



WWP // EUROPEAN NETWORK

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National Reports 2017

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National Report Lithuania

Organisation: Human Rights Monitoring Institute

Author: Meta Adutaviciute

Organisation

What types of activities related to preventing domestic violence has your organisation carried out in the last three years?

Human Rights Monitoring Institute is a public advocacy non-governmental organisation. In the last three years, we:

- Carried out a research on how the rights of domestic violence (DV) victims are guaranteed in the criminal proceedings (2014);
- Submitted proposals on the legislation transposing 2012 EU Victims Directive (2014);
- Developed and launched an e-course on domestic violence for professionals (police, judges, prosecutors, social workers) (2015);
- Conducted a cycle of regional trainings on DV for prosecutors (2015);
- Carried out a mapping on the accessibility of online support to victims of crime (2016);
- Contributed to the development of DV response municipal programme in Vilnius city municipality (2016);
- Carried out a qualitative research on experiences of DV victims with a focus on key factors encouraging women to speak out and seek help (to be released in 2018);
- Developed a handbook for law enforcement officers on effective and sensitive communication with victims of crime, including victims of DV (to be published in January 2018);
- Developed an online informational tool for victims of crime including victims of DV (to be published in January 2018)).

What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention to your organisation? Please focus on the last three years.

The biggest obstacle/challenges are:

1. **Lack of comprehensive educational programmes in schools on violence in intimate relationship.** Although the Programme on Health, Gender Education and Preparation for the Family Life has been adopted by the Ministry of Education in 2017, which includes education on gender equality, and how to recognise signs of violence and abuse in intimate relationship, it's not being implemented in a coherent way due to lack of approved methodologies and lack of training for teachers on how to deliver the programme to pupils.

2. **Enforcement of court orders.** Another weak link in violence prevention is enforcement of protection orders/correction measures and lack of accountability for not complying. Statistical data on the application of and compliance with protection orders/correction measures is not available; however, anecdotal evidence suggest, that: a) perpetrators are not always sanctioned for violating protection orders, e.g. obligation not to contact the victim; b) perpetrators are not reprimanded for failing to attend behaviour change programmes when participation in the programme is ordered by the court, even in cases, when the issue is brought before the ordering court by probation officer.

Country

Please give an overview of general situation in your country regarding work with perpetrators.

Participation in the programme of changing violent behaviour is foreseen in the criminal law as a measure that can be imposed with criminal sanctions such as actual or suspended prison sentence. Such measure can also be ordered as a condition for release from criminal liability in cases of reconciliation between the victim and perpetrator.

The work with perpetrators in Lithuania is being carried out by three type of entities: a) probation services; b) municipal services such as health centres or crisis centres; c) specialised non-governmental organisations working with perpetrators (or victims and perpetrators). The services are funded through the National Programme on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Support to Victims 2014-2020, municipal budgets, EU structural funds, and international funding.

There is no general approved model of working with perpetrators - services providers are free to choose their working methods by adopting different models from other countries.

Please give an overview of your country's criminal and civil responses to domestic violence, especially any changes within the last 3 years? (i.e. what are the most important legal and policy measures and how have they been implemented?)

In the last 3 years, there were two significant amendments to the Law on Protection from Violence in Close Environment (2011). The first amendment improved referral system to specialized victim support, obliging the police to share contact details of victims with specialized support services. The second amendment clarified the conditions and grounds for applying protection orders outside criminal investigation (if there is a risk of repetitive violence and (or) the victim requests such measures). Previously, the application of protection orders was tied to formal launching of criminal inquiry.

The most important policy measures adopted in the last three years are:

1. The National Programme on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Support to Victims 2014-2020, adopted by the Government; no official reports on the implementation of the Programme have been published to date.
2. Action Plan on the Implementation of the National Programme on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Support to Victims 2017-2020, approved by the Minister of Social Protection and Labour.
3. Action Plan on the Implementation of the National Programme on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Support to Victims 2014-2016, approved by the Minister of Social Protection and Labour.

There are no official reports on the implementation of the action plans published to date. Some information on the work with perpetrators is provided in the Ministry of Social Protection and Labour's annual activity reports: in 2015, 252 people received services funded through the state budget; in 2016, there were 460 such people. However, the statistics do not include the number of people who received the services through municipal authorities.

[Please tell us the progress your country has made in relation to Istanbul Convention \(particularly Article 16 on work with perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence/abuse\).](#)

The Istanbul Convention is yet to be ratified by Lithuania.

[Do you know any other organisations/programmes in your country that carry out domestic violence perpetrator work? If yes, please detail them.](#)

- Kaunas District Crisis Centre for Men
- Kaunas Crisis Centre for Women
- Vilnius Crisis Centre for Men
- Vilnius Crisis Centre
- Ukmergė Public Health Centre
- Telšiai Crisis Centre
- Human Resources Monitoring and Development Bureau, Šiauliai
- Utena District Crisis Centre for Men
- Marijampolė District Crisis Centre for Men
- Šiauliai District Crisis Centre for Men
- Probation services in municipalities

Best practice

[Tell us about best practice in work with perpetrators in your country.](#)

Kaunas District Crisis Centre for Men has adopted a Danish model of working with perpetrators "Dialogue against Domestic Violence". The programme consists of 28 group meetings, followed by at least of 5 months of individual meetings after completing the

programme (with at least 1 meeting every two weeks in the first 3 months) to assess how the client succeeds in adopting new models of behaviour.

[http://www.vyrukrc.lt/userfiles/file/PROGRAMOS/KAVKC_PROGRAMA\(1\).pdf](http://www.vyrukrc.lt/userfiles/file/PROGRAMOS/KAVKC_PROGRAMA(1).pdf)

Needs and recommendations

What needs to be done in order to prevent domestic violence in your country (regarding work with perpetrators)?

