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Programme (2014-2020)



Newsletter no. 5

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

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

Multiagency cooperation of services for victims and perpetrators (WP 4)

The activities of WP4 were coordinated by EKS and UWAH and were implemented with the support of the OSSPC partners.

4.1 Regional Strategy for an integrated response to incidents of domestic violence

The regional strategy will serve as a guidance to encourage all relevant stakeholders and involved actors at local/regional level to adopt a holistic approach to prevent and combat gender-based violence.

The partners have elaborated regional strategies to ensure that relevant local/regional agencies (public agencies and community-based organisations) work together to prevent and respond to domestic violence with a common framework for their activities, and with common goals or objectives including perpetrator programmes. The strategies mention the obstacles and challenges involved in working together and ensure that there are clearer referral pathways known by frontline workers.



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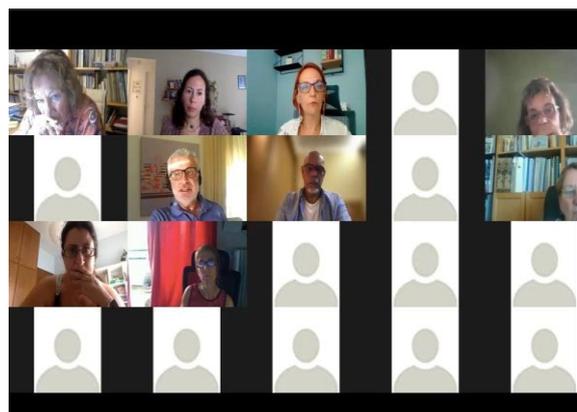
4.2 Regional Roundtable meetings

Roundtables were organised in Cyprus, UK, Italy, Greece and Romania to raise awareness on the importance of effective and of high-quality information sharing and timely safeguarding responses. Discussions with key stakeholders including representatives from public agencies and community-based organisations have focused on the importance of inter-agency collaboration in response to domestic violence and the potential to improve service efficiencies which may increase safety and wellbeing for women. Discussions have also included appropriate mechanisms and strategies that need to be put in place for improving service provision and integrated responses and define a shared protocol/mechanism of cooperation.

OSSPC ROUNDTABLES IN GREECE

In order to encourage discussion on multi-agency cooperation on domestic violence, an online roundtable was organized on 15.09.2022 to raise awareness of the importance of effective and high-quality information sharing and to address and prevent incidents of domestic violence.

The statement produced was the result of a fruitful discussion directed by two Coordinators of the Greek NGO, **European Knowledge Spot**, an organisation specialised in domestic violence issues. The discussion started with the presentation of the program. This was followed by a presentation of the participants and immediately afterwards the results of the project were analysed and more specifically the outputs of the research carried out for the coordination of actions and agencies for the prevention and treatment of domestic violence. Afterwards, agency representatives and frontline professionals interacted and actively participated, analysing the challenges they have faced in their field of work.



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They discussed possible ways on how a coordination mechanism could be effective in addressing the gaps they have identified in addressing the phenomenon of domestic violence. Finally, some good practices that have been implemented were mentioned. The statement will be further elaborated and disseminated to more stakeholders in order to launch a pilot phase of multi-agency cooperation in municipality level. Representatives of the following organizations participated in the regional round table: Citizen's Advocate, Women's Union of Greece, Juvenile Probation Service of Chalkida, Association of Members of Women's Associations of Heraklion & Prefecture of Heraklion, KEDASY B of Athens, Institute for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence and Promotion of Equality of the two leaves "VIOLENCE STOP", Social Service of the Municipality of Galatsi, Psychiatric Treatment Unit of the Psychiatric Hospital of Attica, EPAPSY Day Center. School counsellors, psychologists, and social workers of schools and KEDASY, psychiatrists and child psychiatrists of hospitals also participated in the discussion.

The Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture will be implementing on the 14th of October 2022 a roundtable discussion on the importance of interagency collaboration in response to domestic violence. Local organisations, field experts and public stakeholders will come together in a first attempt to discuss ways to align their processes and foster a change in men's violent behavioral patterns with the aim to increase the safety and wellbeing of women. Particular focus will be given to establishing a line of cooperation in establishing perpetrators intervention programmes. The results of this activity will be shared in our Facebook page with a future post.



OSSPC ROUNDTABLE IN CYPRUS



Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family



On September 12th, 2022 the **Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family "SPAVO"** coordinated the Regional Round Table that took place via Zoom "The Other Side of the Story: Perpetrators in Change (OSSPC)" in which representatives of the perpetrators' intervention program "PROTEAS" of SPAVO, the Cyprus National Addictions Authority, the rehabilitation centre "Agia Skepi", the Center for education and treatment of drug addictions "KENTHEA", the Cyprus social services, discussed about the challenges victims and perpetrators are faced with when seeking support, the challenges and benefits of interdepartmental cooperation, the areas of activity of the interdepartmental cooperation model, and the roles and responsibilities of the entities involved.



