



WWP // EUROPEAN NETWORK

**WWP EN 2017 Report on Member
Organisations' Good Practice in
Victim Safety, (Ex)Partner Support
and Partnerships**

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Contents

Background	4
Implementation	4
Survey's coverage	4
Survey's design and limitations	5
Part 1: Guiding principles	6
Part 2: Good practice in (ex)partner support services	9
2.1. Approach to (ex)partner support work	9
2.2. Main highlights of (ex)partner support work	12
2.3. Limitations of the approach to (ex)partner support work	13
2.4. Lessons learned	14
Part 3: Good practice in victim safety	15
3.1. Approach to victim safety work.....	15
3.2. Main highlights of victim safety work.....	17
3.3. Limitations of the approach to victim safety work.....	18
3.4. Lessons learned	19
Part 4: Partnership work (between perpetrator and women's specialised support sectors).....	20
4.1. Approach partnership work.....	20
4.2. Main highlights of partnership work	23
Part 5: Ways forward.....	25
5.1. Suggestions on how to facilitate good practice exchange between members.....	25
5.2. Suggestions on how to help members to develop their services.....	26
5.3. Suggestions of how to ensure that women's and children's safety is put in the centre of perpetrator work throughout the whole network	27

Terminology and abbreviations

Domestic violence	The abuse by intimate partners
(Ex)partner	Women whose (ex)partners are on a perpetrator programme
Perpetrator <i>or</i> man	The author of violence
Victim <i>or</i> woman	Those subjected to violence

AW	Annual workshop
GBV	Gender-based violence
DV	Domestic violence
MVAW	Men's violence against women (and children)
PP(s)	Perpetrator programme(s)
VAW	Violence against women
VSS	Victims' support services
WSS	Women's specialised support (service/organisation/sector)

Background

In 2016, the European Network for Work with Perpetrators (WWP EN) and its Women’s Services Working Group conducted a survey, mapping practice and issues of WWP EN Member organisations on building and strengthening partnerships in work with perpetrators to prevent violence against women and children.¹ The survey focused on the following areas of work:

- ✓ (ex)partner support;
- ✓ how the programme ensures victim safety in practical ways;
- ✓ partnerships between perpetrator programmes and specialist women’s support sector.

This year the Women’s Services Working Group conducted a follow-up survey in order to collect more specific data on the member organisations’ good practice or positive problem solving experiences in the same areas of work.

The 2017 survey on good practice is a part of the WWP EN work plan and focuses on concrete examples of the member organisations’ work on building and strengthening partnerships between perpetrator programmes (PP(s)) and victims’ support services (VSS) in order to prevent violence against women and children.

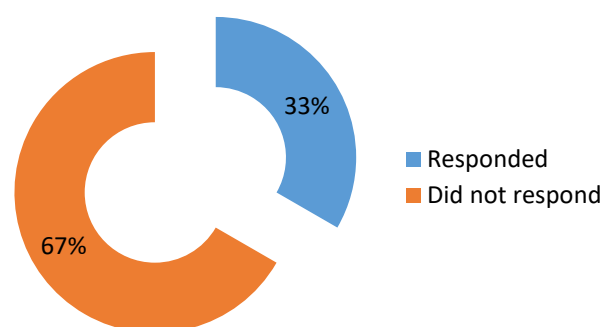
Implementation

In 2016, the questionnaire was designed and implemented through <https://www.soscisurvey.de> which is a free online resource for non-profit organisations. On the one hand, it made the data collection and analysis easier as it allowed us to download the results from this online platform into a joint Excel document. On the other hand, some WWP EN member organisations experienced certain difficulties accessing the online platform so that a separate questionnaire in Word-format was developed for them. Moreover, a different questionnaire in Word-format was developed for umbrella or larger organisations.

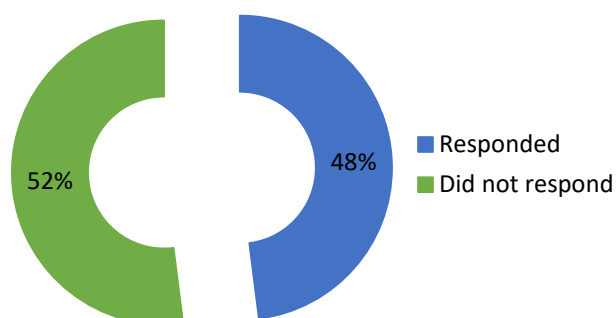
Taking into account the experiences from 2016, we decided that in 2017 the questionnaire would be developed and distributed in Word-format only.

The questionnaire was sent to all 45 WWP member organisations on October 26, 2017 and the data collection was finalized on November 30, 2017 (five weeks later), after one extension of the survey period.

Response: member organisations



Response: represented countries



Survey’s coverage

This report contains the results of the survey conducted in October–November 2017. A total of 15 WWP EN member organisations from 12 different European countries responded to the questionnaire, which translates into 33% of member organisations

¹ 2016 Mapping Report: Building and strengthening partnerships in work with perpetrators to prevent violence against women and children: <http://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu/resources/reports/mapping-report-2016.html>

representing 48% of the countries WWP EN covers.² That shows that in comparison to the survey conducted in 2016 the response in 2017 was much lower. However, the broad and detailed responses from the member organisations represented in the 2017 survey show their dedication to sharing the experiences and good practices, the deep reflection on the values and basic principles of the work with perpetrators and victims of VAW, and indicates the interest in expanding the cooperation and mutual learning.

Survey's design and limitations

Part 1 of the study is dedicated to the main guiding principles the member organisations apply in their work. These principles are defined and an explanation of their importance is given.

Part 2 gives an insight in the member organisations' work with (ex)partner support.

Part 3 focuses on the member organisations' good practice on victim safety.

Part 4 gives an insight in the partnership work between PPs and VSS.

Parts 2, 3 and 4 are designed in the same way, highlighting the member organisations' approach to work and its eventual limitations, describing the three main highlight of the respondents' practice as well as the most important lessons' learned in each and every area of work named above.

Part 5 is dedicated to the member organisations' visions on the ways forward.

The survey does not contain any compulsory questions, which gave the responding member organisations the opportunity to skip questions irrelevant for them. There are no multiple-choice questions; instead, the survey contains open questions that intend to get broader descriptive answers from the responding organisations.

This design was chosen, first of all, because of the more descriptive character of the survey, and secondly, because of the wide variety of WWP EN member organisations including specialized VSS, PPs and organisations with several branches.

The answers and even a number of comments and questions received from the member organisations point out the following limitations of the conducted study:

- ✓ Some questions, especially the one on the member organisations' approaches to their work in parts 2, 3 and 4 of the study, are broadly formulated. Therefore, the answers we received were often very broad and sometimes difficult to interpret and analyse.
- ✓ The design of the questionnaire did not take into account differences between the work conducted by the smaller organisations providing services directly to the main target groups (women and children subjected to men's violence, and perpetrators) and larger umbrella organisations that made it difficult for the latter to provide responses representative for their member organisations.
- ✓ The timeframe of the study was too short. Despite the deadline extension, the total period of five weeks was not enough, especially for umbrella organisations, to respond to the questionnaire.

Since the number of responses is not high, some of the respondents' results are presented in numbers rather than percentages, unless the percentages are meaningful and explain or highlight a certain issue.

² At the moment of writing this report, WWP EN has 45 member organisations from 25 countries.

Part 1: Guiding principles

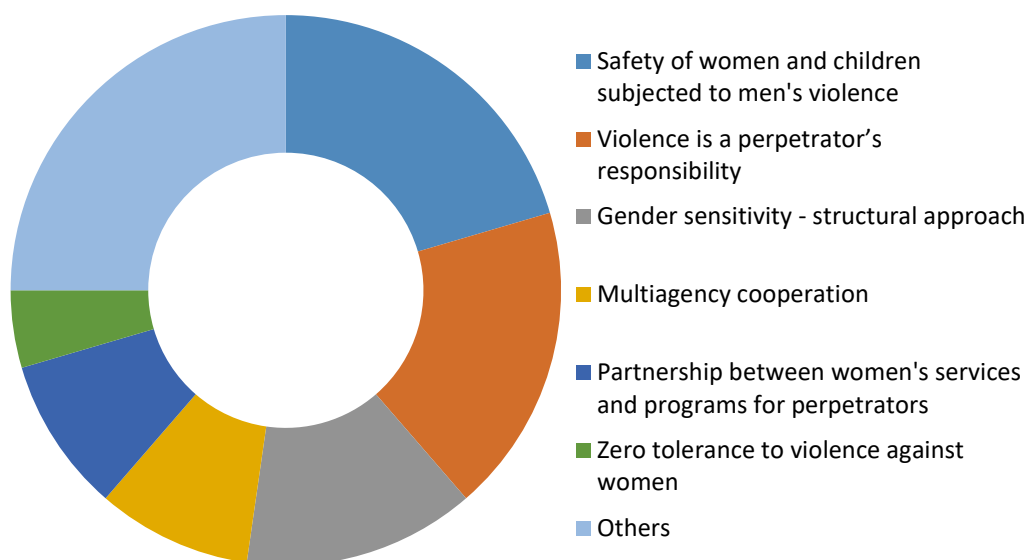
The main focus of Part 1 of this study is the principles and values guiding the WWP EN member organisations in the work. In accordance with WWP EN **Guidelines to develop standards for programmes working with male perpetrators of domestic violence**, one of the preconditions for development of work with perpetrators is to give priority to the safety of victims at every level of the programme.³ It is well

“Violence as well as safety of the victims are very easily forgotten and passed in the discussions”.

