

Through design and implementation of the ENGAGE Roadmap and trainings, the project was successful in building frontline professionals' capacity to respond to male perpetrators by recognising their abusive behaviour, asking them about it respectfully, motivating behaviour change and directing perpetrators to appropriate specialist services in order to increase victim safety.

Project webpage: <https://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu/projects/engage>

## Executive Summary

### 1.1 Objectives

ENGAGE was successful in accomplishing both of its objectives. Firstly, we improved the capacity of frontline professionals to provide a coordinated, multi-agency response and referrals to male perpetrators of gender-based violence through the development of a comprehensive Roadmap and a corresponding Training package. Secondly, we improved the coordination between frontline services and perpetrator programmes through trainings performed for frontline services in the partner countries and dissemination activities throughout Europe.

The two evaluation goals of increasing identification of potential perpetrators and referring perpetrators to perpetrator programmes by 25% were achieved and surpassed. Prior to the ENGAGE training followed by implementation of the Roadmap, the 120 frontline professionals who provided feedback identified on average approximately 1,92 men as perpetrators of GBV in the previous 3 months. After implementation, an average of 2,44 was reported, resulting in a statistically significant increase of **+27% in identification of men as perpetrators**.

For referral of men to perpetrator programmes, prior to the ENGAGE training followed by implementation of the Roadmap, the frontline professionals referred 0,33 men. After implementation, the referral increased to 0,69 resulting in a statistically significant increase of **+109% in referrals to perpetrator programmes**. This increase was confirmed by data from the participating perpetrator programmes which reported an increase of 26% in referrals from the trained services/areas.

ENGAGE performed 32 trainings in the three implementation countries, France, Italy and Spain, including 5 pilot trainings for diverse groups of frontline professionals including social workers, police officers, child protection services., Of the total of 316 participants trained, 283 were female and 33 male. The average duration of the training was 6 hours across all country partners with variations per country. The project succeeded in providing more than twice the number of trainings that were planned due to a high request for trainings for frontline professionals.

### 1.2 Impact

Results & impact (actual and expected on target groups, procedures, capacities):

- Improved safety of women and children victims by promoting a coordinated multi-agency response and referral pathway for perpetrators of GBV in the partner countries through the ENGAGE Roadmap, trainings and training guidelines;
- Improved knowledge, skills and abilities of frontline professionals to adequately address perpetrators of GBV and refer them to specialised perpetrator programmes as documented in the ENGAGE Evaluation Report Trainings;
- Increased awareness of the ENGAGE Roadmap in diverse professional groups (social workers, police officers, child protection services) and at the EU level through the Working With Perpetrators European Network and internationally through the UNFPA as documented through the ENGAGE national and European dissemination reports;
- Increased focus at the policy level on the issue of appropriate referral for perpetrators in the implementation countries via roundtables, conferences, stakeholder meetings and via dissemination of the ENGAGE policy recommendations as documented through the ENGAGE national and European dissemination reports.

## 2 European dimension:

The ENGAGE Roadmap for frontline professionals was disseminated at the European level at the two annual conferences of the Working With Perpetrators European Network, which represents 58 member organisations in 31 European countries. As well, a webinar 'Training Frontline Professionals: Introducing the ENGAGE Roadmap' was provided on 22.11.2019 to an international online audience to promote uptake outside of the EU borders. In addition, ENGAGE collaborated with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to make the ENGAGE Roadmap available to its 12,000 members in the Eastern European Region and Central Asia. The ENGAGE project was presented at three international conferences (Oslo, Strasbourg, Brussels) and in Minsk at the UNFPA meeting.

The ENGAGE project had strategic relevance by supporting the Istanbul convention Article 15 on 'Training of professionals' and Article 16 'Preventive intervention and treatment programmes' aimed at perpetrators. ENGAGE provided added value in developing a Roadmap consisting of 4 steps for frontline professionals interacting with perpetrators of violence: identify the violent behaviour, communicate with men about this behaviour, motivate men to change and refer to specialist perpetrator programmes.

The project made a contribution to the European Commission Health programme by improving the knowledge, skills and abilities of frontline professionals to adequately address perpetrators of GBV and refer them to specialised perpetrator programmes. This increases the safety of women and child victims.

## 3 Conclusions and recommendations:

The ENGAGE project was successful in building frontline professionals' capacity to respond to male perpetrators by recognising their abusive behaviour, asking them about it respectfully, motivating behaviour change and directing perpetrators to appropriate specialist services in order to increase victim safety. In addition, the project created awareness at the policy level in the partner countries of the importance for frontline professionals to be prepared and able to engage perpetrators.

The 3 ENGAGE policy recommendations based on the project are as follows:

### Recommendation 1

Member States should ensure that high quality, accessible, gender sensitive and safety focused services that address male violence and abuse in relationships are widely available, in line with article 16 of the Istanbul Convention. This would support frontline professionals in engaging with male perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse. These perpetrator services need to be open to referrals from frontline professionals from a broad spectrum of services (e.g. social workers, child protection services, health services, etc.) and for men to refer themselves.

### Recommendation 2

Member States should ensure that training is available and accessible for frontline professionals on engaging with male perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse. The training should have the following elements: mixture of learning including information giving and skills development and practice; at least 6 hours in duration; gender sensitive; safety focussed; and linked to a follow up session to support the adaptation. Also, the training should be provided in partnership with specialist domestic violence and abuse services, particularly those working with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse. Finally, the training should be available to professionals who have already completed basic training on domestic violence and abuse. Engaging with male perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse is a level two training.

### Recommendation 3

Member States should ensure that their national, regional and local bodies that have responsibility for workforce development have professional standards regarding training on domestic violence and abuse to ensure it is recognised as a core activity and includes engaging with male perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse. These standards would support member states compliance with Article 15 Istanbul Convention. In addition, this training should be role specific and integrated into the core functions/competency of the workforce.