- Gaps in services should be identified where the programmes are not available and/or accessible. There are around 20 thousand cases of domestic violence reported each year, but services for perpetrators are still fragmented and their availability varies across municipalities. Only 4 municipalities out of 60 have municipal action programmes on DV.
- There should be a clearer state policy and better collection of statistics on the work with perpetrators. More specific guidelines and criteria could be developed in terms of the contents and purposes of the programmes funded from state and municipal budgets. Services providers should be required to use best practices, for example, involve victim support organisations in the process, and also clearly separate violent behaviour changing programmes from other services such as mediation. The latter is also applied by probation services, and mediation in domestic violence cases accounts for one third of the total of mediated cases. There could be clearer guidelines developed on the state level in terms of when mediation could be applied, prioritizing the safety of victim in the decision process.
- More investment into professional training and increasing the number of specialist able to deliver behaviour change programmes (in probation services, municipal institutions and other entities which, with appropriate training and recourses, could deliver such services).

What are the most important tasks and steps that you feel should be focused on in your country in order to tackle domestic violence on a general level?

1. Ratification of the Istanbul Convention
2. Early education in schools to promote a culture of non-violent behaviour and enable children to recognise signs of all forms of abuse from an early age
3. Sensitizing law enforcement agencies to enable women to report more often
4. Improvement of the application of legal protection measures to prevent repetitive violence
5. Consistent enforcement of courts orders, both protective and punitive
6. Improved multi-agency cooperation and coordination of response to domestic violence on the national as well as municipal levels

National Report Luxembourg

Organisation: SSLMG (Société Scientifique Luxembourgeoise de Médecine générale)

Authors: Raquel Gómez Bravo; Martin Per Sattler

Organisation

What types of activities related to preventing domestic violence has your organisation carried out in the last three years?

SSLMG is the Société Scientifique Luxembourgeoise de Médecine Générale (SSLMG) and it is the association that initiates, promotes and sustains scientific projects, research in general practice, and postgraduate training in Luxembourg.

The activities related to preventing domestic violence that the organisation has carried out in the last three years, alone or in collaboration with ALFORMEC (Association luxembourgeoise pour la formation médicale continue) have been mostly educational and training activities to raise awareness among GP trainees and GPs and to increase detection and prevention.

What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention to your organisation/s? Please focus on the last three years.

- Collaboration between organisation and stakeholders: It is important to have good collaboration of all the stakeholders because if we increase the awareness and the number of diagnoses and referrals but do not have the expected answer from the other levels, it is not efficient. It is mandatory to provide proper care to our population building a strong system that cares about the whole family, victims and perpetrators.
- Lack of knowledge and skills: Unfortunately, there is still a long way to go to train the whole system at any level, but fortunately the efforts are currently directed to it.

Country

Please give an overview of general situation in your country regarding work with perpetrators.

By international comparison, Luxembourg has a well established and regulated law in the area of domestic violence, a close and cooperative network of counselling centres for victims and perpetrators, as well as far-reaching campaigns against domestic violence.

Regarding the work with perpetrators, there are some ongoing programs at the moment, provided by associations working with perpetrators, Riicht Eraus and infoMann, and by ALUPSE (Association luxembourgeoise de pédiatrie sociale) that works with young perpetrators. And more initiatives will be implemented in the future, from next year on, not only for perpetrators but for domestic violence in general.

Please give an overview of your country's criminal and civil responses to domestic violence, especially any changes within the last 3 years? (i.e. what are the most important legal and policy measures and how have they been implemented?)

On the 8th of September 2003, Luxembourg adopted a Law on domestic violence which established an advisory body, acting under the supervision of the Ministry of Equal Opportunities, which examines the implementation and enforcement of the relevant legislation. Luxembourg undertook legislative initiatives as well with the adoption of the Act on Domestic Violence, which regulates the expulsion of a perpetrator from the family home. This law was amended in July 2013 and another reform of the Domestic Violence Act is being implemented as part of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which will offer better protection for the children above all.

The implementation of this law is regularly discussed within the framework of the *Comité de coopération entre les professionnels dans le domaine de la violence* that was completely reformed in July 2013. This body consists of representatives of the police, prosecutors, various ministries, social services such as SAVVD or Riicht Eraus. The panel meets 4 times per year, providing a yearly report to the Government Council with the latest figures, which will also be available to the media and the general public in the future.

Please tell us the progress your country has made in relation to Istanbul Convention (particularly Article 16 on work with perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence/abuse).

Luxembourg signed the Convention on the day of the Treaty opening (11 May 2011) but it has not yet been ratified. However, the draft Bill, aimed at implementing the Istanbul Convention, is currently being assessed by the Luxembourg Parliament. The Draft Law foresees amendments to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Law of 8 September 2003 on domestic violence and the Law of 29 August 2008 on free movement of person and immigration. Among other changes, female genital mutilation (FGM) will now constitute a crime; children as direct or indirect victims of violence, will be taken care of by the social services specialised in domestic violence, and the concerned ministries (police, justice, health) must collect annual data disaggregated by sex, age and victim-perpetrator relationship. An inter-ministerial working group was set up in 2016 to work towards ratifying the Istanbul Convention, and the current 2015-2018 National Action Plan for Gender Equality makes reference to the Istanbul Convention and defines its ratification as one of the priorities for the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Health.

Do you know any other organisations/programmes in your country that carry out domestic violence perpetrator work? If yes, please detail them.

There are two associations working with male victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, as well as trying to prevent violence:

- Riicht Eraus is a service provided by the Luxembourg Red Cross that works with perpetrators of domestic violence. Their goal is to reduce violence at its source by

leading the perpetrator to take responsibility for their violent behaviour and acknowledge their emotions and feelings. Email: riichteraus@croix-rouge.lu

- infoMann is a consultation service for men in distress (including victims of violence and trafficking), run by the non-profit organisation actTogether asbl, that provides help, support and accommodation. Email: info@infomann.lu.

Additionally, there are other domestic violence services:

- Luxembourg's national domestic violence helpline, Fraentelefon (12 344), by phone and online, is also available in different languages: Luxembourgish, French, German, English and Portuguese.
- ALUPSE (Association luxembourgeoise de pédiatrie sociale) works with young perpetrators.

