



Administrative data collection on domestic violence in Council of Europe member states

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Part 1. Introduction

Violence against women is a violation of human rights, the very nature of which deprives women of their ability to enjoy fundamental freedoms. It often leaves women vulnerable to further abuse and is a major obstacle to overcoming inequality between women and men in society. Violence in the family or domestic unit occurs in every Council of Europe member state despite positive developments in law, policies and practices.

States have a responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all their citizens. Therefore, states must ensure that they have taken all reasonable measures to prevent, investigate and punish all forms of violence against women, including in the family and domestic unit. Violence against women is a complex issue, particularly when it occurs within the home, which can be compounded by the response of the authorities to whom women turn for help.

During the Third Summit of the Council of Europe in May 2005, the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe reaffirmed their commitment to eradicating violence against women, including domestic violence. In

adopting an Action Plan envisaging the launch of a *Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, and the institution of a Task Force on the same topic, they defined future activities by the Council of Europe in this field.

The *Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, consisting of a group of eight international experts in the field of preventing and combating violence against women, developed the Blueprint for the Campaign. This document serves as a roadmap for the implementation of the Campaign and was approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.¹ It contains a definition of violence against women, as well as aims, objectives, messages and activities to implement the Campaign.

The Task Force chose four core objectives in which member states are urged to make significant progress during the Campaign. These objectives are:

1. *Blueprint of the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2006, EG-TFV(2006)8rev5.

The focus of this study is on administrative data.

While many member states of the Council of Europe have, in recent years, embarked on the important process of collecting population-based data on the prevalence of women victims of violence,

2. *Final Activity Report of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, Strasbourg, 2008, EG-TFV(2008)6.

- Legal and policy measures
- Support and protection for victims
- Data collection
- Awareness raising.

This study concentrates on data collection, the third of the core objectives chosen by the *Task Force for the Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. In this context, member states are urged to:

- ensure the systematic collection of statistical data disaggregated by sex, by type of violence as well as by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim in all fields. This collection should be carried out by national statistics offices or other bodies (e.g. national observatories on domestic violence);
- develop and use a methodology that allows for gender analysis and comparison with other member states of the Council of Europe;
- collect and disseminate good practices for preventing violence occurring in the family or domestic unit, protecting its victims and prosecuting the perpetrators at national, regional and local level.

1.1. The context and the scope of the study

Data on domestic violence against women can be collected in many ways. In its *Final Activity Report the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* presents four types of data that can be generated and collected in order to study and combat violence against women: data based on surveys, data from national statistic agencies, administrative data and qualitative data.²

service-based administrative data are – despite the benefits of information technology – rarely collected. Government agencies such as the judiciary, the police, social welfare services as well as the public (and private) health sector dispose of a wealth of information on how victims of domestic violence are using such services and how they, in return, are serving them in their plight to seek justice, medical care, counselling, housing or other support.



However, these agencies often do not have data systems in place that go beyond internal recording needs of the agency. Another problem is that information is rarely recorded and used for an analysis of the effectiveness of policies in place in support of victims of domestic violence or any other assessments, conclusions and research. As a consequence, violence against women remains invisible in the public administration system because it is difficult to track cases even across the criminal justice system. Similarly, it is difficult to assess whether any improvements in reporting and prosecution have occurred.

The advantage of administrative data is that agencies collect some such data anyway, as is noted above. However, the disadvantage of administrative data is that they can never be representative since a large number of women never report violence to official agencies; no extrapolation of administrative data will yield information about the extent of the hidden violence against women. (Walby 2005.)

The problems, challenges and possibilities of data collection on violence against women have also been addressed in seminars and conferences organised by the Council of Europe during the *Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (2006–2008)*. A regional seminar on *Data collection as a prerequisite for effective policies to combat violence against women, including domestic violence* was held in Portugal in July 2007. Renée Römken of the University of Tilburg, the Netherlands, gave a keynote speech on the methods of data collection at the *Conference of National Focal Points and Contact Parliamentarians* in Strasbourg in June 2007. The speech also concerned agency-based client data systems.

Römken (2007) noted that administrative data are usually used for internal monitoring and evaluation purposes. If client-based data are used for external purposes it is important to remember that this kind of record system comes from a non-representative sample and that the data can not be easily generalised to the larger population. Römken also pointed out that the usefulness and relevance of agency-based databases depend above all on the quality of the registration.

According to Römken (2007), agency-based client records can be used to answer different kinds of questions. Firstly, the data can be used when addressing capacity issues: how many women

make use of agencies and their services? Römken underlines that capacity data are not prevalence data. Information collected by services can not be used to measure the prevalence of violence since in most societies very few abused women actually report violence to the police or other services, and those that do tend to be the most seriously injured and marginalised women (Report of an Expert Group Meeting 2005). Secondly, agency-based client records can be used when assessing the adequacy of existing provisions: what kind of help do the victims need and what kind of help can the agencies offer? Also the effectiveness of agencies used by the women can be monitored with this kind of data. (Report of an Expert Group Meeting 2005.) Thirdly, administrative data can be useful when the quality of services is evaluated and improved (Römken 2007; Walby 2005). In addition to providing information needed to improve the services, the data on service use provides a basis for estimating the administrative cost of violence against women (Walby 2005).

Agency-based client data are important for local and national monitoring and evaluation purposes, according to Römken (2007). Tracking the availability of services for abused women can also be used in evaluating a society's response to the problem (Report of an Expert Group Meeting 2005.) However, research in many Council of Europe member states shows that systematic or simply structured records of clients are still missing and that definitions of domestic violence vary. Data collection is not the primary responsibility of service agencies and hence the quality of data they collect may be weak and inconsistent (Report of an Expert Group Meeting 2005.) For example, double counting is a common problem whereby women seeking services from the same agency or from more than one agency over time are counted more than once.

Römken (2007) points out that representative surveys are needed in addition to the agency-based data. Where administrative data can provide an in-depth picture of the problem, a national survey can provide more general sociologically oriented insights into the prevalence, nature, determinants and consequences of domestic violence. In other words, agency-based client data and surveys serve different purposes and answer different questions.

Monitoring the implementation of Council of Europe *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence*³ shows that statistical data collection on domestic violence is only beginning in a few countries and is still very unreliable.⁴ Only the United Kingdom has introduced statistical procedures for marking domestic violence cases consistently and tracing them through the criminal justice system. The Spanish Observatory has begun such tracking but this work is still in the initial phase.

23 member states keep police statistics of both sex of the victim and perpetrator and the relationship between them. However, this data is rarely combined so that male violence against women in a close relationship could be identified. Another problem is that many domestic violence laws include a wide range of relationships so that it is not possible to distinguish partner abuse from child abuse in the data based on these laws. Statutory agencies besides the police should therefore be trained to identify and recognise violence against women and to keep records on the cases they face. This applies, for example, to medical personnel, welfare services and housing authorities. Wide-ranging data collection on violence against women has also been called for by many researchers outside of Europe. One example of this is the *Workshop on Data Systems for Monitoring and Responding to Violence against Women* that was held in the United States in 1998. The Workshop concluded (2000) that data can be organised into four major categories: nationally representative surveys, local health data, local criminal justice data and non-nationally representative data from service providers. The Workshop recommended that all the potential of existing data sets should be assessed. This has not yet happened in Council of Europe member states.

This study intends to assess current efforts to collect administrative data on domestic violence by Council of Europe member states, identify legal and practical

3. Council of Europe *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence*, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 30 April 2002, hereinafter *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5*

4. See *Protecting women against violence: Analytical study on the effective implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states*, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2007, CDEG (2007)3.



obstacles to enhanced data collection and issue recommendations to all member states on how to set up a model system to collect such data. It examines the collection of information in administrative data systems related to domestic violence against women in Council of Europe member states. This includes violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit, including, *inter alia*, physical and mental aggression, emotional and psychological abuse, sexual abuse and rape between spouses, regular or occasional partners and cohabiting persons. Other forms of violence against women included in the definition of violence as contained in *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5* such as incest, crimes committed in the name of honour, female genital and sexual mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, such as forced marriages, are not included in the scope of the study. Similarly, the study will not include trafficking in women.

Besides assessing what administrative data are being recorded in Council of Europe member states, this study includes

1.2. Implementation of the study

The study was carried out by the *European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI)*. The HEUNI research team comprises director Kauko Aromaa and researcher Elina Ruuskanen.

The study was implemented in several phases. It was started by mapping the situation of administrative data collection on domestic violence against women in Finland. Based on the information collected from different data sources in Finland, a questionnaire on administrative data sources for all Council of Europe member states was drafted. Study visits to some Council of Europe member states were carried out to gain more detailed information on administrative data recording in these countries. The countries visited were Spain, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Switzerland and Sweden.

Before the visit to Spain where Mr Aromaa and Ms Ruuskanen visited the State Observatory on Violence against Women, Mr Aromaa had already visited the Federal Office for Gender Equality in Switzerland in October 2007. Mr Aromaa travelled to the Czech Republic to meet representatives of the Czech Ministry of Justice and the NGO White Circle. Based

guidelines for the collection of administrative data for, *inter alia*, the following governmental agencies and institutions: police, judiciary, public prosecutors, public health institutions (public hospitals, health centres and other institutions, emergency and non-emergency services), social services and social welfare institutions (hotlines, shelters, counselling services, employment and housing services). To complement these, the study will include recommendations for the collection of administrative data for, *inter alia*, the following private agencies and institutions: shelters, counselling services or other support services such as hotlines and private health services.

In conclusion, the objectives of the study are to:

- assess what type of administrative data Council of Europe member states are currently collecting on domestic violence against women;
- design a model approach containing recommendations on the collection of administrative data beyond current practices;

on the information collected from different data sources in Finland and on the findings from Spain, Switzerland and the Czech Republic, the questionnaire on administrative data sources for all Council of Europe member states was finalised in consultation with the Secretariat of the Council of Europe. The questionnaire comprises several sections that contain questions on authorities and agencies that work with the issue of domestic violence. The sections in the questionnaire are: police, emergency calls, public prosecutors, courts of first instance, case flow within the criminal justice system, cause of death investigators, restraining orders, public healthcare institutions and services, private healthcare institutions and services, and social services and social welfare institutions which include shelters, telephone helplines and other service providers. Two versions of the questionnaire were designed: a basic one and a more detailed one. All sections except the one on the case flow contain similar questions on what kinds of data on domestic violence against women are recorded by the authority or agency in question. Basically, all sections contain the following questions, with some variations in the wording:

- issue guidelines on;
 - which levels of state authority and in which public or private institutions to collect which type of data,
 - how to establish an administrative data system in institutions that do not yet collect the recommended data.

In the *Blueprint of the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, the Task Force recommends that data collection should be disaggregated by sex, the type of violence as well as by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim. In consequence, the scope of this study is limited to finding out how these issues and the age of victim and perpetrator are currently being recorded by different agencies and institutions in Council of Europe member states. Many agencies probably record and should record other kind of administrative data as well but information on these issues is not the main objective of this study.

- Does this authority/agency record information on domestic violence?
 - If yes, what exact definition of domestic violence is applied?
- Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence *against women* in this data?
- Is it possible to distinguish the victim in this data?
 - If yes, what is the definition of the victim?
- Is the age of the victim recorded?
- Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?
- Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded in cases of domestic violence against women?
 - If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
 - If yes, what are the options in the list?
- Is the type of violence recorded in cases of domestic violence against women?
 - If yes, is there a list of different types of violence to choose from?
 - If yes, what are the options in the list?
- Is there some other information that this authority/agency records



on domestic violence against women?

