



European  
Network

## NATIONAL REPORT GUIDELINE

Denmark

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### 1) **Organisation/programme** (max 3000 characters)

Dialogue Against Domestic Violence – DADV – founded in 2002, is a nongovernmental organization under the Danish Foundation AskovFonden, founded in 1943. DADV main objective is to give evidence based treatment to perpetrators to prevent further violence inside the family. The intervention focuses on the perpetrator but does also include support to the battered partner/(woman) and the children that are or have been living in families with parental violence.

DADV further objectives are to:

- develop support and treatment programs of best practice in the field of domestic violence for the three target groups; partner – children – perpetrators
- offer training to the professionals in the field
- research and cooperate with universities to cover and describe the effect of the programs
- have an international network of partners
- influence the political scene both inside and outside of Denmark related to the subject

Recently DADV has started a project, called ‘voldsom kærlighed’ (violent love), that aims at young people, addressing the use of violence in dating relationships. The project will involve media based strategies, in purpose of getting in contact with the young people who use or are exposed to violence within their dating relationship.

Two significant successes within the last four years, have been the establishment of a cooperation between DADV and the Danish Prison and Probation Service, and, in another locally based pilot project, a collaboration between DADV, the local police and two local women’s shelters.

The biggest challenge that DADV is facing at the moment, is a limitation in resources, which means that the perpetrators that contact us for engaging in treatment, have to wait for approximately 6 months, before they can start the treatment. Because most of the clients are self referred, this means that many of the perpetrators initially seeking help, never get into treatment, due to the fragile nature of their motivation.

## 2) **Country** (max 1800 characters)

The danish national strategy against violence in intimate relationships includes initiatives to prevent intimate partner violence in the following areas:

- Initiatives in relation to children and young people
- Activities aimed at perpetrators
- Education and attitude training
- Support for victims
- Activities aimed at professionals
- Knowledge and information

The strategy was initiated in 2010 and completed during 2013. The vast majority of initiatives have been launched now or will be in the near future.

In addition to the national strategy there has been or will be undertaken various initiatives in a number of ministries. These initiatives are funded by the public pool of funds earmarked for disadvantaged groups or incorporated as part of the ministries daily tasks. Ministry for Gender Equality and Ecclesiastical Affairs has launched an initiative against dating violence and published a web-based educational material on family violence. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration initiates several initiatives including support for women subjected to partner violence and a study of the efforts by men's shelters. The Ministry of Children and Education and Ministry of Health will mainstream initiatives against partner violence / dating violence in their prevention activities.

Concerning perpetrator programmes, there are four treatment programs in Denmark: Dialogue against Domestic Violence (Dialog mod Vold), Alternative to Violence (ATV) in Roskilde, Odense shelter, and The Male counseling (Manderådgivningen) in Herning.

## 3) **Best practices** (max 1800 characters)

Since 2002 the danish Government devised two action plans. This has had a major impact and has given rise to a number of specific initiatives.

### **Activities aimed at helping victims**

- Improved support for victims of domestic violence – including expanded capacity at women’s shelters
- Legal advice for battered women – mainly at crisis centers
- Handicap friendly entrances at selected crisis centers
- More research into the need to help battered ethnic- minority women and children
- 24- hour hotline for battered women
- Information folders in Danish and nine other languages
- Psychological counseling for children at crisis centers and acute psychological assistance for women at crisis centers
- The website [www.voldmodkvinder.dk](http://www.voldmodkvinder.dk), which offers comprehensive information about support and help

### **Activities aimed at supporting professionals**

- More education, information and research to help the various professional groups working with victims of violence in intimate relations.
- Development of professional handbooks
- Legal advice for professionals
- Training for crisis centre employees about ethnic- minority women and children
- Continuing training of local authority employees

### **Activities aimed at treating and reforming abusers**

- Treatment for abusive men
- Support for other initiatives to treat and reform abusers
- ‘Eviction law’ that would let victims remain in their home by allowing authorities to issue restraining orders for abusers

### **Information campaigns**

- A number of information campaigns, whose goals include changing perceptions about domestic violence. Two earlier examples are a 2008 information campaign to fight partner abuse and a campaign from spring 2009 entitled, ‘Take Warning Signals Seriously’, which was aimed at children and teenagers

## **4)Needs and recommendations (max 1800 characters)**

New efforts in the 2010- 2012 period are aimed at three specific areas:

- Prevention and early intervention

- Short- and long- term support for victims of intimate partner violence
- Research, public support and cross- disciplinary cooperation

Furthermore there seems to be a need to establish further collaboration between the organizations involved in the field of domestic violence; especially between the women's shelters, the perpetrator programs and the authorities.

Also, in terms of geography, there is a need to expand the network of organizations/offices providing treatment for perpetrators, in order to provide treatment in all areas of the country, including the rural areas of Denmark.