



Technical and quality report

EU gender-based violence survey – data collection in
eight EU Member States conducted by FRA and EIGE

2026

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CAPI	Computer-assisted personal interviewing
CASI	Computer-assisted self-interviewing
CAWI	Computer-assisted web interviewing
CCT	Central Coordination Team
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CTIE	Centre des technologies de l'information de l'État
DEGURBA	Degree of Urbanisation (Eurostat variable)
ECS	Electronic Contact Sheet
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
ESOMAR	European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research
EU	European Union
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
EU-GBV survey	European Union gender-based violence survey
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against violence against women and Domestic Violence
HRBAD	Human Rights Based Approach to Data
ISCED	International Standard Classification for Education
ISCO	International Classification of Occupations
LAU	Local Administrative Unit
LFS	Labour Force Survey
INR	Item non-response

IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NSE	National Survey Expert
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
QAP	Quality Assurance Plan
QR	Quick response
TRAPD	Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pre-test and Documentation
TSE	Total Survey Error
TtT	Train-the-trainer
WAVE	Women Against Violence Europe

Country abbreviations

CY Cyprus

CZ Czechia

DE Germany

HU Hungary

IE Ireland

LU Luxembourg

RO Romania

SE Sweden

Introduction

FRA and EIGE conducted the European Union gender-based violence survey (EU-GBV survey) in eight EU Member States – Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Romania and Sweden. The EU-GBV survey was developed by Eurostat and the national statistical authorities, in consultation with various experts and organisations, including FRA and EIGE. Member States' statistical authorities implemented the survey on a voluntary basis in 2020–2023. In eight countries, the national statistical authorities were not available to conduct the survey, which led to FRA and EIGE to carry out the data collection in these countries. In addition, the Italian statistical institute ISTAT did not conduct the EU-GBV survey but instead supplied Eurostat with comparable data on selected indicators based on ISTAT's national surveys related to gender-based violence and security.

The data collection that FRA and EIGE carried out was implemented following the methodological guidelines which Eurostat developed and made available in the EU-GBV survey's [methodological manual](#). After the fieldwork was completed, FRA and EIGE shared the data covering the eight EU Member States with Eurostat, to allow it to calculate the EU-27 aggregate results. Eurostat, FRA and EIGE published in November 2024 their joint report '[EU gender-based violence survey – Key results](#)' based on their first analysis of the EU-wide results. FRA and EIGE continued to analyse the survey results in more detail and published their findings in March 2026 in their joint report '[EU gender-based violence survey – Evidence for policy and practice](#)'. Besides the survey results, these reports also include details concerning the policy context and the data needs that the EU-GBV survey is designed to fulfil.

To implement the survey data collection, FRA and EIGE launched a joint open call for tenders, which resulted in Ipsos NV – a survey research company – being awarded the survey contract. FRA and EIGE worked closely with Ipsos NV throughout the survey implementation.

FRA and EIGE's survey data collection followed closely Eurostat's questionnaire for the EU-GBV survey, which builds on the [EU-wide survey on violence against women](#), conducted by FRA in 2012. The EU-GBV survey includes questions that addressed women's experiences of various types of violence, including physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence by current and former partners and non-partners. Victims of violence were asked a set of detailed questions concerning their experiences such as the frequency of violent incidents experienced, information on injuries, health impact and seeking informal and formal support, including reporting to the police and barriers to reporting. FRA and EIGE added some questions to the survey,

such as questions related to sexual harassment outside work context (while the EU-GBV survey focuses on sexual harassment at work), further details on economic violence and cyberviolence, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to women's experiences of violence.

This report describes the measures taken to carry out the survey, which resulted in a final dataset of 15,447 interviews across the eight survey countries. The EU-27 aggregate results of the EU-GBV survey on women's experiences are based on 114,023 interviews in total. The survey implementation and selected fieldwork outcomes have also been summarised in the annexes of the results reports published in 2024 and 2026.

1. Developing the survey

Implementation of a large-scale, multi-country survey requires careful coordination to ensure that the data collection takes place in line with the agreed methodology and following human rights-based approach to data. Eurostat's [methodological manual](#) of the EU-GBV survey provides a number of recommendations which FRA and EIGE have put into practice when conducting the survey.

Before the fieldwork could start, FRA and EIGE carried out an open call for tender to select the organisation that would coordinate the data collection across the eight countries, and the technical specifications that were prepared for the tender set out in detail the activities that the contractor needs to carry out, with specific deliverables. Implementation of each survey activity was discussed further between FRA, EIGE and the contractor during the project to ensure that new information that is collected during the activities can inform the next steps.

This chapter describes the first activities that were carried out when FRA and EIGE kicked off the survey implementation with Ipsos NV, the contractor selected to coordinate the survey fieldwork. The work started with background research to collect information necessary for the following activities, such as development of the sampling approach in each country, while also providing contextual information that contributed to the interviewer training and, later, the analysis and interpretation of findings. The early stages of the project also included meetings to brief the local fieldwork teams concerning their tasks. The chapter also examines how the principle of human rights-based approach to data was taken into account in the project, as well as the ethical and safety measures and the data protection measures which were instrumental for the success of the survey. The chapter closes with an overview of the project management set up, including the first briefing of the National Survey Experts (NSEs).

1.1. Background research

The background research was conducted in each country to inform different aspects of the project including:

- To compile comprehensive information on the support services available to women who have experienced violence. This was for two purposes – to create a shortlist of support services to be provided to respondents at the end of the

interview, and to be used in the questionnaire to measure women's awareness of support services. Selected support services were also contacted later to support the training of the interviewers.

- To provide contextual information on the situation in each country with regards to current and recent policy developments, the impact of COVID-19, data from other recent surveys on GBV and notable media coverage on VAW to aid FRA and EIGE's analysis of the survey results.
- To review the available sampling frames that could be used in each country. The selected sampling frames are covered in Chapter 4.

The background research concerning support services and contextual information was undertaken for Ipsos NV by Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) – an NGO with long-standing expertise related to the topic of the survey – using desk research and a consultation which involved WAVE experts in each of the eight countries. Ipsos NV was responsible for collecting and reviewing the information on existing sampling frames.

For the desk research, multiple information sources were reviewed. These included the Baseline Reports issued by the Group of Experts on Action against violence against women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), shadow reports written by NGOs for GREVIO and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the latest WAVE Country Reports, and national statistics, other published research reports and recent media reporting.

One consultation was held regarding each country with a local WAVE expert. The selected experts had extensive experience on women's rights based on their work for NGOs that are part of the WAVE Network. A dedicated questionnaire, containing 42 questions across six sections was prepared by WAVE and reviewed by FRA and EIGE before it was shared with the experts a week before the interview to ensure that all relevant issues would be covered during the consultation.

1.2. Human rights-based approach to data

The [guidance note](#) prepared by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on data collection and disaggregation proposes six principles that collectively form a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBAD) namely: 1) participation; 2) data disaggregation and collection by population group; 3) self-identification; 4) transparency; 5) privacy and 6) accountability. These principles were

taken into consideration when developing the project's quality assurance plan (QAP) which had the following objectives:

- To deliver reliable and robust research findings by, among other measures, meeting the requirements of the international quality standard for market research (ISO 20252)
- To have effective policies, procedures and practices in place to ensure that the teams across the survey countries work to the same quality standards
- To minimise risk by focussing on quality and continuous improvement.

Ipsos NV and all local fieldwork agencies are members of the European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research (ESOMAR) and comply fully with the International Chamber of Commerce/ESOMAR International Code on Market, Opinion and Social Research. The following provisions of the Code are particularly relevant in terms of the HRBAD: responsibilities to vulnerable groups (Article 2); best practice in primary data collection (Article 4); procedures for data protection, privacy and handling sensitive and personal data securely (Article 6); transparency (Article 7) and professional and legal responsibilities (Articles 9 and 10).

FRA and EIGE implemented the EU-GBV survey data collection based on Eurostat's guidelines. This was essential to ensure the comparability of the results and the ability to calculate EU-27 aggregate results. Therefore, leading up to the survey, FRA and EIGE did not organise stakeholder activities specific to the HRBAD principle concerning **participation**. However, the survey implementation and FRA and EIGE's analysis of the results was informed by the background research that WAVE – as an organisation specialised in the topic of the survey – carried out in the eight survey countries and the information that was collected from local WAVE experts. The survey interviewers – all women – contributed to the refining of the survey implementation by sharing their expertise during the training sessions as well as providing feedback throughout the fieldwork based on their own experiences and those of the respondents.

With respect to **data disaggregation**, the survey provides various opportunities to examine the experiences of selected groups in society. In the survey results, the data have been disaggregated to the extent feasible, taking into account the limitations to the reliability of results concerning small population groups and the need to minimise the risk of indirect identification of respondents based on a combination of survey answers and other data. However, additional disaggregated analysis can be carried out based on the survey microdata which can be accessed from Eurostat. In line with the principle of self-identification and the survey's focus on women's experiences, people

who self-identified as women were interviewed as part of the survey. Respondents were asked directly for their gender/sex at the start of the survey.

In particular, the survey applied the HRBAD by ensuring that data was collected in a way that was not harmful to individuals, that respondents' **privacy** remains paramount and that all personal data is collected and handled in accordance with the [General Data Protection Regulation](#) (GDPR). This included informing all respondents before the interview about the personal data collected and processed as a part of the survey. In the countries where face-to-face interviews were used, interviewers were trained to answer respondents' questions concerning the interview process and to ensure the privacy during the interviews. Further details concerning the data protection measures implemented in the survey are presented later this chapter (see section [1.3](#)).

Transparency of data collection was implemented through various activities. Detailed information with regards to the research design and survey methodology is provided as part of this report. The report contains information with regards to all technical aspects of the survey including geographical coverage, survey administration, questionnaire length, interviewers and how they were trained, response rates, sampling and weighting. The results have been published in different formats, including this technical and quality report covering all information regarding how the data was collected. **Accountability** is also ensured by access – through Eurostat – to anonymised, output-harmonised survey microdata that allows researchers to replicate the analysis as well as carry out further research based on the data.

1.3. Ethical and safety procedures

In addition to applying the principles of human rights-based approach to data, FRA and EIGE took note of the guidelines and recommendations that have been developed specifically for surveys on violence against women ^(a), including the measures set out in Eurostat's [methodological manual](#) of the EU-GBV survey.

The following is a summary of selected ethical and safety measures taken in FRA and EIGE's data collection, while more details concerning the way these and other measures were implemented are presented in relevant part of this report (for example, when describing the fieldwork documents, or training of the interviewers). The survey's data protection measures – summarised in section [1.4](#) – also contribute to protecting the safety of the respondents.

- The survey was introduced as a survey on “women's life and well-being”. This survey name was used in all fieldwork materials and when interviewers first

contacted respondents at their home address. This selected survey name was considered a 'neutral' way of introducing the survey in a situation where people other than the interviewer and the respondent may be present, before the eligibility of the respondent has been confirmed, and the interviewer and the respondent can start the interview in a place where privacy is ensured (or the interview is rescheduled for later to find a quiet, private setting).

- The letters and invites used in both the CAPI/CASI and CAWI data collection did not reference violence against women. The letters included information about the survey sponsor, fieldwork agency conducting the research, information on confidentiality and contact details for FRA and EIGE in case respondents wished to enquire about how their personal data was used. A privacy notice, providing extensive detail on these issues was also provided.
- After the initial introduction and once privacy was secured, a second introduction referenced that the survey would contain sensitive questions, to better prepare respondents for the interview.
- In the CAWI mode, respondents were advised to complete the survey in private, on how to use the quick close button should they be interrupted, and how to clear cookies from the device they completed the survey on.
- A neutral website was created for the CAWI survey, and the sensitive nature of the survey wasn't referenced until after the login details had been entered.
- If CAWI respondents did not complete the survey in a single session, they were able to log back in at a later time. They would be directed to the next unanswered question, and they would not be able to revise questions preceding that one. This was done so that nobody could access the information which the respondent had earlier shared in the survey.
- A list of support organisations providing assistance to women victims of violence was offered to all survey participants.
- Ethical and safety measures were discussed during the NSE briefings and the interviewer training sessions, as well as in the interviewer manual which the interviewers could use as a further resource and reference during the fieldwork. The training and the manual discuss measures to ensure the safety of respondents and interviewers during the fieldwork. Fieldwork managers collected feedback from the interviewers to identify challenges or difficulties that require further support provided to the interviewers.

- When interviewers were first contacted to work on the survey, they were informed that they could decline to work on the survey without consequences. During the fieldwork, they could indicate to the fieldwork supervisor if they wanted to take a break from working on the survey, or to discuss their experiences when conducting the interviews.
- All interviewers selected to work on the survey were women. This was done so that respondents – including those who had experienced violence perpetrated by men – would feel comfortable to share what they had experienced. Some of the questions in the survey involve issues that can be perceived as sensitive and difficult to disclose, including questions on violence but also questions on women’s health and sexuality.
- The EU-GBV survey set the lower age limit of respondents at 18 years. This was done in consideration of the sensitive questions that the survey contains, and to ensure that all respondents are able to give their consent to take part in the survey. In some EU Member States interviewing children (people under the age of 18) may require parental approval, which would involve disclosing the topic of the survey to people other than the respondent, and doing so could in some cases pose a risk for the safety of the respondent and the interviewer.
- The CAPI questionnaire included a CASI section for asking some of the sensitive questions concerning violence by intimate partners. The use of CASI provided respondents with added privacy as they would not need to disclose their experiences to the interviewer. In some of the questions that were interviewer-administered, the survey used showcards to help respondents answer but also to limit the need for interviewers to read the answer categories aloud, and to allow respondents to answer by indicating the number of the answer category instead of reading it aloud.
- Respondents could take breaks during the interview or ask for the rest of the interview to be rescheduled in case they felt unable to continue. Respondents could also stop the interview at any time and decide not to continue. When introducing the survey, respondents were informed that their participation is voluntary, while they were also explained why their participation would be important.
- Most questions in the survey allowed the respondents to not provide an answer (recorded as “Don’t want to answer”) and move to the next question. The exception from this were the screening questions concerning experiences of violence, which had to be completed for the interview to continue. The interview

was terminated in case a respondent did not want to answer any of these screening questions with respect to a given type of violence/perpetrator.

- The reports that present the survey results make reference to policy and legislation aiming to improve women's lives. The survey results can help identify gaps that should be addressed to further improve the protection of women victims of violence and to prevent violence. Respondents were informed about the organisations that carry out the survey and where the results will be made available.
- This technical report is a resource for experts and organisations who want to contribute to better data on gender-based violence against women and build on the lessons learned from the data collection carried out by FRA and EIGE.

1.4. Data protection

The following protocols were followed to ensure privacy and compliance with the GDPR and the corresponding [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) which applies to FRA and EIGE as EU agencies.

- Informed consent was obtained from all survey respondents.
- Survey data was stored securely on servers located within the EU in accordance with GDPR-compliant protocols, and any transfer of data was completed using a secure, encrypted transfer system. Any respondent-identifying information was securely and permanently deleted once it was no longer necessary to retain it.
- Personal data and other confidential data were stored in an encrypted format, with access limited to CCT and other authorised staff via the network settings and/or database access control policies. All members of the CCT have been trained to ensure a high level of data protection awareness and data protection adherence.
- Respondents were informed of their right to access, rectify, or withdraw their data via a privacy notice in line with the GDPR requirements.
- Only anonymous and aggregated data would be disseminated by FRA and EIGE. Survey results would be presented in statistical reports, and no individual would be identifiable in the published reports or in the datasets.

- The local agencies working on the survey were selected based on their capacity to comply with the relevant data protection requirements. All local agencies and other suppliers signed an agreement with Ipsos that includes data protection clauses as strict as the contracts Ipsos signs with its clients, and the requirements of national and EU data protection legislation. This includes the condition that no supplier should transfer any personal data outside the European Economic Area unless they agreed to appropriate safeguards and obtained customer consent. Additionally, Ipsos' suppliers could not subcontract part of the personal data processing services to sub-processors without the CCT's prior approval.

1.5. Project management

FRA and EIGE managed the survey in close cooperation with the contractor, Ipsos NV. The contractor's team comprised of the Ipsos Central Coordination Team (CCT), two academic experts and members of WAVE. The CCT was supported by other experts over the course of the project, such as specialists in scripting and data processing. Locally the research was led by a National Survey Expert in each country. In total, this core team was made up of 24 individuals.

The CCT was responsible for the overall coordination and management of the survey, while the two external academic experts were included in the team to advise on key aspects of the survey design: Professor Peter Lynn (University of Essex) as the Senior Sampling and Weighting Expert and Greta Squire, Associate Professor in Criminology, (University of the West of England) as the Gender Based Violence Expert. The background research (all non-sampling elements) was led by WAVE.

The national research teams consisted of local Ipsos offices and Ipsos network partners ([Table 1](#)). Each research team assigned a National Survey Expert to lead the project at country-level. An online kick-off meeting to confirm the survey objectives and NSEs' responsibilities was held in February 2023. The methodology and the requirements were discussed further during a train-the-trainers session held in Budapest in May 2023. In particular, the train-the-trainers session aimed to prepare the NSEs to deliver the interviewer training which is described in more detail in [Chapter 3](#).

Table 1 – Local fieldwork agencies implementing the data collection

Country	Fieldwork agency
Cyprus	CYMAR
Czechia	MindBridge

Country	Fieldwork agency
Germany	Ipsos
Hungary	Ipsos
Ireland	Ipsos
Luxembourg	Ilres
Romania	Ipsos
Sweden	Ipsos

1.6. NSE briefing

Shortly after the project began, an initial project briefing was held with the NSEs on 1 February 2023 as a webinar. This meeting included FRA and EIGE, the CCT, all country NSEs, and representatives from WAVE.

The meeting aimed to introduce the NSEs to FRA and EIGE, and to present an overview of the survey objectives and timelines. The organisational structure of the CCT and the role of the NSEs across all project phases were clarified. FRA and EIGE delivered a presentation introducing their respective agencies and the background of the survey from the EU perspective. This was followed by a presentation of WAVE's background research and its role in identifying existing support services in each country.

In terms of the fieldwork implementation, the briefing proceeded to discuss the survey design, sampling, questionnaire development, interview modes, and the translation process. This was followed by objectives of the pilot and usability testing, as well as the key requirements for interviewer selection and training. Some specific concerns were raised and discussed, including how to ensure privacy, especially when children are present in the household; how to schedule interviewer work to prevent overload and provide support; how to conduct interviews in a way to minimise distress and to refer respondents to support services if needed; how to handle situations where respondent refusal leads to terminated interviews (following EU-GBV rules); how to handle remuneration for interviewers and respondents; and how to ensure the safety of interviewers. It was suggested that these areas should receive particular attention during the train-the-trainers briefing of the NSEs that would be organised later, as well as the curriculum of the interviewer training.

2. Development and translation of questionnaire and fieldwork materials

EU-GBV survey questionnaire is included in the [methodological manual](#) published by Eurostat. Together with the survey contractor, FRA and EIGE carefully reviewed the questionnaire to ensure that the questions are suited for the selected data collection modes – face-to-face interviews (computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) with a module using computer assisted self-interviewing (CASI) and online self-completion (computer-assisted web interviewing (CAWI)). FRA and EIGE also reviewed all questions that were marked as ‘optional’ in the EU-GBV survey questionnaire, to decide whether they should be included when carrying out the survey in the eight countries. During this process, FRA and EIGE identified issues which were not covered by the questions in the core EU-GBV questionnaire and developed additional questions to collect the relevant data in the eight survey countries.

This chapter describes the steps taken to further develop the EU-GBV survey questionnaire and adapt it for the fieldwork activities. Implementing a survey also requires a number of other documents and tools besides the questionnaire, for example, to motivate respondents to complete the survey and inform them about their data protection rights. The survey tools described in the chapter include the survey scripting – that is, programming the CAPI/CASI and CAWI data collection tools according to the questionnaire and its routing instructions, to facilitate the work of the interviewers and to ensure that the respondents only see the questions and other information that is relevant to them based on their answers earlier during the interviews.

In terms of the fieldwork materials, the chapter examines separately the materials developed for face-to-face fieldwork and online data collection. While much of the content of the materials is the same across the two data collection modes, the face-to-face fieldwork materials are based on the availability of the interviewer to introduce the survey, encourage survey participation, administer the questionnaire and answer any questions that the respondents may have. In contrast, in online data collection the fieldwork materials are often the only means of informing the respondent about the survey, inviting them to complete it and to offer clarifications.

2.1. Structure of the questionnaire

The questionnaire which FRA and EIGE used for the EU-GBV survey data collection in eight EU Member States followed closely the questionnaire which Eurostat published in the EU-GBV survey's [methodological manual](#). In addition to the questions, the questionnaire includes the routing instructions that determine which sections of the survey the respondent should complete (for example, some sections/questions depend on whether the respondent has a current partner or not).

Table 2 lists the sections of the FRA-EIGE questionnaire, in the order in which they appeared during the interview. The section code shown in the table was also used to label the questions and, later, the variables in the initial dataset (for example, question 'G30' can be found in section G). The main difference between the questionnaires was the block of questions which FRA and EIGE added concerning sexual harassment outside work (while the Eurostat questionnaire focused on sexual harassment at work). The other questions which FRA and EIGE added to the survey appear in various sections of the questionnaire and not as a single block. These added or modified questions are described in more detail in section 2.2.1. Eurostat's EU-GBV questionnaire included an optional section S with questions concerning property crime but these optional questions were not included in the FRA and EIGE's data collection.

Table 2 – Structure of the questionnaire used by FRA and EIGE in the EU-GBV survey data collection

Section code	Main topic
B1	Socio-demographic questions on the respondent and the current partner
C1	Sexual harassment at work
C2	Sexual harassment outside work
F	Screening questions on violence by current or former partner(s)
G	Details on the episodes of violence by the current partner
H	Details on the episodes of violence by the last former partner who was violent
J	Socio-demographic questions on the last former partner who was violent

Section code	Main topic
K	Details on the episodes of violence by former partners
L	Screening question on violence by non-partners
M	Details on the episodes of violence by non-partners
N	Screening questions on stalking and details of the stalking episodes
P	Screening questions on violence in childhood and details of the violent episodes
Q	Awareness of support services
R	Views concerning the prevalence of violence against women and men in the country
B2	Socio-demographic questions on the respondent (continued from section B1)

Note: Section codes A, D, E, I and O do not exist in the EU-GBV survey. Eurostat's EU-GBV survey questionnaire also includes the optional section S concerning property crime, but this section was not included in FRA and EIGE's data collection.

2.2. Further development of the EU-GBV questionnaire for FRA-EIGE data collection

FRA and EIGE added three new blocks of questions to the EU-GBV survey to address important domains of gender-based violence which had not been included in the core questionnaire developed by Eurostat. These addressed sexual harassment outside the workplace, additional forms of economic violence, and some forms of cyberviolence – including acts of cyberviolence covered in the VAW Directive. In addition to this, a number of other questions were added to provide more detailed contextual information for existing questions.

2.2.1. Questions added to the EU-GBV survey

Table 3 outlines the questions added to the survey which were not included in the core EU-GBV survey questionnaire. The added questions were assigned the next available question number, or they were indicated with a suffix letter (such as 'B39a')

for question added after core question B39). The table also includes questions which were significantly adapted – for example, by including additional answer categories. Questions that only underwent minor adaptations are not listed in this table. [Table 3](#) can be read alongside the EU-GBV core questionnaire contained in the survey’s [methodological manual](#), as well as the FRA-EIGE questionnaire which has been made available alongside this report.

Table 3 – Questions added to or adapted in FRA and EIGE’s implementation of the EU-GBV survey

Section	New (or significantly adapted) questions
Section B – Background questions	▪ B9 (interviewer instruction added to code only one citizenship as specified Eurostat, and how to have the respondent choose if they have dual citizenship) ▪ B18 (question simplified to refer only to main job or occupation. Interviewer to code spontaneous answer into one of nine categories) ▪ B39a (added question on frequency of negative impact on current partners’ behaviour due to drug taking) ▪ B49 (clarification added for respondent to include partner also if they are not living together due to studies / work) ▪ B53 (added questions on respondent’s religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity) ▪ B54 (added questions on challenges in daily activities due to emotional problems) ▪ B55 (added questions on avoiding certain places or situations for fear of assault or harassment)
Section C – Difficult experiences at work	▪ C2a (added question to specify if incidents of sexual harassment occurred online) ▪ C10a (if frequency of sexual harassment at work changed during pandemic) ▪ C11 (adapted to have ‘health services’ and ‘social services’ as separate answer categories) ▪ C16-C26 (added questions on sexual harassment outside work)

Section	New (or significantly adapted) questions
Section F – Experiences with partner(s): screening	▪ F4a (added question on change in frequency of psychological violence during the COVID-19 pandemic), ▪ F6 (adapted question wording on the number of former partners with whom psychological violence was experienced) ▪ F9a (added question on impact of psychological violence by the current partner) ▪ F9b-j (added questions on economic abuse by the current or any previous partner, including its frequency, change in frequency during the COVID-19 pandemic and impact)
Section G – Episodes by current partner	▪ G8a (added question on the change in frequency of physical and/or sexual violence during the COVID-19 pandemic) ▪ G23 and G55 (adapted to have ‘health services’ and ‘social services’ as separate answer categories, and category ‘a professional providing specialised psychological support’ was added) ▪ G24a and G56a (added question on reasons why professional support was not sought after violence) ▪ G41 (added question whether professional support sought due to psychological consequences caused by physical and/or sexual violence) ▪ G60a and G60b (added question whether respondent has used medicine or alcohol / drugs to cope with violence)

Section	New (or significantly adapted) questions
Section H – Difficult episodes by last former partner with whom violence was experienced	▪ H8a (added question on the change in frequency of physical and/or sexual violence during the COVID-19 pandemic) ▪ H24 and H56 (adapted to have ‘health services’ and ‘social services’ as separate answer categories, and category ‘a professional providing specialised psychological support’ added) ▪ H25a (added question on reasons why professional support was not sought after violence) ▪ H42a (added question whether professional support sought due to psychological consequences caused by physical and/or sexual violence) ▪ H56a (adapted to have ‘health services’ and ‘social services’ as separate answer categories) ▪ H57a (added question on reasons why professional support was not sought after violence) ▪ H60a and H60b (added question whether respondent has used medicine or alcohol / drugs to cope with violence)
Section J – Background of this former partner [the one described in Section H]	▪ J7a (added question on children’s custody arrangements after then end of the relationship)
Section K – Difficult experiences with all former partners	▪ K5a and K5b (added question whether respondent has used medicine or drugs / alcohol used to cope with violence)

Section	New (or significantly adapted) questions
Section M – Episode form for non-partner	▪ M17 and M26 (adapted to have ‘health services’ and ‘social services’ as separate answer categories, and category ‘a professional providing specialised psychological support’ added) ▪ M18a and M27a (added question on reasons why professional support not sought after violence) ▪ M34 (added category ‘online’ to list of locations where violence took place) ▪ M47a (added question whether professional support was sought after violence) ▪ M56 (added category ‘employer / boss’ to the list of people/places that could be contacted following an episode of non-partner violence) ▪ M62 and M63 (added question whether respondent has used medicine or alcohol / drugs to cope with violence)

Section	New (or significantly adapted) questions
Section N – Possible repeatedly offensive experiences	▪ N1, item 5 (added question on being repeatedly followed or spied on remotely) ▪ N1a (added question to specify if repeated offensive behaviours occurred online) ▪ N8a (added question regarding assistance sought from a lawyer) ▪ N15 (added question whether repeated offensive behaviour online was reported to the relevant online platform) ▪ N16 (added question whether respondent was satisfied with the way online platform handled the case when reporting repeated offensive behaviour) ▪ N17 (added question on impact of repeated offensive behaviour) ▪ N18 (added question whether professional support was sought after repeated offensive behaviour) ▪ N19 (added question on offensive behaviour) ▪ N20 (added question to specify whether offensive behaviour took place online) ▪ N21 (added question concerning the perpetrator of offensive behaviour) ▪ N22 (added question concerning the time when offensive behaviour took place) ▪ N23 (added question whether offensive behaviour took place also when the respondent was under 15 years old)
Section P – Possible difficult experiences in childhood	▪ P9, items 4 and 5 (added questions on being made to watch pornographic material, or being made to do something else sexual)

2.2.2. Country-specific questions and categories

A number of country-specific questions and categories were required in order to accurately capture details such as the education level of respondents and household income. This question tailoring was done to reduce the response burden and to ensure good data quality – for example, by enabling respondents to indicate their level of education based on a list of education categories that corresponds with the country's

education system. In the dataset, these questions are presented as EU output harmonised variables, using the categories defined by Eurostat.

