

A.S.A.P. A Systemic Approach for Perpetrators
WP 3: Testing of the operational protocol and elaboration of policy guidelines

D 3.4 – POLICY GUIDELINES

- ***Country*** -

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| | |
|--|----|
| 1. FOREWORD | 2 |
| 2. INTRODUCTION | 2 |
| 2.1 Definitions of violence | 2 |
| 2.2 Legislation framework | 2 |
| 2.3 Background/context..... | 6 |
| 3. SCOPE OF THE GUIDELINES | 8 |
| 4. POLICY RECCOMENDATIONS..... | 8 |
| 4.1 THE "ASAP" MODEL | 8 |
| 4.1.1 Focus on the safety of victims | 8 |
| 4.1.2 Interagency collaboration | 9 |
| 4.1.3 Assessment of risk | 10 |
| 4.1.4 Instruments for the assessment of change | 11 |
| 4.1.5 Excellence of the model/protocol | 11 |
| 4.2 Reccomendations..... | 13 |
| 5. CONCLUSIONS | 17 |

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1. FOREWORD

These guidelines are the result of the work carried out within the EU funded project *ASAP - A Systemic Approach for Perpetrators*, and, in particular, through the testing of an "operational protocol" for good practices in the collaboration between Programmes for Perpetrators and Anti-violence centers. the ASAP protocol is focused on the prevention of recidivism in violent behaviors, and, consequently, on the reduction of the risk for the victims (both women and children).

These guidelines aim at stimulating the discussion on gender-based violence and at urging National and Regional authorities to take concrete actions to support the network of services that work on this field.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definitions of violence

For a correct interpretation of the phenomenon, the Istanbul Convention in Article 3 ("Definitions") describes "violence against women" as "... a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life"(Art.3 a).

It also defines "domestic violence" as "...all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim"(Art.3 b)

Finally, it defines "violence against women based on gender" as "...any violence directed against a woman as such, or affecting women disproportionately" (Art.3 d), meaning the term "women" even girls under the age of 18 (Art.3 f) and with the term "gender" the set of "...roles, behaviors, activities and socially constructed attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men" (Article 3 c).

2.2 Legislation framework

At the legislative level, the issue of the treatment of male perpetrators of gender-based violence has been introduced relatively recently, starting with the European dimension, to which national and subsequently regional regulations have adapted over time.

It is important to remember, that the issue of cooperation between Perpetrators Programs and Antiviolence Centers is a very relevant one, also addressed at the legislative level and recognized as fundamental for a real effectiveness of the interventions with Perpetrators.

However, it is unfortunately clear that the provisions about this topic, although considered fundamental, have not been put into practice.

At the European level, the reference document is the Istanbul Convention (2011), that in Article 16, dedicated to "Preventive intervention and treatment programmes" for men Perpetrators of gender-based violence, suggests the need that ***"where appropriate, these programmes are set up and implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for victims."*** (par. 3).

However, there is no methodological indication provided about how to implement this cooperation, which had been already advocated by the Council of Europe in 2002, with the Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 to Member States

In Article 53 ("Intervention programmes for the perpetrators of violence" – art.. 50-53) it is recommended to ***"ensure co-operation and co-ordination between intervention programmes directed towards men and those dealing with the protection of women."***

At European level, perpetrators programmes are considered *"an integrated part of a holistic intervention system"*, as it is also stated within the WWP-EN (the European network of Perpetrators programmes) guidelines, which underline how *"It is particularly important to cooperate closely with services for women victims and their children to ensure their safety."*

Regarding Italy, the main reference on this topic is **Law no. 77 of June 27th 2013**, subsequently converted with the Law Decree no. 93 of August 14th into **Law no. 119 of October 15th 2013**.

With regard to perpetrators programmes, Article 16 paragraph 3 ("Preventive and treatment intervention programs") verbatim reports what is stated in the same article of the Istanbul Convention:

"Parties shall ensure that the safety, support and human rights of the victims are a priority and that such programs, if any, are established and implemented in close coordination with the specialized victim support services."

