



European
Network

NATIONAL REPORT GUIDELINE

Country: SPAIN

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

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

Conexus is offering an Integrated Intervention Programme (PAI) against Domestic Violence which offers treatment 1) for women victims / survivors, 2) for children affected and their mothers and 3) for male perpetrators, including an integrated support service for their (ex-) partners. The PAI started in 2011 and receives (very little) funding from the Province of Barcelona since 2012 for the work with children/mothers and perpetrators.

Men can only participate in our perpetrator programme voluntarily and they enter the programme both referred by social, health or other services and self-referred. The programme offers between 4 and 6 individual intake and assessment sessions and 20 sessions in closed groups of 6 to 10 men. Follow-up sessions for evaluation are held a month, 6 months, a year and, if possible, two years after finishing the programme.

(Ex-) Partners of men participating in the programme are proactively contacted by a female worker and are offered support in our own (PAI) victim support services or others run by partner organizations.

- What type of (other) activities regarding preventing domestic violence have you conducted within last four years?

In 2012 we started the AIVA programme - Integrated Intervention in Ascendent Violence, an intervention project for families with children who use violence against their parents offering treatment for both victims and perpetrators, funded by the Department of Social Welfare and Families of the Government of Catalonia and by the Barcelona City Council.

Since 2006 we collaborate with the Program on Substance Abuse of the Public Health Agency of Catalonia in the 'Programme to address intimate partner violence in substance abuse treatment' including a review of relevant research, development of a theoretical model, surveying practitioner's needs, development of best practice recommendations and training of professionals.

Beyond these two ongoing projects we offer training activities for professionals and participate in scientific and awareness raising events around domestic violence locally, nationally and internationally.

We're also involved in research projects on domestic violence in general and perpetrator work specifically, like the European Daphne III project "IMPACT - Evaluation of European Perpetrator Programmes".

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

Contributing to the fact that perpetrator work is not limited to the criminal justice system (through training and awareness raising activities and through collaboration with health services, especially our project on substance abuse and IPV).

Participating in raising awareness about children as victims of domestic violence, the tremendous consequences this can have in their lives and the specific needs derived from it.

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

The biggest obstacle in our current context of deep economic crisis in Spain is the lack of funding, both for prevention measures in general and for work with perpetrators specifically. On a technical level, we've observed difficulties in the intersection and collaboration between the domestic violence system / services and the child protection system services, due to different perspectives on the same realities.

2) **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?)

The main developments with regard to the work with perpetrators in Spain in the last few years can be summarized in a cut-back of funding that has mainly affected community programmes for voluntarily attending men, a tendency to unification of programmes in the criminal justice system and the proliferation of research on the topic.

The cut-back in funding of non-criminal justice programmes in the context of economic crisis since 2008 has led to the fact that several of these voluntary programmes that had participated in the WWP survey in 2007 do not exist anymore, others are struggling to survive.

Within the criminal justice system there has been a continued growth of work with perpetrators since the Law against gender-based violence came into action in 2004, especially in the context of probation. In 2011, 11.340 men participated in a court-ordered community programme as a probation measure and 968 prisoners voluntarily participated in an in-prison programme in Spain (excluding Catalonia, data from the Penitentiary Institution). There has been a trend to unify the criminal justice system programmes which had shown a wide variety in the WWP survey of 2007. In 2010, [Programa de Intervención para Agresores](#) (PRIA – intervention programme for perpetrators) was established by the Spanish as the intervention manual to be applied both within prisons and in the community context, albeit adapted to these specific contexts. In the same year the Catalan Department of Justice has also published the [Programa marc de tractament en violència de gènere](#) (Frame programme for the treatment of gender-based violence) to guide both in-prison and probation based interventions with perpetrators of domestic violence in Catalonia. Most of the probation programmes in Spain are now directly delivered by the social services of the Penitentiary Institution and only very few (in comparison to 2007) are still contracted to NGOs, Universities or Psychological Associations.

There has been a marked growth of published and unpublished Spanish research studies on different aspects of the work with perpetrators in the last few years, as has been noticed in the current Daphne III project “IMPACT” with regard to evaluation studies. As an example, four articles on the work with perpetrators were published in a [special issue on Partner Violence Against Women](#) of the Journal Psychosocial Intervention in 2010, and this year there has been an special issue of the same Journal called [Batterer intervention programs in Spain: Research and advances in intervention](#).

- Do You know any other organisations/programmes in your country which deal with domestic violence prevention mostly by work with perpetrators? If yes please point them out

Yes, we have included them in the IMPACT survey. More than 30

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

- Point out the best practices in work with perpetrators existing in your organisation/country

In our organisation the pro-active partner contact at different stages of the programme differentiates the PAI from most probation based or criminal justice system programmes in Spain which don't contact partners nor offer them specialised support directly.

On a national level the "[Sistema de seguimiento integral en casos de violencia de género](#)" (Integrated system of monitoring domestic violence cases) is probably the most outstanding good practice. It basically consists of a common unified data base including all information relevant for the safety and protection of victims of gender-based violence by all agents involved (police – national, regional and local -, prosecutors, courts, prison services, social and health services, specialised domestic violence services, etc.). It includes a risk assessment and a risk evolution (change in risk) tool and an automatic notification or alarm system which sends out notifications of relevant changes in information / risk on a specific case to the relevant implied agents. By the end of 2012, more than 77.000 victims were monitored through the system, more than 36.000 agents were trained and participated in it an more than 1 million risk assessments had been made (since 2007). Ramka

- Can they be implemented in other organisations/countries? If yes – how? If no – why?

The monitoring system could be implemented in other countries but it would require a lot of political will, difficult negotiations and technical adaptations between the different agents / stakeholders involved.

4) **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)?

With regard to perpetrator work, non-criminal justice system / non-probation programmes need more funding, more visibility and a better integration into the existing networks and

coordinated community response, especially they need better referral structures within social and health services.

Probation / criminal justice system programmes need to find ways to include pro-active partner contact and to improve coordination with victim-support and other services of a coordinated community response.

Despite the increasing number of programmes, especially in the criminal justice system, there still is no professional body, umbrella organisation or national association of programmes or professionals working with perpetrators in Spain (as there are in the UK, Germany or France). Establishing such an organisation would promote both public visibility and lobbying and the exchange of information and knowledge, the possibility of common training and research activities, etc.

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

All three mentioned above.