Questions regarding the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim and the type of violence included examples of possible relationships and types of violence so that it would be easier for the respondent to understand what type of information was aimed at. The examples included choices such as boyfriend/girlfriend, cohabiting partner, spouse, ex-partner/spouse, other relative (relationship between victim and perpetrator) and physical violence, mental violence, economic violence, sexual violence, cultural violence; petty violence, serious violence, very serious violence (types of violence). First and foremost these choices were derived from existing Council of Europe work in this field; concrete examples of relationships and types of violence were also found when mapping the situation of administrative data collection in Finland and Spain.

The questionnaires were sent to all national focal points or high-level officials appointed by Council of Europe member states for the purpose of the Council of Europe *Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. The detailed version of the questionnaire was sent to the countries that were destinations for country visits and the basic version of the questionnaire to all other Council of Europe member states. Both English and French versions of the questionnaire were sent to the focal points in mid-November 2007.

In order to secure answers to all questions, focal points were asked to forward the questionnaire to national specialists and experts knowledgeable on different fields and aspects of data on domestic violence in the country. The deadline for the answers was set on mid-December 2007. However, only 8 countries out of 45 replied in time, so a reminder was sent to the rest of the countries and a new deadline for answers was set on mid-January

2008. The following countries had completed the questionnaire by that time:

- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belgium (only the Flemish part of the country)
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Georgia
- Greece
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Moldova
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom.

Montenegro, Netherlands, Sweden and Spain sent their answers in February and March 2008.

Since the answers from quite a few countries were still missing by the end of January and because many of the Western European countries had not replied, focal points and other contacts of HEUNI were contacted. The following countries were contacted: Norway, France, Italy, United Kingdom and Ireland. Replies from the United Kingdom and other countries were received, while others were unable to complete the questionnaire and some said that they would still try to do it.

By mid-March 2008 30 out of 45 Council of Europe member states had completed the questionnaire – partially or completely.⁵

While the questionnaire was being filled in by different specialists in the Council of Europe member states, more

country visits were organised. Mr Aromaa visited the Victims squad of the French Gendarmerie, the French National Institute of Demographic Studies and the National Center for Scientific Research in Paris in the beginning of November. Mr Aromaa and Ms Elina Ruuskanen travelled to Stockholm in the end of January and visited the National Board of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality and the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention. Due to time constraints and organisational difficulties, the rest of the country visits (Italy, Netherlands and Slovakia) could not be realised. Country reports on Sweden, France, Spain, Switzerland and the Czech Republic were drafted and sent to the national specialists HEUNI staff had met with for cross-checking.

Also, a description of administrative data collection in Finland was written up. This country report includes detailed information on how and what kinds of administrative data are and are not collected in Finland by different authorities and agencies dealing with (domestic) violence against women. In addition to the description of data collection, examples of recorded information are included in the country report of Finland. This was done because it is easier to comprehend the advantages and deficiencies of the current way of collecting data when the actual figures are shown.

The country report of Finland is the most detailed of all. The reason for this is simple: since HEUNI is located in Finland and the members of the research team are Finnish, finding information on domestic violence in Finland and relevant national experts was easy, and not limited to the brief time-frame of a country visit.

5. Responses were not received from Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, the “former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey.

Part 2. Existing measures to collect data on domestic violence in member states

This chapter presents the results obtained from the questionnaire sent to all member states for an overview of administrative data collection about domestic violence against women. Furthermore, an overview of the information collected during country visits is presented (for more detailed information see Appendix 17). First, it is necessary to discuss the problems that are related to collecting data with an extensive questionnaire from so many sources. In this context, also the reliability of the data must be considered.

The questionnaire developed for this study was very extensive, the reason being that many different authorities and institutions working with violence against women were to be covered by the study. It is very likely that the size of the questionnaire has affected many respondents' willingness and ability to complete it. Another feature that probably reduced the number of replies was the fact that so many different people were needed to complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire includes questions from many fields, requiring more than one person to provide all answers. Circulating the questionnaire made the process of answering heavy which may explain why many of the questionnaires were filled in only partially. This was the case with most countries that replied: only a few countries had filled in all sections of the questionnaire.

Another problem with analysing the data collected with the questionnaire is that the *yes* and *no* answers are not always unambiguous. In some cases it was impossible to track interpretations of the questions by some respondents and, as a result,

it was difficult to interpret the answers. For this reason there are some problems with the reliability of the information collected with the questionnaire.

Why was the rate of misunderstanding of the questions so high and why were many of the answers ambiguous? There may be many reasons for this. Firstly, the fact that the questionnaire was only available in English and French may have presented a linguistic barrier which was evident in some responses. Secondly, although the high-level officials and focal points appointed by the member states are experts and specialists in equality issues and questions on violence against women they are not always familiar with questions or concepts regarding data collection. Focal points probably work with political and/or practical questions and not so much with issues regarding administrative data collection or statistics. This might have been one reason for ambiguous replies and misunderstandings. Finally, the questions may have been unambiguous, and therefore part of the problem may have been with the questionnaire itself.

The best and most reliable information in this study was gained and collected during the country visits. Talking face to face with experts on the topic was very advantageous. This allowed the quick and effective collection of information required by the questionnaire, with the possibility of asking additional questions if something was unclear. Furthermore, the concrete examples which respondents gave in relation to questions on definitions of domestic violence and the concept of "victim" as well as the options of relation-

ships between the victim and the perpetrator and the type of violence provide information valuable for all member states when they consider and reconsider the definitions they use in their work on preventing and combating domestic violence.

The main results of replies to each section of the questionnaire are briefly described and compared to the information from the country profiles. It is important to note that there seems to be some discrepancy between the information obtained from the questionnaire and the country visits. When looking at the questionnaire, the situation of data collection might seem to be quite good and extensive, but a closer look at the country profiles shows that in reality the situation is more complicated and multidimensional. A simple *yes* in the questionnaire often turned out to be a *yes, but* when discussing the matter face to face with a national expert. Face to face discussions revealed problems and complexities behind simple-looking answers in the questionnaires. This needs to be borne in mind when interpreting the results of the questionnaire.

All answers to the questionnaire are compiled in tables according to each authority and agency that was covered in the questionnaire. The idea is that the following descriptions, the tables and the country profiles complement each other. The tables and country profiles can be found in Appendices 1–17. In all tables the symbol – means that the respondent replied *I don't know* to that particular question. The problems presented above regarding information collection with a



questionnaire should be kept in mind when interpreting the results.

2.1. Police

The information obtained from the questionnaire and from country visits shows that, in general, the police have quite good data recording methods in use. Almost all countries that replied to the questionnaire had filled in the section on police.

The police record data on domestic violence in 27 countries that replied to the relevant section of the questionnaire. Furthermore, in 25 of these countries it is possible to distinguish *domestic violence against women* in the data. In many countries the police also record who the victim is as well as the victim's age. The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is recorded in 23 countries whereas the question on the type of violence was more often the one to which the answer was negative (9 countries answering no). However, when looking at the more detailed information obtained during the country visits, it becomes quite obvious that *yes* and *no* answers are not necessarily as unambiguous as they may seem. For example, it might be possible to distinguish *violence against women* in the data but not *domestic violence against women* (which is the case in Sweden, for example).

The police are in the process of making considerable changes and improvements in their data collection methods and systems in two of the countries visited, those being Switzerland and Spain. The Swiss police are introducing a new electronic standard data system which is to be applied in all Cantons. This data collection system may be considered as an example of good practice: all relevant information such as the victim and perpetrator's sex and age, the relationship

between them and the type of violence as well as many other kinds of issues regarding domestic violence against women will be included in the system.

The new Spanish system is called the *System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence*. This system was developed by the *State Observatory on Violence against Women*. One part of the system covers data from the security forces, i.e. data recorded by different bodies of the police. According to the system, the police are required to record the victim and suspect's socio-demographic characteristics, the relationship between them and the type of violence. In addition to these the graveness of injuries and actions taken by the police should be recorded. The *System of Indicators* is an ambitious project, and should its implementation be successful, it will be an important example of good practice.

Overall, the findings on the police data suggest that the situation is quite good in most Council of Europe member states. However, it needs to be pointed out that although the police record the same data in many countries, the classifications and variables used are heterogeneous and therefore making comparisons is difficult. A good example of this is the way the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is classified in the police in different countries. This is illustrated in the following examples of classifying relationships from three different countries:

- any current intimate relationship, any former intimate relationship, parent, step-parent, foster parent/child, any other relative;

- husband and wife, father, mother, child, brother/sister, cohabiting as husband and wife;
- spouse, cohabiting partner.

The police record the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator in all three countries from which these examples are taken. However, it is not possible to compare the data recorded according to these classifications. Ex-spouses and ex-partners are not included in the second and third example, so data recorded according to these can not be compared to data recorded according to the classifications in the first example. Also, the third example includes only spouses and cohabiting partners and not other family members, so comparability with the other two countries from the example is not possible. A minimum requirement for comparability would be that all relationship subcategories that apply are given separately.

The same problems with the comparability apply to the way types of violence are classified by the police, although according to the findings these proved to be less heterogeneous than the way the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is classified. The main problem is that agencies of the criminal justice system typically apply classifications based on the criminal code, and such classifications are usually not very concrete and do not describe details of actual events.

Problems caused by different definitions and classifications run through the whole of this study and apply to all organisations and institutions that are covered here. This issue will be further discussed in *Definitions of domestic violence*, Section 2.10 of this study.

2.2. Emergency calls

The questions on emergency calls had been misunderstood in the replies of many countries. Some respondents provided the same information in response to the questions on emergency calls as to the questions related to telephone helplines although the questions referred to distinctly different issues. Section 2 on *Emergency calls* was aimed at obtaining information on calls made to emergency numbers such as 112; *Telephone helplines*

under section 10 referred to helplines for victims of domestic violence that are in most cases run by NGOs. As misunderstandings occurred in a number of replies, the instructions on how to reply to the questions attached to this section of the questionnaire had not been sufficiently detailed.

The replies concerning helplines run by NGOs and the third sector will be discussed under *Telephone helplines* while

those concerning emergency numbers such as 112 will be discussed here. It should also be noted that in Appendix 2, replies on emergency calls, the figures in the last row of the table stand for the number of *countries* that have answered *yes* to the questions in section 2. There are countries that gave information on more than one emergency number and they are all included in the table. However, as it was important to present the *number of*



countries that have answered *yes* (at least once) to the questions on emergency calls, this is shown in the last row of the table.

The section on emergency calls was filled in by 21 countries of which 20 replied that information on emergency calls is recorded. In 15 of these countries emergency calls are received and dealt with at least partly by the police, so it can be assumed that police data systems are used when information on emergency calls is recorded. Though information on emergency calls is recorded quite frequently, it is only possible to distinguish

the cases where the reason of the call is domestic violence in 16 countries. Information on who the victim is or on the victim's characteristics is being recorded in even fewer countries. Getting a clear picture about the family connections or who the victim is might be hard for the person receiving the call and it might therefore not be included in the data collection system. The type of violence is recorded in 13 of the 20 countries that record information on emergency calls.

Information on emergency calls was not obtained during most of the country

visits. In the countries where this information was available, singling out domestic violence cases from the mass of all emergency calls is either not possible at all or it is problematic. In Finland, for example, cases of violence taking place in a private residence are coded as domestic violence, regardless of the relationship between the individuals involved. This means that cases that are actually not domestic violence cases are coded as such, which might in turn lead to misleading interpretations of the situation.

2.3. Public prosecutors

The replies to the questionnaire reveal that there is quite a substantial difference in data collection on domestic violence between the police and other criminal justice authorities. 28 countries answered the questions on public prosecutors, but only in 14 countries information on domestic violence is recorded by the public prosecutors. In 11 of these countries it is possible to distinguish domestic violence against women in the data and in many of these countries information on the victim and the victim-offender-relationship is also recorded.