Following the provisions in Article 5 of the so called "Femicide" Law of 2013, the Government adopted the "Extraordinary Action Plan against sexual and gender-based violence " (DPCM

7/7/2015), in force until 2017, which included a specific section (5.7) on the work with perpetrators of violence.

This document repeatedly underlines the importance of interagency work:

- indicating the need to *"... activate interventions for the recovery and support of those men responsible for acts of violence, in particular by providing links between the subjects responsible for the recovery of perpetrators and the networks of Services, public and private, for the support of victims, in order to create integrated and coordinated responses"*;
- suggesting how *"the implementation of intervention programmes aimed at recovering perpetrators should be placed within the framework of initiatives and actions to combat gender-based violence and develop in parallel with support services for victims of violence"* (Annex G, " Guidelines for the recovery / reintegration of men who have committed violence ");
- asserting that *"the promotion of synergies can be formalized through the usual institutional tools, that is, territorial agreements and protocols, which may provide for interaction procedures between the integrated network formed by the operators who accompany the woman on the way out of violence and the intervention centers for the man who acted violence "*.

The 2015-2017 Extraordinary Plan also highlights how such formalized collaboration tools can provide for *"procedures for sharing / concerting content and evaluating the effectiveness of the measures to be taken"*.

In the subsequent "National Strategic Plan on Male Violence Against Women" (2017-2020), the work with *"perpetrators or potential perpetrators of violence"* is included in the prevention axis, and it is specified that the programmes for perpetrators will be the subject of qualitative and quantitative mapping, also in order to define *"... objectives, typology and contents of the programmes offered, identifying the skills and professional characteristics of male and female operators as well as the results obtained in qualitative and quantitative terms"*.

In Chapter 5 on "Governance and implementation of the Plan", the latter entrusts the Regions and autonomous Provinces with the creation of a territorial governance plan, in order to guarantee the implementation of a *homogeneous and simplified system* and to guarantee the coordination functions on the territory of the various bodies involved, also through the *"... setting up of a series of relationships between the different subjects who, for different reasons, work to prevent and combat male violence against women, to be*

*formalized through **specific institutional agreement protocols**: these protocols must be inspired by the principle of public-private partnership and, therefore, by the full involvement of all the relevant bodies".*

The level of local governance is identified in the "local anti-violence networks", which must guarantee *"the operational link and collaboration between all the general and specialized services operating in the field of prevention, protection and combating male violence against women (Antiviolence Centers, shelters, Social and Health services, Law enforcement, Judiciary, hospital facilities, other institutional entities and qualified third sector entities, employment services)"*.

Here perpetrators programmes are not specifically indicated as components of the "local anti-violence networks", and the operating methods to ensure effective collaboration between perpetrators and victims services, however desired, are not indicated.

As for the regional level, many Italian Regions have adapted their regulatory instruments to the innovations introduced at national level regarding the specialized programmes for perpetrators.

Regional Law No 5 of 23 April 2013 – “Regional interventions to prevent and combat violence against women”¹⁰), which recalls the mandates of national Law.

Regione del Veneto passed its first Law on this topic in 2013 (Regional Law No 5 of 23 April 2013 – “Regional interventions to prevent and combat violence against women”) recalling the provisions of the national law. This was later amended with the Regional Law No. 22 of 21 June 2018 (Amendments to the Regional Law No 5 of 23 April 2013, “Actions to prevent and combat violence against women”), currently in force, in which it is declared that the Regione, as provided in Article 1, promotes “interventions of rehabilitation of people guilty of violent behaviors as in national legislation and to national implementation actions” (Article 2 -4-ter) but it redirects to normative framework and national dispositions.