(Finland)

reflected in the answers of the respondents as the majority of member organisations (**9 out of 15**) emphasised **safety of women and children subjected to men’s violence** as being one of the main guiding principles of their work. For instance, **Move Ireland** sees victim safety and “*wellbeing of women and their children, who have experienced violence and abuse*” as a core aim of the organisation. Placing victim

safety at the centre does not only mean effective risk assessment and safety planning, support, and protection of women and children, it also means securing and prioritising funding for VSS both on the organisational level and on municipal/state level. Thus, **Unizon (Sweden)** underlines that “*if resources are limited the funding for support work for women and children should be given the first priority*”. By highlighting the importance of victims’ safety, the member organisations show that it should not be forgotten in perpetrator work or in the public discourse on men’s violence against women and children (MVAW).



8 out of 15 respondents state that **violence is a perpetrator’s responsibility**, and the PPs need to challenge the perpetrators to take responsibility for their abusive behaviours and to develop non-abusive relationships based on mutual respect. They consider the question of responsibility as a core question of the perpetrator work that goes hand in hand with the issue of victims’ safety.

In this regard **the Caledonian System (Scotland)** brings up an example of men’s violence against children arguing that, while attempting to meeting the needs of children affected by men’s abuse, the focus should be on the perpetrator’s – father’s – responsibility instead of the mother’s failure to protect.

³ WWP EN Guidelines to develop standards for programmes working with male perpetrators of domestic violence, version 1.1, 2008: http://old.ostanovinasilie.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/wwp_standards_2008_eng.pdf

If the focus on the father and his responsibility is missing, the wrong message is given and the problem of violence is not addressed. As the **Association of Citizens "Buducnost" (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** puts it, *"the perpetrator should adopt self-control of behaviour, take responsibility and understand that he has a problem, acquire the skills of non-violent problem-solving and change the beliefs that lead him to violence"*. **Unizon (Sweden)** emphasises the role and importance of language – how we talk about MVAW and how MVAW is pictured in the public debate. Neutral language ("violent homes", "family drama", "domestic dispute", etc.) and focus on victims instead of perpetrators ("One in four girls experience sexual abuse") shift the focus from perpetrators making them "invisible".

Gender sensitivity is named as one of the main guiding principles in work with perpetrators against violence for **6 out of 15** respondents. MVAW is a structural problem and a gendered issue – it is a form of discrimination of women in society. Thus, according to the **Crises Center Mobile in co-operation with Psychotherapy Training and Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä (Finland)**, *"the way we think about ourselves and others in a gendered way have a definite impact on how we behave and understand others' behaviour and intentions"*. With that in mind they connect gendered identity constructions and violence behaviour in their PP. **Men of 21st century –**

M21 (Russia) sees the main cause of violence in gender stereotyping and undermining of the role of women, and therefore the work with gender stereotypes is an important component of their PP. Moreover, a gender sensitivity and equal approach is not only important for the organisations' core work with the target groups (women and children subjected to men's violence, perpetrators); it is central for their organisational culture, systems, staff policies and work methodologies.

"Men's abuse can only be understood in the context of a society that has traditionally given disproportionate power to men. Expectations about, and of, men and women arising from this inequality persist".

(Scotland)

"Equal participation of women and men, girls and boys in the identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and projects as well as in activities enhances organisational sustainability and is the basis for achieving the goals of empowering women and gender equality".

(Albania)

4 out of 15 respondents highlight the importance of **multiagency cooperation** for the effective work with DV. MVAW is a structural problem of the society, and systematic work on different levels, including legal framework, preventive and protection measures, is a key to tackle MVAW. Creating strong links with other non-governmental organisations working with survivors of violence and perpetrators, with health services providers, probation services, police and other local authorities help develop a better environment for tackling the issue of MVAW. Moreover, as **MEND (Ireland)** points out, *"it helps (them) know what (their) place is in the response to domestic violence"*. As a result, they do not *"take on more than (they) can handle"*.

Partnership between women's services and programs for perpetrators is seen as one of the most important principle in addressing MVAW by **4 out of 15** respondents. Cooperation between PPs and women's and children's services is considered highly important in order to ensure victims' safety as well as to achieve an integrated approach to cases of DV. Thus, **Men of 21st century – M21 (Russia)** points out the importance of conducting risk evaluations in a constant contact with a counsellor from a crisis centre for

women that works with victims. In **Austria**, where the **Domestic Violence Intervention Center** works in partnership and close cooperation with the Men's Centre, the work of the PP and the women's specialised support services (WSS) is always presented together which reflects the accountable way of their cooperation making WSS more visible. A partnership is crucial as it shows that perpetrator organisations respect specialist women's organisations as equal partners and value their expertise concerning forms of violence against women, women's oppression and discrimination and concerning the principles of safety and empowerment.

2 out of 15 respondents particularly indicate **zero tolerance to VAW** as one of the main guiding principles

"Our goal is to stop the violence, not to rebuild the family".

(Russia)

of their work. As the **Association of Citizens "Buducnost" (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** puts it, a clear and unequivocally expressed political will and engagement of the entire society in prevention and reaction on gender-based violence (GBV) are of a crucial importance its citizens' rights and freedoms.

Among other guiding principles named by the respondents are the following:

- ✓ fighting against violence of any kind (not only men's violence against women);
- ✓ minimising negative effects of war and building peace;
- ✓ counsellor neutrality;
- ✓ mutual respect;
- ✓ client-centred approach with focus on client's individual needs and rights;
- ✓ partnership between women and men in addressing MVAW;
- ✓ non-discrimination and mutual respect between counsellor and client;
- ✓ minimum standards for programs addressing perpetrators;
- ✓ integrated approach with counselling, advocacy and decision making at hand for survivors of violence;
- ✓ psychotherapeutic approach;⁴
- ✓ prevention of DV.

All the above mentioned and described guiding principles are directly reflected in the good practice shared by the responding member organisations in part 2, 3 and 4 of the study.

⁴ Linking violent behaviour to the past and present life events and relationships as well as to meanings the participants of PPs give to these issues.

Part 2: Good practice in (ex)partner support services

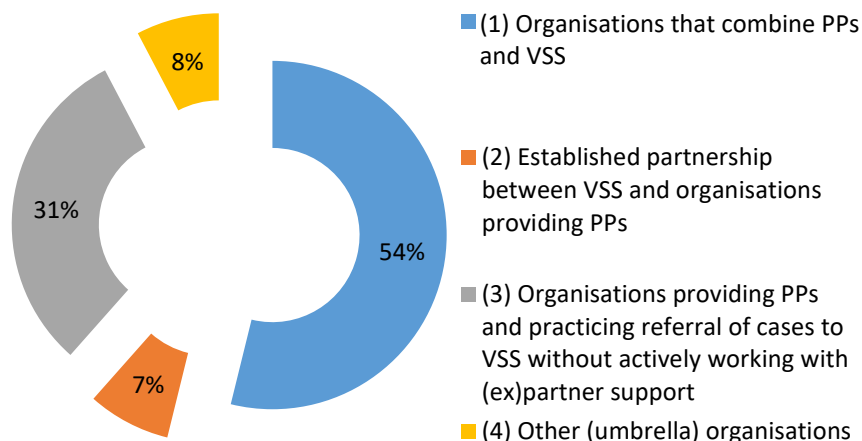
Part 2 of the study gives an insight into the responding WWP EN member organisations' work with (ex)partner support describing the respondents' approach to this work, its main highlights, possible limitations and lessons learned.

14 out of 15 respondents answered the questions related to (ex)partner support services, which suggests that only one of the member organisations represented in this study does not offer any partner support services at all. The other 14 organisations work with support, protection and rehabilitation activities for (ex)partners in different ways.