Best practice

[Tell us about best practice in work with perpetrators in your country.](#)

The previous ones that have been mentioned. For example, the counselling centre Riicht Eraus for perpetrators of domestic violence offers counselling and therapy, and all the offenders are obliged to visit it. The consultations have consistently increased in recent years, suggesting that this service that is provided is being more and more accepted.

Needs and recommendations

[What needs to be done in order to prevent domestic violence in your country \(regarding work with perpetrators\)?](#)

It is well known that preventing and responding to domestic violence requires a multi-sectorial approach and needs to be addressed as a public health problem. For these reasons, there is a need of:

- More resources, not only to deal with perpetrators, but also to strengthen the prevention of and responses to intimate partner and sexual violence, including primary prevention – stopping it from happening in the first place (WHO).
- More structured pathways, monitor and analyse, in order to provide evidence of what is the most effective intervention.
- Collaboration between all the stakeholders.
- More public awareness campaigns and primary prevention campaigns that should be developed by a multidisciplinary team to work at different levels, according to WHO recommendations.
- More advocacy and counselling interventions to improve access to services for survivors of intimate partner violence and home visitation programs involving health worker outreach by trained nurses. Both have been effective in reducing such violence.

- Enact and enforce legislation and develop and implement policies that promote gender equality by: ending discrimination against women in marriage, divorce and custody laws, ending discrimination in inheritance laws and ownership of assets, improving women's access to paid employment and developing and resourcing national plans and policies to address violence against women (WHO, VAW 2017).
- More training, to increase the knowledge and the skills of all the actors involved. All the professionals that take a role with regard to domestic violence need to receive special education on violence and perpetrators.
- To provide comprehensive services, sensitize and train health care providers in responding to the needs of survivors and perpetrators holistically and empathetically.
- To prevent recurrence of violence through early identification of women and children who are experiencing violence and providing appropriate referral and support

What are the most important tasks and steps that you feel should be focused on in your country in order to tackle domestic violence on a general level?

- Better coordination between the sectors involved in prevention of, and response to, sexual violence (including health services, social services, forensic medicine and lab services, police/ investigation, and the legal system)
- Proper pathways and resources are needed for these actors and sectors, as well as a proper analysis to provide evidence
- Training for all the stakeholders

National Report The Netherlands

Organisation: Movisie (www.movisie.nl)

Author: Bert Groen

Organisation

What types of activities related to preventing domestic violence has your organisation carried out in the last three years?

Movisie has contributed to the plan for a nationwide infrastructure for a multidisciplinary approach to complex violence problems, in close collaboration with the initiators of the initiatives already developed within the Netherlands concerning the multidisciplinary approach to complex problems, child abuse, domestic and sexual violence.

What do we mean by Multidisciplinary Approach++ (in the Netherlands called MDA++)?

With the MDA ++ we mean an intersectoral, multidisciplinary, system-oriented, coordinated and integrated approach from one team. That means:

Intersectoral: cooperation between the various sectors, that is the safety chain (including the police, the Public Prosecution Service and the Child Care and Protection Board), the emergency services and the medical care (including general practitioner and hospital)

Multidisciplinary: collaboration between professionals with different professions such as the general practitioner, psychotherapist, police, public prosecutor, youth psychiatrist, behavior expert and social worker.

System-oriented: the offer is family oriented, the family system as a whole is seen as a client, both help to children and adults and to victims, perpetrators and other parties involved. The goal is to help the family to regain balance and control.

Coordinated: there is a case manager or care coordinator who is the permanent contact person for the client system.

Integral: the approach focuses on all forms of violence in the family; both on child abuse and on domestic and sexual violence. The aid is coordinated and offered jointly.

What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention to your organisation/s? Please focus on the last three years.

- **Current aid offer is not sufficient:**

Studies in the Netherlands (2013 and 2014) show that the joint responsibility for families in which serious and complex violence problems occur has not yet led to the desired results (including the decrease in fatalities, the decrease in recidivism and an effective integrated system-based family approach).

For most acute (once-only) violent cases, Veilig Thuis and / or a social neighbourhood team can provide sufficient support to restore safety and prevent further escalation. However, if there is serious violence where, for example, medical and psychological care is required and forensic investigation is desirable, these organizations must be able to fall back on specialists. This also applies to serious, complex and structural violent cases with a high risk of recurrence and / or escalation. Safe Home and the social neighbourhood teams cannot provide the desired sustainable safety for these families. This requires additional effort, expertise and a specialist approach.

The current cooperation between the care and safety chain still shows too many problems in cases with serious, acute violence and / or complex and structural violence, for example:

- **Chain collaboration and 'overall' direction is unclear** - Everyone is responsible for their own part within the chain and therefore there is insufficient insight into all the family members involved and the dynamics of violence within the family. No one within the chain feels responsible for the whole or has sufficient insight into the underlying and often present very complex problems.
- **The cooperation is delayed** - the various interventions are coordinated, but they work too much or next to each other, with each organization having its own work process. The focus of the various organizations is still too much on the individual client. Everyone's responsibility is often not part of the broader support plan for safety and recovery for the entire family system.
- **Insufficient coordination between the civil and criminal law approaches** - These often function as two separate systems, as a result of which measures are not or hardly attuned to each other.

Country

Please give an overview of general situation in your country regarding work with perpetrators.

Regarding the approach of domestic violence and the role of the perpetrators, the Netherlands have a general focus on working with the victims of domestic violence and their families, including perpetrators. An approach in which safety always comes first, but also an approach with interventions focusing on the social context of the family and the environment, working with all family members, including the perpetrators towards an integrated family plan.

Perpetrators are always accountable for their behaviour, but they are also in many cases fathers and role models for their children. To break the circle of repeated violence through many years, you have to change the behaviour of perpetrators of domestic violence.

Victims don't always want to end their relations, they want that the violence stops. Currently, organisations working in the field of domestic violence, like support centres as Safe Home and women organisations have this focus.

Please give an overview of your country's criminal and civil responses to domestic violence, especially any changes within the last 3 years. (i.e. what are the most important legal and policy measures and how have they been implemented?)

