

Training

TRAINING ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Training is a powerful tool in changing common beliefs that are shaped by stereotypes. It is equally effective in shaping institutional cultures and practices that have proved inappropriate to respond to new challenges.

The eradication of domestic violence is one example of those emerging challenges.

Training in approaching and addressing domestic violence is widely recognised as a key component of prevention strategies. It can contribute to primary and secondary prevention strategies targeting general public or specific groups at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of domestic violence. It is a fundamental feature of tertiary prevention strategies especially in relation to the staff of voluntary and statutory agencies contacted by both victims and/or perpetrators. Domestic violence is in fact a multi-dimensional problem which needs integrated and coordinated responses at all levels.

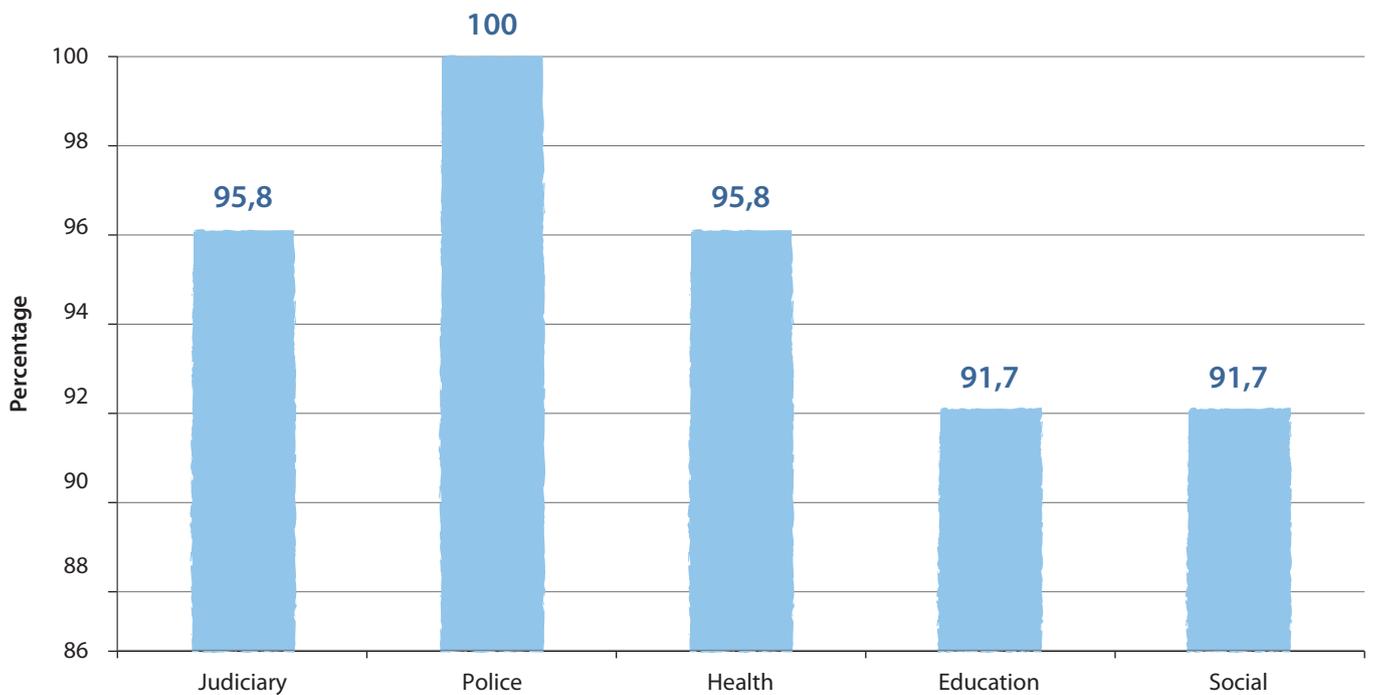
Training in approaching and addressing domestic violence can be used in different contexts and for different purposes, responding to multiple needs and objectives:

- to inform and transfer knowledge on most up-to-date research results on the prevalence and seriousness of domestic violence that demonstrates its gendered dimension; its effects and consequences on victims' health, well-being and citizen status. In doing so, it is also instrumental in showing that domestic violence constitutes a human rights violation and a major public problem;
- to present available methods and tools that help detect domestic violence at the first contact with women and men asking for help without disclosing their status of being either domestic violence victims or perpetrators;
- to explain domestic violence patterns and dynamics and the whole range of victims' needs and requests, thus helping approach them in a respectful and sensitive way, paying attention to diversity;
- to present available methods and tools to assess risk of lethal or escalating domestic violence;
- to enhance skills and capacities to respond appropriately in different settings considering the paramount objectives of victims' safety, and empowerment as well as the need to challenge perpetrators' use of violence, thus providing opportunities for change.