The questions regarding the highest level of **education** attained within a survey country were based on the internationally comparable ISCED (International Standard Classification for Education) 2011 categories. The NSEs provided the country specific categories for use in their respective countries along with how they would be mapped onto the harmonised EU code frame. The country-specific categories were approved by FRA and EIGE prior to their use.

Respondents were asked about their awareness of country-specific **support services** available to women dealing with domestic violence (EU-GBV survey questions Q1–Q5). The type of organisations listed under each question was defined in Eurostat’s guidelines for the EU-GBV survey. The list of support services that the questions referred to in each country was agreed with FRA and EIGE, based on information on available services collected in the background research undertaken by WAVE.

For the question measuring whether a household could afford an unexpected but necessary expense (question B20), the amount specified in the question was set at 25 % of the monthly relative **poverty threshold** for a single-person household.

2.2.3. Scripting

In the FRA-EIGE survey, interviewing was conducted face-to-face via CAPI/CASI in six countries (Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and Romania), while data was collected online in the remaining two (Luxembourg and Sweden). The CAPI/CASI data collection used interviewer touch-screen devices (tablets) with Ipsos’ iField data collection platform. The online data collection used the Dimensions data collection software. To carry out the fieldwork, the survey questionnaire was scripted for both data collection tools.

Scripting of the questionnaire for iField used in CAPI/CASI data collection took place before the online survey scripting to have the iField script ready for the pilot which was carried out in CAPI/CASI data collection countries (Chapter 6). During this process, a translation file was prepared as a priority, so that translating the questionnaire could take place in parallel with finalising the scripting of the questionnaire routing.

The EU-GBV survey involves complex routing, and in the FRA-EIGE data collection the routing of the core questionnaire had to be adapted to take into account the questions added by FRA and EIGE. The task required checking and implementing the routing following the various reference documents, which included:

- the questionnaire developed by FRA and EIGE in Word format
- the EU-GBV [methodological manual](#), which included additional information on routing
- a Word version of the EU-GBV questionnaire which included further routing clarifications added by Eurostat during data collection by national statistical authorities
- an Excel version of the questionnaire prepared by Eurostat which, once populated with answers, showed which questions should be on route.

The script was checked by manually reviewing the questionnaire for accuracy and completeness, by flooding the script with dummy data and checking the data output files to ensure that all questions were being asked and that all routing was correct based on the expected base sizes for each question if the routing was accurately implemented. Any queries on the correct routing were discussed with FRA/EIGE, and sometimes referred back to Eurostat for clarification.

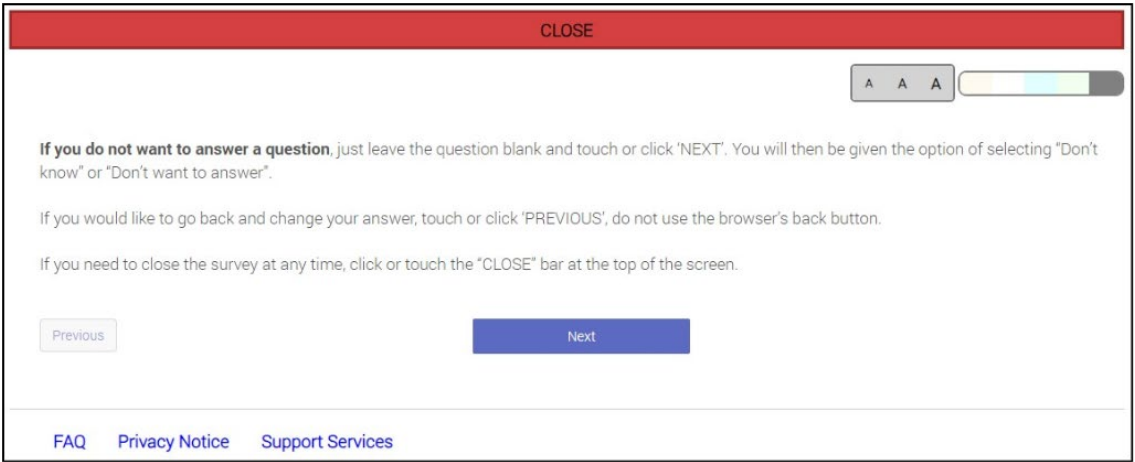
The scripting team responsible for the online script on the Dimensions platform were in close contact with the team responsible for the CAPI/CASI iField script to ensure that learnings from CAPI/CASI scripting – which started first – could inform the online survey scripting, in particular regarding the complex routing. However, the scripting of the online survey required particular attention to the fact that online respondents must be able to operate the survey independently, without the assistance of interviewers who can provide support to respondents during a face-to-face interview. Specific features of the online version of the script included the following:

- As a safety measure for respondents, a **quick close banner** (in red) was placed on the screen along the top of the script. The banner would allow the respondent to quickly close the script should someone interrupt them when completing the survey. Instructions on how to use this feature were added to the beginning of the survey ([Figure 1](#)).
- The possibility to **adjust font and background colours**, and font size for question stem and response list ([Figure 1](#)).
- The placement of **Previous/Next buttons** was fixed at the bottom of the response screen (even with scrolling) ([Figure 1](#)).
- Only offering “Don’t know/Can’t remember” and “Don’t want to answer” response options if a respondent tried to skip the question without answering. This was also implemented for the CASI version of the script. However, this did

not apply to sensitive questions where “Don’t want to answer” was offered up front. “Don’t know/Can’t remember” and “Don’t want to answer” options were not offered for questions crucial to routing such as current relationship status and relationship history, following the EU-GBV questionnaire from Eurostat. Respondents were provided with instructions in the beginning of the survey on how to find and use “Don’t know/Can’t remember” and “Don’t want to answer” options when completing the survey (*Figure 1*).

- **Collapsible grids** were designed to be used for sets of questions which apply the same response scale (*Figure 2*). An alternative to a grid layout, collapsible grids present the items vertically with the response options listed underneath the first item when the respondents starts answering a question using a collapsible grid. When they select a response for the first item, the response list for that item closes and the response list is then revealed underneath the next item. This process is repeated for each item, and it aims to make the most efficient use of the limited space on the screen – this is of particular importance to accommodate for respondents completing the survey on a smartphone or another small screen device. After each item has been completed, the selected response is displayed to the right of the item, so that the respondent can compare and contrast their responses across all items in the set, as they would be able to with a traditional grid. Furthermore, they can go back to previous items and change their answers, and they can also choose to answer the items in any order.
- If a respondent timed out (that is, did not interact with the survey for a given time), or abandoned the survey, they were able to log back on to complete it. They would automatically be directed to the next unanswered question. For safety reasons, the previous button was disabled when re-entering the survey, so that it would not be possible to go back to see the answers from a previous session. This was to prevent someone else accidentally or purposefully accessing the survey and seeing earlier responses.
- Info buttons were included in various parts of the survey to allow respondents to access any additional information or definitions of specific terms. Instructions on how to use the info buttons was presented at the start of the interview (*Figure 3*).

Figure 1 – Selected features of the CAWI script related to navigation through the survey



Alternative text: This is a screen capture of the survey that shows an example of how it looked for the respondents in CAWI mode. It illustrates some of the features of the survey script, including: 1) the quick close banner, 2) possibility to adjust the font size and background colour, 3) instructions on how to find “Don’t know” and “Don’t want to answer” options, 4) buttons to move to the next question or return to the previous one, and 5) links to frequently asked question, the privacy notice and available support services.

Note: The features of the CAWI script illustrated by the screen capture above include 1) the quick close banner, 2) possibility to adjust the font size and background colour, 3) instructions on how to find “Don’t know” and “Don’t want to answer” options, 4) buttons to move to the next question or return to the

previous one, and 5) links to frequently asked question, the privacy notice and available support services.

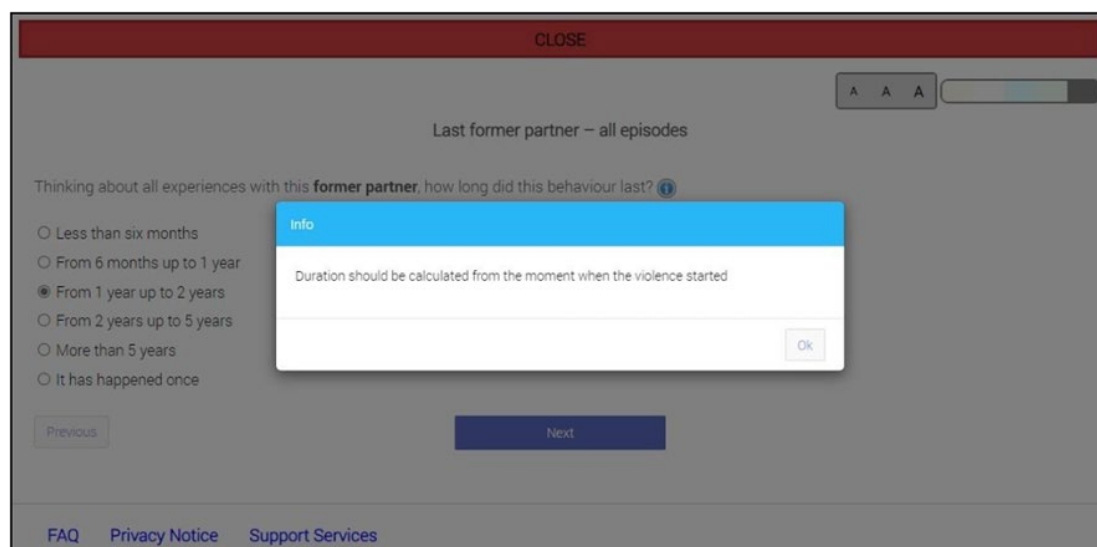
Figure 2 – Example of the CAWI script using a collapsible grid

The screenshot shows a survey interface with a red header bar containing a 'CLOSE' button. Below the header is a navigation bar with three 'A' icons and a progress indicator. The main content area contains the question: 'During your entire working life, have you ever experienced any of the following unwanted behaviours related to work?'. Below this is a list of behaviors, each with a 'Yes' or 'No' response option. The behaviors are: 'Inappropriate staring or leering that made you feel uncomfortable' (Yes), 'Exposure to sexually explicit images or videos that made you feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated' (Yes), 'Indecent sexual jokes or offensive remarks about your body or private life' (No), 'Inappropriate suggestions to go out on a date, which made you feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated' (Yes), 'Inappropriate suggestions for any sexual activity' (Yes/No), 'Unsolicited physical contact, e.g. close proximity, touching body parts, kisses/hugs or something else that you did not want', 'Inappropriate advances on social networking websites', 'Inappropriate sexually explicit emails or text messages', 'Somebody threatened you with unpleasant consequences if you refused sexual proposals or advances', and 'Other similar behaviour with a sexual connotation not mentioned already which made you feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated'. At the bottom are 'Previous' and 'Next' buttons.

Alternative text: This is a screen capture from the survey that shows an example of how it looked for the respondents in CAWI mode. It shows a question consisting of multiple items, where respondents could answer ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to each item using a collapsible grid. The grid opens one item at a time for the respondents to answer.

Figure 3 – Use of info buttons in the CAWI script – instructions on how to use them and an example of an info button pop-up box

The screenshot shows a survey interface with a red header bar containing a 'CLOSE' button. Below the header is a navigation bar with three 'A' icons and a progress indicator. The main content area contains the text: 'Thank you! You may see the ⓘ symbol next to a question or an answer option. You can touch or click on it for extra information to help you answer the question.' Below this text are 'Previous' and 'Next' buttons. At the bottom are links for 'FAQ', 'Privacy Notice', and 'Support Services'.



Alternative text – picture 1: This is a screen capture from the survey in CAWI mode that shows how the respondents were informed in the beginning of the survey about the info button symbol that they would see in some questions. The info button allowed the respondent to access additional information that could be helpful when answering a specific question.

Alternative text – picture 2: This is a screen capture from the survey in CAWI mode that shows an example of the pop-up box that appeared when respondents clicked or tapped on the info button symbol. The example shown here is for the question that asks about the duration of the former partner's violent behaviour, and the box that opens by clicking or tapping the info button instructs the respondents that 'Duration should be calculated from the moment when the violence started'.

Before the scripting began, CCT explored the possibility to force the online script to open via private browsing or 'incognito' mode for added protection should someone be tracking the respondent's online activity, as traces of their participation in the survey would be minimal. However, during the scripting process and after testing with multiple browsers it was confirmed that forcing a redirect into private mode from the script would not be possible. Instead, a brief instruction for the respondents was added, advising them to clear their browsing history at the end of the survey: *'If you believe that someone else can see your browsing history, consider clearing your browsing history data by accessing the browser settings. For desktop browsers, to quickly open the menu used to clear your cache, cookies, and history, press Ctrl-Shift-Delete (Windows) or Command-Shift-Delete (Mac). In mobile devices, go to the browser menu to view and delete the history data'.*

Post-pilot changes

The usability test in Ireland and Sweden (Chapter 5) and piloting in all CASI/CAWI data collection countries (Chapter 6) resulted in a number of recommendations for changes to the survey scripts. The recommendations are described in the respective chapters in this report.

One of the most significant pilot findings was respondents' perception of a disconnect between the way the survey was introduced in the introductory letter, and the topics discussed when the interview started. During the pilot, some interviewers noted that respondents were taken aback by the content of the survey. Specifically, some interviewers experienced women refusing to participate in the survey after discovering that the survey dealt with topics beyond a narrow interpretation of women's well-being. The survey was introduced as a survey on women's life and well-being, to ensure that – in case other people are present when the interviewer first contacts a household – the survey is introduced in a neutral way and the topic of violence is not disclosed at this stage as this could put some women in danger. Rather than amending the content of the introductory letter, it was agreed that additional information should be added to the survey introduction screens. The revised introduction for the face-to-face interviews reflected the text already included in the introduction of the online survey and read as follows:

“Some of the topics we ask about may be sensitive, and will collect information about negative, harmful, actions or behaviours that you may have experienced. Sharing such experiences can be very difficult, but it is important that we learn more about these issues so that we can help protect the rights of women and improve their well-being.

Even if you did not have any negative experiences, your participation in our study is still very valuable and will help us to understand how widespread these experiences are”.

FRA-EIGE EU-GBV Survey introduction

2.3. CAPI/CASI survey materials

In addition to the questionnaire, the following materials were used for the implementation of the face-to-face survey:

- Electronic contact sheet (ECS) – to collect the necessary information before the start of the interview

- Introductory letter – to encourage survey participation and answer frequently asked questions
- Information leaflet – information note to help with making an appointment for the interview
- Privacy notice – essential information concerning data protection
- Showcards – for selected questions in the survey, a list of answer categories to help respondents select their answer(s)
- A list of support organisations – a list that could be offered to respondents at the end of the interview
- Interviewer manual – a summary of the information provided to the interviewers during the training

2.3.1. Electronic Contact Sheets (ECS)

Besides the questionnaire, the Electronic Contact Sheet (ECS) was scripted by Ipsos once the version in Word format was approved by FRA and EIGE. The ECS was scripted using the same iField data collection platform that was used for the questionnaire.

The ECS was used to manage the sample, screen households, make appointments, select the respondents for interview (if applicable, in the absence of a sampling frame that identified the selected respondents) and start the interview. The structure of the ECS is presented below ([Table 4](#)). The information collected in the ECS varies slightly by country, depending on the type of sampling frame used and the information that is available from the sampling frame. In particular, the questions at this stage depended on whether the sampling frame identified the person to be interviewed, or whether the frame consisted of a list of addresses and interviewers needed to determine the availability of eligible persons when making contact at the selected address. Details on the sampling frames are included in [Chapter 4](#)

The ECS and main survey data were designed to be linked via the iField portal, so that the relevant information collected during completion of the ECS was pulled through to the questionnaire, for example the age of the selected respondent, to follow the once-only principle – that is, minimising response burden by ensuring that the respondent is not asked the same information on separate occasions during the survey.

In addition to the testing carried out by Ipsos, both the iField questionnaire and the ECS were checked by FRA and EIGE. Once they had been approved, the translated ECS

and questionnaire scripts were provided to the NSEs to check that the country/language versions of the scripts had been correctly uploaded, before again providing these to FRA and EIGE for their own checks and approval.

Table 4 – ECS structure

Section	Content
General information	• Listing of dwelling units and dwelling unit selection (address-based samples only) • Confirmation that address is the main address and residential
Time of contact	• Date and time of each visit
Introduction and respondent selection	• Survey introduction • Screening questions to determine the availability of eligible people • Respondent selection (address register and enumeration countries only)
Outcomes	• The interim and final outcome of visiting each address

2.3.2. Other respondent-facing materials

The respondent-facing materials for the survey (besides the questionnaire and the ECS) were developed by Ipsos in close collaboration with FRA and EIGE, building on materials already used in previous FRA surveys which have been adapted for multi-country survey projects and compliance with the GDPR and other standards. [Table 5](#) provides an overview of the materials and their use. These materials were translated into all survey languages.

Table 5 – Overview of respondent-facing materials

Material	Overview of content
Information letter	The content of the information letter was designed to fit a double-sided sheet of A4 paper. On the front page there was information on the survey topic, the incentive, who could participate, and why the survey was important. As per best practice guidance on VAW surveys – for ethical and safety reasons – the survey was introduced as a survey on Women’s life and well-being. On the back page there was further information on who FRA, EIGE and Ipsos are, the length of the survey, when the results of the survey will be published, confidentiality and how to contact FRA/EIGE about personal data and how to contact the local agency. As a result of feedback from the usability testing, a sentence was also added to confirm where the survey findings could be found. The letter was given to respondents when contact was made by interviewers rather than being sent in advance.
Information leaflet	The leaflet was used by interviewers to inform people about the survey in a short and visual format. A specific section was also included for interviewers to write their own telephone number so that respondents could contact them directly to make an appointment for the interview or to clarify any issues before taking part in the survey. As with the letter, for ethical and safety reasons, reference was made to the survey being about women’s life and well-being.
Privacy notice	The privacy notice consisted of a detailed description of what kind of personal data the survey collects from respondents and how the data are used, in line with the GDPR and other requirements. It also provided details on who respondents could contact with an enquiry or complaint.
List of support organisations	Interviewers were instructed to offer to respondents a list of local support organisations, with names and contact details of available services. This was offered to respondents at the end of the interview, unless interviewers felt it to be more appropriate earlier on during the interview: for example, if the respondent requested such a list, or if remembering certain events while answering the questions triggered a discussion on organisations that support victims of violence.

Material	Overview of content
Showcards	Showcards were based on the approved questionnaire translations and used in paper format. The purpose of the showcards was to help respondents to answer questions which involved several answer options, so that they could see the list of options during the face-to-face interview. When using the showcard, respondents only needed to state the number from the showcard which corresponded to the item they have selected. If the respondent was unable to read in any of the languages due to low literacy, the interviewer read out the answer options for her. The interviewer was instructed to also read out the answer options if it seemed like the respondent could not read without saying so.

2.3.3. Interviewer manual

An interviewer manual was developed to accompany interviewer training. It served as a reference for interviewers during the training and once fieldwork had started in case the interviewers wanted to check and confirm any issues related to the information provided in the training. The following topics were covered in the manual:

- Overview of the project, and background and objectives of the survey
- Introduction to violence against women as a topic, including types of violence, perpetrators, and the impact to victims
- Sampling and contact instructions
- Questionnaire structure and content
- Fieldwork approach and measures to maximise response rates
- Ethical considerations and safety
- Working with the fieldwork materials
- Quality control and interviewer feedback.

The interviewer manual was translated into the main national language of each country and tailored as necessary according to the sampling method implemented in the country. Once checked by the CCT, FRA and EIGE approved the final source version of the manual and each of the translated versions.

2.4. Online survey materials

In Luxembourg and Sweden, where the EU-GBV survey data collection took place online, the survey used a ‘push-to-web’ approach where women in the sample were mailed a letter inviting them to complete the survey online. In both countries, a sample of respondents could be drawn from national registers, making it feasible to mail the invitation letters directly to all women in the sample. This section describes the documents developed to support the online data collection.

2.4.1. Respondent-facing materials

In Sweden, the survey invitation ‘package’ sent by post to each respondent consisted of an invitation letter and two reminder letters (in each case, a single double-sided A4 sheet), with each using slightly different wording to maximise the response rate by tapping into different motivations to take part in the survey. The back page of the letter was uniform across all letters. In Luxembourg, sampling and mailing of letters was carried out by the Government IT Centre (Centre des technologies de l’information de l’État, CTIE) and at their request, only one reminder letter was used.

Word templates were created for each of the source versions of the letters using the English content. The front page of the letters contained information on the survey topic (introduced as a survey on women’s life and well-being, rather than on violence against women, for ethical and safety reasons – as was the case with the information letter used in the CAPI/CASI survey countries, see section 2.3.2) and length, the incentive, who could participate and how, why the respondent was chosen and who to contact for further information. The back page consisted of information on why the survey is important, the implementing organisations (FRA, EIGE and Ipsos), how the survey functions, how to get the incentive, confidentiality and who to contact for further information. A quick response (QR) code to access the survey was also included on the reverse of the letter to make it easier to take part.

An example of invitation letter can be seen in [Figure 4](#).

Figure 4 – Invitation letter

Left Page:

Dear <<RespondentName>>,
 We would like your help on an important study to understand more about women's life and wellbeing in [country]. The survey is being carried out by Ipsos on behalf of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).
Why is it important?
 • It matters - Your answers will help shape how the EU and its Member States protect the rights of women and improve their wellbeing.
 • No special knowledge is required to answer the questions. As a 'thank you' for giving your time we will send you a €5 gift voucher when you have completed the survey.
Who can take part in this survey? The person this letter was addressed to is the only person allowed to take part. This is a survey for women who are between 18 and 74 years old.
How do I take part? Follow the steps below to complete the survey.
 1 Visit www.fra-eige.eu using a computer, tablet or smartphone. Alternatively scan the QR code on the back of this letter.
 2 Enter this password: <<logincode1>> <<logincode2>>
 3 Complete the survey and we'll send you a [incentive]
How have I been chosen? You have been randomly selected. This ensures that all parts of the population are properly represented. Therefore, you cannot be replaced by another person.
How long will it take? The survey should take about 45 to 60 minutes to complete, depending on your experiences. No special knowledge is needed.
Data protection? All your personal information will be protected by law and treated as confidential.
How can I find out more? Look at the back of this letter for our contact details, or visit www.fra-eige.eu.
Confidentiality The information you give us will be protected by law and is treated as confidential. It will not allow to identify you. More information on the backside.
 Yours faithfully,
 Sami Nevala
 Project Manager
 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
 Cristina Fabre
 Team Leader
 European Institute for Gender Equality
 Please turn over

Right Page:

Who is carrying out the survey?
 This survey is being carried out by **Local agency**, an independent survey agency, on behalf of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). If **Local agency** Ipsos NV is responsible for collecting the data from all countries. More information about Ipsos can be found at www.ipsos.com.
 FRA is based in Vienna, Austria. The Agency helps EU institutions and the 27 EU Member States to ensure that the rights of all people are respected. It collects information about rights across the EU and gives advice on how to improve the conditions of all people. For more information visit: <http://fra.europa.eu>
 EIGE is based in Vilnius, Lithuania. EIGE is an autonomous body of the European Union, established to contribute to and strengthen gender equality in the EU and resulting national policies. The Institute's studies have contributed to fight discrimination between women and men. For more information, visit: <http://eige.europa.eu>
Is it okay to ask for help with filling out the questionnaire?
 Due to the personal nature of some questions, we would suggest that the survey is completed in private. All answers should be about you.
Started the survey but need to interrupt?
 No problem, you can close the survey and continue at any other time.
When will the results be published?
 The first results of the survey will be published in 2024 and will be available on FRA's and EIGE's websites <http://fra.europa.eu> and <http://eige.europa.eu>
How to get the voucher
 Everyone who completes the survey will receive a €5 voucher as a thank you for their time. Simply fill in your email address at the end of the survey. We will only use it to send you your voucher. We will not contact you for any other reasons or pass your email address to anyone else. Your email details will be deleted once the voucher has been sent.
Confidentiality
Local agency and Ipsos NV, the agency responsible for collecting the data from all countries, will store your information securely and keep it confidential. Your name and address details will not be passed on to any other organisation and will be kept separate from your answers. FRA and EIGE will treat all information in a secure manner, according to European and national data protection laws. No individuals will be identified from the results. You can access the full privacy notice containing more information on data protection and privacy, and other frequently asked questions on the survey website at www.fra-eige.eu
If you require any further help or information, please contact us: Telephone: 0800 999 999
 Email: sami@fra-eige.eu
 Please use this QR code to access the survey at www.fra-eige.eu

Alternative text: The figure shows a two-page letter that was sent to the sampled respondents as an invitation to complete the survey. The first page provides, among other essential information on the survey, details on how to access it including a unique login code. The second page provides more details ranging from information about FRA and EIGE, to information related to confidentiality, as well as the telephone number and the email address that could be used to in case of any questions about the survey.

2.4.2. Survey site

The website URL was chosen to be www.fra-eige.eu (activated only for the duration of the survey fieldwork), as this single domain could be used across both countries and all languages. The URL was included in the letter or could be accessed via the QR code. The landing page (**Figure 5**) prompted the respondent to choose the language they wanted to enter the site on, and this was followed by the login page (**Figure 6**). For ethical and safety reasons, the landing pages were also designed to reflect the invitation letter, referring to the survey as one on women's life and well-being, rather than as one on violence against women.

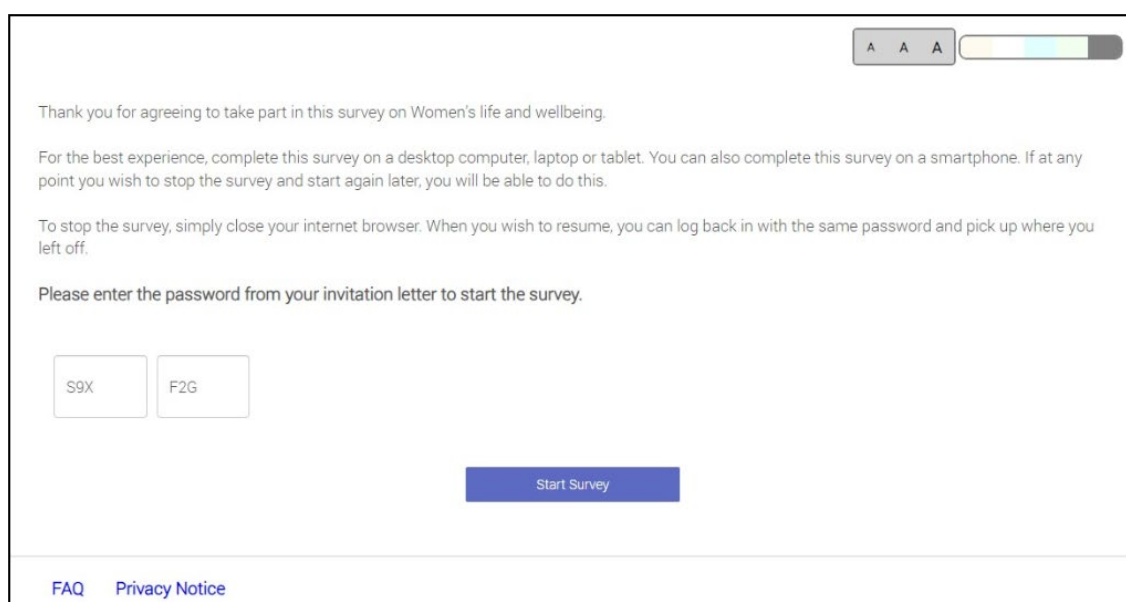
Figure 5 – Survey site – landing page (Sweden)



The screenshot shows the landing page of a survey in Sweden. At the top right, there are three 'A' icons and a color calibration bar. Below this, the text 'Välj språk' (Choose language) is followed by two radio button options: 'Engelska' (English) and 'Svenska' (Swedish). A blue button labeled 'Nästa' (Next) is centered below the language options. At the bottom, there are two links: 'Vanliga frågor' (Frequently asked questions) and 'Meddelande om skydd av personuppgifter' (Notice about protection of personal data).