2.1. Approach to (ex)partner support work

The description of the approach applied to (ex)partner support work was given by **13 out of 15** respondents. The majority of the organisations gave a very detailed in depth summary of their approaches, and in order to present the findings in a more structured way and for the purpose of a better analysis, the described approaches are divided into the four following categories:

- (1) Organisations that combine PPs and VSS.
- (2) Established partnership between VSS and organisations providing PPs.
- (3) Organisations providing PPs and practicing referral of cases to VSS without actively working with (ex)partner support.
- (4) Other (umbrella) organisations.



(1) The majority of the respondents – **7 out of 13** – represent **the organisations that combine PPs and VSS**.

For instance, the starting point of the approach applied by **The Caledonian System (Scotland)** is that any system of domestic abuse intervention needs to address three distinct clusters of factors:

PPs and VSS



The Caledonian System

- ✓ men's risks and strengths – through men's PP to assess and address men's risks and to build on their strengths;
- ✓ women's and children's vulnerabilities and strengths – through women and children services to aim to understand and address women's and children's vulnerabilities and increase their strengths; and
- ✓ service-generated risks – through effective protocols for multi-agency working.

The system is at its most effective where all the three clusters are addressed through the integrated services. This integration occurs on many levels: (i)

the funding of the different services all comes from

the Scottish Government; (ii) the workers are managed through the same line management structure; (iii) in most areas women's workers share an office space with men's workers; (iv) men's workers and women's workers meet formally to discuss all families they are working with on a regular basis; (v) information given by women informs the work with men based on a very clear practice in relation to confidentiality and safety. The WSS provides safety-planning, support and advocacy services to women being subjected to violence that the man has been convicted of and also subsequent partners. Women feedback on progress made by the men or absence of any progress, as well as on the developments in their own lives, especially in terms of their access to justice, autonomy, rehabilitation/recovery and safety.

In ***The home for juvenile and victims of domestic violence "Duga Zagreb" (Croatia)*** the unit for work with perpetrators gives individual support to the victims of DV during the treatment that their partners as perpetrators are attending. They also provide risk assessment and safety planning for (ex)partners. However, for psychosocial and legal support the women are referred to the counselling center.

The work of ***MOVE Ireland*** is based on (ex)partner contact support being an integral part of the programme. The woman is offered a service that is free of charge once the man is enrolled in PP. Help and support are offered to the woman for the duration of the men's participation in PP and three months after the man finishes the programme. The support is proactive, planned to suit the particular needs of women, through face-to-face meetings and phone call support. It is often followed by referrals to local WSS.

The Association NAIA (Bulgaria) runs a programme for work with perpetrators of DV with the main goal to provide help and support to victims of DV and eliminate re-victimisation. The programme consists of 24 sessions that are practically divided into two parts: 2 sessions with a social worker and the rest – 22 sessions – with a psychologist. Apart from the necessity of (ex)partner support services in connection to PPs NAIA highlights the importance of partnership with other services, agencies and authorities, for example with local police.

Respondents from ***Albania (Woman to Woman – ZDB)*** and ***Bosnia and Herzegovina (UG Vive Zene Tuzla)*** provide PPs and support services for women and children within the same organisation as well. The main focus of both organisations is protection and support of women and children subjected to men's violence, and the PPs were only recently integrated in their work.

Thus, ***Woman to Woman (Albania)*** mostly focuses on services for victims, advocacy services, shelter in case of emergency situations, empowerment services and reintegration of victims. The services are offered to the women, girls and children who voluntarily come in contact with Woman to Woman, women who are addressed through the referral mechanism, as well as the women who are referred to them by the PP.

UG Vive Zene Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina), foremost, provides psychosocial help to women and children suffered from DV as well as to victims of war. As the work with perpetrators is a new area for the organisation, they are still going through the period of trial and error. However, there have been some cases when perpetrators tried to reach women living in the shelters led by UG Vive Zene Tuzla. In these cases, the perpetrators were contacted and offered counselling, and risk assessment was done in collaboration with victims.

Similarly, the **Association for Prevention & Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO) in Cyprus** mainly offers support and protection services to victims of DV, first of all, through counselling and psychotherapy. The organisation does also provide individual counselling and therapy for perpetrators but no PP is set up yet.

(2) One of the respondents – **Domestic Violence Intervention Center/Anti-Violence Programme (Austria)** – represents the **established partnership between VSS and organisations providing PPs.**

Besides carrying out the Anti-Violence Programme, the Domestic Violence Intervention Center also works in a victim safety -oriented cooperation with the Austrian probation service, ensuring that in every case of probation ordered by the court, the victims' human rights and safety are given central priority. This victim safety-oriented cooperation is based on a written cooperation agreement. It is important to mention that all survivors can turn to the service whenever they need, no matter whether perpetrators are enrolled in PPs or if they have dropped out. If the perpetrator is going through the PP, the Domestic Violence Intervention Center offers the following service to the (ex)partner:

“Perpetrator programmes (...) need to focus on the safety of victims and their rights and interest. But they cannot represent the interests and human rights of victims”.

(Austria)

- ✓ regular contact with the (ex)partner;
- ✓ information about the objectives and the contents of the programme;
- ✓ assessment of the perpetrator;
- ✓ risk assessment and safety planning, including ongoing safety planning;
- ✓ legal and social counselling and support;
- ✓ conversations on progress, improvements, deterioration;
- ✓ crisis intervention in the event of repeated violence;
- ✓ continued support after the programme is over (if necessary);
- ✓ follow-ups;
- ✓ the programme, the rules of the training for perpetrators and the procedures are fully transparent to the survivor.

(3) **4 out of 13** respondents represent **organisations providing PPs and practicing referral of cases to VSS without actively working with (ex)partner support.**

The organisation **Men of 21st century – M21 (Russia)** often gets in touch with perpetrators through the initial contact with abused women. That is why it is very important for M21 to provide support to the victims that come in contact with them. Together with the victims they carry out risk and security evaluation and consult women on how to motivate their men to contact M21; they also discuss the issue of shame and show that violence is the perpetrator's responsibility. As M21 does not provide counselling and protection to the victims, the latter are referred on to the local Crisis Centre for Women.

Similarly, *Diaconia of the ECCB – The Centre of Christian help in Prague (Czech Republic)* does only provide crisis intervention or short term psychological support for victims in general. However, they do not provide support to (ex)partners of men in enrolled in PP encouraging them to contact VSS instead.

The referral mechanism developed in local communities by the *Association of Citizens “Buducnost” (Bosnia and Herzegovina)* allows support and empowerment of victims of GBV through counselling and safe house placements.

In order to provide (ex)partner support *MEND (Ireland)* engages with the local women’s refuge or DV service, where possible. They set up a contract to outline the work, terms and conditions and other practical details of the service. Initial face-to-face work with the (ex)partners of the men on the programme is then followed by weekly phone contact, weekly handover between group facilitator and partner support worker and monthly case and risk management meeting as well as monthly clinical supervision. Partner support workers and representatives from the victim support organisation are included in MEND’s Support and Advisory Group that supports the coordination team in managing 5 (soon to be 6) local programmes.

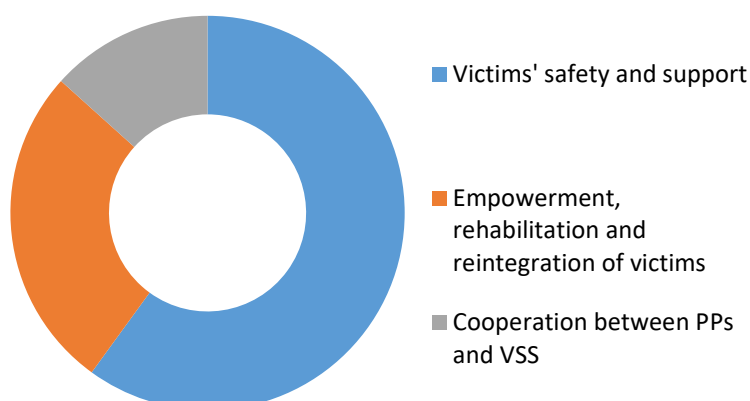
(4) Last but not least, according to *FJC Antwerp (Belgium)*’s approach, it is essential to work with all risk domains a family can experience. FJC involves all organisations needed in order to stop violence and empower victims. This work includes PPs, (ex)partner support services, barring orders, probation, etc.

All in all, the approaches described above are directly linked to and confirm the main guiding principles of the work of the organisations represented in this study (see Part 1), and first and foremost, the central role of safety of women and children subjected to men’s violence.

2.2. Main highlights of (ex)partner support work

The question on the main highlights of the (ex)partner work was answered by **12 out of 15** organisations. The received responses point at many similarities in the ways the member organisations describe their achievements, and therefore the highlights can be best described in three major categories:

- ✓ Victims’ safety and support;
- ✓ Empowerment, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims; and
- ✓ Cooperation between PPs and VSS.