ABOUT THE STUDY

The European Institute for Gender Equality – EIGE commissioned the study on 'Collection of methods, tools and good practices in the field of domestic violence (as described by area D of Beijing Platform for Action)' in order to identify, collect and systematise the resources and information on training in dealing with domestic violence, awareness-raising and victims support services; identify gaps and needs; and provide recommendations for further development. The study was carried out by IRS – Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale in partnership with the Gender Studies, Equality and Equal opportunities Interuniversity Observatory (G.I.O.) through a network of country experts in the 27 Member States and Croatia. More information and references about the study are available at: <http://eige.europa.eu/content/activities/gender-based-violence>.

Training on prevention of domestic violence



TYPES OF TRAINING IN ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Awareness-raising training** for different groups among general public or for professionals to inform on the main features and relevance of the problem.
- **Specialised training** for professionals to enhance skills and capacities to respond appropriately to victims and/or perpetrators or persons in contact with them who ask for help.
- **Training for trainers or cascade training** for different target groups to promote knowledge transfer within the same professional or community sector.
- **Training for domestic violence victims** to rebuild capacities and skills, when necessary, usually to re-enter the labour market or to regain self-confidence.

TRAINING IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS EUROPE

The study shows that there is wide recognition of the value of training in dealing with domestic violence as a key tool for successful strategy to tackle domestic violence by EU-27 and Croatia. This practice is often included in the overwhelming majority of national action plans (88%) and in two-fifth of Member States in their legal provisions (40%). To a smaller extent, it is present in regional action plans (44%) and/or legal provisions (16%). At the programming level, in more than 90% of EU-27 and Croatia training provision on domestic violence covers all relevant professional sectors.

In most countries, training in tackling domestic violence is almost equally delivered by governmental institutions (87%) or departments and NGOs (83%). Regions, local governments and professional bodies are present as stakeholders in more than half of EU-27 and Croatia.

During the study, 136 examples of implemented training programmes in addressing domestic violence methods and tools were collected all over the EU-27 and Croatia. These examples included: training curricula; manuals; networks; implemented training courses, (in several cases monitored and evaluated). Specific professional sectors constitute the large majority of the targeted groups (67%). Amongst them police forces and the judiciary are the most represented, followed by health personnel. A quarter of the training methods and tools collected are directed at multi-agency groups of professionals that might include police forces, the judiciary, the social and health sector, which represented a positive recognition that domestic violence needs an integrated and coordinated response.

The provision of training in dealing with domestic violence in formal education (official curriculum) is a crucial step forward to guarantee training continuity and systematic delivery. It represents a substantial condition for training activities to be effective in the medium and long-term perspective and an indicator of the recognition of its relevance. The results of the study show that in the majority of the EU-27 and Croatia (64%) training on tackling domestic violence is present in formal curricula more frequently for police forces.

Examples of mandatory on-going training were found for police forces and the judiciary sector together with guidelines and/or protocols of intervention, which sometimes are an outcome of the training activity.

CRITERIA TO IDENTIFY GOOD PRACTICES IN ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- strong basis in human rights and gender analysis
- clear, appropriate, comprehensive definitions of domestic violence
- women/victim-centred approach
- men/perpetrators accountable for the violence they inflict
- emphasis on equality issues and anti-discriminatory practices
- recognition of women/victims and men/perpetrators diversity

SPECIFIC CRITERIA TO IDENTIFY GOOD PRACTICES IN TRAINING PROGRAMMES DEALING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- well-developed strategy taking into account domestic violence multi-dimension issues
- balance of methods including evidence based research
- appropriate length and time frame allowing to cover domestic violence multi-dimension issues
- ongoing training
- multi-level training
- multi-agency training
- domestic violence training in formal curriculum
- survivors involvement
- specialists working with victims' involvement
- expert involvement on domestic violence multi-dimension specific issues

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES IN TRAINING PROGRAMMES DEALING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Austrian Violence against women and children Curriculum** (*Wiener Curriculum Gewalt gegen Frauen*) a multi-sector and multi-level training implemented within hospitals (ongoing since 2001).
- **United Kingdom Independent Domestic Violence Advisers** (IDVA) training delivered by the CAADA, developed at the national level – a new professional role tailored to the specific needs of high-risk victims (on-going since 2005).
- **Luxembourg specialised training in addressing domestic violence for Grand Duchy future members of police forces** (*Formation spécialisée sur la violence familiale pour les membres du Grand-Duché de futures forces de police*) started as a mandatory police training after the passing of a new law in domestic violence sanctioned in 2003 (ongoing since 2004).

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY (EIGE)

The European Institute for Gender Equality is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans and beyond, by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable information on gender equality in Europe.

More information: <http://eige.europa.eu>



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