Alternative text: The figure shows a screen capture of the survey in CAWI mode. The screen capture is from the survey script used in Sweden and shows the first page where respondents arrived when accessing the survey and where they could select their preferred language for completing the survey.

Figure 6 – Survey site – log in page



The screenshot shows the log in page of the survey. At the top right, there are three 'A' icons and a color calibration bar. The main text reads: 'Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey on Women's life and wellbeing. For the best experience, complete this survey on a desktop computer, laptop or tablet. You can also complete this survey on a smartphone. If at any point you wish to stop the survey and start again later, you will be able to do this. To stop the survey, simply close your internet browser. When you wish to resume, you can log back in with the same password and pick up where you left off. Please enter the password from your invitation letter to start the survey.' Below this text are two input fields labeled 'S9X' and 'F2G'. A blue button labeled 'Start Survey' is centered below the input fields. At the bottom, there are two links: 'FAQ' and 'Privacy Notice'.

Alternative text: The figure is a screen capture of the survey in CAWI mode. It shows the log in page of the survey, with basic instructions and a request to enter the password from the invitation letter in order to start the survey.

2.5. Respondent assistance

To compensate for the absence of an interview to guide respondents through the survey in the online data collection countries, it was important that respondents were able to access information and support in a variety of ways. The measures taken to support respondents contribute to maximising response rates and ensuring high quality of the data overall.

Channels used to support respondents included the survey website, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), contact details for the local survey agency (telephone and email).

A dedicated **survey website** was set up for all those completing the survey online. A section containing the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** was included on the survey website, and a link to it was available at the bottom of every page. This covered the most common queries, answering the following:

- What is the survey about?
 - Who is carrying out the survey?
 - What is the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)?
 - Who are Ipsos?
 - Why is this survey important?
 - How will the results be used?
 - How have I been chosen?
 - Who can take part?
 - When will the results be published?
 - How can I claim my [incentive]?
 - How do I complete the survey?
 - Can I take a break partway through completing the survey online?
 - When do I need to complete the survey by?
 - How long will it take to complete the survey?
 - I've lost my login details needed to complete the survey online. Can I have these again?
 - Who should I contact if I don't want to take part?
 - What precautions for confidentiality, anonymity and data protection have been taken?
 - Will I be identifiable in the results?
-

- Who will access my information?
- What are my rights?
- How can I contact [local agency] about the survey?
- How can I contact Ipsos NV about the survey?
- How can I contact FRA or EIGE about my personal data?

A list of local **support organisations** and their contact details was included on the survey site and were accessible on every page of the survey. The full, detailed **privacy notice** was embedded within the survey site, and available at the bottom on every page. The placement of these links in the survey site can be seen, for example, in *Figure 1* in this report.

Respondents (across all modes) could also contact the local survey agencies via telephone or email.

- A telephone number of the local survey agency in Luxembourg and in Sweden was printed in the letters and leaflets and included in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the survey website. The telephone lines were generally open during weekday office hours.
- An email address for the local survey agency was printed in the letters and included in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the survey website. Email queries were generally responded to during weekday office hours.

2.6. Translation of the questionnaire and survey materials

All interviewer and respondent-facing materials were translated into the appropriate languages for use in each country. There was no need for translations in Ireland, where the source English versions of the questionnaire and materials were used. Luxembourg was the only country where the full questionnaire and materials were translated into multiple languages: German (adapted from the German translation for Germany), French, and Luxembourgish. In Romania the CASI section was also provided in Hungarian (based on the translation used for the survey in Hungary) while in all the countries in addition to Ireland where the CASI module was used the respondents could also complete it in English. An overview of the survey languages in each country

is available in [Table 6](#). In the countries with CAPI/CASI data collection, besides the questionnaire, the translated survey materials included the privacy notice, information letter, project postcard (which was piloted but not used during the mainstage), list of support organisations, showcards, training manual, and the interviewer briefing slides. In the countries where the data collection was carried out online, translations were made of the privacy notice, list of support organisations, frequently asked questions, invitation letter and reminder letter(s). The CCT coordinated the questionnaire translation (along with other fieldwork materials), collected feedback and it was responsible for the overall record-keeping of the translation procedure. Ipsos collaborated with the linguistic quality control agency cApStAn in parts of the translation process.

Table 6 – Survey languages by data collection mode

Country	CAPI	CASI	CAWI
Cyprus	Greek	Greek, English	N/A
Czechia	Czech	Czech, English	N/A
Germany	German	German, English	N/A
Hungary	Hungarian	Hungarian, English	N/A
Luxembourg	N/A	N/A	French, German, Luxembourgish, English
Romania	Romanian	Romanian, Hungarian, English	N/A
Sweden	N/A	N/A	Swedish, English

2.6.1. Redefined translation approach

Most of the FRA-EIGE questionnaire was based on Eurostat’s EU-GBV survey questionnaire, with a few added questions. To support the questionnaire translation and adaptation, FRA and EIGE obtained access to existing EU-GBV survey questionnaire translations in French (as used in France), German (as used in Austria), Greek (as used

in Greece) and Swedish (as used in Finland). The translated questionnaires were provided by the national statistical authorities that had conducted the EU-GBV survey in these countries. For the Czech, Hungarian, and Romanian translations of the FRA-EIGE questionnaire – where no existing reference translations were available – a full translation approach was planned based on TRAPD (Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pre-test and Documentation – an established survey translation process).

cApStAn's preliminary assessment of the reference translations provided by FRA and EIGE in French, German, Greek and Swedish indicated that it would be difficult to map these to the EU-GBV source questionnaire in English, due to changes to the survey at the country level, FRA and EIGE's changes to survey and the format and structure of the documents. Following a discussion between FRA, EIGE, cApStAn and Ipsos concerning these challenges, the decision was made to perform a single translation of the entire questionnaire into the four languages, using available EU-GBV survey questionnaire translations for reference in the translation process. For translation into Hungarian, FRA and EIGE gained access to also earlier, pilot version of the EU-GBV survey but due to similar challenges as those described above the pilot version was not used as a basis for the new translation and a single translation and verification approach was used for Hungarian as well.

In conclusion, the full TRAPD approach by cApStAn was adopted for Romanian and Czech, while a method involving a single translation followed by verification was used for all other languages, referencing the existing EU-GBV questionnaire translations. cApStAn also translated the main questionnaire and the online survey materials into French and German for use in Luxembourg. Each country-specific version of the questionnaire, regardless of the translation method used, was proofread by cApStAn linguists before being sent for a final review by the NSE, the CCT and, ultimately, FRA and EIGE. While the source version of the questionnaire was available in Word format, the translation process used a dedicated translation tool which provided the output in an Excel format, in a structure compatible with the scripting tool to easily create the different language version of the data collection tools (for CAPI/CASI mode and online mode).

The translation of all other survey materials than the questionnaire was carried out by linguists appointed by the local fieldwork teams following a single translation procedure and independent proof-read approach.

3. Interviewer selection and training

This chapter describes the interview selection criteria, recruitment process and the training that interviewers were required to undertake before fieldwork start in the six CAPI/CASI fieldwork countries (while in the two other survey countries the data collection took place online and therefore did not involve interviewers). In order for the NSEs to deliver the briefing to their interviewers, the CCT first invited them to an in-person train-the-trainers briefing, which FRA and EIGE also attended. The chapter then describes the interviewer selection criteria, which were for the most part established already in the technical specifications of the survey tender, developed by FRA and EIGE. The following sections summarise the process of organising the interviewer training sessions, first involving a small number of interviewers who were involved in piloting the survey in each of the CAPI/CASI data collection countries, followed by the mainstage training which all interviewers working on the survey had to complete.

3.1. Central Train-the-Trainers briefing

The train-the-trainers (TtT) briefing, which prepared the National Survey Experts (NSEs) to deliver the interviewer training in their countries, was held ahead of the survey pilot, on 24 and 25 May 2023 in Budapest. The following is a summary of the topics discussed during the day 1 and day 2 of the train-the-trainer briefing.

TtT briefing – day 1

- Introduction and project requirements
 - Survey objectives, background and policy context
 - Overview of VAW: An overview of what constitutes VAW, its scale and myths surrounding it
 - Sampling
 - The electronic contact sheet (overview and practice)
 - Fieldwork: interviewer requirements, timings, reporting, quality assurance, interviewer safeguarding including debriefings and available counselling
-

TtT briefing – day 2

- Questionnaire structure and content
- Maximising response
- Ethical and safety considerations (general principles, confidentiality and privacy, dealing with distressed respondents, respondent and interviewer safety, support services)
- Questionnaire practice and role plays
- Final questions

Interactive breakout sessions were prepared for the first day of the TtT training to encourage discussions and to exchange good practices – especially from NSEs that had implemented similar surveys in the past. The first breakout session started with a general discussion led by the VAW Expert, Andrea Braga (Centrul Filia, Romania), on what people believe about violence against women, exploring the traditionalistic views some people may have about violence against women and views that can lead to victim blaming. This activity helped to show some common myths regarding VAW that NSEs and interviewers should recognise and counter in their work, and it was followed by an exercise led by the VAW expert that encouraged participants to comment on common stereotypes.

During the second day a role play exercise was organised where NSEs were presented with various doorstep scenarios or potential objections respondents might give for not participating. NSEs had to react to these and try to convince respondents to take part. A second role play was organised during the second day, to go through the interview and the questionnaire. The NSEs worked in pairs in the role play, with one of the NSEs taking the role of interviewer and the other one the role of respondent. For the exercise, NSEs were provided with mock scenarios to cover different life experiences that women may have and to introduce the NSEs to different paths that the interview may take, depending on respondents' experiences ([Table 7](#)).

Table 7 – Mock scenarios used for the role play during the briefing

Mock scenario 1	Isabelle, 60, is retired. She has been married to her husband, Ronaldo, for 40 years, and they have 3 adult children. They were childhood sweethearts and neither have been in a relationship with anyone else. Isabelle and Ronaldo fulfil very traditional roles – where she takes care of all the cooking and cleaning, and he takes care of all their financial affairs. Isabelle says she depends on
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	Ronaldo, as she cannot imagine a life without him. They have the occasional argument, but he has never been abusive (physically or emotionally).
Mock scenario 2	Maria is 26 years old, has been married for 3 years and has a child. Her husband has been working in France for 6 months. She currently works part-time at her sister's pastry shop, to have time to take care of her son and mother, who has had an accident and is temporarily living with her. However, she does not know how much longer she will be able to keep this job, because her brother-in-law, the other owner of the pastry shop, is always messing with her, and already invited her to go out with him several times. She hasn't told anyone yet, it's her word against his. She heard about a girl who was already fired for the same reasons, and nobody believed her, and she is afraid of harming her sister's business. She had a boyfriend before meeting her husband, but would rather not even remember it, as the relationship ended very badly. She had many sleepless nights. He never accepted that she wanted to break up. First, he would tell her he would kill himself if they broke up, and when she finally had the courage to stop dating him, he beat her and tried to rape her. She was physically marked on her arms and thighs. This episode happened 4 years ago; it did not happen again because she told her best friend and filed a complaint with the police. Despite having asthma, she considers herself healthy and has always had a normal life. At this moment she has little time for herself and, as her husband does not like her to leave without him and calls every night to see if she is at home, she prefers not to go out. However, she does not feel alone, her best friend usually visits her at least twice a month. She can count on her for everything.
Mock scenario 3	Luísa, 58, has been a widow for 6 months, lives alone and has no relationship at present. She considers her state of health reasonable. Psychologically she has not yet recovered, but feels relieved, as she had a very hard life until she was widowed.

	Four years ago, when her husband became unemployed, his alcohol problems got worse. Whenever he drank, he was very aggressive. When he was employed, the violent situations were sporadic, and the children never witnessed them. But in these last years, especially a few months before dying, he beat her many times, burned her, smothered her, and threatened to kill her whenever she refused to have sex with him. He also controlled all her expenses and locked her at home. She suffered in silence and had no one to talk to. She never wanted to worry her children and drifted away from family and friends. Even today, she does not know how she managed to endure it, as she felt like human trash psychologically and physically. She still has the scars from burns and blows she suffered. Since she was widowed, things have also improved professionally. She was able to complain to her boss about the two colleagues who forced her to do sexually humiliating and degrading things and who were caught and fired.
Mock scenario 4	Sofia, 26, with four children, is from Alentejo, but has been living in the Azores for 6 years. She is healthy but feels deeply unhappy because her friends and family are far away. She stopped working when she got married, to take care of the house and the children. Besides, her husband is very jealous and never liked her to work. After getting married, they moved to the Azores. They started dating 4 years before they got married. She worked in her uncle's garage, helped him in the care and administration, and liked what she did. But her husband thought it was not a place for women. She never had any relationship other than with her husband and began dating very young. Her parents never let her go out with her friends, only with her husband, who was her boyfriend at the time. He was 12 years older than her; they met when he worked with her father, who was his boss for 5 years. The husband became aggressive and has already beaten her several times in the presence of their children; it was very humiliating. He will not let her leave the house, stops her from calling her family, and controls her cell phone. But fortunately, as he is rarely home

	early, comes for dinner and goes out to go have coffee with his friends, he has never hit the children. Almost every day she is forced to commit acts of a sexual nature against her will. She did not want to have more children but became pregnant and lost the baby one of the times he pushed her. Six months ago, she was the victim of a situation that she will not tell anyone about either. A policeman, whom she thought to be friends with her husband, as they usually meet at the cafe after dinner, came one night to her house when her husband was away at work. He told her that he needed help and she let him in against her will, as she did not like the way he had always looked at her. After closing the door, he made sure the children were asleep, grabbed her by threatening her with a weapon and forced her to engage in degrading and humiliating sexual acts. But it was not the only time it happened; the last time was 3 weeks ago. He appeared with someone else. She never thought that she could go through an even more humiliating and degrading situation, but he forced her to engage in sexual acts with that person, threatening and blackmailing her, and then with him. She had, once again, genital and internal injuries, no sleep, and she is afraid that it will happen again. If the husband knows about it he will kill them and her. She does not know what will happen to the children, or if she will manage.
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Going through the questionnaire and the role play exercises were noted as very useful by the NSEs. The project background section of the briefing and the presence of FRA and EIGE representatives to explain the relevance of the survey to the agencies' work helped NSEs to recognise the relevance of the survey for EU policymaking. Overall, the feedback from NSEs on the content of the briefings was positive. Those NSEs who were less familiar with the ECS used in the survey noted that sufficient time needed to be devoted to practical sessions with interviewers on this element during the interviewer training. Ipsos NV organised an additional, dedicated online training session for the NSEs concerning the use of the ECS and iField, including a Q&A for NSEs who were less familiar with these tools.

3.2. Interviewer selection

All interviewers selected for the project were women, a necessary requirement to help create an environment in which respondents would be more open to disclosing their experiences with violence, since only women were interviewed in the FRA-EIGE survey. The selection criteria for the interviewers working on the project also included:

- at least 3 months of active interviewing experience, ideally with random probability surveys
- experience conducting research using CAPI/CASI technology.
- strong computer skills, as well as conversational and organisational skills.
- experience in handling surveys on sensitive topics.

Interviewers' availability during the period of fieldwork and their geographical proximity to the selected primary sampling units in their country were also considered in the selection process.

3.3. Pilot interviewer training

All local agencies in CAPI/CASI fieldwork countries organised a training for their interviewers in preparation for the pilot fieldwork in June 2023. This training was based on the training curriculum presented to the NSEs during the TtT briefing described in section 3.1. Since in most countries only 2–3 interviewers were required for the pilot, the training content could be delivered in one day, sometimes on individual basis. Pilot interviewers who later took part in the mainstage data collection also took part in the two-day mainstage interviewer training alongside other interviewers.

Table 8 – Pilot briefing details

	Briefing dates	Number of interviewers briefed
Cyprus	19 June 2023	2
	26 June 2023	3
Czechia	15 June 2023	6
Germany	13 and 19 June 2023	2

	Briefing dates	Number of interviewers briefed
Hungary	13 and 14 June 2023	2
Ireland	16 June 2023	2
Romania	13 June 2023	3

Having delivered the pilot training, some NSEs suggested that in the mainstage more time should be dedicated during training to developing specific skills of the interviewers and practical exercises, including additional time on the questionnaire, the ECS, and role-playing sessions.

The interviewer manual was also found very useful for pilot interviewer training. NSEs recommended advising the interviewers in the mainstage interviewer trainings to detach and carry with them only those parts of the manual which they need to consult frequently, keeping the rest available when needed. This was suggested to limit the volume of documents that the interviewers need to carry with them when doing the fieldwork. A more comprehensive section on the ECS and iField was added to the manual to support the fieldwork teams who had less experience of using this tool in their previous work. Several smaller changes to the interviewer manual were made post-pilot to adjust the content based on the feedback received from the NSEs and interviewers.

3.4. Mainstage interviewer training

All interviewers involved in the project (including those who had been involved in the survey pilot) underwent two days of training before commencing the survey mainstage. These training sessions followed the structure and content of the TtT briefing delivered to NSEs. The content of the two-day training was specific to the EU-GBV survey and therefore did not include training on general interviewing skills which the interviewers were required to have before being selected to work on the survey. The interviewer training was delivered in person in all CAPI/CASI fieldwork countries, except for the mainstage briefings held in Ireland and Germany where a modular approach was used with some elements delivered remotely (more details on this are provided later in this section).

A representative from a GBV support organisation in each country participated in the interviewer trainings to assist with the delivery of sections covering the definition of

VAW and its impact on the women who experience it. This was crucial to help interviewers address their own potential misconceptions and biases, ensuring accurate data collection. The content delivered by the GBV support organisations also helped interviewers to gain an understanding of how women's experiences might influence them during the interview and to learn appropriate responses to address respondents' reactions, questions and concerns. This preparation equipped interviewers for fieldwork and helped them contemplate how they would handle hearing about distressing events and interacting with distressed respondents.

The number of separate, two-day interviewer training sessions organised in each country varied – for example, depending on the feasibility to bring all interviews in one place for the training as opposed to organising training sessions in different parts of the country, closer to the areas where the interviewers would be working.

Additional training sessions were also organised during fieldwork when new interviewers joined the team. The initial strategy was to deliver all interviewer trainings in person. However, due to the unavailability of many interviewers during the summer holiday season, a part of the training had to be conducted remotely in Germany and Ireland. In these countries, the training was split into three modules, of which the first two were delivered remotely and the module three took place in person. In few cases the training was delivered in one day, for example when the training was repeated after a break in fieldwork or when the training took place in a small group.

Table 9 details the dates and format of the training sessions in each country, including the additional interviewer briefings which were conducted during fieldwork for interviewers joining the survey. **Table 10** shows how the training content was reorganised across the three modules that were used in Germany and Ireland.

Table 9 – Interviewer training sessions

Country	Dates	Format of the training	Support organisation /expert delivering training	Number of interviewers trained in total	Number of interviewers who completed at least one accepted interview
Cyprus	Session 1: 24 and 25 August 2023 Session 2: 20 and 21 September 2023	In person	Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in	24	19

	Session 3: 23 and 24 October 2023		the Family (SPAVO)		
Czechia	Session 1: 21 and 22 August 2023, Prague Session 2: 23 and 24 August 2023, Brno Session 3: 28 and 29 August 2023, Ostrava	In person	Ms. Mgr. Markéta Kroftová (ROSA)	49	45
Germany	Session 1, module 1 and 2: 17 August 2023 Session 1, module 3: 24 August 2023 Session 2: 14 September 2023	Session 1, modules 1 and 2: remote; Session 1, module 3: in person; and Session 2: remote:	Manuela Grötschel, expert working with survivors of violence, including sexual violence	60	49
Hungary	Session 1: 22 and 23 August 2023 Session 2: 3 and 4 October 2023	In person	A representative of NANE (Nők a Nőkért Együtt az Erőszak Ellen)	69	69
Ireland	Module 1: 1, 3 and 8 August; 10 October; 6 November Module 2: 3, 10 and 17 August Module 3: 24 and 29 August, 5 September, 12 October, 8 and 9 November	Modules 1 and 2: remote; Module 3: in person	Niamh Wilson, Trainer, Women's Aid	42	32
Romania	Session 1: 28 and 29 August 2023,	Session 1: in person;	GBV Expert Andreea Braga from	67	45

	Session 2: 23 Oct 2023 (re-briefing for interviewers who had been previously worked on the survey) Session 3: 20 November 2023 (small session with four interviewers)	Sessions 2 and 3: remote	Centrul Filia and Adela Szentes from Asociatia Anais (psychologist)		
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Table 10 – Modular training approach in Germany and Ireland

Module	Topic	Issues covered	Delivered by	Duration	Location
1	Introduction to the project	- Overview of training content - Project objectives - Survey approach and project requirements - Background information	NSE	1–2 hours	Remote
2	Sensitivity training	- What is VAW: definitions, extent, risk factors, myths - How to recognise the impacts of violence and abuse on the victim-survivor with a focus on coercive control - Safe and effective responses to disclosures of violence and abuse - Referral options for victim-survivors - Self-care strategies for interviewers to counteract the	GBV expert	2–3 hours	Remote

		impacts of vicarious trauma			
3	Project activation	• Survey design and sampling • ECS and possible contact outcomes (including practice using the ECS) • Introduction of interviewer materials and strategies for high response rate • Questionnaire overview and practice/roleplay • Experiences from the pilot interviews • Q&A	NSE	6–8 hours	In-person

In addition to interviewer training sessions listed in [Table 9](#), additional briefing sessions were arranged in all countries as required to tackle issues related to interviewer resources. For example, after the initial briefing in Germany held on 17 and 24 August 2023 it was proving difficult to arrange for further interviewers to be trained, as it was not possible to find dates that suited groups of interviewers to attend the training either in person or remotely on the same days. It was therefore agreed with FRA, EIGE and Ipsos Germany that an alternative approach could be taken, which involved interviewers watching the recordings from the first training session over the course of a few days. They were then required to attend a session (individually or in small groups, remotely) with the NSE during which critical elements of the survey were discussed to ensure that they had followed the recorded training sessions and understood the requirements.

In Ireland, further training sessions were organised for additional interviewers from the UK who were brought in as extra fieldwork resource, as well as additional interviewers recruited during the fieldwork through the Rape Crisis Network. These interviewers were brought in to help with the limited interviewer resources available to the local agency at the time of fieldwork. More details on measures taken in Ireland, and in other CAPI/CASI fieldwork countries, to tackle challenges related to fieldwork are provided in section [7.1](#) in this report.

The CCT members and FRA attended selected interviewer training sessions to observe how the training materials work in practice and the questions the interviewers have

concerning their role in the project. CCT members joined remotely the trainings in Germany and Romania, and in person in Ireland. FRA participated in a training session in Hungary in person and in Ireland remotely.

After the training, each interviewer was required to conduct and upload three practice interviews, including the electronic contact sheet, before they could start working on the mainstage interviews. The completed questionnaires from these practice interviews were reviewed by the NSE before each interviewer was allowed to begin work on the project.

4. Sampling

The EU-GBV survey requires a probability-based sampling approach to ensure that the results can be considered as representing the population. In probability-based sampling, each unit in the sampling frame has a known, non-zero probability to be included in the sample. This chapter provides a description of the survey's target population, sampling data sources and sampling methodologies used across the survey countries.

4.1. Sample requirements

In each survey country, the sample was required to cover women aged 18–74 years living in private households and whose place of usual residence was in the survey country. Each sample must allow using probability sampling with national coverage.

Different sample designs were used depending on interview mode, with clustered samples in the face-to-face data collection (CAPI/CASI mode) countries and unclustered samples in the online data collection (CAWI mode) countries. While an unclustered sample design offers a more even coverage of the population across the country's territory, the use of a clustered sample design for CAPI/CASI is customary and helps make the fieldwork feasible by limiting the time that interviewers have to spend travelling from one address to the next. [Table 11](#) provides the target sample sizes (numbers of interviews targeted to be achieved with women aged 18–74), and the survey mode. Both the target sample size and the survey mode were set out in the survey's technical specifications which FRA and EIGE developed.

Table 11 – Target sample sizes and survey mode

	Target sample size	Survey mode
Cyprus	1,500	CAPI/CASI
Czechia	2,000	CAPI/CASI
Germany	2,500	CAPI/CASI
Hungary	2,000	CAPI/CASI
Ireland	2,000	CAPI/CASI
Luxembourg	1,500	CAWI
Romania	2,000	CAPI/CASI
Sweden	2,000	CAWI

The sections which follow first describe the sampling frames that were used to select samples of individuals or addresses, followed by an outline of the overall sample design.

4.2. Sampling frames used for the mainstage

The selection of a suitable sampling frame in each country was based on the following principles:

- That the selected frames were able to provide high coverage of the population, ideally of at least 95 %, and were recently updated, ideally within the year before fieldwork.
- Preference was given to sampling frames able to provide lists of individuals, followed by those that provide lists of household addresses. Where neither alternative was accessible sampling frames were built based on information collected by enumerators in the field. For online mode (CAWI), a sampling frame of individuals was considered a prerequisite to limit the distribution of information about the survey (due to its sensitive nature) and in view of achieving an adequate response rate.

Table 12 lists the sampling frames used for the FRA-EIGE survey, including the name of the sampling frame, description of the type of frame it is, and an estimate of the frame's coverage as a percentage of the survey population. The selected frames met the requirements for high frame quality – this includes coverage of the population, being up-to-date, accessible, and allowing the identification of optimal primary sampling unites (PSUs).

In three countries (Hungary, Luxembourg and Sweden), an individual-level frame could be accessed for the survey. The frames chosen in Luxembourg and Sweden (the two CAWI data collection countries) had already been used in the past in other Ipsos and FRA surveys that used the CAWI approach with postal contact. The information available in the sample frames in Hungary, Luxembourg and Sweden made it possible to request samples of women aged 18–74, which made the sampling more efficient in these countries and also improved quality, given direct sampling of eligible individuals tends to yield higher response rates than contact to a general address. Having the respondents preselected was also helpful for respondent safety, given the first introduction of the survey can take place with the selected respondent instead of any

other household member, which in some cases could involve a potentially abusive partner.

In Czechia and Ireland, the survey used an address-level frame. The sample frame selected in Ireland also met the quality requirements and was the only frame available. Similarly, the selected frame in Czechia was preferable to alternative options (such as enumeration) considering quality and accessibility. In Cyprus, Germany and Romania the sample frame was developed specifically for the FRA-EIGE survey using enumeration due to lack of accessible alternatives.

- **Cyprus and Romania:** No accessible register sampling frame could be identified.
- **Germany:** The *Melderegister* is a possible individual-level sampling frame, however the additional resources and time required to access this frame, due to its de-centralised nature, and the past experience suggesting that the municipalities responsible for the registers can take a long time to process the requests which could result in delays for the fieldwork.

The enumeration process is presented in more detail in section [4.3](#).

The support of FRA and EIGE was required to access the frame in Luxembourg. The sampling frames in Czechia, Hungary, Ireland and Sweden could be readily accessed by Ipsos NV without further support.

Table 12 – Sampling frames and their estimated coverage in CAPI/CASI data collection countries

	Sample frame	Frame type	Coverage (%)
Cyprus	Enumeration		100 %
Czechia	Register of census districts and buildings	Address	99 %
Germany	Enumeration		100 %
Hungary	National Population Register	Individual	99 %
Ireland	The GeoDirectory	Address	99 %
Luxembourg	Population registre (Registre national des personnes physiques)	Individual	99 %
Romania	Enumeration		100 %
Sweden	Register of the Population	Individual	99 %

Given it was not necessary to exclude any of the territories of the eight countries during fieldwork, the survey population coverage was the same as the sample frame coverage, close to 100 % in all countries.

4.3. Enumeration

In Cyprus, Germany and Romania where no other high-quality sample frame was accessible, the sampling frame was compiled through enumeration based on the following principles:

- Enumeration was undertaken as a separate phase from interviewing. It was completed in advance of fieldwork by personnel who were given detailed enumeration instructions and who were trained in the enumeration methodology. The enumerator had to be a different person than the one who would be conducting the interviews in the same area.
- The address frame compiled through enumeration would allow estimating the selection probability of units at each stage of the sampling (known and non-zero selection probabilities), to meet the requirements of probability sampling.
- The enumeration fieldwork and outputs were quality assured before interviewing could start.

By following these principles, a similar level of sample quality could be delivered in enumeration countries as those with address register sampling frames.