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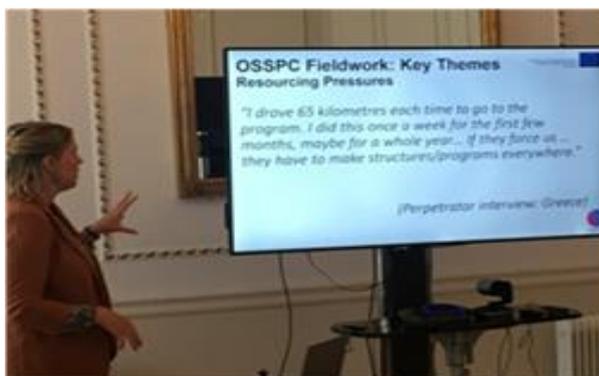
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OSSPC ROUNDTABLE IN THE UK

The Universities of Bristol and Bournemouth held a national roundtable in June to discuss policy and strategic directions in early intervention perpetrator work. Attendees at the event represented organisations including: The Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, RESPECT, The Hampton Trust, Women's Aid Federation England, Safelives, and Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA). The event was also attended by commissioners, professionals, and stakeholders from across the South West region, as well as academics with interest in this area. Dr Jade Levell (the University of Bristol) shared the findings from international fieldwork and professional training conducted as part of the project at the event. Chantal Hughes (The Hampton Trust) shared their best practice early intervention and conditional caution work with perpetrators (DARE and Project CARA), while Rebecca Vagi (RESPECT), and Caroline Bernard (RESPECT), shared the early intervention model that RESPECT have been rolling out across the UK (Make a Change).

Dr Levell: "It was great to be able to get key stakeholders together to discuss this important project. The presentations inspired varied and in-depth conversations about the importance of the Coordinated Community Response model to address DVA and gaps and barriers in early identification and intervention with perpetrators."





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OSSPC ROUNDTABLE IN ROMANIA

To encourage discussions on multi-agency cooperation in the domestic violence field, to raise awareness on the importance of effective and high-quality information exchange, and timely and effective interventions **DASM** organised a roundtable with professionals on September 8th, 2022 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Representatives of the following organizations participated in the regional round table: The Social and Medical Services Directorate (DASM) – The Child and Family Protection Department / The Centre for preventing and combating violence in families, The County Directorate For Social Work and Child Protection of Cluj County (DGASPC), The County Police Inspectorate, Babeş-Bolyai University- The Centre for Research and Prevention of Domestic and Societal Violence, The Intercommunity Development Association Cluj Metropolitan Area (ADI ZMC) – The Counselling Centre for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence, Vivad Association/ Professional Body of Mediators Cluj, "Christiana" Christian Medical Philanthropic Association- St. Dimitrie Basarabov Program (AFMC), Caritas Eparchial Greek-Catholic Cluj Association, Preventis Association, Clujul Are Suflet Day Centre (FRCCF) and The Romanian Institute for Peace (PATRIR).



The participants actively discussed the challenges and shortcomings in the domestic violence field at local and county level, which they have identified and faced in their work. They also discussed aspects concerning the creation of a cooperation mechanism, establishing and assuming responsibilities and concrete actions that can be achieved.

The importance of collaboration between institutions was emphasized, and that of an effective, coordinated community response in dealing with domestic violence cases/domestic violence perpetrators as well. The participants also pointed out the need of other relevant institutions at local level to be involved in this mechanism of collaboration in the field (e.g The Prosecutor's office, Probation Services, The Court, lawyers, hospitals, The Local Police Department, etc.) so they will also be contacted in order to broaden the multi-institutional cooperation as much as possible.



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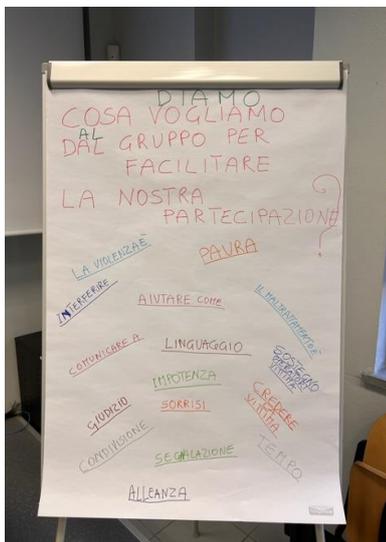


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OSSPC ROUNDTABLE IN ITALY

The roundtable was organized by CAM on September 30th, 2022 and was placed within some multidimensional Codice Rosa teams that bring together various actors of the network who work in preventing/combating domestic violence.

Within these working meetings there were about 25 persons belonging to different professions: social workers, anti-violence center operators, psychiatrists and health service workers. The need to discuss the possibility of integrated actions to combat violence has emerged and above all, the importance of including training on this issue of more frontline professionals, as well.



4.3 Protocols/mechanisms of cooperation in domestic violence and perpetrator intervention programmes

Each Roundtable has concluded with a statement paper and a draft template of the protocol/mechanism of cooperation in domestic violence and perpetrator programmes.

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