9 out of 12 respondents highlight victims’ safety and support as the main result of their work.

For instance, *The Caledonian System (Scotland)* highlights the results of an independent evaluation the organisation undertook in 2016 that found that women regarded the service very highly. According to the women’s responses, they felt safer, were very satisfied with the proposed safety

planning, were given full assistance and support while contacting authorities (e.g. police) and had a better grip on men’s behaviour because of the involvement of the latter with the PP. One of the main

achievements of **SPAVO (Cyprus)** in the context of (ex)partner support work is that support and counselling is provided to (ex)partners even if the perpetrator drops out of the PP.

Empowerment, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims is indicated as being one of the main highlight of (ex)partner support work by **4 out of 12** respondents.

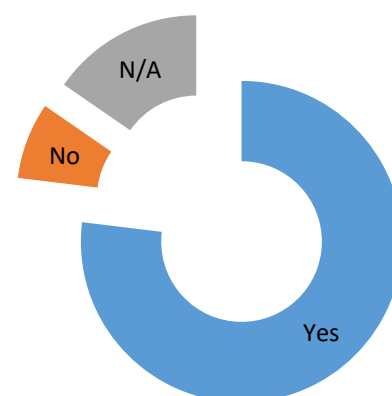
Woman to Woman (Albania) offers a full-cycle service, from crisis intervention, to rehabilitation and reintegration of women being subjected to men's violence that helps avoid re-victimisation. As the **Crises Center Mobile in co-operation with Psychotherapy Training and Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä (Finland)** puts it, the main results of the work are "when you see empowerment and recovery of the client; when she manages to leave the violent relationship and moves to a new apartment or shelter; when she starts to live with less fear; when she starts doing things she previously was afraid to do; when she trusts in herself and respects herself". Moreover, empowerment of women (including women suffering from men's violence) is being achieved through raising their awareness on gender based and domestic violence and by informing about the possibilities of getting out of the abusive situation (Albania).

2 out of 12 respondents named **cooperation between PPs and VSS** as an important highlight in the context of (ex)partner support work. Better cooperation between PPs and VSS can result in development of referral mechanisms as in case of the **Association of Citizens "Buducnost" (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** where the so-called Modrica model of referral was developed in local communities. **MEND (Ireland)** sees that organisations providing support to women and children subjected to violence and PPs are working more closely together securing the flow of communication and information sharing between each other and responding more effectively to the issue of DV.

One more highlight of (ex)partner support work that does not fall in any of the above named categories but still is worth mentioning is **cooperation with authorities**, more specifically, with police. The **Association NAIA (Bulgaria)** developed cooperation with the local Police Department that allows them to perform joint implementation of the PP, including follow-ups with (ex)partners. This is the only programme in the country implemented in cooperation with a police department.

2.3. Limitations of the approach to (ex)partner support work

11 out of 15 organisations answered the question on the limitations of their approach to (ex)partner support work. 10 of them see certain limitations to their approach while one respondent gave a negative answer that could be interpreted as the organisations' experiencing no limitations related to their approach. 2 more respondents did not quite understand the question and therefore could not give an answer.



Many organisations see **the lack of financial and human resources** as one of the main limitations of the approach used in their work. For instance, in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** the lack of staff and resources does not allow the responding member organisation to conduct the work with perpetrators and provide support to (ex)partners in separate spaces. At the same time providing services for victims in the same space as the PP is conducted is risky, unethical and challenging both for victims and for staff. In **Ireland**, there is always a need for more funding for PPs in order to "develop this work while not encroaching on the work of the appropriate women's services".

Some of the respondents underline **the lack of knowledge on GBV/MVAW among services and authorities dealing with cases of violence**. Without knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of MVAW, the social system in general may remain insensitive towards victims of violence. Respondents from **Bosnia and Herzegovina** also state that the laws on GBV in the country are much better than their implementation. For example, *“the judges do not pronounced protective measure of obligatory psychosocial treatment and even if they do, perpetrators often do not attend treatment sessions without any further sanctions”*. In **Bulgaria**, there is a lack of common standards and protocols for implementing programmes for work with perpetrators of domestic violence.

Moreover, **the large amount of dropouts on PPs, individual approach to counselling of perpetrators, secondary traumatization of counsellors and inability to reach target groups** (both victims and perpetrators of violence) are also seen as significant limitations directly and indirectly influencing the effectiveness of (ex)partner support work.

2.4. Lessons learned

14 out of 15 respondents shared at least one lesson learned.

As some of the answers are quite similar, the lessons learned are summarised and described below:

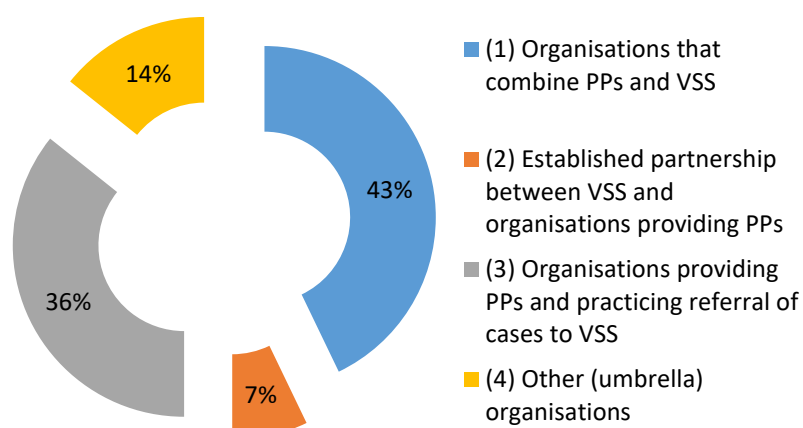
- ✓ Perpetrators often use flaws in the system in order to bring the woman/victim back. Children are often used by perpetrators to manipulate and make the victim more vulnerable.
- ✓ Violence and fear make victims dependent on the relationship and also make it very difficult to leave the relationship.
- ✓ Violence has long-term effects on children and their lives even if they are not directly subjected to violence.
- ✓ During the involvement of the perpetrator into the PP, especially if the victim lives together with the perpetrator, the following factors should be given careful attention: (i) men exercising violence against women are also exercising power and control over them; they are often highly manipulative and continue to control the victim, even during the ongoing PP; (ii) victims can be afraid to openly talk about violence and might even protect the perpetrator; (iii) they might also be too afraid to get help and not show up for support.
- ✓ Regular risk assessment is crucial in order to be able to quickly and effectively apply adequate measures.
- ✓ Building relationships with individuals and organisations based on mutual respect and openness is key to effective work.
- ✓ Couple therapy might be a good option in some cases “where there is no power imbalance”.
- ✓ Perpetrators have a chance of changing their behaviour to end perpetrating violence by owning their responsibility, and there may be opportunities for support workers to empower women or help them amplify their resistance by enabling safety planning.
- ✓ Cooperation between services and agencies addressing the issue of MVAW is very important in order to keep innovating and monitoring of the work with victims and perpetrators.
- ✓ Support given to a woman should be flexible and tailored to her needs.

Part 3: Good practice in victim safety

Part 3 of the study entirely focuses on the WWP EN member organisations' work with victim safety. **14 out of 15** respondents answered the questions in this section. Even though, as in part 2 of the study, the questions in part 3 have a descriptive character, the answers are slightly less detailed than in the previous part. This may be explained by the elaborate answers on (ex)partner support given by the member organisations in part 2 that was another way to cover the issue of victim safety.

3.1. Approach to victim safety work

The description of the approach to victim safety work was given by **14 out of 15** respondents. In order to



better analyse and keep to the same logic throughout the report, the approaches the respondents described are divided into the same categories as in part 2.1. Namely:

- (1) Organisations that combine PPs and VSS – **6 out of 14**.
- (2) Established partnership between VSS and organisations providing PPs – **1 out of 14**.
- (3) Organisations providing PPs and practicing referral of cases to VSS – **5 out of 14**.
- (4) Other (umbrella) organisations – **2 out of 14**.

(1) The **approach** of the **organisations that combine PPs and VSS** can be generally referred to as being **victim-centred** which means that safety of women and children suffering from men's violence, their concerns and needs are the first priority in all work plans, actions and measures of these organisations.

For instance, **the Association of Citizens "Buducnost" (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** have developed complex and structured work in order to guarantee safety of women and children. Their shelter is equipped with video cameras and security guards watch the shelter at night. Moreover, the organisation has well-established and efficient cooperation with the police.

In **Croatia, The home for juvenile and victims of domestic violence "Duga Zagreb"** provides individual support to victims of DV while their perpetrators are enrolled in PPs. The main focus of this work with victims is risk assessment and safety planning.