With regard to the issue of collaboration with protection and support services for women and children, it's important to mention the Emilia Romagna Regional Law no. 6 of June 27th 2014 ("Framework Law for Equality and Against Gender Discrimination"), which in Chapter 5.2, paragraph c), indicates it as a **necessary precondition for work with perpetrators**: (*"Work with men perpetrators of violence requires the following preconditions: collaboration with Support Services for women and children and with the network of services and associations*

present at the local level, including services aimed at prisoners. Perpetrators programmes are only part of a broader system of intervention against violence against women which includes Social and Health Services, Law Enforcement, Justice and child protection systems. The activation of programs must be subject to the presence of a center support for women ").

The latest legislative innovation is represented by Law no. 69 of July 19th 2019, the so-called "Red Code", that, while introducing some news regarding the treatment of perpetrators (such as the possibility for the offender to obtain a conditional suspension of the sentence if it adheres to a specific programme), it does not deal with the issue of cooperation with victims support services, mostly dealing with changes to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code.

In conclusion: the legislation highlights and reiterates on several occasions the importance of effective collaboration between the various services, both public and private, which in different ways deal with prevention and combating of gender-based violence.

The analysis of the official documents shows that the collaboration between Centers dealing with combating gender-based violence (in particular Antiviolence centers and programmes for perpetrators) is very clear in the general framework, but it is lacking in detail. This collaboration is considered important and it is highly recommended, even though no methodological indication is given on how to implement it.

2.3 Background/context

The above mentioned lack of methodological indications on how to implement the collaboration between the two types of services, becomes evident when analyzing the day-to-day situation of Antiviolence centers and Programmes for perpetrators.

A first, important operation within the A.S.A.P. European project, of which this document represents the final work, was to investigate how much, in the operativity of perpetrators programmes, the expected cooperation with the specialized Services that support women and children victims of gender-based violence, primarily the Anti-violence Centers, is implemented. A specific survey carried out in Italy during ASAP among 24 Programmes for

perpetrators and Anti-violence centers, showed that one of the main elements that hinder the collaboration is the lack of national guidelines on such collaboration (58%), followed by the lack of ad hoc funding implement the collaboration (51%) and the fact that this collaboration is not foreseen by the national law on gender-based violence (41%)

Also on the basis of the pioneering work carried out by "Le Nove" association and updated in January 2017, at the end of 2018 it was conducted by the IRPPS-CNR (Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies), in accordance with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the first official survey on intervention programmes for perpetrators of violence present in our Country, as foreseen in Priority 1.4 of the aforementioned National Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

This survey contacted a total of 59 centers for perpetrators operating in Italy, of which a good part (34) declares to be included in the Local Anti-violence Networks, while 17 claim not to be integrated into a network with the Services that operate in support of women victims of violence.

The survey did not include specific items on the methods of collaboration between services adopted within the Networks.

An important instrument in order to assess how much, and through what tools, the Parties ratifying the Istanbul Convention have made efforts to implement the principles of this document within their respective national realities, is GREVIO (*Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women*), an independent group of experts on the subject, whose work is defined by Article 66 of the Istanbul Convention.

In January of this year, GREVIO published the first Baseline Evaluation report on Italy, in which the group of experts underlines some critical aspects that need to be tackled:

- lack of uniformity of regulatory instruments and practices that each reality (regional, provincial, sometimes even municipal) has adopted to combat the phenomenon of gender-based violence, with very significant differences, also based on "*varying levels of economic power and political priorities*";
- lack of suitable instruments to assess whether, and to what extent, the various instruments comply with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention;
- insufficient communication between central coordination bodies and local realities, and local realities between loco, with consequent impossibility of the exchange of best practices;
- lack of a "*strong institutional basis*" which ensures continuity, beyond the political changes and the approval of the various National Strategic Plans, to the two national bodies which,

together with the Department of Equal Opportunities, are responsible for coordinating and implementing the measures against gender violence (a steering committee and a technical committee);

- somewhat moderate recourse to the administrative tool of the warning, with a consequent considerable reduction in the number of possible submissions to Perpetrator Services;
- limited referral by Services to the Perpetrator programmes, also due to a lack of knowledge of the purposes of these programmes and the methods of referral;
- the need for all Perpetrator Services to have "*clear minimum standards*" and systems to assess the effectiveness of treatments, both in the short and long term;
- the need to ensure public funding only to perpetrator Centers/programmes based on the principles of the Istanbul Convention;
- the need to increase the number of Perpetrator Services on the national territory, and to start specific programmes for sex offenders.