Up to 200 addresses were enumerated per PSU – either all addresses in PSUs with fewer than 200 addresses (full enumeration), or partial enumeration in bigger PSUs involving sampling of addresses. Within each PSU, random enumeration start points (GPS coordinates or a random address) were selected in advance of enumeration and were marked on maps, which clearly showed the boundaries of each PSU.

Moving on from the assigned start points, the enumerators followed random walk procedures, irrespective of whether the enumeration was in full or partial. This ensured that the addresses are randomly dispersed in the event that PSUs planned for full enumeration have more addresses than expected (that is, more than 200), and would only be partially enumerated. This could happen, for example, due to inaccurate or outdated PSU-level information. The random walk rules were based on the ‘turn right’ approach shown in previous research to deliver better coverage of addresses in comparison to other commonly used rules ^(b).

In partial enumeration PSUs, the random walk sampling interval was set in proportion to the size of the PSU, with the objective that the random walk covered most of the addresses in each PSU, up to a maximum interval of five. This implies that, with 200 addresses enumerated, a PSU of up to 1,000 addresses could be covered in full (in terms of territory coverage) while in larger PSUs some areas would be missed. The majority of PSUs in the three enumeration countries (Cyprus, Germany and Romania) were of smaller size than this level.

4.3.1. CCT's work to prepare for the enumeration

Prior to enumeration fieldwork the CCT selected the

Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). This followed the same approach as in countries where enumeration was not necessary, and the details of the PSU selection were outlined in the country-specific sampling plans.

The CCT then designated whether each PSU should be enumerated in full or partially via random walk, based on the size of the PSU (200 residential addresses or less, or more than 200 residential addresses). If the number of addresses was not available directly, it was estimated.

In PSUs where partial enumeration was required, CCT designated the sampling interval, designed to deliver around 200 addresses. In PSUs where full enumeration was required, the central team set an interval of one (enumerate every address). Intervals were set as whole numbers (not fractions) and were set as the number of addresses in the PSU divided by 200 rounded down to the nearest integer.

To support and coordinate the enumeration, the CCT developed the following tools and materials for the local project managers.

- A video training session to present the enumeration processes to be followed and the materials and training to be delivered to enumerators. The enumerator training covered the following topics:
 - Identifying the borders of a PSU
 - Information to be collected about each enumerated address
 - The procedure for selecting and enumerating addresses: the rules for selecting the addresses
 - Use of the iField system for enumeration

- The difference between urban and rural points, covering different types of dwellings: multi-apartment buildings, terrace low-rise buildings, detached, semi-detached, low rise multi-occupancy residences
- Treatment of non-residential addresses: businesses, nursing homes, accommodation hostels, military barracks
- Examples of real-life scenarios with maps, photographs, street view level and list of enumerated residences
- Ethical questions related to enumeration (including GDPR compliance)
- How to deal with rare cases of construction and urban planning
- Practical exercise to apply the enumeration rules - practice and feedback
- Lessons learned and conclusions
- Quality assurance
- The enumeration training slides (a copy of the slides was provided to the enumerators after the training, to be used as a reference document).
- Written instructions and an Excel file for the selection of starting points by NSEs.
- A data entry template (used by Cyprus and Germany) or iField script (used by Romania) for recording the address information. The template captured the following information:
 - the name of the city, town or village (pre-filled based on the PSU details)
 - the name of the street or road
 - the building number (or name) of the house/apartment building
 - apartment number or ID number and floor number (for apartments)
 - optionally (should there be location ambiguity), a physical description of the dwelling – e.g. where it is in relation to other houses nearby, how the enumerator got there, and any identifying features (for example, colour of the door, type of the gate)
 - enumerator identifier.

4.3.2. Implementation of the enumeration at the country level

Following the PSU selection by the CCT, the list of selected PSUs – with the designated enumeration approaches and intervals – was sent to the local fieldwork teams of Cyprus, Germany and Romania (the three countries where the sample frame would be based on enumeration). The information was reviewed by the teams, and adjustments could be made if they believed the estimated number of addresses to be incorrect. For instance, if the estimated number of addresses was larger than what was believed to be the case on the ground, the interval could be reduced, or vice versa. The agencies would then assign random start points (where required) and provide the selections to the CCT for checking.

The local teams sourced maps for each PSU which showed the boundaries (in Cyprus and Romania), or a range of streets and street numbers covered by the PSU (in Germany). Random start points were selected using a random coordinates approach, according to the instructions provided by the CCT. Details were returned to the central team for checks (see ‘quality control’ below).

4.3.3. Quality control

The following quality control procedures were undertaken for the enumeration. Each country team submitted a short quality control report to the CCT covering the quality control checks carried out at the local level, as well as any feedback on the process and training.

- The local teams checked the PSU details provided by the CCT and queried address information they believed to be incorrect (such as the estimated number of residential addresses in a PSU).
- The CCT spot-checked the maps where local teams had indicated their selection of random start points within each PSU. The coordinates of the start points was also delivered to the CCT as Excel files.
- As part of the training, all enumerators completed practical exercises by “live” registering several addresses of different types using the enumeration tools. The enumerators received feedback on their work and any mistakes were discussed with them. The practices exercises also helped confirm that the data entry systems were functioning correctly.

- The local teams and the CCT performed the following high-level checks on all PSUs to confirm that:
 - the correct number of PSUs had been enumerated and captured in the dataset
 - the expected number of residential addresses had been enumerated or plausible reason was given for discrepancies
 - the enumerators had entered sufficient detail to enable re-identification of addresses by a different enumerator or an interviewer
- A minimum of 10% of all enumerated PSUs in each country were subject to more detailed checks by the local teams, either via revisits or inspection of maps produced in iField. This included the following checks:
 - Whether the correct approach was used in each PSU (full enumeration or partial enumeration)
 - All streets in the PSU were enumerated (full enumeration only)
 - The correct starting point was used
 - The correct sampling interval was used (partial enumeration only)
 - The random walk rules were followed correctly
 - The enumerated addresses were within the boundaries of the PSU.

If any major deviations were found, relevant PSUs were corrected or enumerated again, and enumerators received additional instructions or further training. [Table 13](#) summarises the issues flagged in local teams quality control reports and by the CCT, including the remedial actions taken.

Table 13 – Summary of enumeration quality control

	Number of PSUs checked	Outcome and remedial actions
Cyprus	26 (22 by map plot check, 4 by revisit)	● 1 PSU where incorrect route was followed, enumeration re-done ● 2 PSUs where enumerator went out of bounds, enumeration finalised within area ● 3 PSUs with both of the above issues, enumeration re-done

Germany	14 by comparing enumerated addresses to PSU street listing	1 PSU where incorrect route was followed, enumeration repeated
Romania	57 (34 by map plot check, 23 by revisit)	2 PSUs with incorrect interval applied, the enumeration was repeated

All countries were required to check a minimum of 10 % of the PSUs, meaning at least 8 PSUs in Cyprus, 13 in Germany, and 10 in Romania. Greater number of PSUs than the minimum were checked in Cyprus and Romania, given that the local teams in these countries had less familiarity with enumeration than the enumerators in Germany.

In addition to the remedial actions mentioned in [Table 13](#), the following adaptations were made during the enumeration process:

- In Cyprus it was noted that in some rural areas it would be difficult to identify specific households given a lack of street names and numbers. To counter this issue, the team added information on the previous and next enumerated address to the description of each enumerated address to help interviewers locate the households.
- In Romania nearby villages were added to increase the size of small PSUs. This applied to seven PSUs which turned out to be smaller than what the initial PSU data suggested.
- In Romania two PSUs were replaced with reserve PSUs as the areas were found to be remote and of limited size.

4.4. Sample design

As noted earlier in [Table 11](#), six of the eight countries in the survey used face-to-face data collection (CAPI/CASI mode) with clustered sample and two used online data collection (CAWI mode) with an unclustered sample. This section outlines how these samples were designed.

4.4.1. Multi-stage clustered samples

The sampling in the face-to-face data collection countries (Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and Romania) was based on a multi-stage clustered stratified design with equal probability of selection for households within clusters. At the first stage,

PSUs were randomly selected with probability proportional to size and stratification by region and level of urbanity. At the second stage – depending on the type of sample frame available – addresses, households or individuals were selected from the sample frames. The final sampling stages involved the selection of households out of all households that shared the same address (when the sample frame identified addresses but not households or individuals) and eligible individuals within households.

Selection of PSUs

The procedures for the first sampling stage – selection of PSUs – were broadly the same irrespective of the sample frame used for second stage selection (individual or address frame). [Table 14](#) specifies the type of PSU used in each country as well as the variables used for stratification in the PSU selection.

Table 14 – PSU units and stratification variables

	Target sample size	Number of PSUs	PSU type	Region stratifier (No. of strata existing in the country)	Urbanity stratifier (No. of strata)	Total explicit strata
Cyprus	1,500	75	Postal codes	LAU1 (5)	DEGURBA (3)	9
Czechia	2,000	100	Sčítací obvod (Census Area)	NUTS2 (8)	DEGURBA (3)	20
Germany	2,500	125	The ADM-Sampling-System (units created for survey research)	NUTS1 (16)	DEGURBA (3)	33
Hungary	2,000	90	Settlements	NUTS2 (8)	DEGURBA (3)	19
Ireland	2,000	100	Electoral Divisions	NUTS3 (8)	DEGURBA (3)	19
Romania	2,000	100	Voting precincts	NUTS2 (8)	DEGURBA (3)	23

The total number of explicit strata is smaller than the number of region strata multiplied by the number of urbanity strata as not all regions contain all urbanity (DEGURBA) levels. Additionally, the number of PSUs in Hungary is less than 100 due to presence of large units.

The following steps were undertaken by the CCT to select a sample of PSUs.

1. Planning the samples and explicit stratification

At the start of planning the samples, the CCT compiled statistics on the size of the survey population (number of women aged 18–74) in each sampling stratum. The samples were stratified explicitly by region and urbanity to ensure that the achieved sample is in close proportion to the population on these variables. This maximises weighting efficiency and minimises sampling error, given that region and urbanity are usually used as weighting factors. DEGUBRA was available to be used as the urbanity stratifier in all countries. The region level stratifiers were selected based on the size of each country. For example, Cyprus consists of just one NUTS3 level, meaning this level is not suitable for stratification (as it would lead to no region stratification). Conversely, Germany consists of 401 NUTS3 regions and stratifying at this level would mean most region units would be empty (an over-stratified sample).

Eurostat 2021 population data was used in all countries except Cyprus, where Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2021 annual data (provided by the local statistical institute) were used, given that available Eurostat data did not cover the Local Administrative Unit 1 (LAU1) level. The number of PSUs to select per stratum were then set in proportion to the size of the survey population in each stratum. Where required, small cells were collapsed so that PSUs were allocated to all strata. In all countries the target number of interviews per PSU was set at 20.

2. Identifying suitable PSU units and preparing lists for selection

The CCT sought up-to-date PSU lists to be used as the sampling frames for the first stage selection in each country. The selection of the PSU lists were informed by the following, for example:

- The size of the units: PSU units should be small enough to be efficient for fieldwork, but large enough to ensure that people living in PSUs are not overly similar, given that higher homogeneity across PSUs increases sampling variance and tends to be associated with smaller PSUs;
- The boundaries of the units should be readily identifiable on the ground – which is particularly important for enumeration countries – and not be overlapping, as this would affect the selection probabilities;

- Up-to-date information is available for stratification (i.e. region and urbanity), given it needs to be known which stratum each PSU belongs to, and to estimate the population size of the units for sampling;
- Ideally, PSU sizes will be relatively similar across countries; and
- The PSU units need to be identifiable on the second stage sample frames in the countries where registers will be used. Second-stage selection is usually controlled by sample frame providers who will need to be able to provide samples of individuals or addresses within the selected PSUs. All things being equal, an individual level frame is preferable to an address level register frame which is preferable to enumeration. Therefore, using a higher quality sampling frame is a more important consideration than the type of PSU unit used.

3. PSU selection with implicit stratification

Having planned the sample strata, prepared the PSU lists and checked them, the sampling team of the CCT carried out the PSU selections. PSUs were sampled separately for each of the countries using SPSS complex sampling module. The sampling was done with probability proportional to size within each explicit stratum (region/urbanity) and with implicit (proportional) stratification by lower-level regions and then urbanity. PSU size information used was as close to the survey population – women aged 18–74 – as possible but limited by what was available at PSU level. In Cyprus the available data concerned all adults 16–74 years of age, in Czechia the number of addresses, in Germany and in Ireland the number of households, in Hungary the number of individuals of all ages, and in Romania the number of voters.

The inclusion of implicit stratification is particularly helpful where there are collapsed explicit strata cells, as it improves representation of the underlying units that have been collapsed (^c). The same applies in the countries using NUTS1 or NUTS2 as the region stratifier, given that the implicit stratification ensures that lower-level NUTS regions are sampled in proportion to population size, improving representation at region level. Urbanity was included as the final implicit stratifier for additional control of urbanity within region, particularly in smaller countries.

The selections resulted in the expected numbers of PSUs (calculated as the target sample size divided by 20 interviews per PSU) in all countries except Hungary. In Hungary, the total number of PSUs selected was 90 (instead of 100) as several PSUs had probabilities of selection >1 due to their large size. To address this, such PSUs were sampled with certainty and a larger interview target was set, in proportion to the size of the PSU. This process maintains an equal probability sample within explicit strata, as per probability-proportional-to-size sampling procedures, but reduces the

total number of PSUs required in the sample. Effectively, larger PSUs are selected multiple times and account for more of the interviews accordingly.

The PSU selections were checked and any small units merged with neighbouring units to ensure that the final PSUs were of sufficient size for the survey, with a minimum of 100 addresses each. This merging was undertaken for 2 PSUs in Cyprus, 22 in Czechia, 4 in Ireland and 7 in Romania, while in Germany no PSUs needed to be merged. Besides the CCT, the local teams also checked the samples, considering their security and feasibility for the survey. A small number of replacements were requested.

- Ireland: one PSU replacement for safety reasons (an area where interviewers have had difficulties working in previous surveys).
- Cyprus: one PSU replacement for safety reasons (a village in the buffer zone on the island, with recent violent incidents), one replacement of a unit that was inaccessible and could not be reached by field teams, and two replacements that involved units in entirely tourist areas with few permanent residents.
- Czechia: one PSU replacement for safety reasons (an area with recent violent incidents).
- Romania: one PSU replacement given the area could not be merged with neighbouring areas to make it of sufficient size, and one replacement for safety reasons.

Selection of addresses

In the three CAPI/CASI data collection countries where a register sample frame was used, individuals (in Hungary) or addresses (in Czechia and in Ireland) were selected within sampled PSUs by the local agencies or by the national statistical institutes who hold the frames, following their standard protocol. In Hungary it was possible to request a sample of women of the correct age (18–74 years), given that information on age and gender is available on the sampling frame.

Each country was asked to select 200 cases per PSU (or more in the case of Hungary in PSUs with larger interview targets). Sufficient number of cases were then randomly allocated to each PSU to achieve 20 interviews, with the remaining cases held in reserve. This was based on an assessment of the likely response rates in each country. The same response rate assumption was set across strata, meaning that the same number of cases were issued in each PSU with an interview target of 20 (and proportionally more in larger PSUs in Hungary).

Progress was monitored closely during fieldwork, and adjustments were made to the numbers of cases allocated to interviewers part way through fieldwork, to ensure sufficient sample to achieve the overall interview targets while fully working the cases. Monitoring was focused at two levels: (i) the overall level, whereby global adjustments were made across PSUs, aiming to add the same number of cases to PSUs that were still being worked or had not been started, and (ii) the level of individual PSUs, where adjustments were made to avoid overall small PSUs with under five interviews. These approaches aimed to maximise the precision of the sample by limiting weighting variability.

To improve the accuracy of sample assessments during fieldwork, each country identified, in advance of fieldwork, a set of representative PSUs which would start fieldwork first. The exception to this approach was in Czechia, where the local team opted to start fieldwork across all PSUs with a much smaller number of cases per PSU than expected to be needed to realise the interviews, on agreement that adjustments would be made to all PSUs during fieldwork.

Selection of dwelling units, households and individuals

An additional sampling step was required in the field in the countries using an address register or enumeration. These procedures were not needed in countries using registers of individuals, where the sampled named person was the only one allowed to participate in the survey after their eligibility was confirmed.

First, if the address listed on the register did not identify a single dwelling, a random selection of a single address was made in the field. For example, in the address register used in Czechia some dwelling types (multi-apartment buildings) are not uniquely listed on the sampling frame. However, the sampling frame provided an indicator of the number of apartments at the address. In this case a single apartment was selected in advance by providing a random number (between one and the number of apartments) to the interviewer and providing instructions to count apartments systematically to identify the selected apartment. If the building was very large, multiple apartments were selected according to the same sampling fraction as other cases in the PSU. This overall procedure allowed for better control of selection probabilities in the Czechia sample, while this step was not required in other countries.

Second, in the relatively rare cases where an issued address contained more than one household living within the same dwelling unit, one household was selected by the interviewer using the ECS which asked the interviewer to list all the households before making a random selection.

Third, in households with one eligible person (woman aged 18–74) the interviewer asked to interview this person. In households with more than one eligible person a random selection was made. This involved asking the informant to list all eligible individuals and entering them in the ECS, using names or initials. One individual was then selected at random. No substitutions of the selected respondent were permitted.

Fieldwork assumptions and managing the achieved sample size

In most CAPI/CASI fieldwork countries, the predicted yield rates (number of completed interviews divided by the number of used cases in the sample) were in line with the actual yield rates. Therefore, only minimal adjustments were needed to the samples during fieldwork – with the exception of Czechia and Hungary.

In Czechia a 50 % yield rate was estimated and 43 % was achieved. It became clear during fieldwork that the achieved yield rate would result in a shortfall on completed interviews compared with the target by the time when fieldwork was planned to have finished. A priority was placed on fully working the existing sample to maximise its quality. After a decision made by FRA, EIGE and the CCT to extend the fieldwork, an extra reserve sample was selected in December 2023, given that the initial 100 PSUs did not yield sufficient interviews to reach the target. This extra reserve sample consisted of additional 15 PSUs randomly selected following the same approach as the main sample.

In the case of Hungary, the actual yield rate was 39 %, compared with an estimated 50 %. Around the mid-way point of fieldwork an adjustment was made by adding the same number of addresses to all PSUs that remained open or where work had not yet started.

4.4.2. Unclustered single-stage samples

In Luxembourg and Sweden, the survey was carried out in CAWI mode, so the samples in these two countries needed to allow for a push to web survey methodology with postal contact. In both countries, the survey could sample women aged 18–74 directly from individual-level register frames. This meant that letters could be sent directly to named individuals who had been sampled, promoting high response rates and the highest possible quality of online samples.

The CAWI mode was the only data collection mode used in Luxembourg and Sweden. The decision not to offer an alternative mode to respondents – such as a paper questionnaire – was due to the length and complexity of the questionnaire which would not translate well to paper. Pen-and-paper mode could also have meant a

potential for increased risks to women if the questionnaire content were displayed openly to others in the household. This meant that the survey covered the online population only – however, levels of internet use are relatively high in Luxembourg and Sweden: 96 % of women aged 16–74 in each country accessed the internet at least once a week, well above the EU average of 87 % ^(d). **Table 15** shows the adjusted coverage for each of the two countries.

Table 15 – Sampling frames and their estimated coverage in CAWI data collection countries

	Sampling frame	Frame coverage (%)	Online coverage (%)	Total survey coverage (%)
Luxembourg	Registre national des personnes physiques	99	96	95
Sweden	Register of the Population	99	96	95

The samples in Luxembourg and Sweden were based on unclustered probability samples, with stratification by the same region and urbanity variables as in the CAPI/CASI data collection countries. Women aged 18–74 could be sampled directly from the frames.

Sufficient cases were selected from the registers based on expected response rates, with a main sample allocated to the initial fieldwork and a reserve sample held as backup. In Sweden the main sample consisted of 12,000 cases for a target of 2,000 interviews. In Luxembourg it was 10,000 cases for a target of 1,500 interviews. Both samples included region and DEGURBA information, which could be monitored during the fieldwork.

5. Usability testing

The CCT carried out a usability test involving the CASI tool (used for the part of the CAPI/CASI mode interview that is self-administered) and the CAWI tool developed for the survey. Testing of the CASI tool took place in Ireland while the CAWI tool was tested in Sweden. The usability testing aimed to gain experience and insights from a practical use of the data collection tools from people who had no prior experience in using them and could therefore share their views concerning the user-friendliness and clarity of the tools before they are finalised for mainstage use.

The testing was organised in person in both countries. Women were recruited for the testing specifically from the age group 50–74 years since it was assumed that more people in this age group could be unfamiliar with filling out online forms or using the internet. Besides age, other quotas were set to ensure a spread of abilities across the sample, as well as spread of device type.

The test focused on the completion of different types of questions which appear in the survey, to investigate whether participants are able to answer them using the survey interface. It also focused on mode-specific features such as the handover of device for CASI, or the functionality of the quick-close button in CAWI mode. The testing did not cover cognitive processes and did not focus on the clarity of the wording of the questions or available answer options.

Regarding the testing of the CAWI mode, the full process was tested starting with the participants reading the introduction letter and attempting to access the survey using the instructions provided in the letter.

5.1. Recruitment

A total of ten usability test interviews were planned in each country. Participants were purposefully recruited based on the quotas provided in [Table 16](#) (Ireland) and [Table 17](#) (Sweden). Both countries faced challenges in fulfilling some of their quotas.

In Ireland, some quotas concerning education were difficult to fulfil, which resulted in a more educated sample than initially anticipated. However, it was still possible to recruit four participants with either no formal education or only primary education.

In Sweden, the quota for confidence in using internet was difficult to fulfil due to high internet penetration in the country. Whilst the local agency tried to ensure that there

was a spread of abilities across the sample, only one participant described themselves as ‘not very confident’. Further, due to a last-minute cancellation of one interview, the target of ten interviews in total was not met in Sweden.

Table 16 – Profile of usability test participants in Ireland

Characteristic	Sub-group	Number of participants	
		Target	Achieved
Age	50–64	5	5
	65–74	5	5
Confidence with smartphone/ tablet	Not very confident	Min. 4	4
	Not at all confident	Min. 4	6
Education	No education/ Primary	Min. 4	4
	Secondary	Min. 3	1
	Degree/ Masters/ PhD	Min. 1	5

Table 17 – Profile of usability test participants in Sweden

Characteristic	Sub-group	Number of participants	
		Target	Achieved
Age	50–64	5	5
	65–74	5	4
Confidence with internet	Not very confident	Min. 4	1
	Not at all confident	Min. 4	0
Education	No education/ Primary	Min. 4	2
	Secondary	Min. 3	3
	Degree/ Masters/ PhD	Min. 1	4
Device type	Smartphone	Min. 3	3
	Tablet	Min. 3	4
	Laptop	Min. 2	4
Operating system of the device (laptop operating systems not included)	Android	Min. 1 Tablet	3
		Min. 1 Smartphone	2
	iOS	Min. 1 iPad	1
		Min. 1 iPhone	1

Note: Sweden was only able to recruit one respondent who was not confident in using the internet. The remaining eight answered that they felt confident in using the internet. Additionally, two interviews

were completed using two devices during the pilot interview – in one case this involved an iPhone and iPad, and in one case a laptop and android smartphone. This led to the number of achieved interviews by device type being greater than the total number of usability test participants.

5.2. Observations and conclusions from the usability testing

During the usability test – both in CASI and CAWI mode – participants were asked to share their views on the survey materials and the survey instruments. In addition, researchers took notes based on their observations as participants were operating the survey tools. This section summarises notable information collected during the testing as well as the conclusions with suggestions for changes to the tools before the mainstage survey.

Overall, survey materials were well-received, and perceived as clear, encouraging and written in a suitable, professional tone. Based on the feedback regarding the CAWI invitation letter, a sentence was later added to inform respondents where they will be able to find the results of the survey and the expected timeline of publication.

The CASI and CAWI survey instruments were generally well-received and considered easy to use. Overall, participants found the survey easy to navigate. There were no issues with proceeding through the introduction screens – participants read the information and clicked through. Two question types posed slight problems: collapsible grids (see section 2.2.3) and drop-down lists. These problems were not extensive and participants often resolved the issue themselves with time and by trial and error.

A much more widely encountered problem was that participants did not know how to select “Don’t know/Can’t remember” or “Don’t want to answer”. This was more prevalent in the CASI test group but also occurred in the CAWI group. In line with GDPR, participants must be aware of how to move past a question without giving an answer. In the online mode, the survey already provided instructions on how to do this as a stand-alone screen as a part of the survey introduction, stating *‘If you do not want to answer a question, just leave the question blank and touch or click “NEXT”’. You will then be given the option of selecting “Don’t know” or “Don’t want to answer”’*. However, during the scripting of the CASI tool for the usability test this instruction was not included at the beginning of the CASI module (that is, the point in the CAPI/CASI interview where the CASI questions start). After the usability test, the instruction was added to the CASI script.

There were some issues around navigation of the collapsible grid questions when items were left unanswered – the script would go back to the first grid item rather than highlight the one that was not answered. This scripting issue was corrected for the mainstage fieldwork.

Info buttons were used in both the CASI and CAWI scripts to include information which may help the respondent answer the question. Most participants did not see or notice the info buttons, and when prompted to use them many indicated that the information within the pop-up box was not helpful. In response to this feedback, all of the info buttons in the survey were reviewed to determine if the content of the information can be improved before the mainstage.

6. Piloting

A pilot survey was conducted in the six CAPI/CASI data collection countries (Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and Romania). In the two CAWI countries, the survey methodology was considered to be sufficiently similar to previous, successful online surveys carried out by Ipsos and FRA, so that further piloting was not considered necessary. This chapter provides an overview of the pilot design, its implementation and key findings.

6.1. Pilot objectives

A total of 15 interviews were conducted in each of the six countries. Ten interviews were done following the full procedures to be used in the mainstage fieldwork including random selection of respondents, and five pilot interviews took place with women who are survivors of violence and who were purposefully recruited to ensure that the full questionnaire was tested in the pilot.

The pilot had the following objectives:

- To test the CAPI/CASI fieldwork protocols including the ECS, collecting meta- and paradata, the process of introducing the survey to the respondents and gaining their consent for the interview, CASI administration, fieldwork quality control and monitoring procedures, and refining strategies for interviewers to deal with reluctance to participate.
- To further test the usability and functioning of the data collection tools, including the questionnaire routing and the technical design, and to provide an additional assessment of the equivalence of the survey instrument across languages, the quality of the translations and the adequacy of terminology.
- To test the functioning of the sampling approach by using the same approach in the pilot as the one developed for the mainstage.
- To provide insight into how the new questions interact with the existing questionnaire, identifying any adjustments that would be needed.
- Identify any gaps in the interviewer training.

6.2. Pilot sampling

In each pilot country, ten interviews were carried out following the same procedures as those that would be used for the mainstage data collection, including random probability sampling of respondents. The sampling was done using available sample frames where every member of the target population had a known, non-zero chance of being selected. In the three countries (Cyprus, Germany and Romania) where the mainstage sample frame would be based on enumeration, the sampling approach of the pilot included the enumeration as well. In Czechia, Hungary and Ireland, the pilot sample was drawn from the same registers that would be used in the mainstage.

Two PSUs per country were purposively selected (with five interviews conducted in each) to meet the following requirements: each PSU was in a different region and of a different urbanity (DEGURBA) level. This meant that the pilot reflected some of the expected population variation of the main survey. In addition, one PSU was allocated for interviews with survivors of violence (five interviews in each country). The survivors were selected purposively using suitable networks.

For the two PSUs where random probability sampling method was followed, addresses or individuals (depending on the sample frame) were randomly selected, and these were provided in the ECS to test whether interviewers are able to find the listed addresses. In Czechia and Ireland, where an address sample was used, a random selection of one woman was made at each cooperative address using the iField ECS.

In terms of fieldwork protocols, unlike in the mainstage, interviewers were instructed that they would be able to stop once five interviews had been achieved in each PSU, even if some addresses remained “open” (i.e., there were remaining visits that would ordinarily need to be made). This approach prioritised completing the pilot on time over the pilot response rate, given there was insufficient time to follow a full mainstage process of releasing an initial conservative volume of addresses, judging the response rate, and then releasing, and fully working, further batches of sample. Furthermore, since the pilot only involved ten interviews based on probability sampling in each country, this would not have provided sufficient data to estimate response rates even if all addresses were worked in full.