SPAVO (Cyprus) also offers shelters, face-to-face counselling and a 24/7 helpline. Women's and children's safety is always *"at the forefront of case planning, decision making and intervention"* in the organisation. As well as the counselling and psychotherapy provided for women and children, the women receive help with job seeking, search for accommodation and new schools for their children.

MOVE Ireland prioritises direct contact and open cooperation with victims. They carry out safety planning together with victims and, at the same time, they focus on outlining and explaining the dynamics of DV that

can be empowering for women and can help them better understand what they have been through, and who is responsible for violence.

The Association NAIA (Bulgaria) provides support to victims of DV through social, psychological and legal assistance. NAIA points out the importance of inter-sectoral/multiagency cooperation, especially when it comes to children's safety.

In **Albania**, the organisation **Woman to Woman** develops individual safety plans for victims in each and every case they deal with. The safety plan includes risk analysis, general circumstances of women's life as well as future safety plans. *"A victim safety plan is not limited only to reducing physical violence, but also help ensure basic human need, medical care, emotional wellbeing, social integration"*.

(2) **Domestic Violence Intervention Center (Austria)** represents the **established partnership between VSS and organisations providing PPs**, and their approach to victim safety work is similar to the one described above. At the same time they underline that, *"safety of survivors means more than risk assessment and safety planning"*. Primarily, it means providing support to survivors, empowering them and giving them *"tools"* to be able to live a life independent from their perpetrators. Similarly to SPAVO (Cyprus) the Domestic Violence Intervention Center/Anti-Violence Programme (Austria) works a lot with psychological support and empowerment of women and children subjected to men's violence, financial and legal support, employment, housing, residence status, etc.

(3) When it comes to the **organisations providing PPs and practicing referral of cases to VSS**, the main **starting point** in their victim safety work is **perpetrators' responsibility for violence**.

Crises Center Mobile in co-operation with Psychotherapy Training and Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä (Finland) starts their programme with an individual session for offenders in the Crises Center Mobile. Victims are being contacted by the crises centre workers and offered wither individual or group meetings. While men are enrolled in the PP, their partners are interviewed in the beginning of the programme, then once after half a year as well as at the end of the PP. All interviews are conducted by the Psychotherapy Training and Research Centre. Two-year follow-up interviews are then conducted both with the victims and the offenders. The important thing to note here is that informing the victim about the nature of violence, as well as the PP that her offender is enrolled in, takes the burden of responsibility for violence from the victim.

"To hear about good outcome cases encourages us to continue the programme."

(Finland)

By addressing perpetrators and defining their responsibility for violence through counselling **Men of 21st century – M21 (Russia)** aims at stopping violence so that women and children can live in safety without *"a constant sense of fear and anxiety"*.

Diaconia of the ECCB – The Centre of Christian help in Prague (Czech Republic) underlines that perpetrators of DV must be held accountable for their behaviour. They provide long-term psychotherapy to perpetrators as it takes a long time to motivate them to accept their responsibility for violence, and they see that this long-term work leads to more significant results.

(4) As the largest national association for women shelters and crisis centers in **Sweden**, **Unizon** works a lot to ensure high level of safety for women and children coming in contact with its member organisations. Thus, Unizon regularly organises trainings in risk assessment and victim safety planning for the local member organisations' personnel and volunteers. A certain sum of money is allocated in Unizon's budget

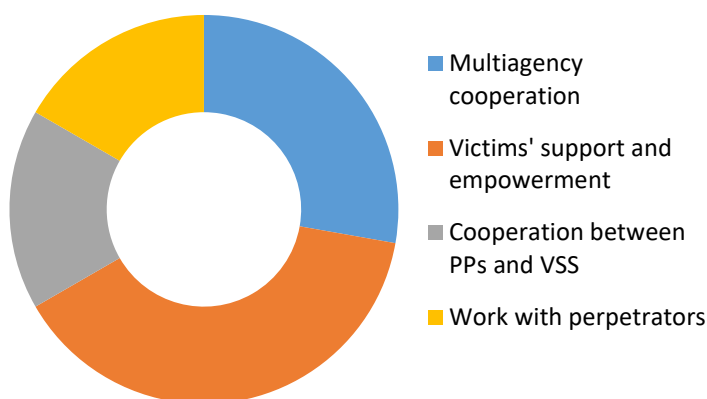
each year for a so-called “Crisis Management Fund” so that the local member organisations can apply for urgent funding in cases of emergency. Moreover, one of the goals of Unizon’s advocacy work, on both national and regional levels, is to make authorities prioritise the safety of women and children subjected to men’s violence.

FJC Antwerp (Belgium)’s work on safety planning is done during direct contact with the victims. They also provide intensive case management when the risks to women’s and children’s lives or safety is high.

3.2. Main highlights of victim safety work

13 out of 15 organisations answered the question on the main highlights of the work on victim safety. As in case of (ex)partner support work (Part 2) the respondents have a lot in common when it comes to the main results they highlight. Hence, these highlight can be divided into the following categories:

- ✓ Multiagency cooperation;
- ✓ Victims’ support and empowerment;
- ✓ Cooperation between PPs and VSS; and
- ✓ Work with perpetrators.



7 out of 13 respondents highlight **empowerment of women and children** as well as the possibility to provide **constant support** to them as one of the main achievement of their work.

For instance, **SPAVO (Cyprus)** provides free counselling sessions to women even after they leave the shelter. Women are also supported in finding a job, a new place to stay and a new school for their children. Additionally, SPAVO helps women connect with various services that can give them additional support and empowerment. **Woman to Woman (Albania)** offers free legal services to women that enables them “to leave their abusive relations and continue an independent life”.

Multiagency cooperation is seen as one of the main highlights of the victim safety work by **5 out of 13** responding organisations.

Both the **Association of Citizens “Buducnost”** and **UG Vive Zene Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** mention

“We have an efficient cooperation with police. (...) During more than 15 years we have not had any serious accidents in relation to safety issues”.

(Bosnia and Herzegovina)

their close cooperation with the local police and its efficiency as an important factor for securing women’s and children’s safety. In order to improve cooperation between social services and local crisis centres on a municipal level and attract more attention to municipalities’ work on MVAW, **Unizon**

(Sweden) evaluates the work on DV and MVAW done by municipalities throughout the county and publishes a so-called *Barometer of Work and Knowledge on Men’s Violence Against Women*.⁵ It contains ranking of the municipalities that gives a clear message that the ones with the lower ranking are to improve their work on MVAW.

⁵ In Swedish – Kvinnofridsbarometern.

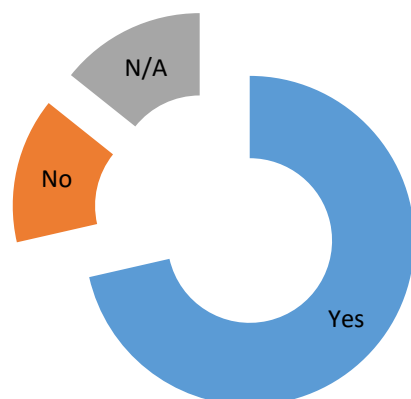
3 out of 13 respondents mention cooperation between PPs and VSS as one of the main highlights of their victim safety work.

As the *Crises Center Mobile in co-operation with Psychotherapy Training and Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä (Finland)* underlines, the flow of information between PPs and VSS, particularly information from victims, is essential for the perpetrator work and, as a result, for victim safety as “*there might be major differences in what the victim and the offender report on violence and other issues*”. In this context the important highlight for *MEND (Ireland)* is when through the feedback from partner support workers they learn that men on the PP put what they have learned into practice which, in turn, means that women’s and children’s safety and well-being is being improved.

Finally, **3 out of 13** organisations describe the highlights of their work in the context of their work with perpetrators.

Thus, the long-term PP offered by *Diaconia of the ECCB – The Centre of Christian help in Prague (Czech Republic)* facilitate verbalisation of perpetrators’ motivation to change, “*resolve ambivalence and increase their receptivity to therapy*”, the aim of which is to prevent possible relapses. In *Albania Woman to Woman – ZDB* have made possible court referrals of perpetrators to rehabilitation programmes for the first time in the country’s history, which should also have a positive influence on safety of women and children.

3.3. Limitations of the approach to victim safety work



rehabilitation programs – goes hand in hand with the lack of funding. For instance, both *MEND (Ireland)* and *MOVE Ireland* regular basis after because it is outside of respondents from similar issues when it ups. *Unizon (Sweden)* women’s shelters and connected to that, the decline in referrals of abused women and children to Unizon’s shelters from local Social Services.

“Three month follow-up is the maximum amount of time is offered once the man has finished the programme”.