The last 3 years there's no significant change of legislation regarding the response to domestic violence. The last major civil response is the restraining order for perpetrators of domestic violence and child abuse. Within this civil response order, the major of the municipality is responsible for the restraining order, which can be mandated by the major to the police. The restraining order is issued for 20 days and can be extended to a maximum of 28 days. Violation of the restraining order is an criminal offense and the perpetrator can be arrested.

An important policy measure within the last years is the vision in the Netherlands that we should focus on an integrated and system orientated chain approach of domestic violence, sexual violence and child abuse together. Not considering these topics as individual, but in a more holistic view. Often these topics occur in families together. In families were domestic violence is happening, often there's, in case there are children, also child abuse and visa versa. Dynamics are comparable and often the same organisations are involved in the support systems. This integrated approach led to the Dutch organisation 'Veilig Thuis' (translated into English Safe Home). An organisation in which the Domestic Violence Support Centres and Advice and Support Centres Child Abuse are integrated into one organisation. Another important measure is the development of the Centres Sexual Violence, called CSG. These centres are primarily developed for victims of all kinds of sexual violence (not only in the family) in order to provide all necessary provisions for victims (legal, physical health care, mental health care e.a.)

As mentioned above, another major policy measure is the implementation of the MDA++ (multidisciplinary approach in cases of immediate or structural unsafe domestic violence/child abuse cases.

Please tell us the progress your country has made in relation to Istanbul Convention (particularly Article 16 on work with perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence/abuse).

The Dutch government ratified the Istanbul convention and acknowledges the work with perpetrators. As mentioned earlier, the approach is family orientated and focusing on all members of the family, including perpetrators. Important within this approach is that safety for the victims and their children always comes first and that perpetrators are held accountable for their behaviour. The core principle in the Netherlands is currently a risk-orientated approach: first working on safety for the victim (and children) and then working on risk focused (or orientated) approach.

Please tell us the progress your country has made in relation to Istanbul Convention (particularly Article 16 on work with perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence/abuse).

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Do you know any other organisations/programmes in your country that carry out domestic violence perpetrator work? If yes, please detail them.

Several organisations in the Netherlands are working with perpetrators of domestic violence, some active in the mental health care provision in particular other as part of the family (treatment) plan.

Examples of particular organisations are De Waag (Utrecht) and Dok.

Best practice

Tell us about best practice in work with perpetrators in your country.

Because as mentioned under 7 more organisations are involved in working with perpetrators it's difficult to mention a best practice. The last large review was done in 2010 by Movisie.

- Perpetrator treatment by De Waag (Utrecht): Systemic therapeutic approach for victim and perpetrator

Offender assistance Utrecht is a module of De Waag, centre for ambulatory forensic psychiatry of the Henri van der Hoeven Foundation in Utrecht. The approach involves working closely with the Utrecht police during the registration and motivation phase. The treatment is tailored to the client and consists of intake interviews, individual therapy, group therapy and / or partner therapy. In the course of the project, the approach has shifted from a two-track policy, in which the victim and the perpetrator follow a separate trajectory, to a system-therapeutic approach, in which a joint trajectory is used at an early stage. Motivation strategies play an important role in this.

Vision / starting points:

To stop relational violence, it is necessary to offer perpetrator assistance, in parallel with a victim assistance program. The treatment is based on a system therapeutic approach. Target Termination of the violence by getting the perpetrators to accept an aid offer. Target

audience In the first instance, perpetrators of domestic violence and, if both partners want to maintain the relationship, their partners. It concerns perpetrators of both native and immigrant descent.

Needs and recommendations

What needs to be done in order to prevent domestic violence in your country (regarding work with perpetrators)?

The general approach is already focusing on also working with perpetrators.

What are the most important tasks and steps that you feel should be focused on in your country in order to tackle domestic violence on a general level?

More deeply development of the multidisciplinary approach.

What does the multidisciplinary approach deliver?

If for these two groups of victims mentioned above a good and accessible multidisciplinary approach would exist, then all those involved would have an advantage.

The victims of acute and chronic (sexual) violence:

They have an interest in a facility where the necessary expertise is available, where institutions and professionals work together, where they do not have to repeat their story more than necessary and where they have one permanent contact person who coordinates the care. The sooner and better the right help, the more limited the damage and the risks of trauma. The sooner victims can pick up the thread of their lives with regard to family life, school and education.

Families in which child abuse and / or structural insecurity (often in combination with other problems such as psychiatric, addiction and / or financial problems):

Multidisciplinary, intersectoral and system-oriented aid to victims, perpetrators and other parties involved can lead to sustainable improvement in different areas of life, and structurally break the circle of violence.

Municipalities:

Within a multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral approach, institutions work integrally from the first report with the starting point for choosing the right approach, light assistance where possible and specialized help and, if necessary, criminal law where necessary. If the right help is offered immediately after acute violence, you reduce the risk of victims developing traumas or becoming victims again and then requiring intensive, heavier and longer help later on. A multidisciplinary approach can also reduce the chance that victims or families repeatedly ask help from different authorities (assistance, care, police) without any substantial and structural improvement in their situation. In addition to the benefits for

residents, from a cost perspective for municipalities it is of great importance to organize the approach in an inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary way.

Professionals:

A multidisciplinary intersectoral collaboration ensures that professionals have direct and structural contact with all relevant sectors, so that their approach is more effective, result-oriented and sustainable. Instead of separate relief chains, there is 1 aid network for domestic violence, sexual violence and child abuse. Result: shorter lines, more knowledge about and confidence in each other's working methods, avoidance of unnecessary work and a saving on consultation time.

National Report Romania

Organisation: Community Safety and Mediation Centre

Author: Laura Albu

Other organisation: Romanian Women's Lobby

Organisation

What type of activities related to preventing domestic violence has your organisation carried out in the last three years?

Established in 2000 in Iasi, Romania, the NGO Community Safety and Mediation Center has been working with victims of domestic violence since its founding.