Information obtained during the country visits paint a similar picture. In some countries public prosecutors record no or hardly any data on domestic violence against women while in other countries the situation is much better, or changes in data collection are currently being undertaken.

An example of a good practice comes from the Crown Prosecution Services (CPS) in the United Kingdom. Information about domestic violence is monitored by a new *Violence against Women Indicator*. Several different issues may be monitored with this indicator: the outcomes of

domestic violence cases, the number of cases that are discontinued, and the reasons for unsuccessful outcomes (e.g. key witness/victim does not support case, victim fails to attend unexpectedly, victim refuses to give evidence or retracts, essential legal element missing, etc.). Equality and diversity information for defendants, victims and witnesses – including gender, age, religion or belief, ethnicity, and disability – is also recorded. Enhanced electronic monitoring was introduced in the Crown Prosecution Services in April 2007 to gather information about what happens to cases after a victim has retracted his/her statement. For example, does the case proceed with other evidence, using victim statements only or through victims summons? Does the defendant plead guilty or is the case unsuccessful? This will be helpful in order to analyse the patterns in domestic violence cases following victim retractions. In November 2007 the CPS also began to monitor relationship information (spouse/civil partner, ex-spouse/civil partner, partners or ex-partners, family or extended family), information on whether the victim and defendant are of the same sex, and data on whether sup-

port was provided to victims of domestic violence by specialist agencies.

Judicial authorities, including public prosecutors, are making changes in their data collection in two of the countries visited for the purpose of this study: Spain and Sweden. The new Spanish *System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence* is introduced in the section on *Police* of this report (Section 2.1). The system contains a section on judicial data which includes proposals for what kind of data on domestic violence against women judicial authorities, including public prosecutors, should start recording.

The judicial authorities of Sweden have taken an initiative to create a new structure for classifying crimes. This initiative is called STUK; the acronym stands for "structured information on crime". The aim of STUK is to have a uniform set of provisions for all judicial authorities on how to compile and structure the kind of information on crimes that authorities are dealing with within the criminal procedure. For more detailed information on STUK, see Appendix 17.

2.4. Courts of first instance

In section 4 of the questionnaire (*Courts of first instance*), the respondents were given the opportunity to answer the questions several times to allow for the fact that there are many types of courts of first instance that handle cases of domestic violence and use different data systems in the country. All answers are compiled in Appendix 4. It should be noted that the figures in the last row of the table stand for the number of *countries*, not the

number of courts that have answered *yes* to the questions in section 4.

Of the 30 countries that completed the questionnaire, 28 had answered the questions regarding data collection in courts of first instance. Three countries answered the questions several times and thus gave more information regarding more than one type of court of first instance. The results are similar to the ones regarding public prosecutors: information on domestic violence is recorded in the courts

of first instance in 16 countries, but only in 9 of these is it possible to distinguish violence against women. Less than ten countries answered *yes* to the rest of the questions in section 4, except for the question on the perpetrator's age which is recorded by courts in 12 of the countries that replied to this section of the questionnaire.

A look at the country profiles shows that the situation regarding data collection on domestic violence by courts is quite



similar in Finland and France: recording is done according to the sentence/sentenced person, not the victim. In the Czech

Republic courts record domestic violence only in restraining order cases. Judicial authorities, including courts of first

instance, are making changes in their data collection in Spain and Sweden (see previous section).

2.5. Cause of death investigators

23 countries replied to questions regarding data collection by cause of death investigators and 13 countries answered that cause of death investigators record information on domestic violence. Distinguishing domestic violence against women and the victim in the data is possible in only 12 countries. Cause of death investigators record the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator in 11 countries. This means that it is possible to identify the number of women who die as victims of domestic violence from cause of death investigators in only 11 of the 30 countries that replied. The number of victims of lethal domestic violence may, of course, be recorded by some other authority as well (such as the police). However, the result of this section of the questionnaire are quite alarming. Recording reliable data on the number of women who die as victims of domestic violence each year is much easier – their number being relatively small – than recording reliable data on, for example, the number of women who are victims of assaults in their own

home each year. The number of deceased women would give at least some idea of violence against women in a certain country, and this is why recording this data would be very important.

On the other hand, when looking into the detailed information obtained during the country visits, the situation regarding data collection by cause of death investigators seems more positive. All countries visited have some kind of information about lethal domestic violence. The situation is similar in France and in Sweden in the sense that a separate study or studies have been conducted on this topic. These studies cover the questions addressed in this report, such as the number of women killed by their partners or ex-partners and the sex and age of victims and perpetrators. However, these studies do not contain “administrative data” as the French study has been conducted only once and in Sweden the information is not recorded by a single authority and is thus not directly available from one single source.

An example of a good practice in data collection on lethal domestic violence can be found in Finland. The *Data Collection Instrument of the Finnish Homicide Monitoring System* is a database based on police data on each individual homicide taking place in Finland. The database contains information on the main characteristics of the crimes, on their regional and temporal distribution, on the socio-demographic background of both the victim and the main offender and on their crime-scene behaviour. The system also contains information related to the investigation of the crimes and information on the behaviour of the suspects after the crime and during the investigation. Consequently, detailed and particular information on the number of female victims of lethal domestic violence as well as on the socio-economic background of both the victim and offender, and the relationship between them is available with this instrument (for more details see Appendix 17).

2.6. Restraining orders

28 countries replied to section 7 of the questionnaire, revealing that in 18 countries at least one authority dealing with restraining orders records data on them. From the replies received, it seems that information is recorded more often on the person on whom the order is imposed than on the person to be protected by the order. This is not surprising since the person on whom the order is imposed is the one who has to obey the order and who is also often being supervised in one way or another. In this sense it is understandable that the authorities are more focused on recording data on the person on whom the order is imposed than on the person to be protected by the order. This situation should nevertheless be amended and this does not require great effort as all the necessary information is generally available directly from the authority issuing the order.

It is worth noting that in Appendix 6, the figures in the last row of the table stand for the number of *countries* that have answered *yes* to the questions in section 7. There are countries that gave information on more than one authority dealing with restraining orders, and these authorities are all included in the table. However, it was important to present the *number of countries* that have answered *yes* (at least once) to the questions on restraining orders, which is shown in the last row of the table.

A good example of data collection on restraining orders was found in the Czech Republic.⁶ Restraining orders may be imposed by the police on the spot, even against the will of the parties concerned, if they recognise a domestic violence situation when responding to an emergency call. For restraining orders, specific infor-

mation about the victim is collected. In this system, the victim is defined as the person who suffered damage, and a special form is completed. This is used to collect details about each case, such as the region, the date/month, the sex of the victim, the sex of the offender, the age of the victim, the relationship between victim and offender, and what happened. There is no direct information on the type of violence involved. In addition, data are collected on children, on contacts with the intervention centre, etc. Except for the type of violence that is not being described, this solution clearly corresponds to the basic requirements of data collection on domestic violence as expressed by the Council of Europe *Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, as set out in the Campaign Blueprint.⁷

6. The solution is based on the Austrian model.

7. Supra note 1.



2.7. Public healthcare institutions and services

Overall, the findings from both the country visits and the questionnaire show that data collection in public healthcare institutions and services leaves much room for improvement. Although more than 20 countries answered the questions regarding public healthcare institutions and services, only 16 countries reported that public hospitals record information on domestic violence, while six countries replied that public health centres were doing so, and 9 maintained that such information is being collected by public maternity clinics. 10 member states report that public emergency services recorded such data. The most extensive data collection seems to be taking place in public hospitals, and public hospitals in the following countries record all or almost all of the information asked about in the questionnaire⁸: Austria, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. However,

8. For the exact questions that were asked, see Appendix 7, page 35.

conclusions from these replies should be drawn with great care. For example, the country report of Finland shows that, in theory, all the information asked for in the questionnaire is recorded, in practice there are very serious shortcomings in the recording and the data is, for various reasons, unreliable (see Appendix 17).

Data collection in public healthcare institutions is somewhat problematic and questions of unreliability exist also in other countries visited. The problem is that information is not recorded on a routine basis and identical classifications are not applied. Many countries use the *International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)* when recording the patient's reason for seeking treatment. In theory, the coding of the ICD-10, allows the collection of information on the number of women who have sought treatment from hospitals or health centres for injuries caused by domestic violence. In practice, this information is unreliable in many countries for several reasons. There are over 10 000 codes in the ICD-10, leaving a wide range

of codes to choose from. When the reason for seeking treatment is known to be domestic violence, there are still more than 80 codes to choose from. It is therefore very likely that the nursing staff and doctors complete the form incorrectly or inaccurately – an assumption shared by experts representing this sector. Furthermore, healthcare staff members might not see it as their duty to go beyond their “core” responsibilities which are to see to the patient's medical needs rather than prodding into their private affairs. It is very likely that patients who are victims of domestic violence do not always reveal the real reason for seeking treatment. Consequently, medical staff are not always able to tell whether the injury is caused by physical violence or an accident. Cases where the reason for injuries is not disclosed by the patient or the doctor does not know what caused the injury are not coded as injuries caused by domestic violence.

2.8. Private healthcare institutions and services

According to the replies received, recording data on domestic violence is even more infrequent in private healthcare institutions and services than in their public counterparts. Almost all countries either did not reply or answered *no* to the questions regarding data collection by private health centres and general practition-

ers. Private hospitals record data on domestic violence in 9 countries. One possible explanation to the differences in data collection between public and private health care could be that in many countries the personnel in public health care are probably obliged to report and record their activities and operations in a more

extensive and detailed way than their counterparts in private health care. Some respondents said that for example general practitioners may quite freely decide on their own what kinds of data they record about their patients. This impression was strengthened during the country visits.

2.9. Social services and social welfare institutions

According to the research findings, data collection on domestic violence is extensive in social services, social welfare institutions and NGOs that are engaged in work with violence against women. Section 10 on *Social services and social welfare institutions* was, together with section 1 (*Police*) the most frequently answered and thoroughly completed section of the

questionnaire. This was the case in particular in the part regarding shelters.

Information on shelters, telephone helplines and other service providers is summarised in the tables in Appendices 14–16. It should be noted that the figures in the last row of each table stand for the number of *countries* that have answered *yes* to the questions in section 10. Most countries have more than one shelter, tele-

phone helpline or service for victims of domestic violence and many countries gave information on a number of agencies working with domestic violence. These are all included in the tables. However, the *number of countries* that have answered *yes* (at least once) to the questions on shelters, telephone helplines and other service providers is shown in the last row of each table in Appendices 14–16.

Shelters

The respondents had answered the questions on shelters very actively. Out of the 30 countries that replied to the questionnaire 27 had filled in the part on shelters. Overall, it can be said that the data recorded by shelters is quite extensive in most countries. According to the results of

the questionnaire at least one shelter in almost every country records all the information sought by the questionnaire.⁹ However, this does not necessarily mean

9. For the exact questions that were asked, see Appendix 14, page 42.

that the data recording is done systematically. Some respondents pointed out that the clients are not asked any questions for the sake of just asking them. Information is recorded only if it comes up during the client's visit to the shelter or if the client is willing to talk about the violence she or he



has experienced. The importance of not stressing the client with difficult questions was emphasised in some replies.

Most member states reported having shelters where only women are accepted as clients. According to the replies received, 9 countries – Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland and Romania – have a shelter or shelters that accept both women and men as clients.

Two examples of good data collection practice in shelters can be found in the country reports. The first one is the Span-

Telephone helplines

Similar to the questions on shelters, the ones on telephone helplines were answered by many countries very thoroughly. Telephone helplines seem to collect data on domestic violence quite extensively and many countries reported that they have telephone helplines that record all or almost all of the information sought by the questionnaire.¹¹ However, the issue of the callers' voluntariness to answer was pointed out also here.

