011.

**Type of data collection method:**

Qualitative and quantitative data collection (evaluation forms completed by children and young people (ages 5-17 years), parents and practitioners, in-depth interviews, non-participant observation, offence and arrest data from 2007-2010).

**Further information**

General information on the project: [http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013\\_UK.pdf](http://www.eucpn.org/download/ECPA2013_UK.pdf)

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## Other interesting sources of (practical) information and guidelines

The *European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)* is an autonomous body of the European Union, established to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality, including gender mainstreaming in all EU policies and the resulting national policies, and the fight against discrimination based on sex, as well as to raise EU citizens' awareness of gender equality. Their work on domestic violence includes information on various resources, good practices, methods and tools and information on actors working on preventing and combating domestic violence. More information can be found on <http://eige.europa.eu/content/domestic-violence>.

The 2008 'Compendium of Practices and Policies on Women's Safety' of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) bundles strategies and programmes on women's safety from around the world. To read the compendium, click:

[http://www.crime-prevention-intl.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/Women\\_s\\_Safety.\\_A\\_universal\\_concern\\_ANG.pdf](http://www.crime-prevention-intl.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Women_s_Safety._A_universal_concern_ANG.pdf)

The handbook and training curriculum of the *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)* on 'Effective police responses to violence against women' provides an overview of relevant norms and standards, and gives guidance to first-responders such as the police on how to intervene in acts of violence against women. (To download the handbook, click:

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Handbook\\_on\\_Effective\\_police\\_responses\\_to\\_violence\\_against\\_women\\_English.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Handbook_on_Effective_police_responses_to_violence_against_women_English.pdf) - to download the training curriculum, click: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal\\_justice/Training\\_Curriculum\\_on\\_Effective\\_Police\\_Responses\\_to\\_Violence\\_against\\_Women.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Training_Curriculum_on_Effective_Police_Responses_to_Violence_against_Women.pdf))

The individual and annually published country reports of *Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE)* provides detailed information on women's support services and quality standards across Europe. For more information, see: <http://www.wave-network.org/country-info>

The series of briefing on violence prevention of the *World Health Organization* provides information on what works to prevent interpersonal violence (including against women and girls), and self-directed violence. The briefings are aimed to provide clear directions for how funders, policy makers and programme implementers can boost the impact of violence prevention efforts. For more information and to download the series, see:

[http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/4th\\_milestones\\_meeting/publications/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/4th_milestones_meeting/publications/en/index.html)

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