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## Regional Strategy for an integrated response to incidents of domestic violence (Italy)

### "The Other Side of the Story: Perpetrators in Change" (OSSPC)

Grant Agreement No. 881684 OSSPC

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#### Organisational Information

Organisation:

Centro di Ascolto Uomini Maltrattanti Florence

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#### A. The extent of Domestic Violence at Regional level

This section should provide an overview of the general situation in your country regarding domestic violence and abuse including:

1) The national legal framework and statistical data regarding DVA

From 2010 to 2020 more than 29.103 women got in touch with an anti-violence centre in Tuscany. Most of them contacted anti-violence centres because they were recommended to do





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so by family or the police. Most of the women who got in touch with an anti-violence centres in 2020 have minor children.

### *Femicide*

From 2006 to 2020 121 victims of femicide were reported in Tuscany, 4 in 2020. 87 of them were involved in a couple relationship. In 27% of the cases the victim was a non-Italian citizen, while 17% of the reported perpetrators were foreign citizens. Furthermore, it was reported that in the last 5 years the number of femicides of women older than 75 was higher (35,1%) than the national average (16,7%).

In 2020, 3099 women got in touch with an anti-violence centre in Tuscany, a slight decrease (15%) from 2019, especially in the area of Florence and Grosseto. This is largely due to the COVID-19 restrictions. 71,6% of these were Italian citizens between the ages of 30-49, while 28,4% were foreign citizens.

On the other hand, in 2020 137 men got in touch with centres for perpetrators in Tuscany, a sharp increase due to the new precautionary measure contained in the Codice Rosso law No. 69 from 2019, which provides for a suspended sentence for male violence perpetrators who attend a programme for perpetrators.

The men who attend the programmes are between 30 and 49 years old, mostly Italian citizens (70%) and with a stable job (46%). Most of them have children.

Most of them (80%) state they have committed physical violence.

The national regulations in terms of domestic violence are:

- Law No. 66 of 15 February 1996 “*Norme contro la violenza sessuale*” (Rules against sexual violence) (cp artt.609bis-octies)
- Prime Minister Directive “*Azioni volte a promuovere l’attribuzione di poteri e responsabilità alle donne, a riconoscere e garantire libertà di scelte e qualità sociale a donne e uomini*”, G.U. 21 May 1997 (Actions aimed at promoting women empowerment, to recognize and guarantee freedom of choice and social quality to women and men)
- Law No. 269 of 3 August 1998 “*Norme contro lo sfruttamento della prostituzione, della pornografia, del turismo sessuale in danno di minori quali nuove forme di riduzione in schiavitù*” (Rules against the exploitation of prostitution, pornography, sex tourism with minors as new forms of slavery)
- Law No. 154 of 5 April 2001 “*Misure contro la violenza nelle relazioni familiari*” (Measures against violence within the family)
- Art. 76 paragraph 4-ter of Presidential Decree 30 May 2002, No. 115 “*Testo unico delle disposizioni legislative e regolamentari in materia di spese di giustizia*” (Consolidated text of the laws and regulations on the costs of justice) which provides for the possibility of free legal aid in derogation from income limits for victims of gender-related crimes.
- Law No. 9 January 2006, No. 7, “*Disposizioni concernenti la prevenzione e il divieto delle pratiche di mutilazione genitale femminile*” (Provisions concerning the prevention and prohibition of female genital mutilation practices), of the Presidential Decree of 30 May 2002, No. 115 “*Testo unico in materia di spese di giustizia*” (Consolidated text on the costs of justice)
- Criminal Code: art. 583-bis “*Pratiche di mutilazione degli organi genitali femminili*” (Practices involving the mutilation of female genital organs)