11. For the exact questions that were asked, see Appendix 15, page 44.

Other service providers

The last part of the questionnaire covered other agencies (private, public, NGOs) that provide help or services for victims of domestic violence. These services could be, for example, the church, counselling services, legal aid services, employment services or housing services.

2.10. The issue of definitions

Definitions of domestic violence

Respondents were asked to provide definitions of domestic violence in almost all sections of the questionnaire. The definitions given by the respondents are summarised below.

Different countries defined domestic violence in many ways in different sections of the questionnaire. The existing definitions can however be grouped loosely. One quite explicit way of defining domestic violence was following the definition available in national law. Definitions accordant with laws were common in sections on the police, emergency calls, public prosecutors and courts of first instance. At least Bulgaria, Cyprus,

ish *System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence*, which contains a section on data collection in social services, including shelters, immediate refuge centres and protected housing. Except for the sex and age of the perpetrator and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, this solution corresponds to the basic requirements for data collection in this field as established by the Council of Europe *Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* in the Campaign Blueprint.¹⁰ The second example is from Finland, where the Fed-

24 countries provided information on telephone helplines and 22 of these replied that they have helplines that record information on the calls. It should be noted that only some of the helplines listed in Appendix 15 are national while most of them operate locally.

Information regarding telephone helplines was found in only two of the countries visited, these being Spain and Finland. Both mobile and landline telephone assistance is provided to victims of gender-based violence in Spain, and according to the *System of Indicators and*

The respondents were asked to name the agency and then answer the questions.

Many of the respondents gave information on several service providers in their country. However, 17 countries answered the questions at *least once*. Service providers in 16 of these countries

Greece, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Georgia, Montenegro, Croatia and Czech Republic defined domestic violence according to national law in one or many of the above-mentioned sections of the questionnaire.

Another group of definitions can be found in the section on healthcare institutions and services. Here, domestic violence is often defined in medical terms, i.e. the definition is based on the diagnosis which can be done according to the ICD-10 or the European Injury Database, for example. Healthcare institutions often include only physical and sexual violence in their definitions of domestic violence.

eration of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters is using a detailed standard data collection form in all of its 13 shelters around the country. The form contains questions on all essential issues on domestic violence against women, such as the personal data of the client and the perpetrator, type of violence the client has experienced and the perpetrator's relationship to the victim. For a more detailed description, see Appendix 17.

10. *Supra* note 1.

Variables on Gender-Based Violence, the number of clients who use these services and their socio-demographic characteristics should be recorded.

In Finland, the *National Women's Line* and *Rape Crisis Centre Tukinainen* use their own standard data collection forms with everyone calling in the toll-free telephone helplines that provide help, advice and support to female victims of violence. Both of these NGOs record all relevant information regarding domestic violence against women.

record information on domestic violence. Although there are a variety of agencies that the answers were given for, it can be said that many of them record data quite extensively.

A third group of definitions of domestic violence is the one used by shelters, telephone helplines and other service providers. This group includes miscellaneous definitions of domestic violence that often depend on the purpose and target group of the service in question.

Overall, an extensive definition of domestic violence seems to be a combination of many definitions: definition of who the victim is, definition of types of violence that are considered to be domestic violence and definition of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. In adopting Council of Europe *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Com-*



mittee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence standards have been set on measures to protect women from different forms of violence against women, including domestic violence. The following definition of domestic violence contained in the Recommendation lies at the heart of this study:

“...any act of gender-based violence, which results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

violence occurring in the family or domestic unit, including, *inter alia*, physical and mental aggression, emotional and psychological abuse, rape and sexual abuse and rape between spouses, regular or occasional partners and cohabitants (...)”

In this definition the victim is defined (a woman), type of violence is defined (physical, mental, emotional, sexual and psychological) and victim-offender relationship is defined (occurring in the family or domestic unit, between spouses, regular or occasional partners and cohabitants).

When comparing the various definitions of domestic violence collected during this study to the definition of the Council of Europe, it is evident that none of the definitions used by the member states coincide with the Council of Europe definition as such. The existing definitions are both narrower and broader than the one used by the Council of Europe. The following definitions are examples of definitions used by the police in some member states:

Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual,

financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender.

Violence in the family is any intended action or inaction, except the actions of self-defence or defence of other persons, manifested physically or verbally, by physical or sexual abuse, or by causing moral damage and physical injury, committed by a family member against other members of the family, including against children as well as against common and private property.

Domestic violence is an act of violence that is committed by a person from within the victim’s domestic circle. Domestic violence can relate to forms of physical and/or sexual violence as well as threatening behaviour and stalking. Suspects of domestic violence can be (ex) partners, family members and house friends. Suspects and victims of domestic violence can be male or female, they can be minors, adults or elderly people. The word domestic violence not only refers to the place in which the violence takes place (it can take place inside as well as outside the home), but also to the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

In some of the definitions collected for this study domestic violence is restricted to violence taking place inside the family home, while in others the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim is the determinant. In some definitions, like in the definition contained in *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5*, both the place and the relationship are significant. It is worth noting that the replies to the questionnaire showed that many member states explicitly include ex-spouses and partners in their definition of domestic violence.

All of the examples of definitions above partly overlap with the definition in the Council of Europe Recommendation. However, in none of these examples is the victim defined as female. This is probably

partly due to the fact that a definition of *domestic violence* was sought without emphasis on the sex of the victim. Furthermore, many of the actors and institutions that filled in the questionnaire work in a field where domestic violence is only one of the problems they handle. Therefore it is probably not in their interest to define the victim as female only.

The second and the third example above are broader than the Council of Europe definition in the sense that common and private property are included in the second example, and threatening behaviour and stalking in the third one. However, broad definitions often include the definition contained in *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5* in some form and can be narrowed down to correspond to the definition used by the Council of Europe. Data collection based on broad definitions is not necessarily problematic, since it is often possible to record the minimum data (sex and age of victim and perpetrator, the relationship between them, type of violence) and also all kinds of additional data. Narrow definitions are more problematic in regard to data collection. If the definition of domestic violence does not include definitions of victim, type of violence and victim-offender relationship, it is not possible to record information on these categories. Adding new variables to existing data collection systems may be quite troublesome and requires a real interest in matters of data collection.

It is also worth considering whether a harmonised definition of domestic violence used by all actors at national level would facilitate the collection of necessary data – a question discussed in the final chapter of this report.

Definitions of victim

In most of the replies, the victim was defined in a gender neutral way, meaning that both men and women may be victims. This was particularly often the case in definitions used, for example, by the police and courts whose work and services are aimed at all members of society, not only women. Expressions such as “family

member”, “close family member”, “household member”, “persons in close relationship”, and “any person or anybody experiencing violence” were used.

Some shelters, telephone helplines and other service providers whose main target group is women define women to be the victims of domestic violence. Expressions

such as “female person”, “woman survivor of violence”, “women”, “women and children” or “violence of one family member – in most cases a male – towards another member of the family – in most cases female” were common.



2.11. Relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

Lists of possible relationships between the victim and the perpetrator are used by many authorities and institutions which record information on violence against women in Council of Europe member states. According to the replies received, these kinds of lists are most often used by the police, shelters, telephone helplines

and other service providers. The lists are diverse but most of them include “spouse”, “cohabiting partner”, “parents”, “children”, “other family members” and many of them also “friends and acquaintances”. It is worth noting that most of these lists also distinguish former partners, ex-spouses and ex-boyfriends/girlfriends,

which is important since there is significant evidence according to which violence often takes place after the relationship has been terminated. It is therefore relevant to collect systematic data also about this aspect of the problem.

2.12. Types of violence

A range of options for recording the type of violence in cases of domestic violence against women are used especially by shelters, telephone helplines and other service providers. The lists were diverse but almost all of them included physical violence, mental/emotional/psychological violence and sexual violence. These were the most common options of types of violence and also the ones that are included

in the definition of domestic violence set out by the Council of Europe in *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5*. Economic and cultural violence are typically not included in the options.

Sometimes, especially in police or court data, the type of violence is defined according to the crime the perpetrator is suspected of, i.e. in terms of the applicable criminal code paragraph(s). By contrast,

in health care the type of violence is often defined according to the victim’s injuries, for example on the basis of the codes of ICD-10. Physical violence prevails in the definitions used by healthcare institutions and services. In all replies, it was more common to categorise the type of violence according to the actual “type” of violence (such as mental, physical, sexual) rather than according to the severity of violence.

2.13. Case flow within the criminal justice system

The questionnaire included a question on the case flow, i.e. if it is possible to track the cases of domestic violence against women through the criminal justice procedure. This question included four sub-questions which were:

- Is it possible to follow the cases from the report of an offence to the end of the crime investigation?
- Is it possible to follow the cases from the end of the crime investigation to the prosecutor?
- Is it possible to follow the cases from the prosecutor to the court?
- Is it possible to follow the outcome of the cases that go to court?

Firstly, obtaining answers to these types of questions with a questionnaire is quite challenging. The respondent is asked to explain in writing issues that can be quite complicated. As a result, misinterpretations of the questions and blanks were quite common in the replies to the questionnaire. A face-to-face interview with an expert on these issues would significantly enhance the results since the risk of misunderstanding would be reduced.

Examples of misinterpretations of the questions on case flow were replies where the respondents had explained the criminal procedure of the country or issues of access to justice. One answer explained the rights of the accused, the victim or

anyone involved in the case regarding the investigation or the court decision.

Of the 30 countries that replied to the questionnaire, 9 did not answer the questions on case flow. 8 respondents had apparently misinterpreted the question, providing information which is irrelevant to this analysis, or had only replied *yes* or *no*. Thus, 13 countries replied to the question in a way that information on how cases may be tracked through the criminal procedure was gained. Those replies are listed below:

Austria

“The individual steps of a criminal proceeding from the point when the courts receive the police report until the closure of the criminal proceedings can be traced, both in the field of public prosecution as well as in the judicial field. These individual steps include closing the case on the police information or filing a formal accusation by the public prosecutor, imposing pre-trial detention, ordering special investigative measures such as search warrants, telephone surveillance and the like, scheduling a date for a hearing, summoning suspects and/or witnesses, excluding and including different proceedings, resuming the proceedings and many more. A query can also be conducted on the question whether the criminal proceedings ended with a guilty or not-guilty verdict, but not on the sentence itself. The sentences imposed are categorised according to the criminal offences and presented in a combined

form in groups of types of offences in the judicial criminal statistics (Gerichtliche Kriminalstatistik), published by Statistik Austria.”

Croatia

“In the Ministry of the Interior, the records on domestic violence are kept by the Juvenile Delinquency Department. The data in the records are numerical and are recorded separately for each of the 20 Police Administrations and collectively for the whole territory of the Republic of Croatia (RC). Individual case data are recorded in the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Information System and are accessible to the police officers in the whole RC territory, those authorised access to these data. The data are entered into the Information System the moment a case of domestic violence is reported or the communication of such a case is received. The data are being updated upon the completion of a criminal or a contravention investigation. If a case is treated as a contravention, then the police officers operating the MoI Information System are advised to register the information on the outcome of a contravention procedure and the petty offence court decision thereof. If a case is treated as a criminal offence, police officers do not receive criminal court decisions, and so they are not able to enter such information into the Information System and may not follow the outcome of criminal procedures.

In the Municipal Criminal Court in Zagreb it is possible to follow the outcome of the cases



that go to court once the decision has been made and/or sanctions have been imposed.”

Estonia

“On the level of meta-data it is possible to track the procedure:

- 1) from the report of an offence (when the investigation was initiated) to the end of the crime investigation;
- 2) from the end of the crime investigation to the prosecutor;
- 3) when the case is sent into court, not in the report of the court.

