



Programme area n°22

Domestic and Gender-based Violence

OBJECTIVE

Domestic and gender-based violence prevented and victims protected and assisted

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence
- > Protection and support for victims of domestic and gender-based violence
- > Effective and integrated response systems including police, justice, health and service agencies

SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > Development of legislation, policies and national strategies to prevent and tackle gender-based violence
- > Measures to strengthen victim protection and to bring national legal frameworks in line with Council of Europe standards
- > Development of effective protective measures
- > Development of educational material for primary and secondary schools, as well as for health care providers, to enable them to better protect victims and prevent future abuse
- > Training of professionals in close contact with victims and/or perpetrators
- > Advocacy, awareness-raising, and capacity building activities, on gender-based and sexual harassment including online harassment
- > Treatment programmes for offenders
- > Establishment of specialised support services and the continuation of support services for victims of gender-based violence and affected children
- > Primary prevention activities identifying children and families at risk
- > Research, analysis, and data collection, including survey research that can be used to inform policy and action on the ground
- > Development of partnerships between central and local government and civil society
- > Networking, e.g. fostering collaboration between local stakeholders working in the field of gender-based violence
- > Regional cooperation, e.g. regional comparative analyses of the implementation of laws and policies on gender-based violence, including the implementation of the Istanbul Convention
- > Small grant scheme(s) for non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

According to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), as many as one in three women in Europe have experienced physical or sexual violence since the age of 15. Gender-based violence covers a variety of transgressions, including violence in close relationships, sexual violence, rape, assault and harassment.

Gender-based violence is a violation of fundamental rights with respect to dignity, equality and justice. It goes beyond the remit of criminal law, and touches upon many policy fields from public health to education. Despite efforts to counter such violence, it remains an extensive and widely under-reported human rights abuse, with young women and girls being particularly vulnerable.

The scale and gravity of this issue call for renewed and increased attention. The EEA and Norway Grants aim to tackle both the causes and consequences of violence. The comprehensive and comparable data made available by FRA on the scale and nature of violence against women in Europe will serve as an important baseline for our support in this field.

The Council of Europe is an important partner to the Grants in the area of gender-based violence. The Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), which entered into force on 1 August 2014, serves as a reference and guideline for the EEA and Norway Grants' efforts in this area. Support will enable beneficiary countries to prepare and follow up the ratification of the Convention. Moreover, the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and recommendations from the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking provide guidelines for projects aimed specifically at trafficking in human beings. Programmes shall be in line with these conventions.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe report "State of democracy, human rights and rule of law in Europe" (April 2014) recommends measures to address challenges related to gender-based violence. The provided support will help address some of the identified challenges.

PROGRAMME AREA SPECIFICS

- > Priority shall be given to vulnerable groups including child witnesses of violence, migrant women and Roma women
- > Priority shall be given to comprehensive and coordinated measures involving public entities as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- > A maximum of 50% of funding shall be made available for infrastructure (hard measures)