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- Law No. 38 23 April 2009, “*Misure urgenti in materia di sicurezza pubblica e di contrasto alla violenza sessuale, nonche' in tema di atti persecutori*” (Urgent measures in public safety and against sexual violence and persecution)
- Law No. 77 of 27 June 2013, “*Ratifica ed esecuzione della Convenzione del Consiglio d'Europa sulla prevenzione e la lotta contro la violenza nei confronti delle donne e la violenza domestica, fatta a Istanbul l'11 maggio 2011*” (Ratification and execution of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, done at Istanbul on 11 May 2011)
- The so-called law on femicide (Legislative Decree No. 93 of 14 August 2013, converted into Law No. 119 of 15 October 2013, on combating gender-related violence)
- Art. 14, paragraph 6, of Law No. 124 of 7 August 2015, “*Deleghe al Governo in materia di riorganizzazione delle amministrazioni pubbliche*” (Delegations to the Government regarding the reorganization of public administrations), which provides for the possibility for female civil servants who have suffered gender-related violence and are attending specific protection programmes to be transferred to a different municipality
- Art. 1, paragraph 16, of Law No. 107 of 13 July 2015 “*Riforma del sistema nazionale di istruzione e formazione e delega per il riordino delle disposizioni legislative vigenti*” (Reform of the national education and training system and delegation for the reorganization of the legislative provisions in force), under which schools include measures to prevent gender-related violence and discrimination in their three-year education plans, aimed at students, teachers and parents
- Art. 24 of Legislative Decree No. 80 of June 15, 2015, “*Congedo per le donne vittime di violenza di genere*” (Leave for women who have suffered gender-related violence)
- Article 11 of Law No. 122 of 7 July 2016 “*Disposizioni per l'adempimento degli obblighi derivanti dall'appartenenza dell'Italia all'Unione europea – Legge europea 2015-2016. (16G00134)*” (Provisions for the fulfillment of obligations deriving from Italy's membership in the European Union — European Law 2015-2016. (16G00134), which establishes the right to compensation for victims of intentional violent crimes)
- Legislative Decree No. 212 of 15 December 2015 “*Attuazione della direttiva 2012/29/UE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 25 ottobre 2012, che istituisce norme minime in materia di diritti, assistenza e protezione delle vittime di reato e che sostituisce la decisione quadro 2001/220/GAI*” (Implementation of Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012, which establishes minimum standards on the rights, assistance and protection of victims of crimes and which replaces Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA)
- Law No. 4 of 11 January 2018, “*Modifiche al codice civile, al codice penale, al codice di procedura penale e altre disposizioni in favore degli orfani per crimini domestici*” (Amendments to the Civil Code, the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and other provisions in favor of orphans as a consequence of domestic crimes)
- Law No. 69 of 19 July 2019, “*Modifiche al codice penale, al codice di procedura penale e altre disposizioni in materia di tutela delle vittime di violenza domestica e di genere*” (Amendments to the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and other provisions regarding victims of gender-related and domestic violence)



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- Decree of the President of the Government of December 17, 2020, “*Reddito di libertà per le donne vittime di violenza*” (Freedom income for women victims of violence)
- Law No. 53 of 5 May 2022 “*Disposizioni in materia di statistiche in tema di violenza di genere*” (Provisions on statistics on gender violence)

## 2) Causes of DVA

According to the data collected by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) in 2017, in most cases no incidental causes are reported, which is proof of how culturally rooted gender-related violence is. In fact, in 28.1% of cases the woman stated that the quarrel originated from futile reasons or even from no reason at all (9.3%). New emerging factors are the partner's jealousy (27.9%), and separation (10.5%).

## 3) Multi-agency framework of DVA at regional level (formal or informal activities/strategies and regional action plan if any)

The Tuscany regional law No. 59 of 16/11/2007 on gender-related violence contains a multi-agency approach to combating gender-related violence.

It states that:

*“1 The regional government supports and encourages the establishment of a network of relationships between municipalities, provinces, hospitals, local health services (USL), the Regional Education Department and the provinces' education departments, law enforcement agencies, local civil government offices, judges and local anti-violence centres involved in the work with violence.*

*2. The network aims to promote homogeneous procedures and to activate the immediate intervention of the entities mentioned in paragraph 1, at a province and area/district basis”*

## 4) Best Practice examples at regional level

Best practices at regional level mainly include:

- 1) Primary prevention starting from educational institutions (primary, secondary and upper secondary)
- 2) Training of social and health workers on the topic of gender-related violence, about both victims and perpetrators
- 3) Specialized pools of experts in gender-related violence in judicial offices
- 4) Importance of coordination between judicial offices and courts.