(Ireland)

14 out of 15 respondents answered the question on limitation of their approach to victim safety work. As in part 2 of the study, 2 out of 14 organisations did not understand the question while 10 respondents indicate that their approach has certain limitations. 2 out of 14 respondents do not see any limitations of their approach.

The majority of respondents indicate *the lack of financial resources* as the main limitation. Another limitation – namely *no or limited follow-ups with women and children after PPs or victim*

cannot follow up with women on a men have completed the PP their funding resources. The *Albania, Cyprus* and *Croatia* face comes to possibilities for follow-points out the lack of funding for crisis centres in the country, and

Some of the respondents indicate that *integration of PPs and VSS* in their situations *is not optimal*. Thus, *UG Vive Zene Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina)* states that it would be better to separate the shelter from their office, as it would be more appropriate and “*relaxing*” for victims. In case of the *Crises Center Mobile in co-operation with Psychotherapy Training and Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä (Finland)*, even

though the PP and VSS are provided within the same organisation, they think these services/departments could be better integrated. **MEND (Ireland)** works in parallel process with men on the PP and his (ex)partner as victim safety is the highest priority is their work. However, they indicate that, “*when safety has been established (...) specialised couples work would be of benefit to really consolidate the change in the future*”.

Among the other stated limitations of the member organisations' work on victim safety the respondents outlined the following: **lack of knowledge on – and understanding of – MVAW among relevant authorities and services; lack of cooperation with authorities; growing gender symmetry; and resistance and low motivation for change shown by perpetrators.**

3.4. Lessons learned

11 out of 15 respondents answered on the questions on lesson learned in connection to victim safety work.

“Work with perpetrators is difficult and it often feels like quitting to do something easier”.

(Russia)

As in Part 2 of the study, some of the lessons learned are similar, and therefore the answers are summarised as follows:

- ✓ Established cooperation with police is very important in order to protect women and children subjected to men's violence and guarantee their safety.
- ✓ Victims are essential informants both in the beginning, during and after PPs, so running a PP without a systematic feedback system from victims is not effective.
- ✓ Physical violence may decrease but psychological violence increases in some cases. During PPs it is important to focus on different kinds of violence – physical, psychological, sexualized, economic, etc.
- ✓ Work with perpetrators often causes feelings as fear and anxiety among psychologists, so they need support and supervision after PP sessions.
- ✓ Children of perpetrators undergoing PPs do also need therapy.
- ✓ Support given to victims cannot guarantee their safety as they often go back to perpetrators due to economic difficulties, lack of support by state services, etc.
- ✓ Timely and professional intervention in crisis situations is vital in order to protect women's and children's lives.

Part 4: Partnership work (between perpetrator and women's specialised support sectors)

Part 4 of the study focuses on partnership work between perpetrator programs and women's support services. **12 out of 15** respondents answered the questions in this section. The main objective of this part is to present the information on the approaches used by WWP EN member organisations to develop partnerships between the two services. It also broadens the cooperation and support practices that the respondents describe as part of the integrated services for the management of cases of DV.

4.1. Approach partnership work

WWP EN has a broad membership base of organisations developing perpetrator work and VSS. **12 out of 15** organisations responded to this question. There is a variety of answers that emphasise cooperation between the two services. Moreover, some of the respondents broaden the spectrum of cooperation with other specialised services in public sector. While analysing the answers, the report took into account the development of different services, such as those for perpetrators' treatment and VSS in different countries as well as the types of partnerships developed.

The report identified the following partnership patterns:

- (1) PPs established through the initiative of women's organisations.
- (2) Different programs - both VSS and PPs – exist within the same organisation.
- (3) Established partnership between VSS and organisations providing PPs – Separate programmes cooperating through the referral of the cases.
- (4) Cooperation with other services for a coordinated intervention in cases of DV.

(1) *PPs established through the initiative of women's organisations.*

Examples from **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Russia** are the ones representing this model. In these three cases, the Men's centres were initiated as projects of the bigger women's organisations, and developed into semi-autonomous or autonomous centres offering specific PPs.

Thus, in **Albania** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** the services for perpetrator treatment developed just a few years ago. The programmes were established as integral part of the interventions of women organisations to tackle VAW, and later on developed further as semi-autonomous centres.

The men's centre established by the **Association of Citizens "Buducnost" (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** relies on the cooperation with the women's counselling centre and the safe house for victims of DV. In other areas of the federation, the psychosocial treatment for perpetrators can be provided by the centre for mental health based on good cooperation with WSS for the management of cases of DV. Cooperation is established with the Centre for Social Work for the referral and treatment of victims of DV as well as perpetrators.

In **Albania**, two specialised services for perpetrators were established and are now functional. Perpetrator support services were established through the initiative of women's centres but developed autonomously, with specific programmes and protocols for perpetrator treatment, still cooperating and sharing for case management. The cooperation is based on a protocol of action and coordination of service provisions for perpetrators and victims, with victim safety as the main priority of the work. The service in northern Albania developed a three-pattern cooperation (scheme of victim treatment, scheme of perpetrator treatment and scheme of parallel treatment), which is realised in different levels of the treatment process:

identification, treatment and follow-up. The cooperation involves other public service providers depending on the cases and needs.

In **Russia**, the development of **Men of 21st century – M21** and its PP was also initiated by the Crisis Centre for Women. The cooperation between PPs and VSS is based on different approaches: (i) on the one hand, they share the clients referring perpetrators and victims to each other and when possible they work on cases together sharing information and evaluating risk and performances; (ii) on the other hand, they support each other on capacity building and sharing knowhow – M21 seeks the crisis centre's expertise on how to motivate M21's clients while the Crisis Centre for Women needs M21's help and advice in regard to risk evaluation. Colleagues from the crisis centre "*tell (M21) about feelings and emotional experiences of victims of violence which (M21) discusses with (their) clients*". Furthermore, cooperation is based on joint activities to enhance the visibility of the problem of DV, development of joint projects, trainings as well as methodological materials and standards.

"We exist because a woman's centre initiated our work some time ago."

(Russia)

(2) **Different programmes - both VSS and PPs – exist within the same organisation.** This is a very common model and is encountered in both women's organisations and men's centres.

An example of this model is **the Caledonian System (Scotland)**, which fully integrates services for men, women and children. The three parts of the services are managed within the same structure. Another organisation implementing an integrated approach is the **Home for juvenile and victims of domestic violence "Duga Zagreb" (Croatia)**, through sheltering and empowerment services for victims, and structured and standardised group treatment programme for perpetrators of DV. **SPAVO (Cyprus)** and **The Association NAIA (Bulgaria)** are also examples of the integrated approach that offers parallel services for victims and individual counselling for perpetrators. Likewise, **MOVE Ireland** is a network of PPs that realises partner contact support as an integral part of the programme.

In **Bulgaria, The Association NAIA** supports victims of DV providing social, psychological and legal assistance as well as applying the programme for work with perpetrator of DV. The partnership work between the two programmes is implemented through the development of couple's therapy when the case demands it or when it is required by other institutions to work with the whole family (especially when children are involved).

The Home for juvenile and victims of domestic violence "Duga Zagreb" (Croatia) has a structured and standardised group treatment programme for perpetrators of DV. The department for work with perpetrators gives individual support to the victims during the treatment that their partners – as perpetrators – attend. Women are also referred to the Counselling Centre for victims where they can get further psychosocial and legal support. However, the shortcomings of this cooperation remain because of the lack of a systemised collaboration process.

(3) **Established partnership between VSS and organisations providing PPs – Separate programmes cooperating through the referral of the cases.**

The report identifies two PPs, **Diaconia of the ECCB – The Centre of Christian help in Prague (Czech Republic)** and **MEND (Ireland)** that cooperate with women crisis centres for the realisation of partner contact and provision of partner support. On the other side, **The Anti-Violence programme in Vienna (Austria)** is carried out in partnership between **the Domestic Violence Intervention centre** and **Men's Centre**, which means, "*that the programme is run together and the decisions are carried out jointly*".

The Centre of Christian Help in Prague (Czech Republic) has developed a comprehensive programme for perpetrators as well as individual therapeutic programme. This centre also outlines cooperation with probation and mediation service for the purpose of managing of the cases. The organisation develops joint work with social services for children and victims, reporting on the progress and success of therapy and giving recommendations for the victim therapy treatment.

The organisation **MEND (Ireland)** describes the cooperation with other service providers as a twofold approach emphasising the importance of keeping these approaches separate to some extent:

- on the one level, they work on contracting basis, doing work for other organisations on formal agreement;
- on another level, they work in partnership with local services to deal with the issue of DV/abuse and prioritising safety of the women and children in that process. They promote communication on the issues that emerge in the work with particular individuals, couples and children keeping victim and children's safety to the fore of the work. They also encourage openness, respect and frank discussions about situations where there is a need for a judgement call, describing this cooperation as *"a challenging, dynamic, "live" process"*.