In the last three years, CMSC developed several projects in the field of protection of victims of domestic violence, as follows:

- Developing and Strengthening the Network for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women -funded by EEA Grants
- Funding “Her story - Women in inter-ethnic rural communities “ through Norway Grants
- Supporting victims of violence through multiple discrimination approach- also funded by EEA grants, through The Romanian Social Development Fund
- Assisting victims of gender based violence through bilateral cooperation between Romania and Norway- funded through Norway Grants

The organisation's focus in the last years was on the following issues:

a. Increasing the capacity of experts and volunteers to face the needs of the beneficiaries and increasing social cohesion through the introduction of a new service of multi-disciplinary coordination of domestic violence cases under a lawyer's or psychologist's coordination.

b. Creating communication tools through working together in intervention case teams of specialists from the same county, which were previously working separately on the case, leading to a shorter time for intervention.

c. Promoting and applying adequate methods of work through the documentation of good practices in direct assistance of victim. Building unified study cases in intervention on 82 cases of adults and 38 cases of children (statistics refer only to the last 6 months in 2016 and only to direct cases CMSC was involved in). Assimilating a better law (217/203) on violence in the family and preparing the legislative modification needed for the implementation of the recently ratified Istanbul Convention by Romania in September 2016.

d. Investing adequate resources in the future of services to ensure continuation by training lawyers, doctors and psychologists in assistance of cases of gender-based violence, taking

into consideration that lawyers will receive cases to be assisted pro bono, and psychologists could be later hired in public or private structure of case referrals and therapy.

e. Developing relationships with donor states through the partnership with Hedda Foundation from Norway, enabling a transfer of good practices in tackling multiple discrimination cases with which Romania didn't have much experience.

What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention to your organisation? Please focus on the last three years.

Main challenges:

- Lack of or no funding at all for permanent services for victims and perpetrators of violence against women and domestic violence;
- Inaccurate national statistics, in which the extent of family violence is underestimated, fragmented and dispersed. Additionally, the different data from varying sources arouse suspicion regarding the accuracy of these statistics
- -There is no professional training in the field of family violence
- There is no current permanent preoccupation for researching the phenomenon of family violence and its causes
- -The existing legislation is incoherent and not adapted to the Romanian reality
- There are no mechanisms for enforcing legal provisions

CMSC, together with main partner Forensic Medical Institute from Iasi city and Norwegian partner Hedda Foundation, were able to develop several tools for addressing some of these challenges (except with the funding one) using the following tools:

- **2015: Executing a study for identification of specific needs for the professionals working with VAW** regarding the approach of the victims of violence and, possibly, people discriminated based on gender, age, ethnicity, etc.
- **2016: Conducting a study regarding the multiple discrimination of victims** (collecting data, analysis, processing) based on the current legislations in Romania, European Union and the Donor States concerning the protection of violence victims, anti-discrimination actions; relevant case studies; conclusions; recommendations;
- **2016: Developing a good practice manual** on the approach of multiple discrimination. To better understand the models of good practice, a number of 20 best practice models were documented.
- **2016: Launching a campaign against multiple discrimination of victims.** The campaign aimed to draw attention towards the violence and abuse to which the victims of violence are exposed and to aspects of discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity and disability which double the vulnerable status of the victims of violence. The online campaign can be accessed here <https://www.facebook.com/FixMediaAdvertising/?fref=ts> and here <https://www.facebook.com/victimassistiasi/?fref=ts>

- **2016: Holding regional training sessions for professionals from the region of Moldova.** Organizing four regional training sessions, with participation of 300 specialists: 100 medical doctors from the medico-legal system, emergency hospitals and general practitioners and 200 members of inter-sectorial teams from the eight counties. The specialists work with victims of violence and face cases of multiple discrimination – police officers, members of the departments for battling family violence activating in the general departments for social protection and child services, local authorities, personnel from shelters and centres for counselling victims and aggressors etc.
- **2016: Workshop on good practices of Donor States** – In Ilasi, the Hedda Foundation held a workshop promoting different good practices regarding assistance of victims in Norway, including work with perpetrators in Norway.
- **2016: Two Norway study visits to the Hedda Foundation** to start a comparative analysis and elaboration regarding intervention of cases in multidisciplinary teams and working with perpetrators.
- **Monthly: Permanent training modules** open for all professionals, including free training modules for all specialists, but also for law students, medical students, social studies students, volunteers, teachers and all people interested in the aspects of prevention and intervening in cases.

Country

Overview of general situation in Romania regarding perpetrator work.

There are no coordinated measures yet regarding work with perpetrators. In January 2017, Government declined funding of National Programs of Interest tackling violence against women, which included also funding for centres to work with perpetrators, motivating lack of funding.

At this moment, there are two centres for perpetrators in Baia Mare city, funded through Norway grants, one in Baia Mare penitentiary and one in a partnership between Social Service Baia Mare, ASSOC and County Police Maramureş. Project ended in April 2017 and is not clear if still continues or not.

Other two-day centres are coordinated by local council in Alba county and private public partnership in Mures County.

Overview of Romania criminal and civil responses to domestic violence, especially changes within the last 3 years? (i.e. what are the most important legal and policy measures and how have they been implemented?)

A series of other measures had been enacted to prevent and counter sexual violence, including the setting up of eight crisis centres for rape and partnerships with hospitals. Other

measures undertaken by the Government included the adoption of the new Criminal Code in 2014, which criminalized all forms of trafficking in persons.

Romania progress made in relation to Istanbul Convention.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Prevention and Combatting of Domestic Violence was created in 2016 as an implementing body for the Istanbul Convention.

Domestic violence and violence against women continued to be a priority for the country and in 2016 Romania had ratified the Istanbul Convention. The harmonization of internal legislation with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention was under way, with the focus on amending and completing Law No. 217/2003 on the prevention and combating of domestic violence. Another project to this effect was the VENUS project to combat violence against women, which would develop measures centred on the integrated and unified approach to social services, socio-professional and professional training of specialists in the field.

The Law introducing the Gender Perspective and the Law 217 on the Prevention and Combatting of Domestic Violence were considered a priority, and Government had undertaken the commitment to debate them in October 2017 at the latest. At the moment of writing this report (November 2017) the laws were not debated yet.