As far as collaboration, networking and establishment of best practices with entities, associations and institutions are concerned, CAM is in continuous contact with:

- **Anti-Violence Center:** As previously mentioned, CAM was created within a project with the Artemisia anti-violence centre in Florence, and we have maintained continuous contact with them to coordinate interventions to take charge of situations of violence. Network meetings were held throughout 2019 to structure a formalized collaboration





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model/protocol that can protect women and minor victims of violence in the best possible way.

CAM also collaborates with local anti-violence centres.

- **UEPE (Office for the Execution of Sentences in the Community):** In 2014 CAM established an agreement with the UEPE to define a collaboration for cases of male perpetrators of violence in emotional relationships in charge of the Office. According to the Agreement, men who have perpetrated gender and domestic violence related crimes who are in charge of the UEPE are referred to CAM programmes and. The Agreement also establishes a continuous coordination between UEPE social workers and CAM operators to improve the protection of the victims.
- **Municipality of Florence:** In the last 10 years CAM has been in constant contact with the Municipality of Florence, organizing training for social workers and awareness-raising initiatives for both operators and the general public.
- **Azienda Sanitaria Toscana Centro (Central Tuscany health service):** An agreement is in place to carry out meetings and group sessions with male perpetrators who join the program, to refer female partners to local anti-violence centres and train social and health workers.
- **Codice Rosa (emergency care of victims of violence):** We collaborate with local representatives of Codice Rosa, together with whom we have participated in institutional round tables to coordinate all stakeholders dealing with violence.
- **Procura (Public Prosecutor's Office):** We have been in continuous contact with the Florence General Prosecutor's Office to identify good practices for disadvantaged groups. For about two years, CAM held the role of secretariat at the round tables at the prosecutor's office with all local stakeholders involved in initiatives against violence.
- **Questura (Central Police Office):** CAM accepted to share information about men participating in the programmes when requested by the police. Protocollo Zeus: a protocol that states that when the chief of police releases a warning against a person for persecution or domestic violence, the person is informed about the availability of prevention programmes organized by local services. The victim is also informed of the availability of centers and services that can provide support.
- **Law Enforcement Agencies:** Participation in joint institutional round tables, presentations about CAM and its objectives in the work with male perpetrators to stop recidivism.
- **Penal Institutions:** Since 2015, the CAM has been offering programmes for change and responsibility for violent behaviours for the inmates of the prisons of Florence, Pistoia and Prato.







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- **Ordinary and Juvenile Courts:** Local initiatives and events were held to raise awareness about the programmes offered by CAM aimed at judges of ordinary and juvenile courts. Over the last two years, sentences have been issued for male perpetrators of violence that included, among other measures, attending CAM programmes.
- **General Practitioners and Pediatricians:** Awareness-raising events and training about violence screening and victim referral to specialized services were held for general practitioners and pediatricians in Florence. An information brochure for GPs and pediatricians was also created based on this collaboration.
- **Schools:** Schools have been involved in primary and secondary prevention interventions on the issues of peer violence, violence within the family, stereotypes and equal opportunities. Events were organized aimed at students, teachers and managers alike. In most cases, these activities were part of extensive projects financed by public or private tenders. More details are described in the specific paragraph about past and ongoing projects.

CAM also collaborates with various entities and institutions in Tuscany that are involved with the protection of victims and programmes for male perpetrators.

- **Other centres for male perpetrators and anti-violence centres:** CAM works in a network and has a relationship with other centres for perpetrators in Tuscany. Many of the operators that work in these centres were trained by CAM operators. Anti-violence centres based in other territories are also part of the network.
- **Regione Toscana (Tuscany Regional Council):** Through a regional project to involve all centres for perpetrators in Tuscany to increase the number of local offices and improve the assessment of the initiatives.

CAM is in constant contact with other entities that operate in other regions or at a national level, e.g.:

- **RELIVE (*Relazioni Libere dalle Violenze, Violence-free relationships*):** CAM is a founding member and president of Relive, the national network that coordinates programmes for perpetrators.
- **Equal Opportunities Department:** Since the start of the initiative in 2010, CAM has sought a dialogue with the equal opportunities department in order to promote the work





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with male perpetrators with the government and ministries. The collaboration is continuing and meetings at the department are still taking place.