Finally, the Report detects two main critical areas: the difficulties in assessing the "impact and effectiveness" of the Centers for perpetrators (in the absence of a shared program for evaluating the results) and the lack of definition, both in the national and regional legislation, of the collaboration relationships with local Anti-violence Networks and Anti-violence Centers.

3. SCOPE OF THE GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been compiled for the purpose of:

- 1) Promote concrete collaboration practices between the Perpetrators Services and the Services that deal with the victims of gender-based violence, primarily the Anti-violence Centers, but also other Services that also deal with women and children victims of violence (suffered or assisted): Social Services, Law Enforcement, Health care services, etc.
- 2) Encourage the Institutions - at national and regional level - to adopt regulatory arrangements in order to implement the provision of the Istanbul Convention of an integrated model (see Istanbul Convention, articles 7-16 par.3-18 par.3) by guaranteeing a close and constant cooperation between Victims Services and Perpetrators services.

4. POLICY RECCOMENDATIONS

4.1 THE "ASAP" MODEL

4.1.1 Focus on the safety of victims



As stated in its presentation paragraph ("1.2. definition of the problem, needs assessment and objectives of the project"), the main and ultimate goal of the ASAP model is the safety of victims of violence, both women and children, accordingly to the provisions of the Istanbul Convention to the Guidelines of the Wwp-En European Network For The Work With Perpetrators Of Domestic Violence : *"The main goal of the work with perpetrators is to increase the safety of the victims of violence"*

A critical aspect in ensuring the safety of the victims can be detected in the lack of guidelines, protocols and consolidated methodologies of intervention defining the modalities of cooperation between Services - with specific reference to Programmes for Perpetrators and to Support Services for women and children victims of violence The implementation of the collaboration methodology of the ASAP Operational Protocol improves:

- a. the safety of Victims through an accurate assessment of the risk and through the joint monitoring of the situation.
- b. the effectiveness and efficiency of the work with the perpetrator through the acquisition of detailed information on the situation of the victim

4.1.2 Interagency collaboration

Even since its design phase, the goal of the ASAP project has always been the study of an integrated collaboration model.

The analysis of the European and National legislation and the following field practical experience confirmed that the cooperation between all private and public services that deal with gender-based violence is often non-existent or inadequate.

- a. The ASAP model is based on an "integrated community response" approach, that takes into account the relationship between the victims, the perpetrators and their wider social environment, implementing a working methodology ("operational Protocol") that relies on the cooperation between all the subjects involved in the prevention and combating of gender-based violence.

Therefore, the "Operational Protocol" provides a toolkit aimed at implementing a systemic collaboration between support services for victims and services for perpetrators. Where possible, this collaboration needs to be extended to other local agencies and institutions involved in that particular case.

Specifically, the ASAP protocol provides that the collaboration between the abovementioned services is to be implemented in cases in which both members of a couple (or ex couple)

are attending a programme (respectively for victims and for perpetrators), especially if it is considered a high-risk situation.

The exchange of information must comply with the GDPR and with the relevant measures for the protection of personal data.

The cooperation between the Services and agencies involved is divided into two phases:

Phase 1: meeting between the full teams of the services/agencies involved, in order to acquire a mutual knowledge of working methodologies, in a relationship of mutual trust.