6.3. Pilot fieldwork

Pilot fieldwork took place during June–July 2023. All interviewers involved in the pilot were briefed in advance, based on the same training materials that were prepared for

the mainstage of data collection. The fieldwork progressed well for the 10 interviews that were conducted using the same sample frames as in the mainstage. However, in Cyprus and Ireland it took longer than anticipated to receive the help needed from the local support organisations to interview victims of violence, which resulted in some minor delays. [Table 18](#) summarises the pilot fieldwork dates and the total number of interviews achieved, interview length and the size of the pilot interviewer team.

Table 18 – Summary of pilot fieldwork by country

Country	Pilot fieldwork dates (in 2023)	Number of completed interviews	Length of interview (median, hh:mm:ss)	Number of interviewers
Cyprus	28 June – 14 July	16	00:37:03	4
Czechia	19–29 June	15	00:44:31	6
Germany	13–27 June	16	01:08:03	2
Hungary	16 June – 11 July	15	01:19:30	3
Ireland	19 June – 14 July	15	00:24:55	2
Romania	23–30 June	15	00:46:43	3

6.4. Key findings and actions taken after the pilot

During the pilot, the CCT collected feedback concerning the sampling and data collection procedures and the use of various survey tools, based on observations made by the NSEs and the interviewers. This section summarises the key findings of the pilot and the adjustments made before the survey mainstage.

6.4.1. Sampling and pilot fieldwork outcomes

The local teams in the three countries where enumeration was used (Cyprus, Germany and Romania) reported no difficulties with following the random walk rules outlined in the instructions provided for the enumeration phase. It was positively noted that the ECS listed the sampled addresses in the order they were enumerated, which was helpful for limiting the distance needed to travel between two consecutive contacts. Drawing the samples from the individual (Hungary) and address registers (Czechia and Ireland) did not present any issues.

Interviewers selected to work on the pilot were trained by the NSEs after the TtT briefing (described in section 3.1), based on the interview manual. Feedback collected during the pilot interviewer training was described in section 3.3.

Table 19 provides a summary of pilot fieldwork outcomes at the PSU level, focusing on metrics related to sample yield rate and sample quality. The yield rate is considered instead of the response rate, given that it determines the total number of cases required to deliver the sample (the response rate excludes ineligible cases from the base of the calculation). Given the small sample sizes, no firm conclusions can be drawn from the pilot outcomes concerning expected yield rates in the mainstage.

There were no significant problems reported in the selection of respondents when interviewers made contact with an address. The eligibility criteria for the survey were seen as relatively straightforward, and few interviewers experienced problems in identifying eligible women or interviewing pre-selected women (in Hungary).

However, the pilot provided following observations concerning issues to monitor further in the mainstage or to consider when drawing the mainstage sample:

- The yield rate varied considerably between PSUs within country. This was not unexpected but highlighted that the number of completed interviews per PSU would vary also in the mainstage.
- Address eligibility rates were lower than expected in Cyprus, especially given that enumeration was used here (which, in theory, already allows excluding many non-residential addresses). However, the main reason for the low address eligibility was addresses being vacant, which cannot be established at enumeration stage.
- Address eligibility rates were also relatively low in Hungary. This was due to the named respondent not living at the address (4 cases), the inability to locate the address (2 cases) and the address being occupied but not by resident persons (1 case). In effect, 5 of these cases suggest that the address on the sampling frame (population register) was out of date – a known issue with the frame – and in 2 cases the address details were likely insufficient for the interviewer to find the right address. As such, the results are not surprising and were no cause for concern given the modest proportions of the pilot. All respondents were confirmed to be eligible, so in this respect the information contained in the sample frame was accurate.

Table 19 – Pilot fieldwork outcomes by PSU

Country	PSU	Initial sample release	Sample used	Interviews	Yield rate (interviews/sample used, %)	Expected mainstage yield rate (prior to the pilot, %)	Address eligibility rate (%)
Cyprus	CY301	20	80	5	6	33	89
	CY302	20	22	8	36	33	81
	CZ301	22	38	6	16	30	97
	CZ302	22	15	4	27	30	100
Germany	DE301	33	36	6	17	20	100
	DE302	33	11	6	55	20	100
Hungary	HU301	26	26	5	19	25	80
	HU302	26	10	5	50	25	80
Ireland	IE301	17	17	5	29	40	94
	IE302	17	17	5	29	40	100
Romania	RO301	19	14	5	36	35	93
	RO302	19	18	5	28	35	89

Note: The address eligibility rate is calculated as number of confirmed eligible (residential) addresses / (number of residential + ineligible addresses).

6.4.2. ECS

In Germany, Ireland, and Romania there were no issues reported with regards to using the ECS, as expected given their interviewers had extensive experience of using the tool in other surveys. The length of the ECS was considered appropriate and it was easy to understand and to apply the screening questions. The outcome codes – for example, to indicate that the address should be visited again, is ineligible (for any reason) or that an interview was completed – were easy to use. On the other hand, the ECS used in the survey was a completely new tool for the interviewers in Cyprus and Czechia, so it took them longer to get accustomed to using it. Therefore, Ipsos organised an additional training session focused on the ECS and iField after the pilot for those countries that experienced more difficulties in familiarising themselves with the ECS and iField.

6.4.3. Respondent facing materials

The survey information letter was considered a useful document, helping to convey the legitimacy of the survey, and to help convince respondents to participate. Main

suggestions for improvements were to reduce the length if possible and to leave out the interview length as this varies greatly from respondent to respondent. For the mainstage, the length of the letter was slightly reduced. However, it is important to inform respondents about the expected length of the interview, so this information was kept but it was moved from the first page of the letter to the back page.

When introducing the survey to the respondents, interviewers in Czechia and Hungary noted that some women asked what was meant by “well-being”, as the term used in the translation was less well-known. Interviewers did not always feel properly equipped to answer this question without disclosing the true nature of the survey, which led to them giving a vague response, which could negatively impact women’s willingness to participate. In response to the feedback received, the translation of the survey introduction was reviewed. Another challenge, as described in section [2.2.3](#), concerned the transition during the interview from the ‘neutral’ survey introduction to the questions concerning experiences of violence. After the pilot, additional information was added to the beginning of the survey to indicate that some of the topics may be sensitive.

Views on the project postcard were more mixed, with some interviewers finding it useful for leaving their details at the address in cases of no contact so that respondents can contact the interviewer and make an appointment. On the other hand, some interviewers did not find much use for the postcard. Ultimately, no changes were suggested, and the postcard was kept in the mainstage.

The privacy notice was considered too long for respondents to read, and the language was considered too formal. However, the text of the privacy notice was based on similar documents used earlier in other FRA surveys and there was no time to carry out a thorough review of the content before the mainstage.

The list of support services offered to each respondent at the end of the interview was accepted and appreciated by some respondents, while others did not take it. Before the mainstage, the list was checked again to ensure that the contact details of the support services are accurate, and interviewers were reminded during the mainstage training that they must respect the respondent’s decision if they choose not to accept the list.

6.4.4. Questionnaire

Overall impressions that participants shared concerning the questionnaire were divided, and mostly dependent on whether the respondent had experienced violence or not. Respondents recruited as part of the survivor sample and those recruited as

part of the random probability sample, but who had experienced violence were more likely to recognise the value in asking detailed questions about different acts of violence. Those who had not experienced violence were more likely to question the need for such detailed questions, reported feeling embarrassed by some of the questions, or that the survey was too long.

The main criticism of the questionnaire was that its structure meant that respondents felt like they were being asked the same things repeatedly, as they did not always notice the distinction between the questions – for example, to distinguish between experiences with their current and former partner(s). In some cases, respondents went into great detail about their experiences when first asked about any violent perpetrated by current partners but felt frustrated when they were later asked more questions concerning a specific episode of violence. These respondents felt like they had already explained what had happened but had not been listened to, or that they had misunderstood the questions. To address this before the mainstage, section headers were added to the online and CASI scripts to help respondents see it when they are moving from one section of the questionnaire to the other. Further, some keywords in the question text were formatted in bold to make it clearer to respondents what situations/context they are being asked about (e.g. experiences at work vs outside work) and who the questions concern (e.g. current partner vs former partner). The introductory texts for some sections were also revised to make it clearer that some questions on these subject matters had already been asked but more details were needed.

6.4.5. Interview length

In addition to questions that all respondents answer, EU-GBV survey includes many questions that are asked only if the respondent has experienced certain acts of violence. Therefore, it could be expected that the length of the pilot interviews varies considerably depending on the respondents' experiences of violence. [Table 20](#) shows the interview length by country and by respondents who indicated that they had experienced any acts of violence (including the sub-sample of survivors of violence), compared with those who did not. In Germany, all respondents interviewed for the pilot shared one or more experiences of violence.

It is important to note that the timings only reflect the interview duration (from the first question in the survey to the last), and not the total time the interviewer spent with the respondent, such as making the first contact and introducing the survey. In few cases interviewers spent a considerable amount of time with the respondents who

wanted to talk further after the interview. This time is not accounted for in the recorded interview length.

Table 20 – Length of the pilot interviews according to experience of violence and country

	Experienced Violence (h:mm:ss)				Did not experience violence (h:mm:ss)				Number of respondents (n)
	Min	Median	Mean	Max	Min	Median	Mean	Max	
Cyprus	0:25:38	0:42:47	0:48:35	1:31:36	0:29:47	0:33:15	0:33:17	0:36:53	16
Czechia	0:21:57	0:45:40	0:43:09	0:56:08	0:34:32	0:34:32	0:34:32	0:34:32	15
Germany	0:45:40	1:08:03	1:15:08	2:12:17	—	—	—	—	16
Hungary	1:08:33	1:28:43	1:39:43	2:51:22	0:54:05	0:54:51	1:00:47	1:13:27	15
Ireland	0:19:33	0:28:37	0:34:56	1:15:22	0:14:58	0:17:33	0:17:33	0:20:08	15
Romania	0:31:59	0:47:12	0:48:36	1:12:55	0:32:26	0:35:15	0:39:44	0:51:33	15

Note: In Germany, all 16 pilot interviewees indicated that they had experienced one or more types of violence that the survey asked about.

The differences in interview lengths between countries were investigated but no clear explanation could be found – for example, to clarify why the mean and median length in Ireland is the shortest of all counties. In past experience, interviews administered in English often have shorter interview lengths which could be one contributing factor, given that English is the source language of the questionnaire and the translations are often longer than the source version. There was no disclosure of current partner violence in Ireland, but this also applied to Cyprus and Romania.

6.4.6. CASI completion

While all respondents were invited to complete the CASI section on their own, they could also indicate it if they did not feel able to do so – for example, because they did not want to use the device (a tablet) or were unable to use it due to a disability. In such a case the interviewer administered the questions included in the CASI module, similar to the way the interview would be conducted in the CAPI mode.

In all countries except Cyprus more than 70 % of respondents agreed to complete the CASI sections themselves. Those completing the CASI section did not experience any technical difficulties.

The low CASI take-up in Cyprus may have been partly due to the interviewer training not placing sufficient emphasis on the importance of encouraging the respondents to use CASI – for example, to give it a try even if the respondents hesitated in the

beginning. This meant that interviewers were less likely to try and persuade the more reluctant respondents to try CASI themselves. This was addressed for the mainstage interviewer training.

6.4.7. Incentives

Surveys frequently use incentives to thank respondents for their time, although the use of incentives varies across surveys and countries. In the pilot, incentives were offered to all respondents recruited as survivors of violence ([Table 21](#)). Incentives were also offered in Germany, Hungary and Romania for respondents selected based on the regular respondent recruitment protocol (random probability sample). Incentives were well received and, where they were used, interviewers considered that they helped to secure respondents' cooperation.

Table 21 – Incentives used in the pilot by type of sample and by country

Country	Survivors sample	Random probability sample
Cyprus	EUR 30	None
Czechia	CZK 1,000 (EUR 42)	None
Germany	EUR 50	EUR 10
Hungary	HUF 4,500 (EUR 12)	
Ireland	EUR 40	None
Romania	Coffee packet – value RON 15 (EUR 3)	

7. Mainstage fieldwork

The mainstage fieldwork took place between August 2023 and March 2024. This chapter describes how the fieldwork was organised in each of the eight survey countries – CAPI/CASI data collection in Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and Romania, and CAWI data collection in Luxembourg and Sweden. The chapter also presents a summary of the fieldwork outcomes and discusses the challenges encountered when implementing the fieldwork activities. Since the fieldwork activities and outcome measures differ between the two data collection modes, the information is presented in this chapter separately for countries implementing the CAPI/CASI mode and those using the CAWI mode.

In total, the data collection activities across the eight survey countries resulted in the final survey dataset of 15,447 completed interviews. [Table 22](#) shows the fieldwork dates, the target sample size, and the final sample size after data quality checks which resulted in the rejection of a small number of interviews.

Table 22 – Summary of mainstage fieldwork dates and sample sizes

Survey country	Fieldwork dates	Target sample size	Final sample size
CAPI/CASI mode			
Cyprus	28/08/23–26/01/24	1,500	1,500
Czechia	23/08/23–16/02/24	2,000	2,043
Germany	31/08/23–07/03/24	2,500	2,419
Hungary	29/08/23–12/01/24	2,000	2,002
Ireland	04/09/23–10/03/24	2,000	994
Romania	03/09/23–12/02/24	2,000	2,003
CAWI mode			
Luxembourg	13/10/23–09/11/23	1,500	1,924
Sweden	27/09/23–09/11/23	2,000	2,562

7.1. CAPI/CASI data collection

This section focuses on the implementation of the mainstage survey fieldwork in the six countries where CAPI/CASI mode was used – Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and Romania.

7.1.1. Fieldwork dates and progress

The survey fieldwork started in August 2023 – a month later than originally planned because finalising the questionnaire took longer than expected. Besides the delay in starting the fieldwork, completing the interviews also took more time than planned, mainly due to limited interviewer capacity in some survey countries. FRA and EIGE agreed with the CCT on an extension to the fieldwork, so that data collection was finally completed in March 2024. Even with the extension, the target sample size was not achieved in Germany and in Ireland.

Table 23 provides a summary of the fieldwork progress by month. The fieldwork in Hungary was completed in the shortest time frame, with Germany and Ireland requiring the most time. By the end of the time allocated to fieldwork, the target of 2,500 interviews in Germany was almost met, while in Ireland the fieldwork challenges resulted in about half the expected number of interviews being reached. The number of interviews shown in **Table 23** indicate all completed CAPI/CASI interviews – 10,965, of which a small number did not meet the quality criteria and were not included in the final dataset which includes the data from 10,961 CAPI/CASI interviews.

Table 23 – Number of interviews each month by country and survey group

Country	2023					2024			Total
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Cyprus	34	346	365	633	107	15	0	0	1,500
Czechia	40	611	467	569	39	317	0	0	2,043
Germany	0	221	727	637	348	101	278	107	2,419
Hungary	32	721	736	452	60	1	0	0	2,002
Ireland	0	109	209	284	43	138	158	53	994
Romania	0	506	264	841	336	56	0	0	2,003

Besides Germany and Ireland, fieldwork delays were encountered also in other survey countries. The reasons for this include lack of adequate interviewer capacity and having to extend fieldwork to December which – due to the holiday period – is not as productive as other months. In some cases interviewers also needed a break from the

survey due to the topic, meaning that they did not complete as many interviews per month as in other social surveys. Some teams were also faced with a lower yield rate than what had been estimated. Efforts were made to recruit and train additional interviewers, and especially in Germany and Ireland a number of interviewer recruitment actions were taken, such as approaching other fieldwork agencies to share resources, seek recruitment of new interviewers through universities and support services working with victims of gender-based violence, or through selected social media channels. However, given the limited time available for completing the fieldwork it was not possible to substantially increase the size of the field force.

7.1.2. First contact and willingness to cooperate

Interviewers were required to record in the ECS all contact attempts made at each selected address. A final outcome (refusal, interview, establishing ineligibility or confirmation that the address was invalid) was achieved for the most part on the first visit. In some cases, multiple visits were required before a final outcome could be recorded. The contact protocol required a minimum of three visits to each address if the final outcome cannot be confirmed earlier. The mean number of visits ranged from 1.43 in Romania and 1.44 in Czechia to 1.71 in Germany and 2.12 in Ireland. The higher mean number of visits in Germany and Ireland reflects the challenges that the fieldwork faced in these two countries in making contact with respondents, alongside other challenges discussed earlier in this chapter such as lack of sufficient interviewer resources.

As with any survey, some potential respondents refused to participate citing, for example, lack of time, general busyness or not taking part in any surveys as their reason. Overall, refusal to participate due to the subject matter itself was not commonly cited. It should be noted, though, that the survey was introduced first in a neutral way (as a survey on women's life and well-being) so a refusal to participate at the start of the survey does not reflect respondents' attitudes to gender-based violence. While few respondents terminated an interview later after it was clear that the questions related to gender-based violence, some did note the disconnect between how the survey was introduced and the detailed questions they were asked. This was despite additional introductory text being added post-pilot to the survey introduction after respondent selection warning that the survey would cover some sensitive questions. Introducing the survey first in a more neutral way was nevertheless considered important in view of protecting respondents and interviewers against risks that would result from other people around them discovering what the survey asks about.

7.1.3. CASI completion

Sections F, G, H, J and K of the questionnaire, which ask about violence by current and former intimate partners (see [Table 2](#)), were designed to be administered by CASI, wherever respondents agreed to this. Similar to the experience with CASI during the pilot, also in the mainstage of the survey a majority of respondents were willing and were able to complete the CASI sections with little or no assistance. However, in Cyprus only around half of respondents agreed to complete the CASI module themselves. There was considerable variation by interviewer in Cyprus on proportion of respondents who agreed to complete via CASI, from none for one interviewer, to two interviewers who had 100 % CASI take up. These outcomes can point to the crucial role that interviewers have in encouraging respondents to use CASI, although it can also reflect differences in respondents' familiarity – across the different areas where each interviewer was conducting the fieldwork – with devices such as the tablets that were used in the data collection. In the other countries besides Cyprus, the CASI take up ranged from 79 % in Romania to 97 % in Germany.

7.1.4. Location, presence of others and interruptions during the interview

While securing privacy for the interview was difficult in some cases, the interviewers did not report this to be a widespread issue. Since interviewers' first contact with the respondents took place in their home address, it was often easy to also conduct the interview there, although the interview could also be moved to another location where the interviewer and the respondent could speak without anyone overhearing them.

In Cyprus, Germany, Hungary and Ireland 90 % or more of the interviews were conducted at the respondent's home, while in Romania this was the case for 78 % of the interviews. In Czechia, however, the majority of interviews (58 %) were conducted outside of the home, in gardens, cafes and public parks among other locations, due to respondent preference. While these interviews took place outside of the home, interviewers were still careful to ensure a private setting. The local team in Czechia noted that respondent preference to have the interview outside their home is a growing trend in Czechia in general.

If interviewers recorded that someone else was present during the interview, all such cases were back-checked or discussed with the interviewers to understand if someone else besides the interviewer and the respondent was present in the same room while the interview was happening, or whether this referred to minor interruptions or

someone being present in the dwelling, but not in the room where the interview took place. All cases where it was established that someone other than the interviewer and the respondent was present in the same room for the full duration of the interview were removed from the dataset. Interviews were also removed from the dataset when it was not possible to check that the privacy condition had been met. Of the remaining cases, interviewers indicated that in 2–4 % of the interviews there was someone else present in the same room for some time during the interview. In most cases this was a child (it was permitted for children under the age of 2 to be present), though in Romania there were 19 cases where the respondent's partner was present for some of the time, 19 cases where another family member was present and 22 cases where someone else (e.g. friend, neighbour) was present for some of the time. All cases underwent thorough investigation by the local team, revealing that the respondent's partner's presence consisted of brief interruptions (entering to greet, bid farewell, or retrieve an item), during which interviews were paused until privacy was restored. Interviewer feedback indicated that the presence of other family members or friends during interviews in Romania was typically at the respondent's request and a prerequisite for the interview to proceed. In most instances, this involved the respondent's sister, mother, or best friend, who provided moral support and encouragement without interfering in the interview process.

Table 24 – Presence of others during the interview

Country	No-one present		Someone was present some of the time		Someone present most/all of the time	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cyprus	1,476	98	23	2	1	< 1
Czechia	2,014	99	22	1	7	< 1
Germany	2,404	99	12	1	3	< 1
Hungary	1,978	99	16	1	8	< 1
Ireland	983	99	10	1	1	< 1
Romania	1,921	96	76	4	6	< 1

Table 25 – Who was present during the interview at least some of the time (number of interviews)

Country	Respondents partner	Child/Children	Other family members	Other(s) such as friends, neighbours etc.
Cyprus	0	24	0	0
Czechia	0	29	0	0
Germany	0	14	1	0
Hungary	1	21	5	0

Ireland	0	7	2	2
Romania	19	29	19	22

Notes: In the table above, the sum of each row can be higher than the number of interviews where someone was present some of the time or most/all of the time, as indicated in [Table 24](#). This is due to more than one person being present during an interview (such as different people momentarily interrupting the interview at different times). The number of interviews shown in the table above concerns interviews that were included in the final dataset and does not include the interviews that were rejected (see [Table 30](#)).

7.1.5. Interview length

The interview length is computed by calculating the time between the first and the last survey question. It doesn't include the screening questions nor the Interview Assessment module, which the interviewer completed after the interview. It is preferable to refer to the median length rather than the mean because outliers (exceptionally short or long interviews) have less effect on this figure.

Interviews which were four times longer than the median have been excluded when examining the overall interview length. Typically, the reason for these long interviews is that the interview script was not closed properly at the end of the survey. Interviews with a duration of less than 10 minutes are also excluded from the calculation. All short interviews were checked as thoroughly as possible. Any interviews that were flagged for their short duration, coupled with other quality concerns such as a high level of non-response and implausible answers, and which could not be verified, were entirely removed from the dataset. The remaining short interviews in the data are predominantly due to technical issues encountered when recording the interview length (for example, pressing the back button to return to a previous question would, on occasion, result in timestamps being interrupted).

On average, the survey interviews took 37 minutes for respondents to complete (the median interview length), ranging from just under 25 minutes in Cyprus and Ireland to 53 minutes in Germany ([Table 26](#)).

Table 26 – Length of interview by country (h:mm:ss)

	Minimum	Mean	Median	Maximum
Cyprus	0:10:02	0:26:54	0:24:28	1:36:40
Czechia	0:10:10	0:36:12	0:35:51	1:58:56
Germany	0:12:35	0:55:20	0:53:29	3:20:21
Hungary	0:11:52	0:45:07	0:44:19	2:52:18
Ireland	0:10:01	0:26:46	0:23:09	1:30:41
Romania	0:10:34	0:38:07	0:37:36	1:42:52

All	0:10:01	0:38:56	0:37:12	3:20:21
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The median interview length among those who have experienced violence was just over 41.5 minutes, while it was 36.5 minutes among those who have not experienced violence ([Table 27](#)).

Table 27 – Length of interview according to experience of violence (h:mm:ss)

	Experienced violence				Did not experience violence			
	Min	Mean	Median	Max	Min	Mean	Median	Max
Cyprus	0:10:08	0:28:35	0:26:12	1:36:40	0:10:02	0:23:14	0:20:29	1:16:32
Czechia	0:10:13	0:36:59	0:36:45	1:58:56	0:10:10	0:34:46	0:34:17	1:32:24
Germany	0:12:35	0:55:50	0:53:47	3:20:21	0:15:14	0:54:15	0:52:55	2:53:30
Hungary	0:13:45	0:47:03	0:46:24	2:52:18	0:11:52	0:39:22	0:38:57	1:44:08
Ireland	0:10:16	0:28:26	0:24:35	1:30:41	0:10:01	0:22:10	0:19:36	1:10:48
Romania	0:10:34	0:40:12	0:40:00	1:42:52	0:10:39	0:34:42	0:35:01	1:29:22
All	0:10:08	0:41:47	0:41:35	3:20:21	0:10:01	0:37:13	0:36:31	2:53:30

7.1.6. Incentives

As in the pilot, also during the mainstage fieldwork respondents in three countries were offered an incentive to thank them for the time they took to take part in the survey. The type and value of the incentives was determined based on NSEs' experience from other similar surveys and the feedback they collected concerning the use of incentives in the pilot (see section [6.4.7](#)). In addition to the individual incentives (money or a shopping voucher) that were used in three countries ([Table 28](#)), in Ireland respondents were informed that a donation would be made to Women's Aid.

The team in Hungary considered that the incentive was an important factor in achieving respondents' cooperation. In other countries, the use of the incentive was seen as important from a cultural perspective, and it is thought to have had some positive impact on fieldwork, though this is difficult to measure in the absence of a comparison group. Feedback from Germany suggests that increasing the value of the incentive there during the fieldwork helped the interviewers in their work.

Table 28 – Incentives provided by country

Country	Incentive type and value
Cyprus	None
Czechia	None
Germany	Initially EUR 10 (in cash). Increased to EUR 20 on 25 October 2023
Hungary	Supermarket voucher worth HUF 4,500 (approximately EUR 12)
Ireland	A contribution was made to Women’s Aid for their support in delivering the survey in lieu of an individual incentive.
Romania	Electronic shopping voucher with value of RON 15 (approximately EUR 3)

7.1.7. Fieldwork monitoring and quality control

During fieldwork, weekly updates on the number of completed interviews by country were provided to FRA and EIGE. For face-to-face fieldwork countries, these progress updates included information on response rates, the number of addresses worked (address open, closed, or in progress), and basic demographics from completed interviews (age, education). The CCT was in regular contact with all local teams throughout data collection to collect information on issues such as justification in case of lack of progress, or to discuss potential changes that would be needed to the sample design or approach. Information collected from local teams was included in the weekly updates that the CCT shared with FRA and EIGE.

In addition to the written weekly update and fieldwork progress reports, a phone call was held between FRA, EIGE and the CCT on a weekly basis. This was to allow FRA, EIGE and the CCT to understand the extent of progress made and to discuss potential solutions to any fieldwork challenges encountered.

Back-checks

Every local agency was required to re-contact a minimum of 10 % of respondents to validate interviewers’ work. This was done to confirm that the data had been gathered from genuine respondents, that interviews had been conducted correctly, and that the respondent had been left with a good impression. As part of the back checking process, respondents were asked to confirm details of the interview, such as the date and time of the interview, but were not asked to repeat their answers to sensitive questions in the survey ([Table 29](#)). Local agencies used the following methods to carry out the back-checks:

- **By telephone:** Respondents were contacted by a member of the validation team and asked to confirm details of their interviews.
- **By post:** Letters were sent to respondents requesting that they return an enclosed statement regarding the conduct of the interview (Germany only).
- **By personal visit:** A fieldwork supervisor visited the respondent's addresses and asked to confirm details of the interview.

Table 29 – Variables included in the interview validation (back-check) questionnaire

Variable name	Description
BC_QA	Whether the interview took place
BC_Q3	How long the interview took
BC_Q4	Whether the respondent knows the interviewer socially
BC_Q5	How the interviewer recorded the answers
BC_Q6	Date of the interview
BC_Q7	Time of the interview
BC_B4	Respondent's age
BC_B13	Respondent's employment status
BC_B21	Respondent's legal marital status
BC_B49	Number of people living in the household
BC_X3a	Whether the respondent was alone during the interview
BC_X5	Where the interview was held
BC_Q10	Whether the interviewer used showcards

The back-checking process was spread over the fieldwork period. Each interviewer's work was aimed to be checked early so that they could be provided with feedback if needed.

If problems were detected, local agencies were required to increase the number of checks carried out. Where serious problems were identified, the interviewer was removed from the project, and their interviews were excluded from the final data. In less serious cases, interviewers were re-briefed to prevent future errors. Outcomes of back-checks and other quality control measures related to interviewers' work are described in [Table 30](#).

Importantly, only respondents who had not experienced violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner, and had not experienced violence in childhood, were included in the backchecking process. While the back checks did not include any questions about experiences of violence, it was considered best not to recontact survivors of violence, to avoid raising any doubts about the confidentiality of their data or risk someone else in the house asking what the interview had been about. At the end of the interview, respondents were also asked for their permission to be re-contacted for quality checking.