Most of the statistics are available from the initiating of the procedure until the formation of the final procedure decision.”

Finland

“It is possible to follow the cases from the report of an offence to the end of the crime investigation. This information is recorded in the police data systems. From this point onwards it is not possible to follow the cases since the data systems used by the police, the prosecutor and courts are not compatible with each other.”

Georgia

“The criminal cases concerning the alleged commission of the offences related to domestic violence are followed from the moment of the reporting of a crime until the final decision is rendered by the court. The report received through the emergency calls or through the written application about the alleged commission of the acts that at first glance might entail the elements of criminal violation is examined at the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia and then referred to the relevant law enforcement agency that has the jurisdictional competence. In case the investigation is launched in response to the report, the body conducting the criminal proceedings shall periodically forward the updated information on the flow of the case at issue to the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia. What is most important with regard to the flow of the cases concerning the alleged fact of domestic violence is the role of the Human Rights Protection Unit at the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia. The Unit carries out the monitoring of the investigation/prosecution of certain types of crimes that fall within the priorities of the Office of the Prosecutor General. Cases of domestic violence fall within these priorities. The Unit is informed about the initiation of an investigation and remains fully informed and updated about the flow of the case from the investigative stage of proceed-

ings until the final adjudication of the case by the relevant judicial institution.”

The Netherlands

“You can follow domestic violence (DV) cases, but there is no specific label for violence against women cases. You can also see how many DV cases are annually settled/finished and in what way (if and if *yes*, what kind of penalty? did the case come before a judge or was it handled by the public prosecutor? was the case dismissed? was a financial or other kind of transaction made? etc.).”

Poland

“It is possible to follow the course of the proceedings in each individual case, since the court repertories include *inter alia*: date of submitting the indictment, surname and forename of the accused, legal qualification of the alleged act, designation of the wronged person, dates of hearings and their outcomes, date of pronouncing the judgment along with its content, or, if the case was closed by any other means, the date of closing the case together with the defined means of closing it shall be indicated, the date of lodging an appeal, as well as the party lodging the appeal, and the decision of the court of second instance.”

Romania

“The Police and the Prosecutor’s Office give a unique number to each file, including the files on domestic violence crimes. The option “domestic violence” is currently available in the recordings of the Police and of the Prosecutor’s Office, but the courts have no special statistics regarding the cases of domestic violence – thus, the tracking of the domestic violence case from one institution to another is not possible at the moment.

The National Agency for Family Protection requested this year to the Ministry of Justice and to the Public Ministry to insert a special mention in their common information system called ECRIS regarding the cases of domestic violence in order to track their evolution. According to the experts’ opinion, the update of ECRIS will take place at the beginning of 2009.”

Slovenia

“The cases are possible to track only by tracking the documents in each single case. Police can track the cases of domestic violence from the report of an offence to the end of the crime investigation.”

Spain

“There is a Central Register for the Protection of Domestic and Gender Violence Victims, either of domestic or gender violence, maintained by the Ministry of Justice. Data for this Register come from the courts. Data on convicted aggressor and victim are recorded. Data on penal proceedings are recorded from the initial steps to the sentence. Protection measures are recorded when adopted and also when prescribed. Civil measures are also recorded. The Central Register is regulated by Royal Decree 355/2004, of 5 March.”

Switzerland

“From the report of an offence to the end of crime investigation: *yes* and *no*. The data of police Crime Statistics progress with the investigation acts. Changes are always possible. We keep only the most actual information.

From the end of crime investigation to prosecutor: *no*.

From prosecutor to court: *no*.”

Sweden

“*Yes*, to some extent. It is possible to follow the cases from the report of an offence to the end of the crime investigation as well as from the end of the crime investigation to the prosecutor and from the prosecutor to the court. It isn’t however possible to follow the outcome of the cases that go to court.”

United Kingdom

Two replies were received from the United Kingdom. They are both presented here.

“It is possible to track from pre-charge to prosecution outcome. It is not currently possible to compare police data with CPS data, nor to routinely get data on sentences from the courts. Data is recorded by CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) for all domestic violence cases in England and Wales on a computer system – COMPASS that records defendant data (CMS) and victim/witness data (WMS). CMS data is quite robust as started in 2004, but victim/witness data is new and not yet robust. Cases in Specialist domestic violence courts are also recorded.”

“It is possible to track the report of an offence to the end of the crime investigation but only within the police service. The information throughout the investigation will be kept and updated by the officers dealing with the case. This information would not be accessible to the general public and there is no shared database at this stage between the police and other agencies. If there were concerns, for example,



about children residing in the house, a referral may be made to social services but this would be on an individual basis.

Once the police have collected the relevant evidence to support the case, they make a decision to charge, in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service. The charging guidelines have changed in recent years so that cases can now go to court even if the victims retract their statement. This was seen as a positive step in terms of dealing with domestic violence cases in that if women are threatened to withdraw their statements, the case will now continue to court instead of being dropped.

After police charge, the case will then pass to the Crown Prosecution Service and will be heard, initially in magistrates court and then

crown court if necessary. Court results are available to the public although, without knowing the details of the case and the names of the people involved, it would not be possible to track the case from the initial report. As there is no specific offence of domestic violence, this provides a barrier to tracking cases throughout the process.”

There seems to be one thing in common with all member states that replied to the question on case flow: it is possible to follow the case flow in one part/some parts of the criminal procedure (for example, from the end of the crime investigation to the prosecutor) but not throughout the whole procedure, i.e. from the report of an offence to the final court decision. This is because the data systems

and especially the classifications used by different authorities are not compatible with each other. One example of an attempt to standardise the classifications used by different authorities can be found in Sweden. The planning of this initiative, which is called STUK, was started already in 2000 and most parts of it are to be implemented in 2012. One purpose of STUK is that it makes it possible to follow the case flow through the whole criminal procedure. However, the amount of time the project has taken shows well the extent of the problem, and this is probably why most countries have not tried to create such a system of their own.

Part 3. Conclusions and recommendations

The purpose of this study is to assess what type of administrative data Council of Europe member states are currently

collecting on victims of domestic violence and to issue recommendations on the collection of administrative data beyond cur-

rent practices. This chapter contains the results of the study, followed by recommendations.

3.1. Results

Of the data collection methods applied, the most concrete and useful information in this study was obtained during the country visits. This information is compiled in the in-depth country reports contained in Appendix 17. The purpose of the country reports is to show in a more or less detailed way the various ways in which different authorities and agencies have or have not organised data collection on domestic violence in different countries. Country reports can be used as examples or models of data collection for other countries when different ways and systems of data recording are being planned or considered. It should be noted, however, that the time-frame of the project allowed for short country visits only. Due to the necessary extensive preparations for a successful country visit, it proved impossible in some cases to coordinate relevant visits so that they could be organised in a smoothly working visiting programme. A longer time for preparations together with additional time allocated per country visit would have yielded more information.

The study has, however, yielded important results of practical value in relation to the different definitions of the following basic issues found to be applied in practice: domestic violence, victim, relationships between victim and perpetrator and types of violence. This is definitely the most valuable information that was collected with the questionnaire. The amount of different definitions is a good

illustration of the current situation where an attempt to introduce uniform definitions that could be used in all Council of Europe member states is likely to be quite challenging and time-consuming, given the fact that every country would need to assess their current situation, identify data production systems, variables and classifications and convince the various actors to change their data systems accordingly. It can also be argued that using uniform definitions everywhere would not always be expedient. This issue is further discussed below.

Despite the sometimes questionable level of reliability of the answers to the questionnaire, the replies received indicate clearly that the most comprehensive data collection practices can be found in the police and within the social services, NGOs and third sector actors. According to the results of the questionnaire, the situation is least satisfactory in health care and within judicial authorities. The problem in data systems used by judicial authorities is that public prosecutors and courts do not distinguish cases of domestic violence in many countries. Cases are coded according to crimes as defined in criminal codes, and criminal acts. As a result, cases of domestic violence cannot be distinguished in the systems of public prosecutors and courts unless domestic violence is a specific crime of its own. A further problem is that criminal law administrations, as a rule, do not record statistical information about victims of

crimes, or about the relationship between victim and perpetrator, and consequently there are usually no data available that could describe domestic violence against women by partners or ex-partners.

As far as health care is concerned, the problems in data collection are somewhat different. Some respondents said that medical and nursing staff might feel that it is not their responsibility to inquire whether the patient is a victim of domestic violence. Their responsibility is to take care of injuries, not so much to find out what caused them. Difficulties in identifying the problem are one reason for poor data recording in health care. Medical and nursing staff members do not always have the skills and tools for identifying the kinds of injuries that are typical of domestic violence. Also, asking about domestic violence is not easy, especially if there is no certainty about it. It can also be argued that asking about domestic violence might endanger the confidentiality between the patient and the doctor and discourage the patient from contacting healthcare agencies. It thus becomes a matter of treatment ethics. These problems could be solved, at least partly, with additional training on how to identify the problem and how to discuss it with the patient. Another problem that might lead to poor recording in health care in many countries is the increasing number of patients per doctor/nurse and the need to prioritise tasks. If confronted with serious time constraints, recording data on domestic violence may



not be considered to be among the most important tasks. Data collection might be improved by allocating more resources to health care. However, asking the patient about domestic violence and being interested in recording information on domestic violence is also a matter of attitudes. Changing attitudes combined with adequate training may be a bigger challenge than the allocation of additional resources.

Before setting out a series of recommendations on how and what kind of administrative data on domestic violence should be collected, it is important to discuss the purpose of administrative data collection and questions of data comparability.

First and foremost, the main objective of administrative data collection on domestic violence against women is gathering information that is comparable within countries and within authorities and agencies. This means that administrative data can be used by different authorities and agencies when assessing changes in domestic violence against women over time and in their own field. For example: a shelter can record certain data about its clients for years, compare the figures from different years and draw conclusions based on the recorded data. Also, identical data may be recorded by all public hospitals in

one country and then be compared both over time and between hospitals.

In an ideal situation, administrative data can also be comparable between countries. This would require that authorities and agencies working in the same field in different countries would record data on certain variables in a uniform way. These variables could be, for example, the sex and age of the victim and the perpetrator, the relationship between them and the type of violence the victim has suffered. The full classification of the variables could however vary across authorities, depending on the type and purpose of the activity. Comparability between countries would mean that, for example, hospitals in different countries could compare the number of women who seek help for injuries caused by domestic violence, the type of violence these women have experienced and whether the perpetrator is typically the current or ex-partner/husband.

There are, however, several reasons why comparing administrative data between countries is challenging. One of the main reasons is that dissimilar definitions and terminology are used in different countries and by different authorities. Definitions of domestic violence, victim, or type of violence vary between authorities and between countries. This is most evident within the police and judicial

authorities since they often rely on definitions that are accordant with the law. For example, the system and contents of restraining orders vary from country to country, and consequently the data recorded on them varies as well. Even though some member states do have rather similar legal systems and legislation, individual criminal acts and therefore definitions that are applied may be very different.

Definitions of domestic violence, victim and type of violence naturally depend on the context in which they are created and used. The activities and operations and also the purpose of the activities of, for example, the police, medical staff or shelters are different, and therefore the definitions they use are not identical. Creating an “all-inclusive”, fully consistent definition of domestic violence or victim that could be used everywhere is thus perhaps neither reasonable nor practical. A realistic objective would be to introduce uniform definitions for each area of operation so that for example all courts, all hospitals and all shelters in one country or in different countries would use uniform definitions. This would facilitate comparisons not only between different courts, hospitals or shelters in one country but also between countries.