"Working in partnership enables us to link the woman to a range of dedicated services to address her individual needs".

(Ireland)

Domestic Violence Intervention Centre (Austria) emphasises that they base their approach on the principle that *"partnership does not exist without equality"*. The Anti-Violence programme is carried out in partnership and together with the Men's Centre that means that the programme is managed together by both centres and both decide together on admission to – and termination of – the programme. As it was mentioned in Part 1, the programme is presented together by the Domestic Violence Intervention Centre

"Conflicting interests are inherent to victim-oriented work with perpetrators and the challenge is how to find solutions which do not jeopardise the rights and the safety of victims".

(Austria)

and Men's Centre in order to make the partnership approach visible and avoid the devaluation of women's work. However, the two centres do not always have the same interests: *"Conflicting interests are inherent to victim-oriented work with perpetrators and the challenge is how to find solutions which do not jeopardize the rights and the safety of victims"*.

(4) Several organisations highlight **cooperation with other services for a coordinated intervention in cases of DV**. On a wider spectrum of cooperation, the study shows **similar approaches among different organisations that describe their cooperation not only between VSS and PPs, but also with different service providers**, focusing on interventions for the management of cases, promotion of dialogue, sharing of knowledge, and supporting each other.

In **Cyprus**, the **Association for Prevention & Handling of Violence in the Family, SPAVO**, emphasises the cooperation with statutory service providers and NGOs in order to provide support to victims and perpetrators of DV. SPAVO highlights cooperation with the Cyprus Police throughout the handling and managing of DV-incidents as well as one of the main sources for the referral of the cases of violence. Another successful cooperation is the one with the Social Welfare Services for management of the cases as well as support for humanitarian assistance, victim counselling, mediation to enable parent-child communication in a safe environment and support to families at home after rehabilitation. Furthermore, SPAVO's cooperation on a more central level, with the Ministry of Education and Culture is evaluated highly. This cooperation is developed to address issues of common practices in dealing with cases of DV affecting

children attending public schools, introducing the services, conducting seminars in order to raise awareness on MVAW, support and empower children and school personnel. One of the good practices is also the financial support received from the Ministry of Justice and Public Order aiming to strengthen the work of SPAVO and the operation of the 24-hour Domestic Violence Helpline.

MOVE (Ireland), as a national network providing PPs in 11 locations in Ireland, works on the same line, and describes cooperation through a range of specialised and additional support services.

To sum up, the above described practices show how cooperation is developed on different levels and throughout a wide range of services. This cooperation, first and foremost, aims at addressing the needs of women and children subjected to men’s violence and guaranteeing their safety.

4.2. Main highlights of partnership work

11 out of 15 respondents answered to the question on the main highlights and/or results of their partnership work. All in all the answers fall under the following categories:

- ✓ Safety of women and children – development of services;
- ✓ Cooperation and coordinated interventions;
- ✓ Establishment of institutional agreements;
- ✓ Capacity building of professionals on domestic violence related issues;
- ✓ Improved interventions and follow up of the cases of domestic violence;
- ✓ Greater understanding of MVAW/DV.



- Safety of women and children – development of services
- Cooperation and coordinated interventions
- Establishment of institutional agreements
- Capacity building of professionals on domestic violence related issues
- Improved interventions and follow up of the cases of domestic violence
- Greater understanding of MVAW/DV

Despite being from different countries and contexts and developing different programmes and services, the responding organisations point out many similarities when describing the main results of partnership work.

Thus, 9 organisations highlight safety of women and children as the main result of their partnership work. As one of the respondents from **Ireland** points out, *“the main highlight is to know that in many situations we have increased,*

together with others, the safety of women and children, whether that means supporting her through our partner support service or through our work with the men to change behaviour so that men can be more respectful, caring and not violent in their relationships”.

“We have increased, together with others, the safety of women and children”.
(Ireland)

8 organisations underline the development of cooperation between the services and coordinated interventions.

5 organisations emphasises the impact of cooperation on the improvement of the interventions and follow-up programme. A member organisation from **Bosnia and Herzegovina** indicated that both services develop joint follow-up visits to the house of the couple when the woman decides to return to her abusive husband. In the **Czech Republic**, the member organisation explains the cooperation with the social services for

children and focus on the prevention of violence against children through early interventions targeted at perpetrators.

3 respondents highlight the fact that cooperation is based on formalised agreements and protocols of intervention, as in cases of **Albania** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, whereas in some other cases organisations use informal relations and acquaintance to address the cases for further assistance. For instance, in **Croatia** there is no standardised protocol for referring victims to further assistance.

"We have trained hundreds of professionals who are now aware of the problem of domestic violence".

(Russia)

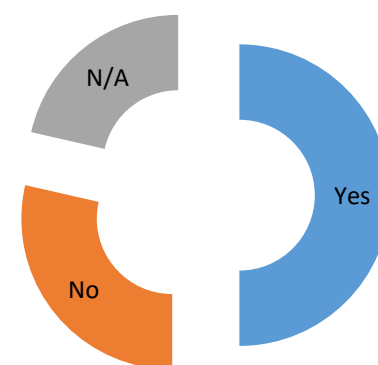
2 respondents indicate that a greater understanding of DV developed as a result of cooperation. 2 organisations also state that this has its effects on education and professional capacity building of service providers in this field. Likewise, this cooperation pushed the development and official acknowledgement of new services including those in the

coordinated mechanisms against DV and GBV. The respondents emphasise the extra value that cooperation and partnership add to provision of a complete and coordinated cycle of specialised services for victims and perpetrators of DV and to address the specific needs of cases in different levels.

4.3. Limitations of the approach to partnership work

11 out of 15 organisations answered to the question on limitations, 7 respondents state that the approach they use to work in partnership has some limitations.

For some of the respondents **limitations were related to time, financial and human resources available**. Thus, insufficient resources for planning and time constraints means that due consideration may not be given to the importance of partnership and networking. For instance, in **Ireland**, non-statutory organisations are not funded sufficiently, but at the same time are overloaded with the increasing amount of administrative as well as frontline work. This limits their engagement and dedication to cooperation and partnership.



Another difficulty encountered in partnership work is **the lack of standardised protocols of cooperation between the services**. For instance, in **Albania**, PSS were only developed in the recent years; therefore, channels of cooperation and information exchange with different services for victims are still weak. The same concern is raised by a member organisation in **Croatia**, who points to the lack of standardised protocols for directing the victim to further assistance.

Moreover, **mistrust and difference of opinions in relation to the value of working with perpetrators** are the issues that raise barriers to cooperation and information sharing between services.

Among other limitations, the respondents mention **the need to increase lobbying and cooperation between services for the referral of perpetrators to voluntary treatment and of exchanging best practices between professionals** in order to enhance skills and knowledge and improve the quality of the services for victims of violence.

Part 5: Ways forward

In Part 5 of this study the WWP EN member organisations reflect on the possible ways forward in terms of development of new practices and experience sharing within the Network. The respondents give their ideas and suggestions on how the good practices can be shared in a better, more efficient way; how organisations develop new practices and improve their work based on the experiences, advice and inspiration from other WWP EN members; and how WWP EN should stimulate and facilitate these processes. These ideas and suggestions are crucial for WWP EN, first of all, as they point out the member organisations' needs and interests, and secondly, as they help indicate possible areas and topics for further surveys within the Network.

5.1. Suggestions on how to facilitate good practice exchange between members

14 out of 15 respondents gave their suggestions on how to facilitate good practices exchange between members.

9 out of 14 member organisations emphasise **development of different events, seminars, webinars and study visits with the participation of member organisations on both regional and European level**, including discussions on issue of violence taking into consideration specific sociopolitical backgrounds in different contexts. On a regional level, for example, it is suggested to organise working summits more than once a year, assuming that neighboring countries may share problems that are more similar.

The WWP EN Annual Meeting is highly valued by the respondents as an excellent practice that gives member organisations the opportunity to discuss different topics, exchange ideas and practices and learn from each other. For instance, the member organisation from **Russia** explains in concrete terms how they make use of methods and practices of group work, work with gender stereotypes, etc. learned during the Annual Workshop. Moreover, it is suggested to encourage the Annual Workshop's participants to bring in more practical work to share but also to increase the exchange activities among members that would serve this end.

"After the presentation on pornography, I started to pay more attention to work with sexual life of clients in the counseling process. We have been testing IMPACT and will use it".

