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Newsletter no. 4

"The Other Side of the Story: Perpetrators in Change" Project

Grant Agreement No. 881684 OSSPC
REC-AG-2019/REC-RDAP-GBV-AG-2019

Let's introduce our new project partner: **The University of Bristol, UK**



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The University of Bristol is based in the West of England, UK and has a student body of over 20,000. It is world renowned and has been ranked as the 62nd best university in the world, according to The QS World University Rankings 2022. Bristol was ranked 10th in the United Kingdom and 17th in Western Europe. The research partners for the OSSPC project are from the School for Social Policy, which is ranked as 18th best such department in the world.

The research team who have partnered in the study is the Centre for Gender and Violence which has a long history in well-regarded and impactful research. Established in October 2009, the Centre for Gender and Violence supercedes and builds on the work and research of the Violence Against Women Research Group (VAWRG), established in 1990. The aim of the centre is to conduct high quality research to inform policy, practice and action on gender-based violence.



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The implementation period of the OSSPC project has been extended until October 31st, 2022!

Due to the context created by the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions in the countries of the project consortium, "The Other Side of the Story: Perpetrators in Change" (OSSPC) project was extended with 6 months.

The Perpetrators Intervention Programme for professionals (WP 3)

3.1 Development of Minimum standards for perpetrators behavioural change programmes.

3.2 Development of capacity building methodology and training material for Frontline professionals.

3.3 Creation of the OSSPC Virtual learning environment (VLE).

The activities of WP3 were coordinated by CAM (Italy), and were implemented with the support of the OSSPC partners.

3.1 Development of Minimum standards for perpetrators behavioural change programmes.

The minimum standards were developed to assure the quality of effective and safe work with perpetrators, taking into consideration that interventions should ensure the safety of victims (women or children).

The minimum standards are grouped under specific principles and incorporate ethics which are essential for the safe delivery of intervention programmes.

The minimum standards are translated in all languages of the OSSPC consortium and have the form of a user-friendly handbook for frontline workers as well as governmental and community-based agencies, potential implementers, individuals and institutions responsible for initiation, development, implementation and operation of DV policies and are available on the OSSPC Virtual learning environment (VLE).



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3.2 Development of capacity building methodology and training material for Frontline professionals.

CAM, with the support of the partners have developed the training methodology and material, which provide frontline professionals the necessary skills to address appropriate ways of working with men towards change.

The capacity building is based on a clear value orientation that abuse and violence is absolutely unacceptable and an illegal behaviour. The gender equity is a value that should be built in both contents and methods of treatment delivery. In both the contents and methods, partner safety is considered a priority, which should be reflected in reliable risk assessment and ensuring that victims have a safety plan as well as access to support.

The teaching material has been translated in all consortium languages, with the contribution of the OSSPC partners.

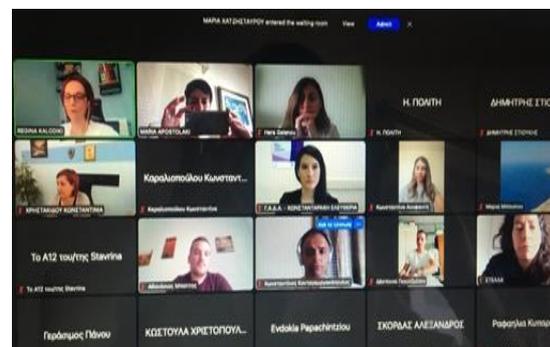
OSSPC TRAINING COURSES IN GREECE

The 3 online capacity building trainings on domestic violence addressed to Criminal Justice professionals, Social Workers and Health and Mental Health professionals had been successfully implemented by European Knowledge Spot.

In total, a number of 48 participants (22 police officers and lawyers, and 26 social workers and health – mental health professionals) were trained through their participation in a sixteen hours capacity building educational programme with a view to convey the importance of gender inequality as an underpinning issue for DVA, develop skills to recognize violence learn how to approach perpetrators, and overall increase the ability of professionals to screen for violence and carry out a risk assessment.

Impact and evaluation

After participation, most trainees declared that they felt more competent and more prepared to work on GBV cases. Participants had also thought more about their own biases regarding victims and perpetrators, could better recognize signs of GBV cases and they felt more confident about the importance of perpetrators' programmes.





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In the context of the OSSPC Project, The Capacity Building Programme for Professionals, UWAH organized 3 online training events in the period June – July 2022.

UWAH implemented targeted trainings for Social Scientists and Social Workers, for Health and Mental Health Professionals, and for Criminal Justice System professionals. In total, 118 professionals from all over Greece attended the 3 training events.

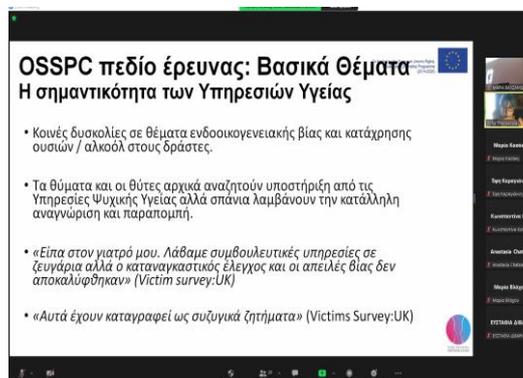
The trainings were developed around four core modules:

Module 1: Introduction to the OSSPC project and international legal and political foundations;

Module 2: Dynamics of Domestic Abuse Perpetration;

Module 3: Make a Change: Developing professionals' skills in the work with perpetrators in domestic violence and abuse and recognizing the signs and indicators of violence in victims and perpetrators;

Module 4: Working in a Network & Coordinated Community Response.