3.2. Recommendations

When giving recommendations to authorities and agencies on data collection on domestic violence against women, it should be remembered that data collection is not a core priority of these agencies.¹² Their main task lies elsewhere (finding out if a crime has been committed, finding out if the suspected perpetrator is guilty or not, taking care of a patient, providing refuge to a victim of violence, giving social support to a victim of violence) and data is collected as a side product in the process. Consequently, it is often felt that it is not realistic to ask these agencies to start recording data on the same scale as such authorities whose main task is the collection of data. Also, these authorities and agencies are professionals in their own field, not in data collection. This means that they do not always have the know-how or prolific interest in data collection, and this might in turn lead to

incorrect and unreliable registrations of data.

Furthermore, it is important to consider how much information authorities, agencies and NGOs can be expected to record on domestic violence against women, since their area of operation and responsibilities is broad and not very specified. Many countries have telephone helplines and other services that can be used in many kinds of difficult situations in life, including in the case of domestic violence. These kinds of services may be provided for example by a religious agency (church), a victim support agency, or municipal social welfare offices. When the service is not exclusively aimed at female victims of domestic violence, data collection on domestic violence can not easily be that specific either. Some basic information can and should however be recorded. What this basic information is and how it can be recorded should be negotiated together with the relevant helping authorities and agencies. A good example of this

kind of co-operative activity can be found in Spain where the State Observatory on Violence against Women has developed a *System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence*. Members of the Observatory are and have been organising seminars and meetings with the institutions that are involved in combating gender-based violence and encountering victims in order to motivate them to start planning and carrying out data collection according to the *System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence*. It is recommended that this kind of approach is implemented elsewhere as well.

It may not be realistic to demand that agencies working with domestic violence against women create and introduce completely new data recording systems. Nevertheless, changing and improving existing data collection systems is usually done on a regular basis in any case, and these situations could be taken advantage of so that classifications are changed to meet the basic requirements of data collection

12. This was pointed out in a number of replies received.



as set out by the Council of Europe *Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* in the Campaign Blueprint.¹³ Changing already existing classifications is possible, and if this is

done, the following recommendations should be taken into consideration.

13. *Supra* note 1.

Recommendation on establishing a co-ordinating body on data collection

Currently it is typical that different agencies produce data on domestic violence against women practically without any co-ordination. Consequently, the variables and classifications applied do not

follow uniform rules. Without systematic co-ordination, progress in this respect is difficult. Therefore, a national central agency or focal point should be set up that could monitor and give instructions to this

effect. This agency could, for example, be the national statistical office or an observatory like in Spain.

Recommendation on which levels of state authority and in which public or private institutions are to collect which type of data

The collection of administrative data on domestic violence against women is the responsibility of the agencies that work to combat domestic violence at the grassroots level. In practice, this means, for example, the police officer who goes to the scene of domestic violence, the doctor who takes care of the patient's injuries caused by domestic violence or the employee who answers the phone of a telephone helpline. Superior authorities and

administrations, public or private, are however responsible for controlling that relevant and useful data are actually being recorded and that this is done properly and according to instructions. Thus, public and private authorities such as ministries, national boards, associations, unions and central organisations are responsible for organising, monitoring, controlling and giving instructions on and training staff in the collection of adminis-

trative data on domestic violence against women in their field and within the agencies working at the grassroots level.

The second part of this recommendation, concerning which public or private institutions are to collect which type of data, will be discussed below under Chapter 3.3., *Model approach on the collection of administrative data collection*.

Recommendation on how to establish an administrative data system in institutions that do not yet collect the recommended data

When establishing administrative data systems at national level, the starting point is to find out and examine all relevant authorities, agencies, institutions and NGOs that work with the issue of domestic violence against women. Examples of authorities and institutions can be found in the country reports of this study. The next step is to make an inventory of the situation of administrative data collection on domestic violence against women within these authorities and institutions since all agencies usually collect some sort of data on their activities and clients. What kind of data, with which methods and with what kinds of variables, are already being collected? Is data collection done systematically and is a specific form and/or data system used when recording data? There should be a central body to do this inventory and to provide further guidance to each relevant agency on this matter.

line in this study and hence it is recommended that at least these data and the age of both victim and perpetrator be recorded by all agencies and institutions working with (domestic) violence against women. Thus, if the inventory of data collection shows that information on these matters is not already being recorded, they should be taken up in the data collection procedure.

If a data collection form and/or electronic data system already exist, the possibly lacking information should be added to this existing system. It is very likely that existing data systems are insufficient since data collection is not a priority of these agencies and institutions, and each system has been developed to serve agency-specific interests. If no information is recorded at all, a basic data sheet should be designed. This form should comprise at least questions on sex and age of victim and perpetrator, type of violence and relationship of the perpetrator to the victim. In addition to these basic questions, the agency or institution may and should of course add questions it finds relevant or essential regarding its particular field of action.

As was noted in the previous recommendation, the planning and co-ordination of a data collection form is the responsibility of superior authorities and administrations. This should however be done in co-operation with members of the relevant profession who are confronted with domestic violence in their everyday work to tap into their opinions and ideas about the questions the clients should and can be asked.

In addition to the data collection form, instructions on how to use the form and how to identify a victim of domestic violence should be prepared. Instructing and training the people who are expected to start using the form and collecting data is very important when establishing a data collection system. Only data that are recorded accurately and according to standard rules and principles are useful. That is why it is important that everyone participating in data collection is aware of how it should be done.

In the context of training, the importance of administrative data collection should also be emphasised. People often feel that they have to record data just for the purpose of keeping statistics when in reality data can be useful for those who



record it too. Data can be used for administrative purposes such as analysing and developing activities, budget planning, resource allocation and in personnel administration. Administrative data should be reported in such a way that it can be easily made use of in practice. Employing a specialist who can analyse administrative data might also be in the interests of these agencies and institutions.

Instructing and training the personnel whose job it is to collect data can be organised in many ways. One example can be found from Spain where the State Observatory on Violence against Women has organised seminars and meetings with

the institutions involved in combating domestic violence, in order to motivate them to start collecting data on domestic violence against women. These meetings should include reciprocal discussions so that both sides could express their opinions and ideas about data collection. Many agencies and institutions are not officially obliged to record data, which means they must be convinced to do it voluntarily. Open discussions in seminars and meetings are therefore important when convincing people of the importance of high quality data collection and when motivating them to record such data.

The last step in establishing a data system is to decide how the material is processed. Many authorities and agencies (such as the police) usually already have an electronic data system where new variables and information should be added. If no data system exists, some kind of electronic system for processing the recorded data should be designed or acquired.

The following table shows how mapping the existing situation of administrative data collection was done in Finland. The table serves as an example of what steps are needed when mapping the existing situation in any country.

Table 1: Mapping the existing situation of administrative data collection in Finland

<i>What needs to be found out</i>	<i>What was done</i>
Which institutions, authorities and agencies work, in one way or another, with the issue of (domestic) violence against women in Finland?	A list of institutions, authorities and agencies was compiled with the help of previous studies, reports and web-based research. Also, specialists and experts in the field of domestic violence were contacted and asked what they knew about data collection. Finding experts was done by “snowballing”: if someone said s/he does not know about the issues, s/he was asked to name someone who does. This way it was possible to find the focal specialists and institutions in the field of data collection on domestic violence against women. This was done as extensively as possible.
What kinds of data systems do these agencies have? What kind of data do these agencies record? What kinds of variables and classifications do they use?	Information on existing data systems and data collection was acquired from previous studies, publications and reports published by the agencies themselves and by researchers/research institutes. Institutions’ and agencies’ web pages and annual reports were also used as sources of information. If information on data collection was not found by these means, the institutions were contacted by phone or email and asked whether they record administrative data and if they do, what kind of data it is. Contact details were found on the Internet. Furthermore, key persons in some institutions and agencies such as Statistics Finland, the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health were visited to ask questions on administrative data collection on domestic violence against women. Some agencies, especially NGOs, shared the data collection form they use with their clients. This was the most detailed information received and also the most useful since it revealed the exact questions/variables that were being used.
Is the sex and age of victim and perpetrator, the relationship between them and the type of violence recorded? What kind of data is not recorded?	After an initial assessment of data systems and what kind of administrative data different institutions and agencies record, this information was summarised in written form. A description of the data system was drawn up followed by an explanation of what kind of data is and is not recorded. Special attention was paid to whether the sex and age of victim and perpetrator, the relationship between them and the type of violence is recorded.
Examples of actual recorded data	If possible, examples of recorded data were looked for. Examples were found in research reports and studies, agencies’ web pages and annual reports. It is easier to comprehend the advantages and deficiencies of the current way of collecting data when examples of actual figures are shown.
What kind of data should be recorded? What should be done differently?	After assessing what kind of data the institutions and agencies do and do not record and with the help of examples of these, recommendations on what kind of data they should record were drawn up. This was done mainly according to the guidelines on data collection set up by the <i>Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence</i> ^a so that if information on the sex and age of victim and perpetrator, the relationship between them and the type of violence was missing, it was recommended that these should be recorded in the future. In some cases recommendations included suggestions on how the actual, practical change should be made in the data system, for example by adding an obligatory field in the data recording system
What happens next?	After the recommendations have been given to the institutions and agencies, it is time for them to consider whether the recommended changes are useful and well justified. It is then for the decision-makers in these institutions to decide whether the changes are to be implemented or not. National co-ordination is required, the responsible agencies in this respect being ministries, local authorities, and national boards.

a. See the Campaign Blueprint, supra note 1.



3.3. Model approach to the collection of administrative data

This section contains recommendations on the type of administrative data that should be collected in different public and private institutions that work with the issue of domestic violence against women. The main proposal is that data collection should be disaggregated by sex and age of the victim and perpetrator, the type of violence as well as by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim. These are the minimum requirements for data collection and information on these categories should be recorded in one way or another in all agencies working with domestic violence against women. These requirements are discussed one by one below.

First of all, there should be an explicit definition of victim and perpetrator, since it is about these that details should be recorded. Once these definitions are adopted, the following standard data on victims and perpetrators should be collected.

1. Sex of victim and perpetrator

Recording the sex of the victim is probably already done in most places that record information on domestic violence but the sex of the perpetrator might be missing. Both of these are equally important and that recording the sex of victim and perpetrator may easily be accomplished.

2. Age of victim and perpetrator

This information is important because the age difference between the victim and the perpetrator can be calculated from their ages. The age difference may be an important detail when different aspects of domestic violence are being assessed. Age can be recorded by recording the year of birth or the age of the person at the time of the recording, or at the time of the violent event.

3. Type of violence

If recording the sex and age of victim and perpetrator is quite straightforward, recording the type of violence is more complicated. Types of violence can be defined in many ways and it may not be realistic or reasonable to use the same definition everywhere. This is be-

cause different authorities and agencies work in different environments, with different purposes and with different kinds of problems. For example, it is reasonable for the police, the public prosecutor and the courts to use definitions based on the law. This means that categories such as assault, rape, coercion into sexual intercourse, manslaughter and murder are used when defining the type of violence. In health care, the type of violence may be defined for example according to the *International Classification of Diseases*. As a result, definitions such as assault by drugs, medication and biological substances, assault by hanging, strangulation and suffocation, assault by handgun discharge, assault by smoke, fire and flames, assault by sharp object, assault by bodily force, sexual assault by bodily force, and neglect and abandonment may be used when defining the type of violence in health care.

Agencies that do not work within the judicial or healthcare system are recommended to use more general definitions of types of violence in their data collection. These could include for example: physical violence, mental/psychological violence, economic violence, sexual violence and cultural violence. No matter what the options of types of violence are, **the main concern is that the content of these options has been explicitly defined.** For instance, the person recording the type of violence must know what physical or sexual violence means and what the difference between them is. Economic or cultural violence, for example, may be interpreted in various ways. The concrete contents of the terms and options should be decided before data recording takes place, i.e. when the decision on which terms and options to use is being made. Options of types of violence as well as the definitions and contents of the categories that are used should be included in the training of the personnel whose job it is to collect data. Data collection forms should also

always include written definitions of the core items.