Table 30 – Number of backchecks carried out and outcomes of quality control

Country	Number of backchecks carried out and the method used	Outcomes (from back checks and other quality control measures)
Cyprus	244 via telephone, 40 in person	52 interviews were removed: • 23 cases due to short duration • 13 cases as it was recorded that someone was present during the interview, but it could not be confirmed later if this was only an interruption or someone present elsewhere in the house or apartment, or someone else was actually listening to the interview • 12 cases that could not be verified during back-checks • 4 cases due to errors found during the back checking
Czechia	115 via telephone, 155 in person	One interview was removed for being short in combination with having a high level of item non-response.
Germany	254 responses received from 463 back check cards posted	8 interviews were removed: • 2 due to duplicate address ID • 6 due to the interview length being too short and the interview could not be verified during back-checks
Hungary	373 via telephone	83 interviews were removed:

		• 73 cases due to their short duration and the inability to verify these • 10 cases due to someone else being present in the room while the interview took place
Ireland	134 via telephone	No issues were identified
Romania	305 via telephone	29 cases were removed either due to the interviews being very short and it not being possible to verify them during back-checks, or due to incorrect respondent selection.

Proportion of fieldwork carried out by single interviewer

At the outset of fieldwork, it was agreed that each interviewer could complete interviews corresponding to a maximum of 10 % of the sample size in their country. The local agencies were requested to report any planned deviations from this with the CCT so that such cases can be discussed with FRA and EIGE. The rule regarding the maximum number of interviews per interviewer was specified to limit the impact of any one interviewer on the quality of the data. No interviewers exceeded the maximum number of interviews that they could conduct.

7.1.8. Fieldwork outcomes

Table 31 provides a summary of CAPI/CASI fieldwork outcomes by country as well as the response rates which range from 36 % in Germany to 55 % in Cyprus and in Czechia, respectively.

Table 31 – CAPI/CASI fieldwork outcomes, by country

	Cyprus	Czechia	Germany	Hungary	Ireland	Romania
Total sample (gross)	3,698	4,748	10,352	5,086	3,625	4,983
Confirmed ineligible households (CIH)	427	502	1305	416	612	451
Households with unknown eligibility (UE)	1,556	1,970	6,300	1,649	1,582	2,136

Confirmed eligible households (CEH)	1,536	2,152	2,577	2,965	1,226	2,079
Interviewed households (I) (partial and complete)	1,501	2,056	2,420	2,006	1,001	2,009
Invalid address	179	124	170	56	205	317
Eligibility rate (e)	78 %	81 %	66 %	88 %	67 %	82 %
Response rate	55 %	55 %	36 %	45 %	44 %	52 %

Notes: As indicated by the interviewed households label, both complete and partial interviews are included in the response rate calculation. The partial interviews are those where respondents screened out of the survey after answering “Don’t want to answer” or “Don’t know/Can’t remember” to all screener questions for each type of violence (according to the original Eurostat EU-GBV questionnaire). The number of completed questionnaires is higher than the number of interviews included in the final dataset since some cases that did not meet the quality criteria were removed, as described in section [7.1.7](#).

Each of the addresses included in the gross sample was assigned a final outcome code, within the outcome categories shown in [Table 31](#). The number of **eligible** addresses is based on addresses that were given one of the following final outcome codes:

- Completed interview
- Partial interview
- Refusal by target respondent before interview
- Refusal by proxy (other household member) after respondent selection
- Refusal during the interview
- Broken appointment, no re-contact
- Respondent away/in hospital during fieldwork period
- Language barrier with target respondent
- Ill at home during field period
- Contact made at address, but not with target respondent
- Personal information consent refused (after screening)

The number of **ineligible** addresses is based on addresses that were given one of the following final outcome codes:

- Resident household, but not eligible for the survey
- Named respondent deceased
- Named respondent not living at address
- Selected respondent not eligible
- Other ineligible

The number of addresses with an **unknown** eligibility is based on addresses that were given one of the following final outcome codes:

- Refused to take part or give any information
- Information refused about number of dwelling units/households at the address
- Information refused about whether address is residential
- Information refused about whether resident(s) are eligible
- Unable to screen due to language barriers/Household language barrier
- Physically or mentally unable (to screen)
- Address inaccessible
- No contact with anyone at the address
- Other unknown eligibility
- Personal information consent refused (pre-screening)
- Other non-response

Finally, **invalid addresses** are those assigned one of the following codes. Invalid addresses are not included in the calculation of the eligibility rate or the response rate.

- Unable to locate address
- Not yet built/under construction
- Address not valid (vacant/empty/demolished/derelict)

- Address occupied, but no resident persons (e.g. second/holiday home)
- Communal establishment/institution

Interviews not accepted for quality control reasons are also excluded when calculating the eligibility rate and the response rate.

The eligibility rate (e) is calculated as follows:

$$e = \text{CEH} / (\text{CEH} + \text{CIH})$$

where CEH = Confirmed eligible households and CIH = Confirmed ineligible households

The response rate is calculated as follows, in accordance with the RR3 definition of response rates by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) ^(e).

$$\text{Response rate} = I / (\text{CEH} + e * \text{UE})$$

where I = interviewed households, CEH = Confirmed eligible households, e = eligibility rate, and UE = Households where eligibility is unknown.

7.1.9. Refusals

Table 32 provides a summary of the reasons people gave for not wanting to participate in the survey. Based on the experience of the CCT, the reasons respondents gave in the FRA-EIGE survey when refusing the interview were generally similar to the reasons given in other surveys. It is notable, however, that 12 % and 13 %, respectively, worry about misuse of the data or don't trust the research in Czechia. Feedback from interviewers in Czechia noted that some of people they contacted expressed mistrust towards the EU and this could be reflected in their attitudes towards the survey. With respect to category 'Not interested in the subject matter' it is relevant to note that the decision to refuse the interview was typically made based on hearing the 'neutral' survey introduction when the details on the survey topics had not been shared yet.

Table 32 – Reasons for refusal (%)

Reason	Cyprus	Czechia	Germany	Hungary	Ireland	Romania
Too busy at the time of contact	8	3	4	4	13	7
Always too busy	46	12	25	12	26	13
Interview takes too long	15	13	19	20	7	21
Interview too intrusive	9	4	10	13	2	4
Unable to secure privacy	3	2	4	2	1	5
Never does surveys	10	19	31	32	15	21
Not interested in the subject matter	14	14	19	26	13	20
Nothing in it for them, no motivation	2	4	2	6	2	3
Survey is a waste of time	2	10	4	5	1	9
Survey is a waste of money	0	4	2	2	0	3
Worried about confidentiality	1	9	6	4	1	6
Worried about misuse of the information	0	12	5	5	1	4
Worried about safety / security	1	6	5	3	1	5
Does not trust the research	2	13	5	3	1	7
Refusal: No reason given	3	28	13	9	36	18

7.2. CAWI data collection

This section describes how the CAWI fieldwork was carried out in Luxembourg and Sweden, followed by an overview of the fieldwork outcomes.

7.2.1. Fieldwork approach and progress

In Luxembourg and Sweden, the survey was carried out in CAWI mode using a push-to-web approach where people selected in the sample were sent a postal invitation letter encouraging them to complete the survey online. The planned fieldwork approach included the despatch of up to two reminder letters to people who did not fill in the survey after receiving the invitation letter.

Planned mailing approach

Initially, two reminder letters were planned after the initial invitation letter. However, the number of reminder letters in Luxembourg had to be reduced to one as a condition set by the CTIE. The CCT provided CTIE with the reference and login details for each selected case in an anonymised sample file, and the CTIE was responsible for selecting the sample and posting the letters.

In Sweden, the local project team prepared the letters – and invitation letter and two reminder letters, due to be sent around 10 days apart. Each letter included the individual reference and login details provided by the CCT. All files were encrypted to ensure address details remained secure once shared with the external printing companies.

Final mailing schedule

Fieldwork in Luxembourg progressed more quickly than anticipated. As the target sample size was exceeded after the original invitation letter alone, no reminders were sent in Luxembourg as doing so would have involved excessive costs, in particular due to the incentives to be paid.

Fieldwork in Sweden also progressed more quickly than anticipated. As the target sample size was exceeded after the invitation and the first reminder letter, the planned second reminder was not sent due to excessive costs that would have resulted due to the incentives to be paid.

Table 33 provides the dates when the invitation letters and reminders were sent in Luxembourg and Sweden. In both countries, the respondents could access the survey and fill it in until 9 November 2023 when the survey was finally closed.

Table 33 – Date of despatch of the invitation letter and the reminder letters

Country	Invitation letter	Reminder letter
Luxembourg	12/10/23	N/A
Sweden	25/09/23	16/10/23

7.2.2. Respondent contact during fieldwork

Respondents were able to request help for the survey using the contact details – free telephone number and an email address – printed on the letters and included on the

FAQ pages of the online questionnaire. They could also submit questions and queries while completing the survey via the form on the 'Contact us' page. The volume of queries was low in both CAWI data collection countries. All queries came via email or as phone calls, rather than via the 'Contact us' page on the survey site ([Table 34](#)).

Table 34 – Respondent contact during fieldwork

Country	Number of emails and calls received	Nature of queries
Luxembourg	68	The most frequent queries related to how to access the online survey, decline to participate, and regarding the incentive.
Sweden	58	The most frequent queries related to checking the survey was legitimate, checking that the email addresses entered to receive the incentives were correct, and to the incentive in general.

7.2.3. Incentives

Incentives were offered to respondents in both countries. These were conditional on survey completion and consisted of a gift card. The details of those who had completed the survey and confirmed that they want to receive the incentive were extracted by the CCT and shared with the local agencies so that they could organise the despatch of the incentives.

Table 35 – Incentives provided by country and proportion of respondents who accepted it

Country	Incentive type and value	Acceptance rate (%)
Luxembourg	EUR 20 voucher that can be used with a wide variety of brands	92
Sweden	SEK 200 (approximately 17 EUR) voucher that can be used in a range of physical and online stores	95

7.2.4. Interview administration and languages

In Luxembourg, people in the sample received the letters in four languages: in the three official languages (French, German, Luxembourgish) and in English. All four languages could also be used when completing the survey. In Sweden, the letters were sent in Swedish, and the survey could be completed in Swedish and English. [Table 36](#) shows the languages used to fill in the surveys in the two countries.

Table 36 – Languages used to complete the survey (%)

Country	English	French	German	Luxembourgish	Swedish
Luxembourg	18	35	8	38	N/A
Sweden	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	96

7.2.5. Fieldwork monitoring

The CCT monitored the progress of the online fieldwork using an online portal. The portal was used to examine the progress of data collection (the number of completed interviews and the number of cases where the survey completion was interrupted (break-offs)), to log opt-outs to the survey, and to update the list of recipients for mailing the reminder letter (in Sweden). These processes were handled by the CCT. Opt-outs from the survey were received locally (for example by telephone call or emails from the women who had received the invitation letter) and the local teams informed the CCT so that these cases can be logged in the system.

The CCT provided FRA and EIGE with fieldwork progress reports on a weekly basis. The report was provided in Excel and included separate tabs for each week of fieldwork. The report included the following information:

- Date and volume of invitation mailing
- Date and volume of reminder mailing
- Total landing page views on the survey site
- Total break-offs after the respondents had entered their login code
- Completes in the past 7 days
- Number of opt-outs.

7.2.6. Length of time taken to complete the survey

The median time taken to complete the online questionnaire was around 30 minutes in both countries ([Table 37](#)). Similar to CAPI/CASI data collect, also in CAWI mode the respondents who had experienced violence took longer to complete the survey than respondents who had not experienced violence ([Table 38](#)).

Table 37 – Length of interview by country

	Minimum	Mean	Median	Maximum
Luxembourg	0:10:16	0:36:40	0:31:30	2:07:17
Sweden	0:10:14	0:34:30	0:29:58	2:01:19

Table 38 – Length of interview according to experience of violence

	Experienced violence				Did not experience violence			
	Min	Mean	Median	Max	Min	Mean	Median	Max
Luxembourg	0:10:56	0:37:43	0:32:33	2:07:17	0:10:16	0:30:24	0:25:19	1:52:47
Sweden	0:10:14	0:35:55	0:31:32	2:01:19	0:10:16	0:26:54	0:23:18	1:55:17

7.2.7. Fieldwork outcomes

In both countries the yield rate (that is, the number of completes) exceeded that expected.

Table 39 – Overall fieldwork outcomes by country

Country	Luxembourg	Sweden
Issued cases	10,000	12,000
Fully complete (accepted) interview	1,924	2,562
Fully complete interview deleted for quality control	2	3
Did not pass Eurostat acceptance rule*	4	6
Partially complete interview (break-offs)	257	2425

Country	Luxembourg	Sweden
Screen out due to not meeting age/ gender criteria **	30	67
Refusals ***	18	34
Opted out of the survey	15	3

Note: *Some interviews were excluded due to not passing the Eurostat acceptance rules, which required rejecting interviews where respondents selected only “Don’t want to answer” or “Don’t know/Can’t remember” option to all acts of violence asked about in one of the screening sections – that is, in all questions C1_1–C10_10, or all of F1_1–F1_13, or all of F10_1–F10_14, or all of L1_1–L1_8, or all of L3_1–L3_7, or all of N1_1–N1_8.

**Some respondents were screened out due to not meeting the eligibility criteria for age (18–74 years) and gender (self-identifying as a woman).

***Some respondents were excluded if categorised as refusals, based on response to a question in the beginning of the online questionnaire, which allowed respondents to declare they were not willing to take part in the interview.

8. Data processing

This chapter describes the steps taken to finalise the survey dataset. This includes an overview of the different data files and the various data quality checks, some of which started during the data collection, while others were performed after the end of the fieldwork. The process also involved the calculation of Eurostat's output harmonised variables to produce the data file that FRA and EIGE transmitted to Eurostat.

8.1. Data files

The CCT used two different platforms for the data collection, according to the survey mode. For the CAPI/CASI data collection, the CCT used its iField system. The CAWI data collection platform was hosted in Dimensions. Data from the completed questionnaires across the eight survey countries was combined into a single data file.

Before the final data delivery, FRA and EIGE received interim datasets after the completion of 13 %, 43 %, 80 %, 90 %, 96 % and 100 % of the interviews. This allowed FRA and EIGE to carry out their own data checking, in addition to the checks for routing and logic errors performed by the CCT.

The survey resulted in six final data files. Each respondent has been assigned a unique identifier (PERS_ID), which enables respondent data across the data files to be linked.

According to Eurostat's specifications, the data collected in the EU-GBV survey is split into two files: **MAIN** and **FORM**. In the MAIN file, each interview corresponds to a single 'line' in the data set. The FORM file is used for variables which stem from questions asked in a loop – for example, where a set of questions concerning respondent's former partner is repeated several times, to collect the same details about each former partner (if the respondent has had more than one former partner).

Because FRA and EIGE included some additional questions to the survey, two versions of the MAIN and FORM data files were produced: one version of the two files follows exactly the format of the Eurostat EU-GBV data files (that is, the questions added by FRA and EIGE are excluded), while the second version of the MAIN and FORM files includes also the questions that FRA and EIGE added.

Data collected from the **ECS** was provided as a separate file. The ECS file includes data from the contact sheets used for face-to-face data collection. This file includes all sampled addresses, contact attempts, and interim and final outcome codes.

The final **RAW** data file involves the full dataset of the CAPI/CASI and CAWI data collection in the original format, before the data was transformed into the Eurostat variables and split into MAIN and FORM data files.

To accompany the data files, the CCT provided FRA and EIGE with a codebook in Excel format. The codebook outlines the format of the datasets delivered, the variables included in each dataset, and any routing related to these variables. Each codebook has a tab to explain the format of the unique identifiers included and a description of any derived variables.

8.2. Data processing and quality control

In all CAPI/CASI data collection countries, the ECS and the questionnaire were administered on tablets equipped with the iField data collection platform. For each case, the interviewer would first open the ECS to complete the details about their visit. Where applicable, they would then enter the questionnaire. Once they had finished the interview, the script would take them back to the ECS to record an outcome code. Any data collected would be automatically saved to the device and transferred to the Ipsos Data Processing (DP) team once the device had an internet connection.

In the CAWI data collection countries data were collected directly on the Ipsos Dimensions Server.

The DP team processed the data from all survey countries into the SPSS format data files in accordance with the codebook and Eurostat's variable definitions. Various quality checks were made on the main interview data throughout mainstage fieldwork and after completion by the CCT, FRA and EIGE, and at the local agency level.

8.2.1. Country-specific categories

Respondents were asked about their educational attainment and, where applicable, about their current partner's educational attainment, by using country-specific categories. In the dataset, these data are re-coded into harmonised variables to aid comparisons. Similarly, the question concerning awareness of various support services is included in the dataset as harmonised variables, while in the interview the question referred to country-specific services that had been identified during the background research stage, following the types of organisations listed in the Eurostat reference questionnaire. The list of support services that the questions referred to in each country is included in the codebook.

8.2.2. Back-coding

The questionnaire contained a number of questions which had an 'Other – specify' response code, to offer respondents the possibility for answers which were not captured by the pre-defined list of answer categories. Where a respondent selected this option, their verbatim response was captured. During the data processing, these responses were translated into English and back coded into the existing code frame (pre-determined categories) where possible. Answers that could not be back coded to other answer categories remain coded in the 'Other' category.

For the questions B13 and B33 on employment status, in cases where the respondent selected the 'other' category and explained that she is a student but also working, employment status was coded as category 5 'Student, pupil'. In other instances, where the respondent explained that she is looking after children at home, code 6 'Fulfilling domestic tasks' was used. Respondents who said they were on maternity or sick leave were back-coded as 'Employed or self-employed'. In these cases, the back-coding meant that subsequent questions that were asked for those working would have a missing value in the data file, since such questions would have not been on route during the interview for these respondents after they selected the 'other' category.

On question B53A about religion (a question added by FRA and EIGE), verbatims such as 'agnostic', 'atheist' or 'not a believer' were back-coded as 'I have no religion' while answers such as 'spiritual', 'non-practicing' or various non-monotheistic religions for which a specific category was not available were left in the 'Other' category.

In instances where a respondent selected 'Other, specify' on prevalence questions on sexual harassment, or psychological, physical, sexual and other types of violence, but did not provide a meaningful answer in the provided text box (entering, for example, 'x', '-', '...') or explicitly said that she did not want to provide details about what happened, the answer was kept in the category 'Other' instead of recoding it as "Don't know/Can't remember" or "Don't want to answer". This was done based on the interpretation that the respondent had purposefully selected the 'other' category but had chosen not to elaborate on their experiences.

In the sexual harassment screening questions (C1 concerning sexual harassment at work, as well as question C16 added by FRA and EIGE regarding sexual harassment outside work), many respondents provided answers under the 'other' category describing a rape, intimate partner or non-partner violence, or experiences in their childhood. This may have been due to the sexual harassment screening being the first section of the survey that asked about experiences of violence, and some respondents taking this as an opportunity to share also experiences that were outside the scope of

the questions on sexual harassment. This could happen especially in the CAWI data collection countries, while during face-to-face interviews the interviewers could inform respondents that questions about other acts of violence will come later in the survey. When respondents disclosed in the sexual harassment screening questions acts of violence that were not sexual harassment, the data in the later sections of the questionnaire was checked to determine if these experiences have been reported in the relevant sections later in the questionnaire. This was confirmed to be the case for the majority of these respondents, so their answers were removed from the 'Other' category in the sexual harassment questions. In very few cases rape or other acts of violence were not disclosed later in the questionnaire, and in these cases respondents' answer was kept as 'other' in questions C1 and C16. This was done to acknowledge these respondents' experiences in the survey, while it was not possible to back-code these experiences to the questions in other sections of the survey due to insufficient details regarding respondents' experiences.

On questions concerning injuries following experiences of violence (e.g. questions G9, G38, G53, H10, M12) many respondents described in the 'other' category psychological consequences rather than physical injuries. These have been removed from the 'other' category and coded as having no physical injuries, since psychological consequences could be disclosed in other questions in the survey.

On questions about who the perpetrator was (e.g. C17, L2, L4, M2, N2, N7, P10), many respondents who selected the 'other' category mentioned specifically a neighbour. These were mostly back-coded to 'Male, someone else you knew' or 'Female, someone else you knew' as in many languages the gender of the perpetrator could be determined from the terms used by the respondent.

8.2.3. Centralised quality control

To ensure the structural quality of the data, a checking syntax was written in SPSS to ensure that:

- The data compiled from different sources matched the common data map.
- The case ID numbers were unique and there were no duplicate records.
- The routing had been adhered to.
- Only permitted values were included.

The checking syntax also highlighted the following:

- Any short or long interviews, in particular interviews that were more than 40 % shorter than the median interview length overall.
- High levels of item non-response (INR), with cases between 25 % and 50 % as well as over 50 % of INR responses being flagged separately in the data.
- Certain answers or combinations of answers that might seem implausible or uncommon, though not impossible and therefore requiring a closer look to determine if any of these cases should be removed from the final dataset. This included items such as: outliers on age at first marriage (under 13 years or above 55 years); respondents living alone while also being married or household size indicated as greater than one; more than 15 children being present in the household; age of current partner under 16 years, or under 50 years old and retired; misalignment between age and having ISECD level 6 education or above; mismatches between economic activity and sources of income; and the timeline of stalking incidents.

The ECS data were also regularly checked for logical errors during fieldwork and after data collection, including:

- Confirming that the outcome code matched the information entered in question ECS_C1 – that is, whether the address was occupied and residential. For example, clarification would be sought if the address was identified as non-residential at ECS_C1 but an interview took place.
- Confirming that the number of in-person visits to the address was correctly derived.
- Confirming that all cases had been assigned a final outcome by the end of fieldwork, and all ECS records had a final visit indicated at question ECS_A3.
- Checking any missing values.
- Confirming that every interview in the main questionnaire datasets had a productive outcome in the ECS dataset, and that every ECS case with a productive outcome had an interview in the main questionnaire datasets.

The CCT applied to each interim and final data file the checking syntax that Eurostat had made available. For each datafile delivered (interim and final), Ipsos ran data through the Eurostat checking syntax. The full list of issues that the Eurostat checking syntax covers can be found in Eurostat EU-GBV [methodological manual](#) and in other files which Eurostat shared with FRA and EIGE to facilitate the data quality checks. All warnings and error messages produced by the checking syntax were investigated by

the CCT. Any errors related to data processing were corrected, while other issues were listed in the validation log which the CCT provided to FRA and EIGE with each data delivery. These remaining issues were mostly due to:

- differences between the Eurostat and FRA-EIGE questionnaire (for example, the question on partner's gender in the FRA-EIGE survey allowed for three categories – male, female and non-binary – while the original EU-GBV questionnaire allowed only two categories)
- answer patterns that seemed inconsistent but were allowed by the questionnaire routing. For example, a respondent could say that they had experienced violence from both a current and former intimate partner in section F of the questionnaire, but later in section G the same respondent would say that they hadn't experienced any forms of violence by a current partner
- missing data for some questions, when back-coding an 'other, specify' response opened a route in the questionnaire that the respondent had not been able to complete due to their choice of the 'other' category.

8.3. Item non-response

The item non-response analysis measures the number of answers coded as "Don't want to answer" and "Don't know/Can't remember". A high rate of item non-response by a respondent can indicate lack of interest in the survey and an attempt to finish the questionnaire quickly, without giving sufficient attention to what the questions are asking. In such a case it may be necessary to remove the interview from the final data set to ensure high data quality. In the survey, cases with more than 25 % item non-response were flagged in the dataset so that they could be individually reviewed.

On the other hand, if an individual question in the survey shows a high rate of item non-response, this may indicate that difficulties in answering the question. This could involve, for example, a question wording that is open to interpretation, or the list of answer categories not including relevant items. Item non-response can also be analysed by country, to identify questions that may not have been suited to the national context or have problems related to the translation.

All variables from the respondent-facing questionnaire with a "Don't want to answer" or "Don't know/Can't remember" option are included in the item non-response analysis. In most cases, respondents who answered a question with "Don't want to answer" or "Don't know/Can't remember" continued the interview with the next

question in the survey. However, as mentioned in section 7.2.7, the interview terminated if a respondent gave this answer to all screening questions in one of the sections of the survey concerning acts of violence they may have experienced. This was based on Eurostat’s EU-GBV survey methodology and was necessary to ensure that the survey indicators can be calculated correctly. In total, 10 interviews were terminated for this reason in the CAWI data collection countries, and 32 interviews in CAPI/CASI data collection countries.

8.3.1. Data collected in CAPI/CASI mode

Table 40 shows the questions where item non-response is greater than 25 %. Many of the listed questions concern specific details of respondent’s experiences. As such, these questions would have been posed only to a sub-set of all survey respondents – in some cases this could involve few respondents. Therefore, the percentage of item non-response is relative to those who were asked the question in the survey, not to all survey respondents.

Table 40 – Questions with item non-response greater than 25 %, CAPI/CASI mode

Question *	Question description	Item non-response**	
		%	n
G5	Question asks exactly how many times respondent had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from their current partner if previous answer given was between 2 and 10 times	39	70
H5	Question asks exactly how many times respondent had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a previous partner if previous answer given was between 2 and 10 times	52	11

Question *	Question description	Item non-response**	
		%	n
J6	How many months respondents had been in a relationship with a partner who had been violent towards them (the number of years was collected separately)	28	45
N3 (N2=98)	How long did the repeatedly offensive behaviour last – episodes committed by an unspecified perpetrator***	36	10
N4 (N2=98)	How often did the repeatedly offensive behaviour occur – episodes committed by an unspecified perpetrator***	29	8
N5 (N2=12)	When was the last time that the repeatedly offensive behaviour by a male authority figure occurred	33	3
N5 (N2=98)	When was the last time when the repeated offensive behaviour by an unspecified perpetrator occurred***	32	9
B52	Asks the respondents who did not want to specify the exact number of people living in their household for a description of their household composition	34	56

Note: * In the table above, questions are listed in the order that they appeared in the questionnaire. Questions N3, N4 and N5 belong to a set of questions that was asked one or more times, depending on the number of different stalking perpetrators that the respondent disclosed. Question N2 recorded the type of perpetrator who was involved and was subsequently referred to in the following questions. For example, 'N5 (N2=12)' means that the respondent said in question N2 that they had experienced stalking perpetrated by a male authority figure (value 12 in the list of perpetrators of stalking), so question N5 then asked about the last time when the respondent had been stalked by this male authority figure.

** The rate of item non-response is calculated based on respondents who were asked the specific question in the survey.

*** 'Unspecified perpetrator' refers to cases where, when asked who the perpetrator was, the respondent answered with "Don't want to answer" (value 98 in question N2).

There were very few interviews where more than 25 % (but less than 50 %) of the survey responses were in the “Don’t want to answer” or “Don’t know/Can’t remember” categories, as shown in [Table 41](#).

Table 41 – Item non-response greater than 25 % (but under 50 %), number of respondents in CAPI/CASI data collection countries

Country	Number of respondents with > 25 % item non-response (n)
Cyprus	0
Czechia	4
Germany	0
Hungary	1
Ireland	1
Romania	3

8.3.2. Data collected in CAWI mode

Similar to the CAPI/CASI script, in the CAWI script respondents were given the option to reply to a question with “Don’t want to answer” or “Don’t know/Can’t remember”. In most questions, the two item non-response categories were initially not show in the list of answer categories, but they were available if the respondent tried to proceed without selecting another answer. This was considered functionally similar to a CAPI mode where the item non-response answer categories are not read out together with the other answer categories, but if the respondent spontaneously uses them, the interviewer can record the answer as “Don’t want to answer” or “Don’t know/Can’t remember”. Respondents were informed at the beginning of the survey how they can find the “Don’t want to answer” and “Don’t know/Can’t remember” answer categories. In selected sensitive questions, “Don’t want to answer” was shown up front with the other answer categories, and in some questions “Don’t know/Can’t remember” was considered a valid response option and therefore it was shown upfront.

Table 42 shows the questions with item non-response greater than 25 %. As with the non-response rates in the CAPI/CASI mode detailed in section 8.4.1, many of the listed questions were posed only to a sub-set of all survey respondents. Therefore, the percentage of item non-response is relative to those who were asked the question in the survey, not to all survey respondents. Additionally, some of the items with the highest non-response rates are the same as those in the CAPI/CASI mode, but often with a higher rate of item non-response in CAWI. This can reflect the situation where CAWI respondents have to complete the survey fully autonomously, while respondents in the CAPI/CASI mode can ask the interviewer for clarification if a question seems difficult to answer.