OSSPC TRAINING COURSES IN CYPRUS



Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family



The delivery of the capacity building program in Cyprus took place between March- May 2022. In total, 5 trainings were delivered to 70 frontline professionals dealing with gender-based violence issues. More specifically two trainings were organised for social workers, two trainings were addressed to mental health professionals and one last training was organised for law enforcement agents.

The trainings included 5 modules, namely an introduction to the OSSPC project and domestic violence theoretical framework, the dynamics of domestic abuse, the screening of domestic violence, collaboration with other relevant frontline services and referral of perpetrators to the perpetrators' program. A pre and post evaluation questionnaire was distributed to the participants of the trainings so as to measure the impact of the training.





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OSSPC TRAINING COURSES IN THE UK

In June Bournemouth University and University of Bristol ran our training and networking events as part of the OSSPC Work Package 3 for the UK stream of the project. These events were designed to provide training to professionals from health, social work, and criminal justice agencies to explore and discuss the barriers and challenges to working with perpetrators of DVA as well as include an opportunity to network with other practitioners on key elements of perpetrator work.

Over the two days, 80 professionals working in Domestic Abuse services across the health, social work, charity and criminal justice sectors attended either our in-person event held at Bournemouth University on 6 June or joined online on 7 June via Zoom. The Regional Practice Lead of RESPECT Make a Change, the national umbrella body who oversees quality and best practice for perpetrator services across the UK, Joanna Szuryn, was our special guest for the in-person event which had 49 participants (in photo with Jade). We had a further 31 professionals during the online event, for those who could not join us in-person.

As well as receiving training on key elements of this work, participants were also given access to a range of free online resources following the event to provide continued support for their work.



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The team have received some very positive feedback from attendees about the event outlining how they plan to address some of the challenges raised in practice.

Many of the participants shared how valuable this training and networking event had been and how they would like to see more such events.



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OSSPC TRAINING COURSES IN ITALY

CAM carried out 3 online trainings. The first one to social workers, the second one to health professionals and the third online to justice professionals. They were carried out between March and June 2022. In total, more than 70 professionals were reached.

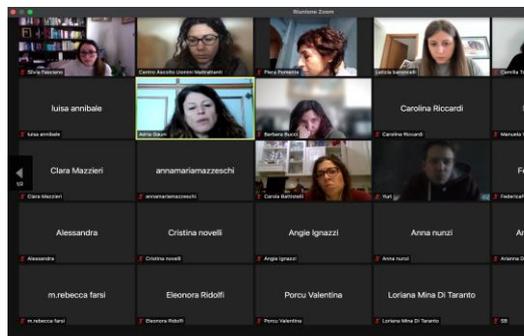
The meetings were conducted by two CAM operators, using a participatory and interactive methodology, which included exercises.

The following issues were addressed, trying to adapt them to the target groups: definition and cultural models of gender-based violence; experiences on abusive men; recognition and detection of indicators of violence and how to refer an abusive man to services; collaboration protocols for effective networking.

The need emerged for professionals to confront their beliefs and stereotypes with respect not only to gender-based violence, but to the abuser himself.

In addition, many of them have advanced the criticality and doubts about the sending of man and the deontological and ethical aspects of working with gender violence.

Most professionals gave good feedback of the trainings, asking for the possibility of being able to extend them in the future.



OSSPC TRAINING COURSES IN ROMANIA



DASM held 3 training sessions within the OSSPC project, to 93 professionals, of which 22 professionals from the criminal justice system (4 from the Republic of Moldova), 26 professionals from the health/mental health system and 45 professionals from the social work system. The training courses were organised by DASM in an online format, lasting for 8 hours each.

The participants were then enrolled on the Virtual Platform created within the OSSPC project and received materials such as: the manual on the development of minimum standards for behaviour change programmes for domestic abusers, instructions for the trainees, training materials and other materials produced within the project.





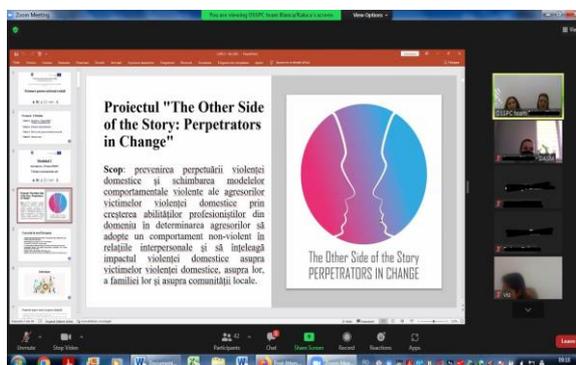
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The training courses aimed to increase the skills of frontline domestic violence professionals, prepare them to change the behaviour of perpetrators, and improve their knowledge and skills to appropriately address domestic abusers.

The training material was also focused on the dynamics of underlying domestic violence and abuse, as well as on the typical beliefs, values and tactics of domestic abusers.

The minimum standards manual for domestic abuser behaviour change programmes and the training methodology and training material were developed by Centro di Ascolto Uomini Maltrattanti Onlus- CAM (Italy), with the



3.3 Creation of the OSSPC Virtual learning environment (VLE).

The OSSPC training material and resources are freely available on an online platform designed by CAM. The platform is targeted to the training participants, it is user-friendly and available in all consortium languages and will be linked to the OSSPC website.

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