



European
Network

NATIONAL REPORT GUIDELINE

Country: Poland

Focal Point name, affiliation, contact data:

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

- Do you conduct any programme(s) for the domestic violence perpetrators at the moment? If yes, please describe it/them briefly. If not, please explain why

The *Protection and Change* program designed for perpetrators of domestic violence, of which I am the creator, has been run in Wroclaw Health Centre since 2007. The main purpose of this program is to prevent domestic violence. The program is based on the assumptions of integrative psychotherapy and can be followed by all people who use domestic violence towards their partners, children and other persons in the family. The program includes: individual meetings to motivate the change of aggressive behaviour, diagnostic meetings, group educational meetings, individual and group psychotherapy and workshops developing skills to deal with violent behaviour. The program consists of between 60 and 150 meetings. The program also includes meetings with victims of domestic violence as an integral part of therapeutic interventions against the perpetrator. In addition, therapists participate in Supervisory individual and group meetings, as well as training courses organized at least once a year.

The program includes:

Psychotherapy for perpetrators of domestic violence (men)

Psychotherapy for perpetrators of domestic violence (women)

Course for parents abusing their children

Educational course for perpetrators of domestic violence

Psychiatric consultation for perpetrators of domestic violence

Training conducted by WHC under the Program *Protection and Change*

Procedure of Abused Child

Intervention work with the victim and the perpetrator of domestic violence – procedures and rules

School for parents – Parenting without violence (course for educators and teachers)

Without a slap – How to set boundaries for a child with love and respect (course for educators and teachers)

Family strengthening course (for curators, social workers, educators and school psychologists, as well as other people involved in the family)

Supervisory for therapists working with perpetrators of domestic violence

Other actions:

Systematic cooperation based on the creation of a system with: police, curators, crisis intervention centre, centres that help victims, social workers, health care and other institutions and professions dealing with domestic violence or are likely to meet with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

- What type of (other) activities regarding preventing domestic violence have you conducted within last four years?
 - **Psychotherapy for perpetrators of domestic violence**
 - **Training for police officers, social workers, probation officers, educators and school psychologists (1) Who are the perpetrators of domestic violence? (2) Creation of treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence. (3) Motivation of perpetrators of domestic violence to start treatment.**
 - **Training for psychotherapists working with perpetrators of domestic violence (Motivating perpetrators to start treatment, working with perpetrators with personality disorders)**
 - **I have developed a framework program of corrective and educational trainings for perpetrators of domestic violence in Lower Silesia**
 - **A supervisory for psychologists working with perpetrators of domestic violence in prison and in WHC**
 - **Organization of scientific conferences for the community working with perpetrators of domestic violence (*Relationships which give protection*)**
 - **Radio programs on domestic violence**
 - **Lectures for students of applied psychology and teachers in public and private schools**
 - **Articles in magazines about domestic violence (In the web of manipulation and denials, book titled: 'Abuse, treatment, gratification').**
 - **I run scientific research on the changes occurring in the identity of perpetrators of domestic violence under the influence of therapy, as well as the use of violent behaviour in partner relationships.**

- **I participate in international conferences of ESTSS devoted to complex trauma.**

- What would you define as your most significant success regarding violence prevention within the last four years?

Creating a system of cooperation with the courts, police and prisons. These communities work with the PaC Program (Wroclaw Health Centre) in motivating perpetrators of domestic violence to start the treatment and to serve their sentence.

Integration and network of support for the services dealing with domestic violence.

Development of interventional procedures for the Police and Social Services Centre, protecting victims of domestic violence.

Development of local programs for the prevention of domestic violence.

- What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention in your organization within the last four years?

1) The largest difficulty is to work with prisoners. People who leave prisons cannot benefit from therapeutic assistance at home (lack of appropriate programs for perpetrators of domestic violence), (in Wroclaw, there is no post-sentence accommodation service offering treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence).

2) Lack of staff to monitor the use of violence by people participating in the therapeutic program and conducting the evaluation of therapeutic program effectiveness. Lack of research tools to conduct evaluations.

3) Difficulty in creating new institutions for treatments with perpetrators in smaller towns.

4) Country (max 1800 characters)

- The overview of general situation in your country regarding work with perpetrators (e.g. What has change in your country legislation within the last 4 years? Most important legal and policy measures implementation; in which way they helped?)

In the past four years in Poland there have been a lot of changes in relation to work with perpetrators of domestic violence. First of all, the courts, prosecutor's office and police began to motivate perpetrators to start treatment. Courts use the opportunity of persuading perpetrators to participate in therapeutic programs. The staffs, including probation officers and social workers permanently cooperate with the centres for perpetrators of domestic violence. During intervention, the police also benefit from the presence of a psychologist, who, at the scen, leads a conversation with the victims and motivates the perpetrator to start treatment.

In 2010, an obligation was introduced to develop and implement the municipal program to prevent domestic violence in families and protect the victims of domestic violence; provision of counselling and intervention to prevent domestic violence in families, in particular through educational activities, designed to strengthen care and educational competence of parents in

families being at risk of domestic violence; provision of support centres for people affected by domestic violence; creation of interdisciplinary teams.

Development and implementation of programs of corrective and educational influences for people using domestic violence.

Eviction of perpetrators of domestic violence. In the light of the revised (quoted at the beginning of the Act) Code of Criminal Procedure (Articles 244 and 275a), the police has the right to stop a suspected person, if there is reasonable suspicion that they have committed a crime of violence to the detriment of people living together, and there is the possibility that they will again commits a crime of violence against the person, especially when they say they will commit the crime again.

Stalking as an offense according to Article 190a CC 2011.

Ban to use corporal punishment (Article 97 of the Family and Caring Code of 2010).

- Do you know any other organizations/programmes in your country which deal with domestic violence prevention mostly by work with perpetrators? If yes please point them out
In Poland, approximately 200 locations conduct programs for perpetrators of domestic violence. They are attended by 3500 people annually. These programs are implemented by the Centres for Crisis Intervention amongst other, but are dependent on local authorities in the area.

5) **Best practices** (max 1800 characters)

- Point out the best practices in work with perpetrators existing in your organization/country
 - **Cooperation between police, social welfare centres, courts, probations with programs for victims or perpetrators of domestic violence**
 - **Training of police and other social services in motivating perpetrators to start treatment**
 - **Organization of scientific conferences and seminars for police, courts, curators and other services during which they can develop their skills and exchange experiences**
 - **Organization of training in the field of therapeutic and intervention works for therapists working with perpetrators of domestic violence**
 - **Organization of Supervisory groups for therapists working with perpetrators of domestic violence and other social services, such as social workers**
 - **Organization of media campaigns in the field of violence prevention**
- Can they be implemented in other organizations/countries? If yes – how? If no – why?

Creation of a support system for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence

- **We should create an organization that will be responsible for setting standards for working with perpetrator of domestic violence and will be designed for integration of communities dealing with domestic violence.**

6) **Needs and recommendations** (max 1800 characters)

- What has to be done in regard to prevent domestic violence in your country (mostly regarding to work with perpetrators)?
- **Creation of organization setting the standard of work with perpetrators of domestic violence**
- **Training people on working with perpetrator of domestic violence**
- **Supervisory meetings for professionals**
- **Development of cooperation with local authorities**
- **Accommodation for perpetrators of domestic violence**

- Point out the most urgent, most important and most promising tasks and steps that should be focused on

Trainings and awareness campaigns showing the problem and opportunities of solving domestic violence.