Table 42 – Questions with item non-response greater than 25 %, CAWI mode

Question*	Question description	Item non-response**	
		%	n
C9	Question asks exactly how many times respondent had experienced sexual harassment at work if previous answer given was between 2 and 10 times	69	215
G5	Question asks exactly how many times respondent had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from their current partner if previous answer given was between 2 and 10 times	85	23
H5	Question asks exactly how many times respondent had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a previous partner if previous answer given was between 2 and 10 times	71	20

Question*	Question description	Item non-response**	
		%	n
J6	How many months respondents had been in a relationship with a partner who had been violent towards them if previous answer indicated that the relationship had lasted less than one year	25	35
N3 (N2=98)	How long did the repeatedly offensive behaviour last – episodes committed by an unspecified perpetrator***	29	4
N3 (N2=99)	How long did the repeatedly offensive behaviour last – episodes committed by a perpetrator that the respondent could not remember or did not know how to identify	21	3
N4 (N2=98)	How often did the repeatedly offensive behaviour occur – episodes committed by an unspecified perpetrator***	29	4
N5 (N2=98)	When was the last time that the repeatedly offensive behaviour occurred – episodes by an unspecified perpetrator***	29	4

Note: * In the table above, questions are listed in the order that they appeared in the questionnaire. Questions N3, N4 and N5 belong to a set of questions that was asked one or more times, depending on the number of different stalking perpetrators that the respondent disclosed. Question N2 recorded the type of perpetrator who was involved and was subsequently referred to in the following questions. For example, 'N4 (N2=98)' means that the respondent said in question N2 that they don't want to disclose the type of perpetrator that had stalked them (recorded as "Don't want to answer" (value 98) when asked about the type of perpetrator involved), so question N4 then asked how often this unspecified perpetrator had stalked the respondent.

** The rate of item non-response is calculated based on respondents who were asked the specific question in the survey.

*** 'Unspecified perpetrator' refers to cases where, when asked who the perpetrator was, the respondent answered with "Don't want to answer" (value 98 in question N2).

There was only 1 respondent in Luxembourg and 3 in Sweden who had an item non-response rate of greater than 25 % overall.

8.4. Routing and permitted values

After the data collection was completed, the final dataset was checked to confirm whether the questionnaire routing had been followed correctly. Mistakes in the survey script could lead to:

- missing answers – where a respondent has not been asked a question but should have been
- surplus answers – where a respondent has been asked a question and should not have been.

One scripting error was detected in the CAWI dataset. The error led to 55 cases in Sweden and 59 in Luxembourg having missing data in question N1a which asked whether any of the acts of stalking that the respondent had experienced (specifically, the acts that did not require physical proximity of the victim and the perpetrator) happened online. This question was added to the survey by FRA and EIGE, so the scripting error did not have an impact on the core EU-GBV variables.

The checks done on the CAPI/CASI dataset did not reveal any missing or surplus answers.

8.5. Breakoffs

Breakoffs happen when respondents abandon the survey part way through. They are more likely to happen in online data collection as there is no interviewer present to encourage the respondents to continue with the survey. However, breakoffs can also happen for reasons unrelated to the questionnaire, such as when someone interrupts the interview, but such breakoffs can be expected to be spread out across the total duration of the interview instead of accumulating to specific survey questions.

Analysing when breakoffs occur during the survey can be helpful in understanding if certain questions trigger this and in turn if changes could be made to these questions or to the questionnaire flow to avoid the same occurring in future surveys, or even if an intervention is needed during data collection.

Table 43 shows questions or items in the script where the rate of breakoffs exceeded 2 % of all breakoffs in the survey. There were relatively few breakoffs overall. As might be expected, many breakoffs occurred at the start of the survey or at the screening questions for the different acts of violence.

Table 43 – Breakoffs exceeding 2 % of all breakoffs in the survey, by question/item *

Question/item	Question or item content	Luxembourg (n)	Sweden (n)	Total (n)
IntroDP	Second part of the introduction, after respondents had entered login credentials from the invitation letter or the reminder letter	10	20	30
OnlineIntro3	Part of the introduction informing about confidentiality, voluntary nature of the survey, approximate length and incentive for completion	12	38	50
B6	Respondent's country of birth	8	19	27
C16	Sexual harassment experiences outside of workplace (screening questions)	7	17	24
F1	Experiences of violence with current and/or previous partners (screening questions)	12	15	27
L1	Experiences of violence with non-partners (screening questions)	8	12	20

Question/item	Question or item content	Luxembourg (n)	Sweden (n)	Total (n)
N19	Experiences of selected abusive behaviours online and offline (questions added by FRA and EIGE)	8	9	17
END1	End of survey – point of submitting the answers	8	17	25
Incentive**	Collection of email address in order to deliver the incentive	6	11	17

Notes: * In the table above, questions are listed in the order that they appeared in the questionnaire.

** To receive the survey incentive, respondents were asked to enter their email address. This took place after respondents had submitted their answers to the survey. Therefore, breakoffs at this point did not result in an incomplete survey. Acceptance of the incentive was optional.

Of the 237 breakoffs, 79 were in Luxembourg and 158 in Sweden, which partly reflects the differences in the sample size between the two countries.

8.6. Flagged and deleted interviews

Before the survey dataset could be considered as final, the preliminary version of the dataset included a series of ‘flags’ to indicate cases that required closer inspection, due to issues such as the rate of item non-response or interview length, or a combination of answers that seemed unusual ([Table 44](#)). The flagged cases were assessed to help identify if certain interviews should be considered for deletion.

In the majority of cases, and after closer examination, none of the interviews flagged based on a single criterion were removed from the dataset, but they remained flagged for information purposes. The only removed interviews were for cases where there was a combination of flags. Cases were removed from the dataset if high item non-response of between 25 % and 50 % (there were no interviews with item non-response exceeding 50 %) was combined with an interview length that was deemed to be very short. This combination occurred in a total of six interviews, of which five were from CAWI data collection countries and 1 from a CAPI/CASI data collection country, and these six interviews were removed.

Table 44 – The name and definition of the flag variables computed to help assess data quality

Variable	Definition
Flag_AgeMismatch	Age mismatch for respondent between MAIN and ECS data
FLAG_marrAlone	Respondent said they were married but living alone
FLAG_AgeMarriage	The respondent's age at first marriage is younger than 16 or older than 55
FLAG_15PlusChildTotal	Number of children is more than 15
Flag_PartnerAge	If current partner age is < 16 (soft checked in script')
Flag_RespAge_Edu	If age of the respondent is 20 or below but achieved education level is bachelor's degree or above
Flag_PartnerAge_Edu	If age of the partner's age is 20 or below but achieved education level is bachelor's degree or above
Flag_EmpStatusIncome_1	If the respondent is currently unemployed or unable to work due to long-standing health problems or fulfilling domestic tasks but her main source of income/earnings is from work (employment/self-employment).
Flag_EmpStatusIncome_2	If the respondent is currently employed or self-employed but her main source of income/earnings is from pensions, benefits or allowances, or has no personal income.
Flag_EmpStatusIncome_3	If the respondent is currently retired but her main source of income is from work or has no personal income
Flag_Stalking_1	If the respondent reports last stalking incident has happened within last 12 months and then mentions she experienced all episodes before 15 years old
Flag_Stalking_2	If the respondent reports last stalking incident has happened 1 to 5 years ago and then mentions she experienced all episodes before 15 years old when reported age is >=20.
Flag_LiveAlone	If respondent said the HH size is 1 but also said that there is intimate partner in the HH
Flag_PartnerRetirementBelow50	If current partner retired before age of 50
Flag_Overall_Intlength	Overall interview length (substantive part) 40% lower than the country median interview length
Flag_Missingness_1	If item non-response is 50% or above for questions from HH01 to end of respondent survey
Flag_Missingness_2	If missingness is between 25% and 50%

Note: * A 'soft check' refers to a question in the script that asks the respondent (or the interviewer) to confirm that the answer they provided is correct and not e.g. a typo.

9. Weighting

The survey's weighting approach built on the sample designs (see Chapter 4, in particular, [Table 12](#) for a list of sample frames used in each country, and [Table 14](#) for a list of PSU units and stratification variables). Different weighting procedures were used for the multi-stage samples, which were used in the CAPI/CASI data collection countries, and the unclustered samples in the CAWI data collection countries.

9.1. Weighting procedures – multi-stage clustered sample design

It was necessary to calculate sample design weights in order to compensate for unequal selection probabilities, which could arise at any of the following sampling stages:

- Selection of PSUs;
- Selection of addresses (or individuals if using individual level frames);
- Selection of dwellings within addresses (in the rare cases where required);
- Selection of individuals within households.

Such weights are calculated as the inverse of the relevant selection probabilities. These weights were applied to the CAPI/CASI data collection samples only, given the online samples in Luxembourg and Sweden were based on equal probability sampling.

9.1.1. Design weights

Sampling unit selection weight

At the first stage, set numbers of PSUs were selected in each region/urbanity stratum, with probability-proportional-to-size (PPS) selection. The probability of selection in each stratum was calculated as:

$$P_{PSU} = (\text{number of PSUs selected in stratum}) * (\text{size measure for the selected PSU}) / (\text{sum of size measures across all PSUs in stratum}).$$

Address or individual selection weight

At the second stage, addresses (or individuals) were then selected within each PSU with a probability equal to:

P_{unit} = the number of sampled addresses (or individuals) / the total number of addresses (or individuals) in the PSU.

When using a PPS sampling approach, the probabilities of selection at the first two stages within each stratum, when multiplied together, result in an equal probability sample up to the address (or individual) selection stage, providing that the same number of second stage units (addresses or individuals) are sampled in each PSU within the stratum. Selection probabilities within each country were similar across strata but varied slightly given the stratum PSU allocations were based on a different quantity (women aged 18–74) to the PPS size measures (individuals or addresses) and in-field adjustments for differences compared with anticipated response rates.

Up to this stage, the design weight was calculated as:

$$DW_{\text{address}} = 1 / (P_{\text{PSU}} * P_{\text{unit}})$$

At this point the weights were inspected and outliers trimmed at the 2.5th and 97.5th percentile of the range.

Dwelling unit selection weight

At the third stage (where applicable) weights were calculated to compensate for the selection probability inequalities incurred when dwellings were selected from addresses:

$$DW_{\text{DU}} = 1 / P_{\text{DU}}$$

where: $P_{\text{DU}} = 1 / \text{number of dwelling units at the address}$

This weight was required in Czechia and Ireland only, as in the other countries the sample addresses uniquely identified each dwelling unit. This weight was trimmed at the 97.5th percentile.

Individual respondent selection weight

Finally, a fourth stage of design weights was needed in countries where the sample frame did not identify the individuals. In these countries all eligible household residents were listed to then select the person who should be interviewed. The individual respondent selection weight was calculated as follows:

$$DW_{ind} = 1 / P_{ind}$$

where: $P_{ind} = 1 / \text{number of eligible people at the address}$

The weight was trimmed at the 97.5th percentile.

Overall design weight

The overall design weight was calculated as the multiplication of these weights:

$$DW_{overall} = DW_{address} * DW_{DU} * DW_{ind}$$

The following table indicates which weights were applied in each country.

Table 45 – Summary of weighting stages applied

Country	DW _{address} (PSU selection)	DW _{DU} (dwelling unit selection)	DW _{ind} (individual selection)
Cyprus	Yes		Yes
Czechia	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	Yes		Yes
Hungary	Yes		
Ireland	Yes	Yes	Yes
Luxembourg	No design weight required – equal probability sample		
Romania	Yes		Yes
Sweden	No design weight required – equal probability sample		

9.2. Calibration weights

This weighting stage was required for all samples, including CAPI/CASI and CAWI data collection. In the samples used for CAPI/CASI data collection, the weighting adjustment was applied to the design-weighted samples. The weights were calculated by means of rim weighting (raking), also called calibration, because this produces more stable estimates than simple cell weighting.

The latest Eurostat EU-LFS data of the survey population were used as weighting targets. It was agreed between FRA, EIGE and the CCT to use the LFS for all estimates including age, even though alternative Eurostat data are available for age. Since the

LFS excludes the people who are not living in private households, such as those living in institutions, its population profile matches that of the FRA-EIGE survey population. Two minor issues are noted with the LFS data:

1. the Eurostat LFS data outputs do not cover the exact age and so the population of 18–19-year-olds had to be estimated out of the 15–19 age group. This was done by taking two-fifths of the 15–19 population figures as the 18–19 figure.
2. the LFS data are rounded to the nearest 100, meaning the weighting totals are slightly less precise than other Eurostat population figures. This is expected to have no impact on the data as this level has sufficient granularity.

Age category, region and education are used in the weighting scheme, given the potential association of these variables with survey measures. For this reason, occupation was also considered as a potential variable, but it was not included in the final weighting scheme as much of the sample's bias related to occupation was addressed by weights that take into account age, region and education.

The variables were prepared as follows in preparation for the weighting.

- Age was recoded into the following categories: 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59 and 60–74.
- A suitable region level was selected in each country, considering the number of categories. The following number of region categories was used, after merging small categories (those with fewer than 50 cases) into neighbouring regions:
 - Cyprus: District, with 5 categories.
 - Czechia: NUTS2, with 8 categories.
 - Germany: NUTS1, with DEC (Saarland) collapsed into DEB (Rheinland-Pfalz), and DEE (Sachsen-Anhalt) collapsed into DED5 (Leipzig), in total 14 categories.
 - Hungary: NUTS2, with 8 categories.
 - Ireland: NUTS3, with IE51 (Mid-West) collapsed into IE42 (West), in total 7 categories.
 - Luxembourg: Canton, with Vlanden collapsed into Diekirch, in total 11 categories.
 - Romania: NUTS2, with 8 categories.

- Sweden: NUTS2, with 8 categories.
- Education (using the International Standard Classification of Education – ISCED) was recoded into the following categories: ISCED levels 0–2, 3–4 and 5–8.
- Occupation (using the International Classification of Occupations – ISCO) was recoded into the following categories: not working, ISCO levels 1–4, 5–7 and 8–9.

The following sources were used for the weighting targets or for comparison:

- Age: Eurostat LFS 2023. Extracted on 16/07/2024, last updated by Eurostat 13/06/2024
- Region
 - NUTS regions used in Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Romania and Sweden: Eurostat 2023, women aged 18–74. Extracted 15/03/2024, last updated by Eurostat 08/03/2024
 - Cyprus: Census 2021, full population (no breakdown by gender or age available), extracted 21/05/2024
 - Luxembourg: LU Stat 2024, full population (no breakdown by gender or age available), extracted 21/05/2024
- Education: Eurostat LFS 2022, women aged 18–74. Extracted 15/03/2024, last updated by Eurostat 14/03/2024
- Occupation and employment rate combined: Eurostat LFS 2022, women aged 18–74. Extracted 15/03/2024, last updated by Eurostat 14/03/2024

The final weight was based on calibration by age, region and education. Some bias remained on occupation – however, much of the sample’s imbalance related to occupation was corrected by weighting based on age, region and education, and therefore occupation was not included in the final weighting scheme. The final weight was trimmed at the 99th percentile to remove outliers.

Weights were provided to gross the weighted sample to the size of the survey population of each country (gross weights), based on Eurostat LFS 2023 country totals (women aged 18–74, with 18–19-year-olds calculated from the category 15–19 years, as explained earlier in this section). It is hence possible to use these weights for within-country analysis and cross-country totals, given the countries will automatically be in their correct proportions, meaning there is no need for country population weights.

9.3. Weighting efficiency

Table 46 provides the range (calculated as the largest weight divided by the smallest) and design effect (a measure of the weighting efficiency) of the design weight and calibrated final weight in each country. Cyprus had the least efficient final weight with a design effect of 1.6, while the design effect for other countries ranges from 1.1 to 1.3. Relative to the other countries, the sample in Cyprus had larger biases on age, with 60–74-year-olds over-represented and under-40s under-represented. Some biases could also be observed on education. The adjustments required to correct these biases resulted in a less efficient sample, compared with the other countries in the survey.

Table 46 – Weighting efficiency

	Design weight		Final weight	
	Range	Design effect	Range	Design effect
Cyprus	5	1.1	19	1.6
Czechia	6	1.1	6	1.2
Germany	5	1.1	12	1.3
Hungary	9	1.1	24	1.3
Ireland	4	1.1	9	1.2
Luxembourg	1	1.0	4	1.1
Romania	5	1.1	5	1.1
Sweden	1	1.0	5	1.2

Note: Range is calculated as the largest weight divided by the smallest. Design effect is calculated as $N * (\text{sum of squared weights}) / (\text{sum of weights squared})$.

10. Survey quality

This chapter examines selected survey quality dimensions and the outcomes of the FRA-EIGE data collection, complementing the information which Eurostat has made available as a part of the [EU-GBV survey metadata](#). The chapter starts by presenting a summary of the quality assurance approach that was applied when implementing the survey. This is followed by a focus on four quality dimensions: accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, and accessibility and clarity. Some of the details of the survey and the outcomes that are discussed in this chapter have also been described earlier in this report in the chapters that present the measures taken to implement the survey. The aim of the chapter is to provide an overview of survey quality and to provide more details on the FRA-EIGE data collection beyond the Eurostat metadata that summarises the EU-GBV survey quality in EU-27.

10.1. Quality assurance during the survey implementation

To manage the survey activities efficiently and effectively, the CCT set organisational and procedural quality standards in consultation with FRA and EIGE. It was important to involve all fieldwork agencies in this approach, to assure the high quality of the efforts undertaken.

The CCT prepared a quality assurance plan (QAP) and a risk register to monitor quality throughout the survey data collection. FRA and EIGE reviewed the quality assurance plan before it was finalised and applied. The QAP was monitored throughout the survey. Any quality targets at risk were highlighted in the weekly and monthly progress reports which the CCT shared and discussed with FRA and EIGE. In addition to the project indicators that were monitored, as well as the related targets, the QAP contained an overview of the quality monitoring and documentation system.

The QAP focused on different stages of survey implementation – ranging from background research to sampling, fieldwork, data editing and reporting. It included indicators and targets that were applicable across all countries, as well as those that were specific to countries using particular sampling and data collection methodologies. In summary, the QAP covered the following aspects:

- Quality objectives and consideration of human rights principles

- Management, roles and responsibilities – including management of local agencies
- Control and management of documents
- Quality assurance and control procedures for each stage of the survey and reporting on these
- Alignment with the Total Survey Error (TSE) framework
- Contingency measures
- Monitoring and reporting on key quality indicators (and targets) throughout the preparation and implementation of the survey
- Actions that the CCT took, in agreement with FRA and EIGE, to rectify problems that occurred

The QAP included quality objectives (listed in [Annex 2 – Survey quality monitoring and documentation system](#)) that were linked to each stage of the survey implementation and to the relevant aspects of the TSE framework to help assess the survey quality.

10.2. Accuracy

This section elaborates on the sampling and non-sampling errors. The assessment of the accuracy and reliability of the data covers the following types of errors that occur in statistical surveys:

- Sampling errors;
- Coverage errors;
- Non-response errors;
- Measurement errors (from the questionnaire, data collection method, interviewer or respondent);
- Processing errors (in data cleaning);
- Adjustment errors (in weighting).

10.2.1. Sampling errors

All sample surveys are affected by sampling error, given that a survey interviews only a fraction of the total population. Therefore, all results presented are point estimates with underlying statistical variation. Small differences of a few percentage points between groups of respondents have to be interpreted with caution because there may not be a statistically meaningful difference between the groups compared. Only more substantial differences between population groups should be considered actual differences in the total population.

Table 47 provides as an example the commonly used 95 % confidence intervals for selected indicators. The confidence intervals reflect the uncertainty in the estimates due to sampling and are mainly influenced by the sampling design and the sample size.

Table 47 – Confidence intervals (95 %) of estimates for selected indicators

Country	Any physical/sexual violence during adulthood (all women)			Any physical/sexual violence in past 12 months (all women)			Any sexual harassment – during adulthood (all working women)			Any sexual harassment – in past 12 months (all working women)		
	Value (%)	CI (%)	SE (%)	Value (%)	CI (%)	SE (%)	Value (%)	CI (%)	SE (%)	Value (%)	CI (%)	SE (%)
Cyprus	36.1	+/- 3.1	1.6	4.7	+/-1.3	0.7	39.8	+/-3.3	1.7	7.5	+/-1.8	0.9
Czechia	20.0	+/-1.9	1.0	1.7	+/-0.6	0.3	30.7	+/-2.3	1.2	4.4	+/-1.0	0.5
Germany	25.6	+/-2.0	1.0	2.3	+/-0.7	0.4	32.2	+/-2.2	1.1	3.3	+/-0.8	0.4
Hungary	49.2	+/-2.5	1.3	5.0	+/-1.1	0.6	40.2	+/-2.5	1.3	5.8	+/-1.2	0.6
Ireland	40.9	+/-3.3	1.7	4.0	+/-1.3	0.7	44.5	+/-3.5	1.8	6.8	+/-1.7	0.9
Luxembourg	45.3	+/-2.3	1.2	5.2	+/-1.0	0.5	52.8	+/-2.4	1.2	9.6	+/-1.4	0.7
Romania	42.2	+/-2.3	1.2	9.4	+/-1.3	0.7	32.5	+/-2.3	1.2	6.3	+/-1.2	0.6
Sweden	52.6	+/-2.0	1.0	5.0	+/-0.9	0.5	55.5	+/-2.0	1.0	11.1	+/-1.3	0.7

Note: CI = Confidence interval, SE = Standard error

10.2.2. Non-sampling errors

Non-sampling errors are present in all types of survey, including censuses and administrative data collection. They arise for a number of reasons, for example the sampling sources (frames) may be incomplete, some respondents may not accurately report data or data may be missing for some respondents.

Errors can be classified into two groups.

- Random errors are errors whose effects approximately cancel out if a large enough sample is used, leading to increased variability. Sampling errors (see [10.2.1](#)) fall in this category.
- Systematic errors are errors that tend to go in the same direction, and thus accumulate over the entire sample, leading to a bias in the final results. Unlike random errors, this bias is not reduced by increasing the sample size. Systematic errors are the principal cause of concern in terms of a survey's data quality and are therefore described further in this section. However, these are usually difficult to measure.

Coverage errors

Coverage errors cannot be measured directly but are minimised by ensuring high coverage of the survey population, for example, by using high-quality sampling frames. On this survey, the minimum coverage of 95 % was achieved, meaning coverage errors, if any exist, can be expected to be very small.

Non-response errors

Similar to coverage bias, surveys tend to lack sufficient information to measure non-response error – to know when there are non-trivial differences between those who respond to the survey and survey non-responders. Minimising non-response error is not a simple matter of increasing the response rate as the relationship between response rate and non-response bias has been shown to be extremely weak ^(f). Nevertheless, a higher response rate does help minimise the risk of non-response bias.

A comparison of the sample and the population profiles showed that there were differences on age, education level and occupation, while the sample closely matches the regional distribution of the population. These differences are likely, at least in part, due to non-response error. Age, education and region were controlled through weighting, which also removed most of the bias on occupation.

10.2.3. Measurement errors

Measurement error can occur in a number of ways including through inaccurate translations, mode effects from different survey completion methods, respondents providing incorrect information or interviewers administering the questionnaire

incorrectly. This section reports on various sources of measurement error and analyses the impact that these might have had on the survey estimates.

Survey instrument

The questionnaire was largely based on the EU-GBV survey developed by Eurostat. FRA and EIGE added some new questions in their EU-GBV data collection in eight EU Member States. Some of the new questions were taken from FRA's 2012 VAW survey, while others addressed issues that have emerged more prominently since then, such as certain forms of cyberviolence and economic violence, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before the FRA-EIGE questionnaire was finalised, it underwent an extensive review, with some changes made to help improve the clarity and placement of certain questions. Since CAWI mode was selected for data collection in Luxembourg and Sweden, and in other countries the CAPI script included a self-completion module (CASI) concerning IPV, usability tests were conducted in two countries (Ireland and Sweden) to ensure both the CAWI questionnaire and the CAPI/CASI questionnaire were user friendly. The full survey was tested via a pilot in all CAPI/CASI data collection countries, along with the screener. Some small adaptations were made following these usability and pilot tests.

In Cyprus, Germany, Luxembourg, Hungary and Sweden the final translation approach involved a single translation and verification, using the available EU-GBV questionnaires from other countries as a reference to ensure comparability (as detailed in chapter 2). For Czech and Romanian, the translation used the TRAPD method. Qualified linguists from cApStAn's network and the local fieldwork agencies were involved in the translation of new items and updates of questions and answer categories. This ensured a high degree of coherence between translations and the appropriate localisation of individual terminology and grammar structures. Some updates to translations were made post pilot, but no errors were identified during the mainstage of fieldwork.

The survey was made available in the national language of each survey country. In Luxembourg it was available in German, French, Luxembourgish and English, in Sweden it was available in Swedish and English. In these two countries, this will have improved comprehension of the survey and minimised measurement error. In the CAPI/CASI data collection countries, the CASI module was made available in English, as well as in Hungarian in Romania, but these versions were little used.

The questionnaire itself was complex in parts and as per feedback from the pilot testing. Certain sections (particularly those relating to intimate partner violence and

non-partner violence) were seen as repetitive in nature, and – particularly in the pilot, before measures were taken to address it – sometimes respondents had not understood which incident or perpetrator they were being asked about. There is the possibility, therefore, of a degree of measurement error related to these issues that may skew the estimates, despite efforts made after pilot testing, for example to clarify in the script the type of perpetrator to which the questions on the screen pertain.

Data collection method

In six countries (Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and Romania), the data collection mode was CAPI/CASI using tablets to collect the survey data. The questionnaire was programmed centrally by the CCT using its face-to-face data collection software, iField. All six countries, therefore, shared the same master script (with the necessary localisation done at the translation stage). This minimised the potential for interviewer error or differences across countries.

In Luxembourg and Sweden, the data collection mode was CAWI. The questionnaire was programmed centrally using CCT's online data collection software, Dimensions. The content and the structure of the script mirrored the CAPI/CASI version, but with adaptations made to aid respondent self-completion using best practice methods (in those parts of the questionnaire which were not already designated for CASI module in the CAPI/CASI data collection countries).

Careful consideration was also given to minimising mode effects when updating and scripting the questionnaire. This included administering the IPV sections of the questionnaire via CASI in the six CAPI/CASI data collection countries. However, given the sensitive nature of the questionnaire there is potential that respondents who self-completed online responded differently than those taking part in face-to-face interviews.

One scripting error was detected in the online script after completion of fieldwork. The error led to 55 cases in Sweden and 59 in Luxembourg having missing data in question N1a concerning repeated offensive experiences online (this question was added by FRA and EIGE and was not part of the core EU-GBV questionnaire).

In several questions where respondents were asked to select their answers from a list of answer categories, they could also select "Other" and write in to clarify why they chose this category. Based on the comments that respondents had written, some answers could be back-coded to various other answer categories. In certain cases this back-coding could result in missing data for other questions, if the change in answer category meant that questions later in the survey should have been answered, given the new 'route' through the questionnaire that the back-coding had opened. In this

case the answers to the questions that the respondent had not answered were revised as missing (whereas, before back-coding, these questions appeared as not applicable to the respondent).

Interviewer error

Interviewers were provided with a detailed project-specific briefing prior to starting fieldwork. This included a thorough review of the survey materials and questionnaire, with mock interviews conducted to ensure familiarity prior to starting work. Quality checks were in place throughout fieldwork, with a minimum of 10 % of all interviews being back checked (only among those that did not disclose experience of violence). Follow-up briefings were conducted with any interviewers where these back checks identified an element of incorrect administration of the survey.

For each country, the maximum number of interviews conducted by a single interviewer was set at 10 % of the total national target sample. This was monitored throughout fieldwork and was respected.

Overall, 170 interviews that were completed were removed due to non-compliance with the methodological approaches. This covers sampling related issues, when interviews were not completed in privacy, and other quality concerns related to the data collected. Considered in proportion to all interviews, this suggests only a small degree of interviewer error.

Respondent bias or error

Respondent bias or error can occur for a number of reasons. This can include providing socially desirable responses, not wishing to answer (or provide honest answers) to sensitive questions or a lack of knowledge.

To help minimise respondent bias/error, interviewers were provided with training on how to ensure informed consent, that respondents understood why certain questions were being asked and how the data would be used. The training also included a detailed review of the survey instrument and how to handle any respondent distress during the interview. In CAWI mode, additional information was provided to the respondents behind an info button in a small number of questions, to offer further details that some respondents may need in the absence of an interviewer who can guide them through the survey.