(Russia)

The respondent from **Austria** suggests **developing seminars on listening, understanding and valuing women's experiences in a patriarchal world, involving deeper listening and learning methods**. They explain furthermore that it is important *"for perpetrator programmes to listen to and understand the experience of women survivors of violence and of women's organisation's supporting them, to understand the manipulative power of violent men over women, and the consequences of domination and exploitation of women by men, the fear and horror in which women and children victims of male violence live"*. Among other suggested topics to include in the different events were the following: (i) male on male violence, (ii) understanding of the situation of women who experience multiple forms of violence and discrimination, black and migrant women, undocumented migrant women, lesbians, women with mental health problems, (iii) the motivation of clients in mandatory therapy – techniques, workshops, practical training.

Among other suggestions from the respondents to facilitate sharing of good practices were:

- ✓ Publication of the annual newsletter focusing on the work of the network members.
- ✓ Creating an atmosphere where people can discuss their work and experience in an open way where they will not feel or be criticised because they are not fitting into an overly fixed position or approach.

- ✓ Development of peer supervision to help exchange good practices.
- ✓ Regular meetings of member organisations through social media.
- ✓ Continuous process of gathering of relevant information for practitioners in Europe to disseminate to the members on regular basis.
- ✓ Increasing exchange activities among members to share practices.
- ✓ Development and arrangement of trainings for member organisations to increase their capacities and knowledge.
- ✓ Giving an opportunity to non-EU countries to host the Annual Workshop and securing alternative funding sources to enable this

5.2. Suggestions on how to help members to develop their services

14 out of 15 respondents also give their suggestions when it comes to different ways of helping member organisations develop their services.

Certain concerns related to sustainability of the member organisations' services due to financial restrictions, have been raised by the members several times within the framework of different WWP EN activities. For many members, especially in the Balkan region, the governments do not provide any financial support leaving the organisations with project-based funding from donor organisations as the only possible source of funding. One suggestion put forward is **to check possibilities to help members get access to EU funding as well as establish contacts with other donors**. At the same time, training could be provided to members on how to apply for EU funding.

One recommendation specifically linked to the development of the services suggests **developing support that responds to the needs of the members**. This kind of support should be based on the understanding of the development stage the relevant service. It is important that members feel they can look for advice, mentorship and support specific to their needs without a sense that they will be overwhelmed or judged. For instance, some might need information, resources, content and structures to help them get a service off the ground. Others might need support, encouragement and ideas about getting funds to develop the service, deal with issues to do with engagement between VSS and PPs, or developing a good risk management/child protection procedures and protocols.

Different WWP EN member organisations are specialised in certain topics or programmes of work and can be an excellent source of help by offering trainings and/or supervision to members who need to develop new services. For instance, the member from **Czech Republic** offered to provide their experience with therapy, especially couple and group therapy.

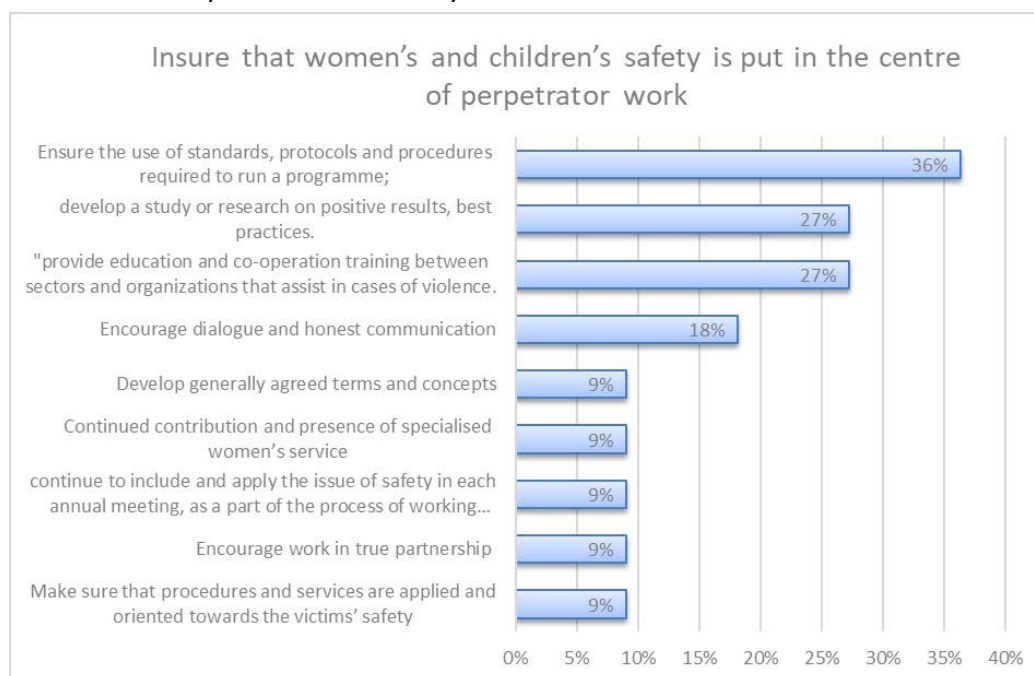
Another important topic was **cooperation between PPs and VSS**. In terms of developing and improving this cooperation, one respondent suggests, *"helping members to earnestly engage with women and women's organisations that are critical and fearful of work with perpetrators; help them not to see this as a nuisance but as important feedback"*. Furthermore, one of the respondents points out that a good solution would be to work together on joint projects and specific cases as well as to involve more organisations in this work. So far, there have been limitations for the non-EU members due to the restrictions and regulations of EU funding. Therefore, it is suggested **to promote and unify standards of work and case management as well as collection of statistics**.

Sharing of good practices is again pointed out as a very good method of learning and improving the work of the member organisations. It is suggested **to conduct updated insights into the achievements of all members when providing help to victims and children and emphasise similarities and differences between**

the member states. In this way, everyone can get quick and accurate insight into what is happening and what work is done, for instance, in neighbouring countries, and implement the models shown in their practice. This information could also be shared through newsletters and webinars, grouping similar types of projects with specific areas of interest. Webinars, annual meetings and study visits are extremely important to get to know the concrete practices that other programmes have and develop one's own programme.

5.3. Suggestions of how to ensure that women's and children's safety is put in the centre of perpetrator work throughout the whole network

11 out of 15 organisations shared their ideas and suggestions on how to make women's and children's safety highly prioritised within PPs, and the answers directly reflect practices of the responding organisations as well as the specific context they work with.



36% of the suggestions given by the respondents **encourage the use of standards required to run a programme and protocols of cooperation between the services.** As part of this standardised work, perpetrator programmes should apply risk assessment and prioritise safety of the victims. WWP EN could contribute to this by encouraging member organisations to apply European Standards, also pointing at the Istanbul Convention as a reference.

Regular training and education related to victim safety as well as therapeutic work with victims, case assistance, etc. were suggested by **27%** of the respondents. This could also be an encouragement to the member organisations to lobby in order to influence their governments and request existing services to develop these education programmes for their service staff.

About the same number of responses suggests the **development of research on practices at a global level in relation to ensuring safety of women and children as one of the priorities in perpetrator work.** The research, pointing at visible positive results achieved through perpetrator treatment, would serve as a proof to the countries and organisations that do not believe that the implementation of psychosocial treatment of perpetrators is aimed precisely at protecting women and children subjected to men's violence. In this context, it is important to provide validated information based on treatment outcomes which prove that perpetrators can change their behaviour.

At the same time **18%** of the respondents suggest ***encouraging open dialogue and communication among members of the network, as well as between services***. The complexities and challenges of work with perpetrators and victims in often parallel processes expose service providers to a lot of frustration. *“Services are provided in a community where other statutory and non-statutory organisations are involved and this can add to the pressure as well as support for the safety of the victims”*. Therefore, open and honest communication is needed in order to overcome the barriers, and guarantee the safety of the victims.

“We need to know our place in this community response to domestic violence/abuse”.

(Ireland)

WWP EN has already done the groundwork on the issue of safety at the last annual meeting and it is recommended that this practice continues during the coming Annual Workshops and other events. Perhaps members of the Network who have well-developed mechanisms could share them through newsletters and other resources made available by the Network.

Other respondents highlight the ***continued contribution and presence of specialised women’s services for guaranteeing safety of the victims and professional addressing of their needs of women and children suffered from men’s violence***. Therefore, true partnership work between PPs and VSS is emphasised again as a core of interventions for the management of the cases of DV. Working with victims of DV put women’s and children’s safety in the centre. Therefore, all the procedures and services must be applied and oriented towards guaranteeing safety of women and children.

Another respondent develops the idea further towards a generally agreed terms and concepts, which could be developed into a glossary of terms or tags. This is to help bring together women's and men's organisations, reduce the level of confrontation and increase the level of understanding and cooperation between them.

“Sometimes I have a feeling that we speak about the same thing, but in different languages”.

(Russia)

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