Even though the Constitution of Romania had high standards, its implementation did not address multiple forms of discrimination. Romanian law did not take into account issues such as age, social or economic status, racial or ethnic background, status, health, disability, poverty and sexual orientation, which are interlinked with gender. Additionally, the laws were often not enforced in a proper manner, and Romanian people did not have trust in the legal system.

Romania faced a huge challenge of discrimination against women and domestic violence; however there would soon be a shift in paradigm in this respect, with the upcoming adoption of the Law introducing the Gender Perspective and the Law 217 on the Prevention and Combatting Domestic Violence. The latter would be harmonized with the Istanbul Convention, and would appoint a legal expert with concrete attributions to promote gender perspective in the national institutions.

On domestic violence measures, the Istanbul Convention was being implemented and Romania would follow the Austrian model, which provided that the aggressor had to be evicted immediately from the residence.

Regarding protection orders issued until 2016, there were 6,490 such protection orders, of which 1,490 were admitted orders for protection and over 1,000 were partially admitted orders.

Other organisations/programmes in Romania that carry out domestic violence perpetrator work

A number of projects had been launched with a view to providing financial support for the development of all necessary means and tools for the enforcement of this new legislation. These included the gender-based violence project under the “Justice” Programme financed by the Kingdom of Norway, focusing on eight assisting centres for aggressors at the local level, coupled with specialized intervention programs for aggressors in order to prevent the relapse of domestic violence

It is not clear when these projects will start.

Best practice

Tell us about best practice in work with perpetrators in your country.

There is no developed cooperation between women’s service organisations and there are no organisations working with perpetrators on a constant base, we cannot name the best practices in Romania. There are several declarations (public and private) in this field, but not concrete work we can refer concretely.

The only initiative we know because our organisation was directly involved in it, was linked with several activities carried out under our two projects in 2016 - **Support of victims of violence through multiple discrimination approach**- funded by EEA grants and **Assistance of victims of gender based violence through bilateral cooperation between Romania and Norway**- funded through Norway Grants.

The activities focusing on the work with perpetrator in Norway and bringing more knowledge about work and methods in Romania, included the following steps:

- **-Two study visits in Oslo**(April and August 2016) including discussions with Reform - Resource centre for men, <http://reform.no/in-english> , Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS), <https://www.nkvts.no/en/Pages/index.aspx> and Hedda Foundation <http://heddafound.no> – on best practices of work with perpetrators.
- **Elaboration of a manual of good practices in 2016** on the approach of multiple discrimination. In order to better understand the models of good practices, in which an entire chapter was dedicated to good practices in Norway for working with perpetrators.
- **Workshop of good practices of Donor States -in June 2016 Hedda Foundation** held in Iasi a workshop promoting different good practices regarding assistance of victims in Norway, including work with perpetrators in Norway.

Several ideas for future projects of our organisation are pending on finding funding for them, all regarding future work with perpetrators in Romania

- Police intervention in gender based violence – pilot project -twinning between one Police sections in Iasi city, Romania, and Stovner Oslo Police department regarding risk assessment (SARA tool), working with aggressors, monitoring retraining orders, prevention measures, using of electronic devices to monitor and prevent further violence (bracelets, panic buttons, etc)
- Opening in Iasi of a centre of work with aggressors doubled by specialised training for psychologists in anger management and working with aggressors, documentation and study visits in Norway, Iasi Court protocol to recognise trained therapists list in the field, cases referral from Police and Court toward the new pilot centre with feedback gave by Norway experts.
- Opening a research centres in Iasi, Romania, for studies regarding violence and post-traumatic stress, after Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS), <https://www.nkvts.no/en/Pages/index.aspx>. These centres have no equivalent yet in Romania, assuming an interdisciplinary approach including dimensions regarding ethnicity, age, sex, medical aspects, social and psychological perspectives.

Needs and recommendations

What has to be done to prevent domestic violence in Romania (regarding work with perpetrators)? What are the most important tasks and steps that should be focused on in Romania in order to tackle domestic violence on a general?

The legislative package drafted to ratify the Istanbul Convention was a positive step. All forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, appeared to be prevalent in Romania, however not all forms of violence, including domestic violence, criminalized. All forms of abuse would be sanctioned under the new law, including psychological, sexual and physical.

There is an inadequate **level of training for all agencies and institutions** involved in the fight to eliminate gender based violence, including security, educators, health and judiciary.

There is not a high percentage of the total personnel in these sectors, which have undergone any training regarding violence against women specifically. The training is not a regular part of their curricula, and is optional and sporadic.

Regarding shelters -the victims are required proof of the abuse to obtain shelter. Shelters are not accessible to all women including women with disabilities and Roma women, and are not present in all areas, including rural and urban, and in all regions in the country.

Regarding the fact that 14 of 42 counties did not have a shelter, there was a plan in the pipeline for mobile emergency centres, which would relocate from one county to another. Non-governmental organizations would be involved in this project. The eight centres for rape were not physical centres but rather multidisciplinary focal points working in the emergency units in hospitals in the eight regions.

There is a high withdrawal rates for complaints of domestic violence. The police department had recommended that these withdrawal rates be dealt with and that women should not withdraw complaints. A lot remain to be done in cases of ex-officio prosecution.

Regarding the temporary protection orders, there was a procedure whereby the first filter was a policeman who drafted the order; the second filter was with the prosecutor, who acted as the intermediary between the policeman and the victim; and the third filter required the judge to file a decision order. There was a confusion regarding the provisional temporary protection order: it would be regulated under the Law 217 and would allow for the protection of the victim once the violence was identified. On protection orders, the new legislation should be covering all forms of violence against women, including stalking, and will address the matter of requiring proof to obtain protection order.

Starting a coherent strategy of developing capacity of service providers to start working with perpetrators.

Training specialists in work with perpetrators. Work with perpetrators should be more structured, and quality control and monitoring efforts should be more systematic.

National Report Slovakia

Organisation: ADRA SLOVAKIA

Author: Daniela Borzová

Other organisation: o.z. BRIEŽDENIE , BEZPEČNÝ ŽENSKÝ DOM (Women safety house for victims of violence)

Organisation

What type of activities related to preventing domestic violence has your organisation carried out in the last three years?

