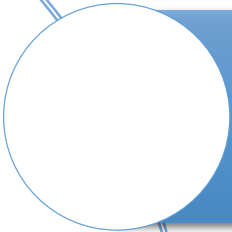


# **Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic situation on violence against women**

**Cristina Fabr , Gender-based Violence Officer (EIGE)**

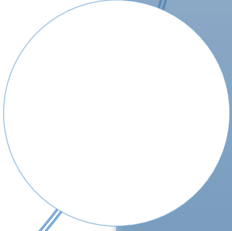
# Background



Intimate Partner Violence increases in times of natural disasters and crisis



Formal and informal support networks are harder to reach in times of crisis



In several EU countries calls to helplines rose in the first weeks of the pandemics, but in some the number of calls decreased

# Methodology

## Desk Research

Literature Review

Setting of criteria for In-Depth Research

## In-Depth Research

Stakeholder interviews

Additional Desk Research

# Challenges to Support Services

Continuity of  
service delivery

Increased level  
of demand

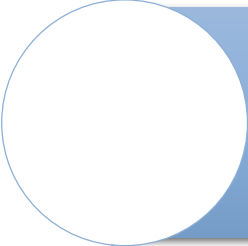
Ability to contact  
victims &  
Assess the risk

Strain on service  
staff

# Main results of the desk research



228 individual measures that were implemented across the 27 EU Member States



Awareness raising campaigns and new communication tools were the most prominent measures



Other measures included judicial or legislative measures

# Targeted desk research – action plans



11 MS introduced national policies or action plans, but only 3 regarded GBV specifically



3 MS provided guidelines



All of them were introduced as reactive responses, often without additional funding

# Targeted desk research – legislative changes

14 MS introduced new/changed existing legislation

Declaring support services as essential was the most common

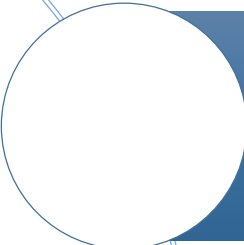
Legislation on additional accommodation/ no criminal liability  
when leaving home in 4 MS

Fewer measures regarded removal of the perpetrator from home

Gaps in accommodation were filled by private initiatives (5)

Very few measures regarding justice system

# Targeted desk research – communication



New communication tools were most common  
(66 in 24 MS)



Discreet channels (Whatsapp, Skype, email)



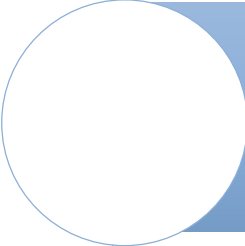
Mascarilla 19 initiative in ES, BE, FR and NL



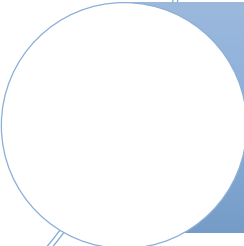
# Targeted desk research – awareness raising



Measures identified in 26 MS



Most often: info on access, guidelines,  
encouraging the witnesses



Main focus on women, very limited support for  
vulnerable groups and children

# Promising Practices (4 MS)

National action  
plans (ES, IE)

Additional  
funding (IE, SI)

New  
communication  
tools (ES, BL, IE)

Rent  
supplement (IE)

# Promising Practices - Other

Private initiatives  
– Airbnb (IE)

Proactive Police  
approach (IE)

Increasing  
operating hours of  
helplines (IE, SI)

Awareness Raising  
Campaigns

# Recommendations for the EU and Member States



Adopt long-term national action plans  
before the crisis strikes



Deem support services as essential



Provide sustainable funding throughout  
emergencies



Use new technologies to better support  
victims

# Recommendations for the EU and Member States



Implement measures to  
separate victims from abuser



Update RA procedures



Evaluate measures to  
improve future action

# Let's talk

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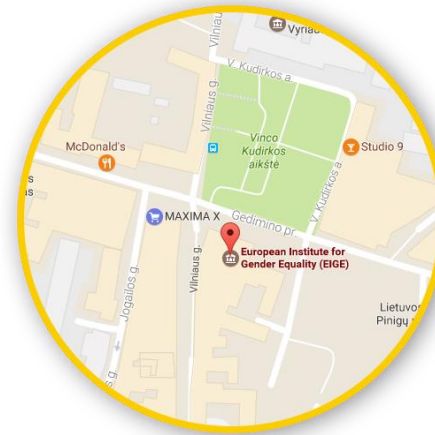
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