Phase 2: meetings between the case managers of each service / institution involved at fixed intervals, until both members of the couple attend their respective programme. In each meeting, the case managers will discuss the following elements: **joint risk assessment** carried out through the specific checklist "risk indicators in maltreatment situations" , **Assessment of recidivism** by comparing the episodes of recidivism reported respectively by the perpetrator and the victim, and recorded in a specific tool , **Measurement of individual change** through the periodical administration of the IMPACT questionnaire to both the perpetrator and the victim, to assess individual change throughout the different phases of their mutual paths **Measurement of other qualitative elements** , that is non-objective factors that constitute a perceived danger to the victim.

Besides the programmed meetings, informal contacts are encouraged in case of critical events that require a reassessment of the risk.

4.1.3 Assessment of risk

The high level of lethality and the impact in terms of physical and psychological effects of violence call for an accurate and objective risk assessment. The Istanbul Convention in fact provides that *"Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that an assessment of the lethality risk, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence is carried out by all relevant authorities in order to manage the risk and if necessary to provide coordinated safety and support"* (Art. 51.1), while the abovementioned WWP guidelines state that *"Risk assessment and management should be undertaken and documented at intake, then at set times during the programme and whenever the perpetrator's behaviour or situation indicates a possible change in risk"*

The assessment of risk needs to be:

- repeated periodically, taking into account the changes and stress factors that may occur in a specific situation of violence and mistreatment.
- carried out jointly by all the public and private subjects involved in the case.

- carried out through objective tools, whose validity and basis are recognized, and which refer to international recommendations on the matter.

The ASAP "Operational Protocol" sets the joint risk assessment as one of the compulsory topics to be discussed, both through an objective tool (the "checklist for the assessment of risk in maltreatment situations") and through the analysis of other qualitative elements, derived from the direct work with both the victim and the perpetrator.

4.1.4 Instruments for the assessment of change

The assessment of change in the attitude and behaviour of perpetrators of violence is a very critical aspect related to both the effectiveness of the programme for perpetrators and the reduction of the risk for the victims.

The ASAP protocol includes the **IMPACT questionnaires** created by WWP-EN, as a specific tool for the assessment of individual change.

The administration of the IMPACT questionnaires takes place, both for the perpetrator and for the victim, in five different stages of the Program, to measure the change in the perpetrator's violent behavior throughout the programme.

For the victims, the IMPACT questionnaire can be administered by the operators of the Anti-violence Center or by the operator of the Program for perpetrators in charge of the so-called "partner contacts" (if provided)

4.1.5 Excellence of the model/protocol

The ASAP model has proven to be effective on the main following aspects:

1. Strengthening and standardizing the **inter-agency cooperation**, by formalizing some preexisting informal collaborations.
 - a. Results showed that case managers have stated that the protocol is a **clear and simple tool**, easy to use and which does not burden consultant with additional administrative work. As reflected by one of the ASAP partners: *"Its testing in the organization has expanded the scope and systematization of the team meetings of the counselors from the Programme for work with victims of domestic violence and the Programme for work with perpetrators of domestic violence, which have been conducted so far."* It has been highly valued the fact the protocol provides the opportunity to meet in person, within scheduled meetings.

the personal perceptions of the beneficiaries (perpetrators and victims) and of the professionals working with them.