To minimise illogical response patterns due to respondent (or interviewer) error a series of 'hard' and 'soft' checks were built into the scripts for certain questions. However, in some other instances the script still allowed for illogical or suspect

combination of answers. It would not have been appropriate to control for all of these as it would make the interview very difficult to complete if all inconsistencies were queried, and it is particularly not suitable to do so given the subject matter. Examples include respondents stating that they have experienced IPV from both their current and previous partner(s) in the screening questions but later stating that their current partner had not done any of the violent acts. All detected inconsistencies such as this were detailed in the data quality control log which CCT shared with FRA and EIGE.

Item non-response

A total of 6 interviews were removed from the data due to having an item non-response rate of between 25 % and 50 % coupled with being shorter than considered plausible (50 % lower than the median interview length in the country). A further 9 CAPI/CASI responses and 4 CAWI completes had an item non-response rate of between 25 % and 50 % - these were flagged, checked, but finally kept in the data. There are, in general, very few questions with high item non-response (see sections [8.3.1](#) and [8.3.2](#) for details).

10.2.4. Processing errors

Processing errors can occur during data entry or subsequently while checking, editing, validating, weighting or imputing the data.

Data entry, editing and cleaning

Data entry was simultaneous with data collection given the use of CAPI/CASI and CAWI. While this minimises the potential for interviewer or respondent error during survey completion, the initial script needed to be accurate in the first place.

The CCT was responsible for scripting of the CAPI/CASI and CAWI tools that were used for data collection in all survey countries. Measures taken before the start of fieldwork to ensure the scripts were accurate included manually checking the questionnaire for accuracy and completeness, and flooding the script with dummy data and checking the output files to ensure all routing was working correctly. The script was checked manually against the Excel document provided by Eurostat which contained all filters, and the dummy data was checked using the checking syntax which Eurostat had shared with FRA and EIGE. In addition to the Eurostat syntax, separate checks were developed for the questions that FRA and EIGE added to the EU-GBV survey. Data was checked at several stages during fieldwork, and after all interviews were completed.

During the data validation and cleaning, a number of interviews were removed. As already mentioned, 6 were removed due to a short interview length coupled with a non-response rate of between 25 % and 50 %. This comes in addition to the cases that were removed from the dataset earlier following quality checks on interviewers' work ([Table 30](#)).

Weighting accuracy

The weighting was able to follow the sample designs in each country, with design weights produced that were of good efficiency (all within a design effect of 1.1, see Chapter 9). Efficiency of the final weight was lower in Cyprus – with a design effect of 1.6 – due to the corrections required the skewness on age and education. The other countries were within 1.3.

10.3. Timelines and punctuality

The first results of the survey were published in a joint report by Eurostat, FRA and EIGE in November 2024, some eight months after the end of the fieldwork in March 2024. This ensured that the results could be included e.g. in the European Commission's [2025 report on gender equality in the EU](#), [EU's baseline report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention](#) and, later, the [Gender Equality Strategy 2026–2030](#).

At the same time with the launch of the key findings report, Eurostat updated its online database to include the results from the eight countries where FRA and EIGE carried out the survey. FRA and EIGE continued to analyse the results, leading to the publication of their joint report 'EU gender-based violence survey – Evidence for Policy and Practice' in March 2026.

After it was confirmed that the national statistical authorities in eight EU Member States would not implement the first wave of the EU-GBV survey, FRA and EIGE prepared a joint open call for tenders to select a contractor that could coordinate the data collection for them. The call for tenders was published in May 2022 – however, it was not possible to award the contract in this procedure. FRA and EIGE proceeded to revise the tender documents and relaunched the call in August 2022. The contract for the data collection was subsequently signed in December 2022, starting the preparations for the data collection.

Once the CCT, FRA and EIGE started the work on the survey, finalising the questionnaire took longer than anticipated, including the additional questions

developed by FRA and EIGE. This delay had an impact on the start of fieldwork, despite efforts to make up some time at other stages of the survey. The fieldwork was planned to be completed by the end of 2023, but the progress was slower than expected in some of the countries, and finally FRA and EIGE agreed to a contract extension of three months to help complete the fieldwork. Despite the extension, the fieldwork team in Ireland did not reach the target number of interviews and in Germany the fieldwork also finished with a small number of interviews not completed, compared with the target. It is not expected that the additional time for fieldwork has had any impact on how women have responded to the survey – on the contrary, the extension may have allowed the survey to reach some respondents who would not have been available otherwise. Fieldwork did extend over the Christmas and New Year period but was suspended during the key holiday weeks in each country.

10.4. Coherence and comparability

FRA and EIGE set out to implement the EU-GBV survey data collection in eight EU Member States with due regard to Eurostat's [methodological manual](#) that was followed in all countries that carried out the EU-GBV survey. Following Eurostat's guidelines helped ensure that the results of the survey by FRA and EIGE would be comparable with the EU-GBV survey data collection carried out by the national statistical authorities. The measures to ensure the comparability of the data range from sampling requirements to fieldwork implementation, data editing, and calculating and presenting the results. For example, FRA and EIGE followed closely the common EU-GBV survey questionnaire and, with very few exceptions, all questions of the core EU-GBV questionnaire were covered in FRA and EIGE's data collection. When adding questions to the survey, FRA and EIGE paid close attention to the placement of the additional questions so that they would not have an impact on the questions surrounding them in the questionnaire. The use of established international classifications to collect data on questions such as education, region, degree of urbanisation, as well as Eurostat's standard socio-demographic variables helps ensure coherence with other relevant data sources.

In their analysis of the results, FRA and EIGE also compared the EU-GBV survey results with the results from FRA's 2012 violence against women survey. More details on these comparisons are available in FRA and EIGE's joint report '[EU gender-based violence survey – Evidence for Policy and Practice](#)'.

10.5. Accessibility and clarity

The results of FRA and EIGE's EU-GBV data collection have been disseminated as a range of outputs. These include key results report published jointly by Eurostat, FRA and EIGE in November 2024 and FRA and EIGE's analysis of the EU-27 results published in March 2026. Both reports can be downloaded free of charge from the websites of the respective organisations, as well as from the EU Publications Office. Eurostat has made the results available in their online database which also allows visualising the results in maps and graphs. Information concerning the implementation of the survey is available through this Technical Report as well as in the metadata description included in Eurostat's website. Finally, the survey microdata can be accessed through Eurostat.

11. Lessons learned

This chapter summarises how the implementation of the EU-GBV survey by FRA and EIGE led to learnings that can inform those who want to conduct similar survey data collection in the future. This could involve both comparative survey research covering several countries or surveys that focus on the situation in a single country. The chapter builds upon the information provided in other chapters of this report concerning the way the data collection activities were implemented and the challenges that were encountered, and the solutions that were identified. The structure of the chapter follows to a large extent the sequence of activities when the survey was implemented by the CCT, FRA and EIGE. For each step of the survey implementation, the chapter focuses on the issues that were encountered, the solutions, and the lessons learned, while the full description of each survey activity can be found in the other chapters of this report.

11.1. Background research

The background research that was conducted at the beginning of the survey provided a wealth of information on various issues surrounding VAW in each of the eight countries covered in the survey. This included information on available sampling frames, which was essential for the other survey activities. The impact of the background research to some survey activities was limited due to the need to follow closely the Eurostat methodology. However, the information from the background research was very useful for FRA and EIGE when analysing and interpreting the results and understanding the differences between countries. For this purpose, it would have been useful to update the background research at a later stage, closer to the time when the survey reports were drafted, to ensure that the latest legislative and other developments are duly reflected. However, such an update was not foreseen in the technical specifications which set out the activities which the survey contractor was required to perform.

11.2. Survey design and modes

The survey applied two data collection mode – CAPI/CASI and CAWI – depending on the country. The decision on which data collection mode to use in a country depended on the availability of sampling frames as well as the cost of data collection. In the two countries (Luxembourg and Sweden) where CAWI data collection was used, the survey selected an unclustered, single-stage sample. High quality of the sampling frames in the two countries helped ensure that the survey progressed with relative ease. In comparison, in some of the countries where data collection was done in CAPI/CASI, the fieldwork progress was at times limited due to lack of sufficient number of trained interviewers. These difficulties in administering the survey face-to-face in some countries could be seen as an incentive to moving more countries to a CAWI mode in the future. This is of course heavily influenced by the availability of sampling information that allows for this method. Additional usability testing and piloting would also be needed to ensure the feasibility of using the CAWI mode to collect data on GBV in countries where this has not been done successfully in the past.

Further analysis could also be conducted on the extent to which the different methods have any impact on disclosure of experiences of violence during the interview. In the FRA-EIGE survey, the impact of the data collection mode was minimised to some extent by having the intimate partner sections done via self-completion (CASI), which was well received by most respondents. CASI mode could be applied more widely, extending it to other parts of the survey. However, while some respondents may hesitate to disclose experiences of violence to an interviewer, the rapport that interviewers build with the respondents can also encourage respondents to speak about sensitive experiences. Therefore, the use of a specific data collection mode should be considered carefully for each survey.

11.3. Fieldwork materials

11.3.1. Questionnaire and scripts

The EU-GBV survey involved complex routing patterns, related to the survey collecting details on various violent episodes and perpetrators. The scripting of questionnaire – including the testing needed to ensure that the scripting did not have mistakes – took more time that was originally estimated.

In countries using the CAPI/CASI mode, the survey script was set up so that respondents could choose to answer CASI sections in English (in Romania there was also a possibility to answer in Hungarian, in view of the Hungarian-speaking minority in the country), as well as the national language of the country. In practice, respondents did not use the possibility to answer in English or Hungarian. Setting up the additional language versions in CASI did not require additional translation work, since English was the source language of the questionnaire and Hungarian was also used as a data collection language in Hungary. However, the including the additional languages added some complexity that could be avoided if there is no demand for these language versions in practice. Alternatively, it is important to ensure that respondents are well informed about the possibility to change the survey language when completing the CASI sections. In the two countries where CAWI mode was used (Luxembourg and Sweden), each of the language versions of the survey was used by respondents, confirming that they were needed.

The CCT examined the possibility to make the online survey open in incognito/private mode, to help ensure that there are no traces left on respondent's device after they have completed the survey. When it was confirmed that this was not technically feasible, instructions were added to the beginning of the survey to inform respondents how they can remove traces of their participation in the survey from the device they used. Future surveys should investigate again the possibility of using incognito/private mode or otherwise help respondents clear any trace of their browsing history as easily as possible.

11.3.2. Other survey materials

Interviewers found the various face-to-face survey materials (such as the introductory letter and the postcard) useful when contacting the respondents and reassuring them that the survey was legitimate. In countries using the CAWI mode, the invitation and reminder letters appear to have served their task well in motivating people to participate and providing the instructions how to complete the survey. As a result, relatively few queries were received in relation to how to access the CAWI survey.

The privacy notice was considered as being very long and using complex language. Feedback from the pilot, in particular, suggested that some respondents were left with a negative impression from the privacy notice. While the privacy notice used in the survey was similar to the one that FRA has used in earlier surveys, the feedback indicates that further attention should be paid to ensure that the privacy notice is easy to understand and communicates the rights of the respondents without unduly

alarming them about the dangers of collection, storage and processing of personal data.

11.4. Translation

FRA and EIGE sought access to EU-GBV survey questionnaire translations from the national statistical authorities that had already conducted the survey and where same languages had been used as the languages in the eight FRA-EIGE survey countries. This was meant to save time and resources needed for questionnaire translation, but it was also a measure to ensure comparability of the data that will be collected in the EU-GBV survey in different countries but using the same language.

The questionnaire language versions which FRA and EIGE received were finally used for reference, rather than applying them directly in the FRA-EIGE survey. The issues that hindered the direct use of the translations included differences in the structure of the documents, question codes, file formats, as well as lack of details to identify which questions had been modified, compared with the EU-GBV source questionnaire from Eurostat. Since these challenges were identified only at the start of the translation process, there was limited time available to find solutions that would have allowed using the questionnaire translations that FRA and EIGE had received as originally intended. As a result, the CCT, FRA and EIGE decided to translate all language versions, using the existing translations as reference material.

11.5. Sampling

Overall, the survey's sample design and its implementation did not pose specific challenges. Some complications arose when the fieldwork deadline had to be extended in December 2023, due to the slower than expected progress in some countries. Before the extension was confirmed, the fieldwork teams focused on closing as much of the open sample as possible, across as many of the PSUs as possible, to maximise the quality of the samples in view of the approaching end of the fieldwork period as originally planned. Once the extension was confirmed, the focus shifted to opening more PSUs to meet the overall interview targets. This readjustment had to be done in a relatively short time. Had it been possible to confirm the fieldwork extension earlier, the transition could have been prepared more efficiently.

11.6. Interviewer selection and training

The nature of the survey meant that only experienced, female interviewers could work on it, which put some limitations on the available interviewing resources. Where interviewer turnover was higher than anticipated (see also section 11.8 later in this chapter), the fieldwork teams had to organise additional interview training sessions for the new interviewers who had been recruited to remedy the shortfall in the field force.

The content of the interviewer training was generally well received and prepared interviewers well for the survey. It is important that the training highlights to interviewers that there could be situations where another household member interrupts the interview and becomes aggressive or that respondents become upset or show strong signs of trauma. At the same time, experience shows that the likelihood of such incidents is low and therefore a careful balance is needed when addressing this issue in the interviewer training.

FRA and EIGE's specifications for the survey required that all interviewers attend two full days of training in person. This was challenging to arrange in some countries – particularly Germany and Ireland. In these two countries, for a variety of reasons, including the timing of the initial briefings, availability of interviewers and their willingness to travel to another location for two whole days of training, the sessions were delivered in modular format including both in person and remote sessions over two to three days. Future surveys could consider this and other models that allow the training to be organised in a flexible way, while not compromising on the need to thoroughly brief and prepare the interviewers for the survey.

11.7. Piloting and usability testing

The survey was piloted in the six countries where CAPI/CASI data collection was used. While there were limitations on the extent to which the questionnaire could be updated based on the feedback collected in the pilot given the need to follow the EU-GBV source questionnaire and methodology, the piloting nonetheless helped identify some small improvements that could be made to help with guiding respondents and interviewers through certain sections of the survey. In addition, some changes were made to other survey materials – for example, the introductory letter was revised to ensure that the information is presented in an accessible and clear way. The usability testing conducted in Ireland (focusing on the CASI module) and Sweden (using the CAWI mode) likewise identified some small improvements that could be made to the survey scripts and materials.

Because the pilot only covered 10 interviews per country, it was not within the scope of the pilot to test how well the sample design worked. A larger pilot would be needed in order to do this, but this should also be balanced against collecting very detailed information from victims/survivors of violence which is then not actually used beyond informing the mainstage of data collection.

There was no pilot in the online countries. If this had been implemented, it may have provided some insight into sample performance. In both countries, the samples' yield rate was higher than anticipated. If a sufficiently large pilot had been run, then it might have highlighted this, and the number of women invited to the mainstage of the survey could have been adjusted accordingly.

11.8. Fieldwork implementation

During the fieldwork, the retention of interviewers varied by country. While there were no or few issues in Czechia and Hungary, the teams in Germany and Ireland faced challenges in recruiting interviewers and keeping those who were trained on the project. The sensitive nature of the survey meant that after a certain point some interviewers did not want to continue or needed to take breaks from fieldwork. These issues also applied to Cyprus and Romania, though to a lesser extent.

The limited availability of interviewers was one of the reasons why it was not possible to complete fieldwork by the end of December 2023 as originally planned, and the fieldwork period was extended until March 2024. Fieldwork started with a delay due to the finalisation of the questionnaire and the survey script taking longer than expected. Planning adequate time for fieldwork in a survey of this nature is important to allow interviewers to take breaks from fieldwork, as necessary to help them manage the cumulative stress that can result from the interviews as the fieldwork goes on.

A common theme in the interviewer feedback was the mismatch that some respondents perceived between how the survey was introduced and the topics addressed in the questions later on during the interview. The survey was introduced as dealing with women's life and well-being, since people other than the respondent should not learn that the survey deals with experiences of violence, as this could put the respondent at risk of further violence. The issue was identified already in the pilot, and some additional details were added to the survey script to better inform the respondents. However, some of them also remarked on this during the mainstage. Interviewers were equipped to explain to respondents why it was necessary to introduce the survey in a 'neutral' way, but they still noted some complaints from

respondents who felt that they should have been informed in more detail about the topics that the survey will cover. Further thought can be given to how the survey is introduced to avoid this in the future, although ensuring the safety of respondents and interviewers is paramount.

While the vast majority of interviews were conducted at home and in private, there were some country differences. In Czechia, only one third of interviews took place at home (according to the local team this has been a growing trend in surveys in general). There was also a relatively high proportion of interviews conducted somewhere other than the respondent's home in Romania (22 %) and in Hungary (10 %). While the interviewer training covered issues such as the need to ensure privacy during the interviews, more attention could be given on criteria interviewers should use when deciding where to have the interview when it is better to conduct it outside the respondent's home.

In few cases per country interviews were conducted with someone else present, aside from young children (whose presence was allowed). The CCT, FRA and EIGE decided to keep these cases in the dataset as interviewers indicated that respondents had requested the presence of other people to support them, and the number of such cases was small. Future surveys should revisit the matter and examine whether any exceptions should be allowed from the requirement for privacy.

11.9. Data processing

The EU-GBV survey resulted in two datasets (MAIN and FORM) which were described in Eurostat's [methodological manual](#). Since FRA and EIGE added some questions to the survey, separate versions of the datasets were produced to include all EU-GBV variables as well as the data from the added questions. FRA and EIGE also received from the CCT the 'raw' interview dataset as well as a file containing the data collected through the ECS. Due to the number of data files to manage, the data processing was a complex task.

Compared with CAPI/CASI mode, more respondents in CAWI mode selected the 'Other' category in various questions in the survey (such as when a question was followed with a list of answer categories with a category 'Other' at the end of this list). In many cases, those who selected the 'Other' category could write in to clarify why they selected it. In some cases, the information respondents provided in the 'Other' category described experiences that should have been included under different answer categories in the same question, or experiences that related to another section

of the survey. This increased the need to ‘back-code’ responses, and in some cases it also led to missing data in the dataset. The issue of ‘Other’ category used more in the CAWI mode can reflect the absence of an interviewer who could support the respondent in finding the appropriate answer category or inform them about the possibility to disclose information later in the survey. The issue could be addressed in future surveys by ensuring that the design of the online questionnaire is clear and that respondents don’t lose sight of the topic when the survey asks several questions related to a particular experience or perpetrator. Cognitive testing before the mainstage of the fieldwork can help identify such issues. Attention should be paid also to ensuring that respondents in CAWI mode have access to support if they don’t understand the question.

Numerous ‘sense checks’ were implemented when processing the data to flag potentially implausible responses. These checks targeted questions and answers related to information such as age at first marriage, household size and composition, an unusually high number of children, instances where the current partner's age is below 16 years, discrepancies between age and the highest level of education attained. Considering the comprehensive background information collected, incorporating additional, similar checks in future waves could be beneficial, and some of these could also be included as ‘soft checks’ in the survey script, so that the information can be verified already during the interview.

11.10. Quality assurance

11.10.1. Quality assurance plan

The Quality Assurance Plan was comprehensive and provided detailed targets for monitoring quality. Key risks were flagged in the weekly and monthly reports helping to keep abreast of issues, but updating the QAP on a monthly basis would have also been beneficial and is recommended in the future. Earlier action should have been taken, however, on the risks identified with regards to additional time needed for fieldwork completion so local teams could plan and manage their resources appropriately.

While comprehensive, the QAP was found difficult to handle and refer to easily in the day-to-day work. The document could be simplified for the future to include fewer fields and simpler risk ratings, for it to be a more user-friendly tool.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Respondent profiles and sample quality

The following tables provide the profiles of the unweighted sample against the weighting variables. Bias was seen on age particularly for Cyprus and to a lesser extent Hungary and Ireland. The other samples were a closer match on age.

Table 48 – Age – sample distribution compared with LFS 2023 (in brackets) (%)

Age category	CY	CZ	DE	HU	IE	LU	RO	SE
18-29	9 (21)	15 (18)	17 (17)	12 (17)	12 (20)	25 (21)	14 (16)	23 (20)
30-39	12 (22)	17 (17)	19 (18)	17 (17)	21 (20)	25 (22)	18 (17)	18 (20)
40-49	16 (19)	18 (21)	17 (17)	24 (21)	21 (22)	21 (20)	23 (20)	18 (18)
50-59	17 (17)	19 (17)	19 (21)	20 (18)	17 (18)	17 (19)	19 (20)	18 (19)
60-74	46 (20)	31 (28)	29 (27)	27 (27)	29 (20)	13 (18)	26 (28)	24 (23)

Source: FRA and EIGE (EU-GBV survey), Eurostat (LFS 2023).

The sample profiles were closely matched to the population in terms of region in most countries. The profile of the sample at the region level was compared with Eurostat LFS 2023 data, except for Cyprus and Luxembourg. In Cyprus, the reference data from the 2021 census refers to the population of all ages (no breakdown by gender and age available), and in Luxembourg the reference data on the regional distribution of population of all ages is from LU Stat (2024).

In Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Romania and Sweden the difference in the regional distribution between the sample and the population is at most +/-2 percentage points per region. This applies also to all regions (cantons) in Luxembourg except for canton of Luxembourg with 28 % of the sample and 31 % of the population.

In Ireland, the differences in the regional distribution between the sample and the population are somewhat bigger, in most cases within +/-3 percentage points.

Exceptions are IE042 (NUTS3 region ‘West’: 16 % in the sample, 9 % in the population) and IE051 (NUTS3 region ‘Mid-West’: 3 % in the sample, 10 % in the population). The sampling frames used in the survey are listed in [Table 12](#). The region stratifiers – depending on the country, at LAU1, NUTS1 or NUTS2 level – are indicated in [Table 14](#).

Most of the samples had bias on education. In Cyprus and Germany, the over-educated were under-represented and the other categories over-represented. In Hungary both the higher and lower categories were under-represented. The online samples in Luxembourg and Sweden both under-represented the lower educated and over-represented higher educated. Czechia, Ireland and Romania had relatively small skews on education.

Table 49 – Education – sample distribution compared with LFS 2023 (in brackets) (%)

ISCED category	CY	CZ	DE	HU	IE	LU	RO	SE
ISCED0–2	27 (19)	8 (11)	25 (20)	13 (18)	10 (15)	13 (23)	24 (25)	7 (15)
ISCED3–4	40 (35)	71 (65)	60 (51)	70 (53)	41 (35)	32 (30)	60 (58)	36 (36)
ISCED5–8	33 (46)	21 (25)	14 (29)	18 (29)	49 (49)	56 (47)	16 (17)	57 (49)

Source: FRA and EIGE (EU-GBV survey), Eurostat (LFS 2023).

Annex 2 – Survey quality monitoring and documentation system

Table 50 – Quality objectives for each survey activity

Survey implementation step	Quality objective	Related TSE type
Project management	• Maintaining a high level of expertise in the CCT • Deliverables are submitted on time • Ensure that final documents are of the highest quality • Ensure that data protection rules are respected • NSEs adhere to quality standards when managing the project at a country level • Ensure overall standards of quality on the project	N/A
Background research & preparatory work	• NSEs and WAVE are clear on requirements • Background research report provides the necessary information • Collect detailed information to inform the sampling • Collect detailed information to inform other aspects of survey implementation (such as languages spoken, and how to best promote the survey)	• Coverage error • Specification error • Measurement error • Inferential error
Development of overall sampling and weighting designs and of country-specific sampling plans	• Sampling plan in each country provides sufficient and accurate details on how to implement sampling method per country • High-quality registers used in as many countries as possible (5/8) • Approaches used to build sample where registers are not available are delivered according to random probability sampling principles • Sample design and implementation bias minimised	• Coverage error • Sampling error • Non-response error • Adjustment error • Inferential error

Developing the research tools.	● Design a questionnaire that enables continuity from and comparability with the EU-GBV survey ● Ensure that the questionnaire is adapted to a self-completion mode (CAWI and CASI), limiting mode effects ● Develop a high-quality data collection instrument that provides conceptual and measurement equivalence of the core concepts ● Develop effective respondent materials which convey required information clearly and encourage participation ● All necessary metadata, paradata and sampling data collected to assess the TSE and linked to the survey data via unique identifier ● Develop a high-quality data collection instrument that captures the data that it is intended to capture ● Survey tools improved on the basis of usability testing ● Online survey tools and respondent materials minimise risk of harm to respondents	● Specification error ● Measurement error
Translations	● Enhance categorical, conceptual and functional equivalence in all translated or adapted versions ● Translate all new or amended questions and fieldwork materials accurately and consistently following best practice procedures and providing comprehensive training ● Ensure cultural sensitivity and appropriateness, taking into consideration the specificities of the target group ● Translations fully tested before the mainstage	● Measurement error

Usability testing	● Carry out usability test in Ireland and Sweden among women aged 50–74 with different demographic characteristics to identify any barriers to completion of the CASI module/CAWI script ● Deliver an actionable report summarising findings from usability testing and providing recommendations for main stage fieldwork	● Measurement error
Interviewer selection, training and support	● Select and/or recruit the most experienced (and suitable) interviewers in each country to facilitate successful data collection ● Ensure appropriate interviewer performance ● Ensure all interviewers are trained to a high standard	● Measurement error ● Non-response error
Pilot	● Carry out an effective pilot in all face-to-face countries to determine the adequacy and feasibility of sampling and survey approaches, and including survey tools and fieldwork procedures ● Deliver an actionable pilot report summarising findings from pilot and providing recommendations for main stage fieldwork	● Coverage error ● Sampling error ● Non-response error ● Measurement error
Fieldwork	● Sample designs implemented correctly ● Quality of the fieldwork continually monitored throughout fieldwork to ensure high quality of the interviews/data collection	● Coverage error ● Sampling error ● Non-response error ● Measurement error
Data processing	● Achieve consistency and accuracy in data files per country and overall by following logic and plausibility checks ● Data editing and cleaning fully documented ● Data stored and transferred in accordance with GDPR requirements	● Processing error

	• A complete anonymised data files in electronic format (SPSS compatible files) to be delivered alongside a codebook containing variable names, variable labels (in English) and with reference to the relevant question numbers • Data retention period observed, and all personal data deleted in line with GDPR requirements	
Weighting	• Optimal weighting approach applied in the final dataset in view of analysis of the results at the national and target group level and for analysis on the EU-level • Comparability between countries and groups achieved • Weighting approach comparable to that of FRA's 2012 VAW survey	• Sampling error • Non-response error • Adjustment error
Calculation of selected indicators and tabulation of results	• Provide accurate, clearly labelled tables presenting the results for carefully selected indicators as well as short informative description of calculation procedure • Tables can be easily replicated, and produce the same results	N/A
Delivery of final technical and quality report	• The technical and quality report provides a detailed account of the implementation of the survey • The report makes a thorough assessment of quality • Recommendations for future research on the target population are included • Report includes detailed feedback at the country level	• Inferential error

Note: In the table above, the survey activities are listed in the order in which they appeared in the technical specifications that FRA and EIGE prepared for the survey implementation. The order reflects for the most part the sequence in which the activities were implemented, but some activities (such as 'Project management') were carried out throughout the survey.

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- (^a) WHO, [*Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence against Women*](#), 2001; UN, [*Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*](#), 2014.
- (^b) Bauer, J. J., '[Biases in random route surveys](#)', *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, Vol. 4, Issue 2, 2016, pp. 263–287.
- (^c) Lynn, P., '[The Advantage and Disadvantage of Implicitly Stratified Sampling](#)', *Methods, Data, Analyses*, Vol. 13, Issue 2, 2019, pp. 253–266.
- (^d) Eurostat, [Frequency of internet use](#), 2021, data code: isoc_ci_ifp_fu.
- (^e) AAPOR, [*Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys*](#), 10th edition, 2023, p. 85.
- (^f) See e.g. Groves, R., '[Nonresponse Rates and Nonresponse Bias in Household Surveys](#)', *Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol. 70, Issue 5, 2006, pp. 646–675); Groves, R., and Peytcheva, E., '[The Impact of Nonresponse Rates on Nonresponse Bias: A Meta-Analysis](#)', *Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol. 72, Issue 2, 2008, pp. 167–189; Schouten, B., Cobben, F. and Bethlehem, J., '[Indicators for the Representativeness of Survey Response](#)', *Survey Methodology*, Vol. 35, Issue 1, 2009, 101–113.