4. Relationship between the perpetrator and the victim

This information is very important to record since it reveals an essential aspect of domestic violence: who are the victim and the perpetrator? It is important to classify the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim as precisely as possible in order to get an elaborate picture of who are involved in domestic violence situations. That is why expressions such as “family member” or “intimate person” are not precise enough. The relationship between the perpetrator and the victim can be defined in many ways, and many options of relationships may be used. One such list could include for example: spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend, cohabiting partner, ex-cohabiting partner, other family member, other relative, friend/acquaintance, and stranger. What is important is that former spouses and partners are distinguished in the options.

Similarly, as was argued with regard to types of violence, defining the meaning of different options of relationships is of equal importance. The person recording the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator must know the exact meaning of spouse, boyfriend or cohabiting partner in order to do the recording correctly and without interpretation problems that would hamper the recording process. Detailed classifications will also allow comparisons across data sources even if they apply dissimilar overall definitions.

The following table shows what kinds of administrative data should be collected by agencies and institutions that work with the issue of domestic violence against women. It should be noted that only minimum requirements are presented in the table and that different agencies and institutions may and should record also other data that is relevant or essential regarding their particular field of action.



Table 2: Minimum data that should be collected by different agencies on domestic violence

<i>Authority/agency</i>	<i>Recommendation on what data to record</i>
Police	Distinguishing domestic violence cases from other cases
	Sex of victim and perpetrator
	Age of victim and perpetrator
	Relationship between victim and perpetrator
	Type of violence (according to criminal codes)
	Outcome of cases: is the case investigated, is an arrest made, is the case reported to the prosecutor etc.
Public prosecutor	Distinguishing domestic violence cases from other cases
	Sex of victim and perpetrator
	Age of victim and perpetrator
	Relationship between victim and perpetrator
	Type of violence (according to criminal codes)
	Outcome of cases: are charges dropped or withdrawn, does the case go to court etc.
Courts of first instance (both criminal and civil courts)	Distinguishing domestic violence cases from all cases
	Sex of victim and perpetrator
	Age of victim and perpetrator
	Relationship between victim and perpetrator
	Type of violence (according to criminal acts)
	Outcome of cases: found guilty or not guilty, sentenced or not, type of sentence (fine, imprisonment, community service etc.)
Cause of death investigators	Distinguishing deaths caused by domestic violence from all deaths
	Sex of victim and perpetrator
	Age of victim and perpetrator
	Relationship between victim and perpetrator
	Type of violence (e.g. according to ICD-10)
Healthcare services	Sex of victim and perpetrator
	Age of victim and perpetrator
	Relationship between victim and perpetrator
	Type of violence (e.g. according to ICD-10)
Social services (for example, shelters, telephone helplines and other social service providers)	Sex of victim and perpetrator
	Age of victim and perpetrator
	Relationship between victim and perpetrator
	Type of violence

Similar recommendations should also be given to other relevant agencies where they are found to be active.

In summary, it can be concluded that training and awareness raising are key elements when data collection systems are

initially set up but also when an already existing data recording system is improved. Much remains to be done regarding administrative data collection on domestic violence against women in Council of Europe member states. This is

an important issue to tackle as data on the functioning of the most important social institutions are a key element in a strategy to address domestic violence as a widespread form of violence against women.

Part 4. Appendices

Appendix 1. Replies to Section 1 of the questionnaire: Police

	Name of the organisation	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no answer	
Azerbaijan	District police stations, Ministry of Interior	yes	no answer	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Belgium	no answer									
Bulgaria	National Police Service	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	Juvenile Delinquency Sector, General Crime Department, Criminal Police Directorate, General Police Directorate	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Cyprus	Cyprus Police	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Czech Republic	Directorate of order and railway police service	no								
Denmark	Danish Police	no								
Estonia	The Police Board, Police prefectures	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Finland	The Finnish Police	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no		no	
Georgia	Information-Analytical department, Ministry of Internal Affairs	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Greece	Police Headquarters/Public Security Division	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Hungary	Hungarian National Police Headquarters	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Italy	Data related to all Police Authorities (Gendarmerie, State Police, Revenue Guard Corps, Penitentiary Police, Civil Guard)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Latvia	State Police of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia	yes	no							
Liechtenstein	Landespolizei des Fürstentums Liechtensteins	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Lithuania	The Police of Lithuania	yes	yes	no	no	no	no		no	
Luxembourg	Police Grand-Ducale	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes



	Name of the organisation	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Moldova	Ministry of Interior (General Department of the Police)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Montenegro	Police Directorate of Montenegro	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	
Netherlands	Police of the Netherlands	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Poland	Prevention and Road Traffic Bureau of General Headquarter of Police	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no		no	
Portugal	The Republican National Guard (GNR) and the Police of Public Security (PSP)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	
Romania	County Police Inspectorate	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovakia	Ministry of Interior, Police Headquarter	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovenia	General Police Directorate, Criminal Police Directorate	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Spain	EMUME – Guardia Civil	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sweden*	The Swedish Police	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	
Switzerland		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
United Kingdom	Police services across the country	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Number of countries answering yes		27	25	24	24	25	23	17	16	15

- a. It should be noted that the answers of Sweden apply to the crime code “gross violence against a woman’s integrity” which is a combined title for certain criminal acts such as assault, unlawful threat or coercion, sexual or other molestation, or sexual exploitation. If these acts are committed by a man against a woman (at least 15 years of age) to whom he is, or has been, married or with whom he is, or has been cohabiting under circumstances comparable to marriage, he shall be sentenced for gross violation of a woman’s integrity.



Appendix 2. Replies to Section 2 of the questionnaire: Emergency calls

	Name of the agency	Is information on emergency calls recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish cases where the reason is domestic violence?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the gender of the victim recorded?	Is the gender of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	no answer											
Azerbaijan	no answer											
Belgium	no answer											
Bulgaria		no										
Croatia	MoI Operative-Communications Centre, General Police Directorate	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Cyprus	Cyprus Police	yes	–	–	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	
Cyprus	Social Welfare Services	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Czech Republic	Police of the Czech Republic, emergency line 158	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no		no	
Czech Republic	Safety Line Association; Safety Line for Children	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no		no	
Denmark	Danish Police Districts 1 – 12	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Estonia	Police Board (all emergency calls are saved in police database Polis)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Finland	Emergency Response Centre	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no		no	
Georgia	General Inspection of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Georgia	Patrol Police	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Greece	Police Headquarters/Division of Emergency Calls	yes	no									
Greece	National Center of Emergency Care (EKAB)	yes	no									
Hungary	no answer											
Italy	National Emergency Calls Agency	yes	yes	yes	no	no answer	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Latvia	State Police of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia	yes	no									
Latvia	State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia	yes	no									
Liechtenstein	no answer											
Lithuania	Emergency response Centre	yes	no									
Luxembourg	Police Grand-Ducale	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Moldova	The Territorial Commissariat of police	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Montenegro	Police Directorate of Montenegro	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Netherlands	Police of the Netherlands	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Poland	no answer											
Portugal	Direção Geral da Saúde (Centro de Atendimento do Serviço Nacional de Saúde)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes



	Name of the agency	Is information on emergency calls recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish cases where the reason is domestic violence?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the gender of the victim recorded?	Is the gender of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Portugal	Instituto Nacional de Emergência Médica (INEM)	yes	no									
Portugal	144 Line – Social Emergency National Line	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Romania	no answer											
Slovakia	Police Force SR	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovenia	General Police Directorate, Operation and Communications Centre	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Spain	112 Agency	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		yes	yes
Sweden	no answer											
Switzerland												
United Kingdom	999 emergency line and local police	yes	–	–	yes	yes	yes	yes	no answer		no answer	
Number of countries answering yes		20	16	14	15	14	15	13	13	10	13	12



Appendix 3. Replies to Section 3 of the questionnaire: Public prosecutors

	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no		yes	yes
Azerbaijan	no								
Belgium	no answer								
Bulgaria	no answer								
Croatia	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	
Cyprus	no								
Czech Republic	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	
Denmark	no								
Estonia	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no		yes	yes
Finland	no								
Georgia	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Greece	yes	no	yes	no answer	no	no		yes	yes
Hungary	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Italy	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Latvia	no								
Liechtenstein	no								
Lithuania	no								
Luxembourg	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Moldova	no								
Montenegro	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Netherlands	yes	no	no	no	yes	no		no	
Poland	no								
Portugal	no								
Romania	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Slovakia	no								
Slovenia	no								
Spain	no								
Sweden ^a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	
Switzerland	no								
United Kingdom	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Number of countries answering yes	14	11	12	9	13	10	7	8	5

- a. It should be noted that the answers of Sweden apply to the crime code "gross violence against a woman's integrity" which is a combined title for certain criminal acts such as assault, unlawful threat or coercion, sexual or other molestation, or sexual exploitation. If these acts are committed by a man against a woman (at least 15 years of age) to whom he is, or has been, married or with whom he is, or has been cohabiting under circumstances comparable to marriage, he shall be sentenced for gross violation of a woman's integrity.



Appendix 4. Replies to Section 4 of the questionnaire: Courts of first instance

	Name of the type of the court	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	In criminal cases: district courts and provincial courts; in cases of family law: district courts	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no		yes	yes
Azerbaijan	There is no specified court dealing with domestic violence against women	no answer								
Belgium	no answer									
Bulgaria	District court	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	Misdemeanour Court	yes	no	no	no	yes	no		no	
Croatia	Municipal Criminal Court in Zagreb	yes	no	no	no	yes	no		no	
Cyprus	District Court (Criminal Jurisdiction)	yes	no	no	no	no	no		no	
Czech Republic	District courts	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	
Denmark	no answer									
Estonia	County court (court of first instance)	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Estonia	Court of Appeal	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no		yes	yes
Finland	District court	no								
Georgia	Tbilisi City Court, Collegium of the Administrative Affairs	yes	yes	no answer	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Greece	Court of First Instance – Magistrate's court	no								
Hungary		no								
Italy	Criminal courts	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Latvia	District/city court	yes	no							
Liechtenstein	no answer									
Lithuania	National Courts Administration	no								
Luxembourg	Tribunal de Diekirch et Tribunal de Luxembourg	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Moldova		no								
Montenegro		no								
Netherlands	Criminal court	no								
Poland	1. District Court – Criminal Division 2. District Court – Family and Juvenile Division (family court)	no								
Portugal	For trial: – Tribunal de comarca; – Vara criminal; – Juízo criminal; – Juízo de pequena instância criminal. For previous phases (enquiry and instruction): – Tribunal de instrução criminal.	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Romania	The Court of first instance in every municipality in Romania	no								
Slovakia	The court of first instance	yes	no							
Slovenia	Local Courts and District Courts	no								
Spain	Courts of first instance, instruction, civil, penal or gender violence	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sweden*	District court	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	
Switzerland	We don't make any distinction between the instances. The statistic of conviction and sentence is only based on the register of convictions for adults.	yes	no							



	Name of the type of the court	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
United Kingdom	Criminal cases are heard in the Magistrates Courts and Crown Courts. Within the magistrates courts there are currently 64 Specialist Domestic Violence Court systems. Civil/family cases are heard in county courts; Family Proceedings Courts (at Magistrates' Courts level), High Court. Answers relate to civil/family cases.	yes	no	no	no	no	no		no	
United Kingdom	Magistrates Courts, criminal cases	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no		yes	no
United Kingdom	Specialist DV courts	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
United Kingdom	Other magistrates courts	no								
Number of countries answering yes		16	9	8	9	12	9	6	8	7

- a. It should be noted that the answers of Sweden apply to the crime code "gross violence against a woman's integrity" which is a combined title for certain criminal acts such as assault, unlawful threat or coercion, sexual or other molestation, or sexual exploitation. If these acts are committed by a man against a woman (at least 15 years of age) to whom he is, or has been, married or with whom he is, or has been cohabiting under circumstances comparable to marriage, he shall be sentenced for gross violation of a woman's integrity.