- a. Within this context, results have shown that within Phase 2 usually some differences emerge between the risk assessment of the two case managers (from the perpetrators and the victims' side). As one ASAP partner reflects on: *"The changes in the perpetrators' behaviors are perceived differently on the two sides, and this leads to different assessments of risk (lower for perpetrators programmes, higher for support centers for victims)."*
 - b. Moreover, results stated that the risk assessment has also proven to be very helpful for **monitoring the well-being of children**, which beforehand tended to occupy second place to the discussion on the safety of women; as referred by one ASAP partner: *"In particular, the specific items related to minors are to be considered very useful to monitor the well-being and vulnerability of the small protagonists of the scene"*.
4. Expand the inter-agency cooperation towards **cooperation among different key institutions**, rather than solely between the perpetrators' programmes and victims' services.
- a. Results showed that in some of the cases in which the case managers views were quite different, the case managers decided to contact other territorial services involved in the case in order to **confront and discuss** the situation with other professionals and make a thorough evaluation of risk. Therefore, the fact of having this joint risk assessment has been very helpful for obtaining a more objective and integrated evaluation of the risk situation, and not to relay only on what the perpetrators refer (in the case of the case manager of the perpetrator): As one of the ASAP partners has mentioned: *"The Protocol has the positive side that it recognizes the importance of interinstitutional work of domestic violence. The involvement of other institutions, such as police, social services, child protection services, helps to work together and offer coordinated protection."*

4.2 Recommendations

Considering that the Istanbul Convention is the reference of every action, undertaken and to be undertaken, for the prevention and contrast of gender-based violence, it is hoped that the

State and regional Institutions will adopt, through the necessary tools, the recommendations issued by GREVIO (*Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence*), the group of experts - envisaged by Art. 66 of the Istanbul Convention - which has the task of monitoring the implementation of the Convention within each of the ratifying States.

This Group recently published the "Baseline Evaluation Report" on the Italian situation, providing an accurate assessment of the legislative and operational measures adopted so far by our Country to comply with the dictates of the Convention, and issuing recommendations regarding further interventions that should be introduced, in order to fully implement the Convention itself.

Considered that the concrete and operational cooperation between perpetrator Services and victim Support Services (primarily Anti-violence Centers, Child Protection Services, Law Enforcement and operators of Social-Health Services), clearly foreseen by the Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention, and supported by some recent international research on the evaluation of the effectiveness of perpetrator programmes, represents an essential and vital element to effectively combat the phenomenon of gender-based violence.

It is hoped that

At national level

National bodies and Institutions consider the following recommendations:

- Use all the appropriate and necessary tools in order to adopt the recommendations provided by GREVIO.
- Make the principle of responsibility central in the work with perpetrators, not only within the Programmes, but also in the relationships that perpetrator Services have with other Services, in particular with the Services that take of women and children victim of violence.
- Encourage the systematic and accurate data collection of perpetrator Services, with particular attention to the provision of instruments to evaluate the effectiveness of intervention programmes.

- Encourage the creation of new perpetrator Services, especially in the areas that currently do not have them, (<https://www.irpps.cnr.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Progetto-ViVa-I-programmi-of-treatment-for-perpetrators-of-violence.-Framework-of-synthesis-of-detection.pdf>) including *"treatment programmes aimed at preventing perpetrators, in particular sex offenders, from re-offending."* (art. 16 par. 2 Istanbul Convention).
- Encourage the adhesion of perpetrator Services to coordination networks, in order to guarantee the exchange and comparison with respect to shared guidelines.
- Put a constant focus on the phenomenon of witnessed violence, also through joint awareness and training interventions by perpetrator and victim Services (also through media campaigns).
- Insert a specific section within the next National Plan against Violence that highlights the importance of cooperation strategies between perpetrator Services and victim Support Services.
- Reaffirming the importance of perpetrator programmes not only as a tool to limit recidivism, but also as a fundamental prevention tool to stop the intergenerational transmission of violence, offering these men alternative models of masculinity and paternity (Art.16 Istanbul Convention).
- Make sure that any new action (regulatory/operational/ tructural) regarding the implementation of the Services for victims and perpetrators, and regarding their collaboration, identifies in advance the financial resources necessary not only for their creation, but also for their support, implementation and review.
- Ensure support for the study and feed the debate on the possible introduction of *compulsory* perpetrator programmes, so that - also through the comparison with the European countries in which they are already in force - the positive or possibly counterproductive elements are carefully analyzed.