Our organisation, ADRA Slovakia, is new in the area of domestic violence. Since July 2017, we provide free legal counselling to victims of DV, among other things.

ADRA Slovakia organised a discussion called: Talking about violence. It was a first discussion between three experts (social worker, psychologist and lawyer) and victims, of which we plan to organise more soon.

In the future, we plan to set up a crisis intervention team (CIT). The CIT will be a team of experts from law, social work and psychology, offering a long-distance, ambulance and outdoor aid to support victims in the process of quitting a violent relationship.

Additionally, our organisation has ambitions to publish, educate on the topic of DV, and bring the issue of DV into the light through discussions. ADRA will also put pressure on state institutions like police, courts, and forensic experts to further inter-agency cooperation and to aid victims of violence.

What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention to your organisation/s? Please focus on the last three years.

- Better cooperation between state and private organisations: in Slovakia, there is no functional coordinating committee. One institute KMC (Coordination methodical centre) exists, but the non-governmental organisations neither see any results from their work, nor receive any support from them.
- Lack of funding: an increase of financial support from the state, funds, etc. is necessary
- A change of approach: the police, prosecutor and court system in our country need to change the way they handle victims of DV and the topic in general
- Improved networking between all organisations
- An increased communication and continued discussions with victims
- Launching the CIT

Country

Please give an overview of general situation in your country regarding work with perpetrators.

In Slovakia, the state is in charge of perpetrator work and non-governmental organisations are not involved in this area. There is only one NGO cooperating with the state called “Alianca pre ženy”.

The problem is in on the level of the legal system and court decisions. There is no option to sentence perpetrators to a participation in behavioural programmes. The justice system leaves it up to the will of the perpetrators, which leads to a low rate of perpetrators signing up for programmes.

Please give an overview of your country’s criminal and civil responses to domestic violence, especially any changes within the last 3 years? (i.e. what are the most important legal and policy measures and how have they been implemented?)

In Slovakia, the main problem is the access to legal support and justice for the victim. The criminal law does not consider, for example, psychological aspects of violence. Decisions in criminal law are strictly based on one point of view, without considering the victims’ perspectives.

Secondary victimisation is a big problem when dealing with police officers. During criminal proceedings, the police often question why the victim did not leave their violent partner earlier, putting most of the blame and responsibility on the victims.

Within civil law, the situation is not much better. There are precautions such as preliminary protective measures for victims and civil courts tend to take into account the victim’s point of view. However, especially when children are involved the courts do not understand that the children are as much victims of DV as their mothers and do not do enough to protect either of them.

Starting 1 January 2018, Slovakia will have the „Code for victims“. This is the first law supporting and protection victims of crime, especially victims of domestic violence. It is also the first law in the Slovakian legal system that defines victim as term. This is a very important step leading to protection and prevention of crime, since the code also regulates relationship between NGOs and the state, as well as tasks of the state and NGOs.

Please tell us the progress your country has made in relation to the Istanbul Convention.

Slovakia signed the Convention in 2011 as one of the first countries of the EU, but the government has yet to ratify it.

The most powerful voices against a ratification of the Convention come from the church – there is a strong Christian lobby opposed to the Istanbul Convention. On the other side,

mainly non-governmental organisations are working to influence the governmental institution towards an implementation and ratification of the Convention.

Do you know any other organisations/programmes in your country that carry out domestic violence perpetrator work? If yes please detail them.

Perpetrator work is in the hands of the government, the only NGO doing perpetrator work is “Alianca žien”, since they cooperate with the government.

Best practice

Tell us about best practice in work with perpetrators in your country?

Our organisation does not do perpetrator work and we don't have any information on best practice examples. Work with perpetrators is under the responsibility of the criminal justice system and the prisons.

Needs and recommendations

What has to be done to prevent domestic violence in your country (regarding work with perpetrators)? What are the most important tasks and steps that you feel should be focused on in your country in order to tackle domestic violence on a general level?

- To further cooperation between NGOs and state actors
- To educate police and courts how to work with victims and understand their behaviour
- To talk, discuss with victims and involve them to the educational process of experts, to empower voices of victims
- To facilitate the education and work of the experts in area of domestic violence, including the remuneration as many of the experts are carrying out their work for the good cause

National Report Slovenia

Organisation: Association for Nonviolent Communication, Linhartova 13, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Author: Grega Mešič

Organisations

What types of activities related to preventing domestic violence has your organisation carried out in the last three years?

Our preventive activities in the last 3 years have been:

- Preventive workshops with students at primary schools, secondary schools and universities
- Workshops for survivors of violence
- Trainings for professionals
- Lectures for the professional and general public
- Press releases
- Round tables
- Collaboration with media
- Using Facebook profile to promote nonviolence and related subjects
- Work with children, victims of violence
- Work with young people who commit or/and experience violence (group and individual)
- Work with adult perpetrators of violence (group and individual)
- Work with victims of violence
- Parenting Skills Training

What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention to your organisation? Please focus on the last three years.

The greatest obstacle/challenge has been a lack of resources for the number of perpetrators we work with. In 2016, seven employees worked with 580 perpetrators and from January 2017 until November 2017 with 643 perpetrators.

Another challenge is that Social Skills Training groups are led by a single counsellor and not a couple.

Furthermore, we don't have our own offices in most of the towns where we carry out Social Skills Training programme, exceptions being Ljubljana and Koper. We work in the facilities of centres for social work, which limits the services we can offer in these areas. Moreover, in some of the towns there are no victim support services, which are in our opinion an important part of violence prevention programmes.

Another challenge is also our aim to increase collaboration with victim support services.

Our programmes are low threshold programmes, which means the counselling work itself is very challenging and evaluation of the programmes can be sometimes very difficult.

Country

Please give an overview of general situation in your country regarding work with perpetrators.

There are not enough professionals trained for work with perpetrators. Our association is the only NGO working with perpetrators of violence in Slovenia. The professionals working in centres for social work do work with perpetrators but are usually not trained and therefore not as efficient.

