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# Advancing administrative data collection on intimate partner violence and gender-related killings of women

Joint consultation meeting

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### Concept note

Brussels, October – November 2019

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## Background

Violence against women is rooted in women's unequal status in society, and that status reflects the unbalanced distribution of social, political, and economic power among women and men. It is one of the most pervasive human rights violations and a form of discrimination that results in physical, sexual, psychological and economic harm to women. It cuts across boundaries of age, race, culture, wealth and/or geography.

Gender-related killings, also known as femicide/feminicide, are the extreme manifestation of gender inequality. According to a recent report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 87,000 women were intentionally killed worldwide in 2017. More than a third were killed by a current or former partner.<sup>1</sup> As such, gender-based violence has far-reaching consequences, harming families and communities. It not only reflects and reinforces gender inequalities, violates human rights, but also reduces human capital and undermines economic growth.

Systematic data collection has long been recognised as crucial for effective policymaking in preventing and combating violence against women, as highlighted by the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention,) article 11. While data from surveys offer measures of prevalence of violence against women, administrative data collection plays an important role in monitoring the implementation of policies aimed at reducing and preventing this violence and in assessing the effectiveness of state response.

Since 2012, EIGE supports Member States in strengthening capacities for producing statistics on various forms of violence against women and data collection activities. Based on analysis of the data collection systems within the police and justice sectors in each Member State, a uniform set of definitions and indicators was developed by EIGE in 2017 to aid national data collection on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence.<sup>2</sup> In the following year, each Member State was provided with country-specific recommendations on actions to be taken

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<sup>1</sup> UNODC (2018): Gender-related killing of women and girls, p. 10

<sup>2</sup> <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/terminology-and-indicators-data-collection-rape-femicide-and-intimate-partner-violence-report>

according to the specific challenges faced by each.<sup>3</sup> While some progress has been made in the production of gender-based violence administrative data, significant gaps and challenges remain across the EU, not only due to differences in the definitions and classifications of incidents, but also due to significant differences in data recording practices.

## Purpose of the study

The objective of EIGE's ongoing work to improve administrative data collection on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide in EU Member States is to enhance both the comprehensiveness and comparability of data. The aim of this is to help policymakers assess the scale of the problem and design suitable responses.

### **The purpose of the current step of this project is to:**

- A. Assess the progress EU Member States have made in populating the 13 indicators EIGE proposed on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide in 2017
- B. Develop a classification system on femicide

## Objectives of the Meeting

The Joint Consultation Meeting is an integral component of the project on Advancing Administrative Data Collection on Intimate Partner Violence and Gender-related Killings of Women in the EU. The aim of the meeting is to bring together national authorities from the police, justice, national statistics offices and gender equality mechanisms responsible for data collection on violence against women from different Member States in order to discuss the current data situation, the remaining gaps in measuring various forms of violence against women and the main challenges in achieving data comparability. The discussions will also focus on future steps to ensure the availability of such data for monitoring and reporting purpose. Country-specific experiences will be presented in order to facilitate the exchange of practices and discuss ways to overcome challenges. In order to improve data collection on gender-related killings of women, participants will discuss different approaches to data collection that can reveal the gendered nature of specific homicides of women.

### **The specific objectives of the meeting include:**

- To review the current state of play in populating EIGE's indicators on intimate partner violence, rape and gender-related killings across the EU;
- To identify recommendations for EU Member States so they are able to fulfil their commitment to provide comparable data on the four indicators developed by EIGE on violence against women;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/recommendations-eu-improve-data-collection-intimate-partner-violence>

- To learn about existing efforts in collecting, analysing and reporting data on gender-related killings of women;
- To discuss a common approach to operationalise a definition of gender-related killings of women for statistical purposes.

## Format of the meeting

The format of the consultation meeting will be participatory and foster open and constructive dialogue to identify effective ways to improve administrative data collection. To facilitate the discussion, the meeting will alternate plenary sessions with smaller parallel working group sessions that will enable direct interactions among participants.

## Outputs

The aim of the meetings is to strengthen the engagement of stakeholders from Member States to establish systems that would allow for sustainability of data collection. The meetings will also begin the process of assessing the impact of EIGE's work on administrative data collection by examining progress made at national level. The outcomes of each meeting will be synthesised into a report and will inform country-specific recommendations and technical solutions to overcome the common challenges in populating EIGE's indicators. Moreover, discussions will feed into the development of a classification system of types of femicide, including definitions for statistical purposes and indicators.

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