At regional level

The Veneto Region:

- Recognizes the historical, theoretical, experiential and methodological primacy of the Antiviolence Centers, which first structured themselves as dedicated to the protection of women victims of violence and of their children.



- Is aware of how much, in a system like the Italian one, characterized by very different local realities (among them, and in their relations with the State), the Region as an Institution plays a fundamental role, and therefore commits itself to continue to maintain a high level of attention about what will be decided at national level on the prevention and combating against gender-based violence, adjusting through the most appropriate tools (legislative, implementation, best practices).
- Undertakes to involve experts on the issue of gender-based violence, in its various forms and in relation to the different contexts in which the phenomenon is addressed, so that the decisions taken at the regional level are guided by theoretical and methodological knowledge.
- Recognizes the experience of participating in projects funded by the European Commission as highly positive and effective, as a moment of learning (theoretical, methodological, skills and innovative operating practices), evolution and professional growth. The operational exchange with other European Countries represents a unique and privileged opportunity, since it allows the learning of new instruments or good practices to be adopted for the implementation of the strategies already in place in the local reality of belonging, and it also allows to acquire innovative answers to face problems that other Countries have already faced.

This work at European level also allows the sharing of good practices already designed and tested successfully in the Veneto Region, thus allowing the dissemination of innovative elements, according to a bottom up approach, from Veneto to Europe.

It is therefore hoped that Regions consider the following recommendations:

- Map the perpetrator Services at regional level, with particular attention to their theoretical and methodological approach, in order to verify that their work is based on the main international and European documents (first of all, the Istanbul Convention) on the theme of gender-based violence.
- Progressively introduce perpetrator Services within regional consultation and coordination devices (for example, the *Regional Coordination Table for the prevention and contrast against violence against women*, foreseen by article 8 of Veneto Regional Law no. 5/2013, which also takes care of relations with the National Anti-violence network).

- Enhance the cooperation between perpetrator Services and Anti-violence Centers through dedicated calls for proposal or specific actions within the calls aimed at preventing and combating gender-based violence, also in order to avoid possible conflicts related to the availability of resources, without prejudice to the priority of supporting the victim and children Services.
- Encourage the creation of operational documents drawn up jointly by Anti-violence Centers and perpetrator Services, which contain specific indications on operating methods such as, for example, information sharing and privacy protection.
- Encourage the co-design of prevention and awareness programmes for schools of all levels (including universities), which includes the creation of participatory devices (such as meetings ...).
- Encourage the creation of coordinated awareness campaigns, in which all the different phases (design, implementation, presentation, dissemination) are conducted jointly by operators from the different Services.
- Provide for a risk assessment and management common to all the main actors of the network (Law Enforcement, perpetrator Services, Anti-violence Centers), also through the use of validated instruments, bearing in mind that effective risk management must necessarily include its evaluation over time, taking into consideration any dynamic intervening factor.
- Promote, by operators of all other Services, the attention to an early and systematic detection of indicators of domestic violence (acted, suffered or assisted).
- Reaffirm the fundamental importance of the distinction between *conflict* and *violence*, encouraging specific trainings on the topic, so that all operators of the Services are equipped with effective skills and operational tools.
- Firmly reaffirm the ban, provided by the Article. 48 of the Istanbul Convention, to apply alternative methods of conflict resolution (such as, for example, conciliation and mediation) in all areas in which we are faced with a situation of domestic violence, whether ascertained or only suspected

5. CONCLUSIONS

The efforts that the European Commission is making regarding the strengthening of cooperation between Victim and Perpetrator Services, and in promoting multi-agency collaborations in the field of domestic violence, are widely recognized.

In this context, it is desirable that the European Commission promotes recommendations about the cooperation between these actors at local, regional and European level, including the ASAP Protocol as a simple and effective tool.

It is also desirable that the results of this project can help in the harmonization of discrepancies at European level on the modalities of inter-agency cooperation, in order to promote the application of the Istanbul Convention.