There are regional differences which should be lessened. Sometimes, for example, it depends on a single person in a justice department if a person will be sent to our programme or not. In some regions of Slovenia, there are no programmes for perpetrators at all.

Please give an overview of your country's criminal and civil responses to domestic violence, especially any changes within the last 3 years? (i.e. what are the most important legal and policy measures and how have they been implemented?)

Slovenia has made three important changes to legislation concerning work with perpetrators of violence. The first occurred when the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) was passed in 2008. It introduced the Coordinated Approach in the field of domestic violence prevention (described in detail later on). The second important legislative change happened with the 2009 amendment to Article 191 of the penal code, which criminalised domestic violence as an independent offense. Amendments to articles that specify sanctions, especially the suspended sentence under protective supervision, have also been important for referring individuals to programmes for perpetrators. They enabled the court to specify the appropriate instructions (obligatory treatment/therapy, attending psychological counselling or social skills trainings, etc.). We have noticed that issuing such instructions in combination with suspended sentences has become increasingly frequent since 2010 and were consequently able to document a great increase in users referred to us by the court. External motivation drives most of these perpetrators to cooperate in the programme, as they fear that their suspended sentences might otherwise be revoked.

There were also important changes in the penal code in 2015, for example stalking was criminalised as an independent offense.

And the third important change of legislation was made in 2016 when the second Domestic Violence Prevention Act was passed (DVPA-A). With this act, amongst other changes, Slovenia prohibited corporal punishment of children. Additionally, non-participation in court-

ordered programmes has negative consequences for the perpetrator in all procedures under the Family Violence Act.

Please tell us the progress your country has made in relation to Istanbul Convention (particularly Article 16 on work with perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence/abuse).

The Istanbul Convention was ratified in February 2015. The change of legislation of Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA-A) was made in 2016. With this act, amongst other changes, Slovenia prohibited corporal punishment of children. With this change in the legislation non-participation in mandatory programmes constitutes an aggravating circumstance for a perpetrator in all procedures under the Family Violence Act.

Furthermore, in all procedures, connected to criminal acts of violence, alternative dispute solving (such as mediation) is prohibited.

Do you know any other organisations/programmes in your country that carry out domestic violence perpetrator work? If yes, please detail them.

There are no other organisations/programmes specialised in perpetrator work. As detailed above, some social work centres offer non-specialised support.

Best practice

Tell us about best practice in work with perpetrators in your country.

Our greatest achievement in the last 3 years is the fact that we have succeeded in expanding the Social Skills Training programme throughout Slovenia. *Alongside Ljubljana (2004), the programme is now carried out in eight other Slovenian cities: Koper (2009), Celje (2010), Novo mesto (2010), Slovenj Gradec (2010), Nova Gorica (2011), Murska Sobota (2011), Maribor (2015) and Radovljica (2015).*

In 2016, the programme engaged 580 perpetrators from all over Slovenia, which established it as the most prominent national programme in the field of working with perpetrators of domestic violence. We have established cooperative relationships with all state institutions (centres for social work, the police, schools, the public prosecutor's office, courts), which have been referring an increasing number of perpetrators to our programmes. SST thus became an integrated part of an intervention system and its practitioners actively participate in inter-agency alliances and networks against domestic violence in order to achieve a coordinated approach to domestic violence (e.g.: multidisciplinary teams, information sharing).

What this means in practice is that courts are ordering conditional convictions with instructions to attend SST and prosecutors are implementing so called postponed prosecutions with the obligation to attend SST programme.

The greatest achievement in the field of domestic violence prevention has been the implementation of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, which defined the legal

framework for the Coordinated Approach. It has also made participation of involved institutions (centres for social work, the police, schools, NGO's, etc.) obligatory when dealing with situations of domestic violence. All involved institutions have consequently begun to approach the issues of domestic violence in a more coordinated manner. Ideally, the burden and responsibility for intervening in the event of a violent situation is taken over by the agencies as opposed to the victim. They are thus tasked with ensuring the victim's safety, holding the perpetrators responsible for their actions and confronting them with the consequences for their actions.

With our SST programme, the benefits of following a coordinated approach are evident on multiple levels. Since its implementation, the various institutions have not only been referring new users to our association, they have also begun to provide us with more detailed and comprehensive information, which is crucial to planning our individual work with perpetrators. Having comprehensive data, it is much easier to make risk assessments. These are, whenever possible, made available to the victim and/or the organisation where the victim has sought support.

Needs and recommendations

What needs to be done in order to prevent domestic violence in your country (regarding work with perpetrators)?

There is still a large need for the following:

Developing new specialised programmes for working with perpetrators of violence, for example specialised programs for perpetrators with **addictions**, specialised programs for perpetrators with **mental health problems** or different **disabilities**, as well as programs for perpetrators of criminal offenses against the sexual integrity of children **under the age of 16**.

Increased collaboration with institutions (courts, prosecutors) is required for the purpose of information exchange. Additionally, consequences should be applied when perpetrators fail to finish mandatory programmes.

Collaboration with centres for education within the judicial system, e.g. in the field of education of judges is needed, particularly in cases of revocation of conditional sentences when violating instructions of the conviction.

Increasing programme standards with the purpose of increasing victim safety: better collaboration between programmes for perpetrators and programmes for victims of violence with the goal of information exchange, preventing manipulation and better victim protection. We don't have victim support programmes in all the cities in which we carry out our SST programme.

Regular trainings for professionals working in the field of violence on the topic of work with perpetrators.

What are the most important tasks and steps that you feel should be focused on in your country in order to tackle domestic violence on a general level?

The most important task is to increase preventive work, especially workshops and lectures for youth to decrease the overall tolerance and normalisation of violence in the family and intimate partnership violence.

In addition, collaboration with centres for education within the judicial system, e.g. in the field of education of judges, is sorely needed, particularly in cases of revocation of conditional sentences when violating instructions of the conviction. Practices in those cases are extremely varied and often not sensitive to the specific circumstances and consequences of violence in the family.

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