## **B. Multi-Agency Orientation for an integrated response to incidents of DVA**

### **The need for Multi-Agency cooperation to minimize and eliminate DVA (justification of strategy and framework of action)**

It is necessary to collaborate with several stakeholders in the network in order to create an integrated and effective response to combat gender-related violence.

It is necessary to involve:

- 1) Tuscany regional council
- 2) Local anti-violence centre
- 3) Local centres for male perpetrators
- 4) Codice Rosa: The Codice Rosa regional network connects and coordinates all stakeholders that work within the Tuscany health service to offer victims of violence and abuse prompt and timely help and ensure health, social and psychological support and the involvement of local services from the onset of the emergency.
- 5) Social and public health services (Azienda Sanitaria Toscana)
- 6) Law Enforcement
- 7) Police and judges
- 8) Judicial authorities and offices for the execution of sentences in the community

In order to establish a collaboration amongst various entities, it is necessary to define protocols and conventions that have the common objective of preventing and combating violence against women and children.

### **2) Objectives and benefits of cooperation**

Working in a network aims at:

- Improving the early screening of cases of violence and guaranteeing specific and effective programmes
- Coordinating and creating a network amongst different institutions and competencies
- Creating local networks to ensure consistency and continuity in the work to combat gender-related violence
- Ensuring a consistent intervention on a regional level
- Promoting and consolidating an anti-violence network to coordinate different stakeholders working in the field of gender-related violence
- Developing operating procedures that allow timely, effective, integrated interventions throughout the territory
- Promoting awareness-raising initiatives for the general public and training for operators of entities that are part of the network
- Ensuring the necessary integration of local, regional and national policies

## **Principles for an integrated community response**





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The objective of working in a network is to combat gender-related violence in a more effective way tackling the issue from multiple fronts. The key principles are for working in a network are:

- Promoting training for operators in the psychological, health and judicial fields, for civil servants and all involved stakeholders
- Developing and disseminating guidelines to combat gender-related violence
- Promoting awareness-raising and information events aimed at the general public
- Collaborating in the participation to national and European projects
- Identifying the tools and monitor the phenomenon of gender-related violence
- Promoting the implementation of awareness-raising programmes in schools
- Raising awareness about the importance of networking with associations
- Promoting the establishment of technical round tables that involve all interested stakeholders to develop guidelines to combat and prevent gender-related violence
- Promoting the integration among associations and prioritise work done in an integrated network
- Promoting, supporting and managing initiatives for equal opportunities
- Promoting, supporting and managing initiatives aimed at fostering a culture of non-violence and especially against family violence against women and minors
- Developing and supporting projects to raise awareness and create a culture about fundamental women rights, human rights and gender non-discrimination
- Informing about the indicators to help screen for abuse at an early stage
- Collaborating to identifying strategies to prevent and intervene on the causes and situations that lead to active and passive violence

### **C. Shortcomings and Challenges in the Regional Systems of coordinated response**

The introduction of the Codice Rosso (Red Code) law posed a new challenge to the work against violence done at a regional level.

The objective of the law is to speed up both criminal prosecution and the adoption of measures to protect the victims. According to the Codice Rosso law, after receiving a crime report of domestic and/or gender-based violence, the criminal police must immediately report to the public prosecutor. Oral communication is accepted but has to be immediately followed by written notice. Within 3 days from the registration of the crime report, the public prosecutor collects the information from the victim or the person who reported the crime and, if applicable, starts an investigation.

In addition to this, male perpetrators must be referred to specialized centres.

Some significant difficulties and gaps still exist and the following aspects need to be improved:

- All perpetrators centres should have similar structured templates for assessment reports to be issued at the end of the programmes.







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- Meetings should be held between the services and the judges in charge to discuss the cases
- All involved services (social and health services, etc.) should work in an integrated network
- All operators working in centres for perpetrators and other services dealing with gender-related violence should be trained on the legal aspects and implications of the law.

**D. Regional organisations that can potentially be involved in a Multi-Agency Approach according to three thematic areas a) Prevention of GBV b) Protection, Care and Support Services c) Capacity Development**

This section should provide the following data:

- 1) Fill in the table below with the regional organisations according to thematic areas a) Prevention of DVA b) Protection, Care and Support Services c) Capacity Development.

2) ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PREVENTION OF DVA				
Name of Organisation:	Status	Level of action (national / regional / local)	Services Provided	Is there any coordination mechanism in place / protocol of cooperation
Nosotras	Association	Regional	Counselling centre for female empowerment	No protocol with CAM
Non una di meno	Association	National	Advocacy	No protocol with CAM
ARPA	Association	Regional	Awareness, support, prevention and counselling centre	No protocol with CAM
PROTECTION, CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES				
CAT	Cooperative	Regional	Counselling centre for victims and refuge	No protocol with CAM
D.i.Re	Association	Regional	Network of anti-violence centres	No protocol with CAM
Relive	Association	National	Network of centres for male perpetrators	CAM is a member of this organization





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Progetto Arcobaleno	Association	Regional	Protection and of reception victims	No protocol with CAM
Artemisia	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	Protocol for a Project
Lilith	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Pronto Donna	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Tutto è Vita	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Olympia De Gouges	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Ippogrifo	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Randi	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Centro Donna	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Casa delle Donne	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Luna	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Non ti scordar di te	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Centro Donna Lunigiana	Public health service	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
CIF	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
D.U.N.A	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Sabine	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Casa della Donna	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Frida	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	
Aiuto Donna	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	
Libere Tutte	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM



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La Nara	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	Anti-violence network protocol
Donna Amiata Valdorca	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	
Amica Donna	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Donne insieme Valdelsa	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
Donna Chiama Donna	Association	Regional	Anti-violence center	No protocol with CAM
CAM Centro Ascolto Uomini Maltrattanti	Association	Regional	Centre for male perpetrators	
LUI	Association	Regional	Centre for male perpetrators	Collaboration in a regional project
SAM Sportello ascolto uomini maltrattanti	Association	Regional	Centre for male perpetrators	Collaboration in a regional project
Nuovo Maschile	Association	Regional	Centre for male perpetrators	Collaboration in a regional project
SAM Spazio ascolto uomini maltrattanti	Association	Regional	Centre for male perpetrators	No protocol with CAM
<b>CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>				
Regional council	Institution	Regional	Victim support	Regional project and agreement between state and regions
Azienda Usl Toscana	Public service	Regional	Victim support	Convention
Social services	Public service	National	Victim support	Territorial agreements

**What kind of information about which thematic area is shared among the organisations?**

A network protocol or convention establishes which information should be shared. It is necessary to share all information that does not harm the individual's privacy and ensures the safety of the women and children involved.



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## Relevant referral procedures for frontline workers

Referral procedures must be established through protocols and agreements with the network stakeholders.

Such protocols and agreements should contain:

- Training for frontline workers about violence screening, investigation of indicators and referral strategies for their work with male violence perpetrators.
- Information to be shared with frontline workers and operators of the centres for perpetrators, both about referral and monitoring (risk assessment)
- Shared safety plan to be activated in case of high risk situations

### E. Proposed Multi-agency cooperation mechanism/structure and recommendations for an effective integrated response to DVA incidents

Since 2021 Tuscany is creating assessment teams to evaluate the work done within the Codice Rosa network and the new model of taking charge of the victims of violence (*Team di valutazione multidimensionale della rete Codice Rosa: un nuovo modello di presa in carico delle vittime di violenza*). These team hold regular meetings to support the social and health workers of the local Codice Rosa network teams, belonging to different entities, institutions and anti-violence centres distributed on the territory.

The topics discussed during the meetings are aimed at strengthening the teams' skills needed to ensure the new model is applied correctly, both in terms of system management (organization – collaboration between hospitals and local services, different kinds of professionals work in an integrated way, programmes are consistent; timeliness – timeliness and consistency of care) and tools for case management (risk assessment, protection plan, personalized support programmes according to the victim's needs and timelines, prevention of secondary victimisation).

These meetings are held on a monthly basis and allow for the creation of new synergies among the network stakeholders and, new proposals for collaboration, agreements and protocols.





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Reference links:

<https://www.regione.toscana.it/-/codice-rosa>

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