Appendix 5. Replies to Section 6 of the questionnaire: Cause of death investigators

	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	no answer								
Azerbaijan	no								
Belgium	no answer								
Bulgaria	no answer								
Croatia	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	
Cyprus	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Czech Republic	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Denmark	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		–	–
Estonia	no								
Finland	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Georgia	no								
Greece	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no answer	no	yes	yes
Hungary	–								
Italy	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Latvia	no								
Liechtenstein	no answer								
Lithuania	no answer								
Luxembourg	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	–
Moldova	no								
Montenegro	no								
Netherlands	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Poland	no								
Portugal	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Romania	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovakia	no answer								
Slovenia	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Spain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	–
Sweden	no answer								
Switzerland	no								
United Kingdom	no								
Number of countries answering yes	13	12	12	13	9	11	8	9	5

Appendix 6. Replies to Section 7 of the questionnaire: Restraining orders

	Name of the authority	Is information on restraining orders recorded?	Is the gender of the person to be protected recorded?	Is the gender of the person on whom the order is imposed recorded?	Is the age of the person to be protected recorded?	Is the age of the person on whom the order is imposed recorded?	Is the relationship between them recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is it possible to distinguish cases where the reason is domestic violence?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	District court	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no		yes	no	
Azerbaijan	Restraining order not applied										
Belgium	no answer										
Bulgaria	The court	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Croatia	Ministry of the Interior	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	
Croatia	Misdemeanour Court	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no		yes	no	
Croatia	Municipal Criminal Court in Zagreb	no									
Cyprus	Police, Department of Welfare, Attorney General	no									
Czech Republic	Police presidium of The Czech Republic, Crime Investigation Department, Prague	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Czech Republic	Directorate of order and railway police service	yes	no	yes	no	no	no		yes	no	
Denmark	no answer										
Estonia	Court, prosecution	no									
Finland	The Finnish Police	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	yes	no	
Finland	District court	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no		yes	no	
Georgia	Ministry of Internal Affairs	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Greece	A) Single –judge court of the first instance (emergency procedure) B) The competent criminal court, the competent examining judge and the competent judicial council	no									
Hungary	The court	no									
Italy	Preliminary Hearing Judge and the judge of first instance	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	yes	–	yes	yes	no
Latvia	Judges	yes	no	no	no	yes	no		no	no	
Liechtenstein	Landespolizei des Fürstentums Liechtensteins	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Lithuania	no answer										
Luxembourg	Tribunal d'arrondissement compétents	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Luxembourg	Police Grand-Ducale	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Moldova	Restraining order not applied										
Montenegro	Restraining order not applied										
Netherlands	The investigation Judge (Rechter Commissaris), the criminal court judge, the public prosecutor, civil court, the maire	no									
Poland	Criminal Courts	yes	no	yes	no	no	no		no	no	
Portugal	Juge d'Instruction Criminelle (Juiz de Instrução Criminal)	no									
Portugal	Ministério Público	no									
Romania	The Penal Court/The Civil Court	yes	yes	yes	–	–	yes	–	no	no	
Slovakia	The court of first instance	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes



	Name of the authority	Is information on restraining orders recorded?	Is the gender of the person to be protected recorded?	Is the gender of the person on whom the order is imposed recorded?	Is the age of the person to be protected recorded?	Is the age of the person on whom the order is imposed recorded?	Is the relationship between them recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is it possible to distinguish cases where the reason is domestic violence?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Slovenia	General Police Directorate, Criminal Police Directorate	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Spain	Courts	yes	no answer	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sweden	Police, Court, The Swedish Prosecution Authority	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no		no	no	
Switzerland	Police and courts	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
United Kingdom	The police	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
United Kingdom	HM Courts Service	yes	no	no	no	no	no		no	no	
Number of countries answering yes		18	14	17	13	13	14	8	12	9	7



Appendix 7. Replies to Section 8 of the questionnaire: Public healthcare institutions and services, public hospitals

	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Azerbaijan	no								
Belgium	no answer								
Bulgaria	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no answer	yes	no
Croatia	no answer								
Cyprus	no								
Czech Republic	no answer								
Denmark	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Estonia	no								
Finland	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Georgia	no								
Greece	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hungary	yes	no	no answer	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Italy	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Latvia	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	
Liechtenstein	no								
Lithuania	yes	no							
Luxembourg	no								
Moldova	no								
Montenegro	no								
Netherlands	no								
Poland	no								
Portugal	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	-		yes	yes
Romania	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	no		no	
Slovakia	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	yes	no	no	
Slovenia	no answer								
Spain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sweden	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Switzerland	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		yes	yes
United Kingdom	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	yes
Number of countries answering yes	16	14	13	15	3	11	8	11	8



Appendix 8. Replies to Section 8 of the questionnaire: Public healthcare institutions and services, public health centres

	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	no answer								
Azerbaijan	no answer								
Belgium	yes	no answer	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Bulgaria	no								
Croatia	no answer								
Cyprus	no								
Czech Republic	no answer								
Denmark	no answer								
Estonia	no								
Finland	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Georgia	no								
Greece	no								
Hungary	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Italy	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Latvia	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	
Liechtenstein	no answer								
Lithuania	no answer								
Luxembourg	no								
Moldova	no								
Montenegro	no								
Netherlands	no								
Poland	no								
Portugal	–	–		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Romania	no								
Slovakia	no								
Slovenia	no answer								
Spain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sweden	no								
Switzerland	–								
United Kingdom	no answer								
Number of countries answering yes	6	5	6	7	2	6	5	5	4



Appendix 9. Replies to Section 8 of the questionnaire: Public healthcare institutions and services, public maternity clinics

	Are there public maternity clinics in your country?	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	yes	yes							
Azerbaijan	no								
Belgium	no answer								
Bulgaria	no								
Croatia	no answer								
Cyprus	yes	no							
Czech Republic	no answer								
Denmark	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Estonia	no								
Finland	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no		yes	yes
Georgia	yes	no							
Greece	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Hungary	yes	no							
Italy	yes	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Latvia	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	
Liechtenstein	no								
Lithuania	no answer								
Luxembourg	yes	–							
Moldova	yes	no							
Montenegro	yes	no							
Netherlands	no								
Poland	yes	no							
Portugal	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	–	yes	yes
Romania	yes	no							
Slovakia	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	yes	no	no	
Slovenia	no answer								
Spain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sweden	yes	–							
Switzerland	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		yes	yes
United Kingdom	no answer								
Number of countries answering yes	19	9	7	7	3	5	3	5	4



Appendix 10. Replies to Section 8 of the questionnaire: Public healthcare institutions and services, public emergency services

	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	no								
Azerbaijan	no								
Belgium	no answer								
Bulgaria	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		yes	no
Croatia	no answer								
Cyprus	no								
Czech Republic	no answer								
Denmark	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Estonia	no								
Finland	no								
Georgia	no								
Greece	no								
Hungary	no								
Italy	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Latvia	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	
Liechtenstein	no answer								
Lithuania	no answer								
Luxembourg	–								
Moldova	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no answer	
Montenegro	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	
Netherlands	no								
Poland	no								
Portugal	no answer								
Romania	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovakia	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	–		no	
Slovenia	no answer								
Spain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sweden	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Switzerland	–								
United Kingdom	no answer								
Number of countries answering yes	10	10	10	10	2	6	5	5	4



Appendix 11. Replies to Section 9 of the questionnaire: Private healthcare institutions and services, private hospitals

	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Azerbaijan	no								
Belgium	no answer								
Bulgaria	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Croatia	no answer								
Cyprus	no answer								
Czech Republic	no answer								
Denmark	no								
Estonia	no								
Finland	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Georgia	no								
Greece	no								
Hungary	–								
Italy	–								
Latvia	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	
Liechtenstein	no answer								
Lithuania	yes	no							
Luxembourg	no								
Moldova	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		yes	yes
Montenegro	no								
Netherlands	no								
Poland	no								
Portugal	–								
Romania	no								
Slovakia	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	–		no	
Slovenia	no answer								
Spain ^a									
Sweden	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Switzerland	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		yes	yes
United Kingdom	no answer								
Number of countries answering yes	9	8	8	8	1	4	4	5	4

a. Private healthcare institutions and practitioners in Spain may use the same data recording protocol as the public ones but it is not mandatory for them.



Appendix 12. Replies to Section 9 of the questionnaire: Private healthcare institutions and services, private health centres

	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	no								
Azerbaijan	no answer								
Belgium	no answer								
Bulgaria	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Croatia	no answer								
Cyprus	no answer								
Czech Republic	no answer								
Denmark	no								
Estonia	no								
Finland	no								
Georgia	no								
Greece	no answer								
Hungary	–								
Italy	–								
Latvia	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	
Liechtenstein	no answer								
Lithuania	no answer								
Luxembourg	no answer								
Moldova	no								
Montenegro	no								
Netherlands	no								
Poland	no								
Portugal	no answer								
Romania	no								
Slovakia	no answer								
Slovenia	no answer								
Spain ^a									
Sweden	no								
Switzerland	–								
United Kingdom	no answer								
Number of countries answering yes	2	2	2	2		1	1		

a. Private healthcare institutions and practitioners in Spain may use the same data recording protocol as the public ones but it is not mandatory for them.



Appendix 13. Replies to Section 9 of the questionnaire: Private healthcare institutions and services, general practitioners

	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	yes	no answer							
Azerbaijan	no								
Belgium	no answer								
Bulgaria	no answer								
Croatia	no answer								
Cyprus	no answer								
Czech Republic	no answer								
Denmark	no								
Estonia	no								
Finland	no								
Georgia	no								
Greece	no answer								
Hungary	-								
Italy	-								
Latvia	no answer								
Liechtenstein	no answer								
Lithuania	no answer								
Luxembourg	-								
Moldova	no								
Montenegro	no								
Netherlands	yes								
Poland	no								
Portugal	yes	yes	yes	-	-	no answer		no	
Romania	no								
Slovakia	no answer								
Slovenia	no answer								
Spain ^a									
Sweden	no								
Switzerland	-								
United Kingdom	no answer								
Number of countries answering yes	3	1	1						

a. Private healthcare institutions and practitioners in Spain may use the same data recording protocol as the public ones but it is not mandatory for them.



Appendix 14. Replies to Section 10 of the questionnaire: Social services and social welfare institutions, shelters

	Name of shelter/organisation	Is information on clients recorded?	Are both women and men accepted as clients?	Is the client's gender recorded?	Is the reason of the visit to the shelter recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish the cases where the reason is domestic violence?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	Austrian Women's Shelter Network (AÖF)	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Azerbaijan	no shelters in the country											
Belgium	Centres for general social welfare	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Bulgaria	Crisis Unit at Animus Association Foundation	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	Women's Group Karlovac STEP's Secret Shelter for Abused Women and Children	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	Domestic Violence Shelter/ Association "MiRTa"	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	Shelter for Victims of Family Violence Osijek	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Cyprus	Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Czech Republic	Caritas Czech Republic, Project Magdala	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no answer	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Czech Republic	ROSA	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Denmark	National Organisation of Shelters for Battered Women and their Children	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Estonia	NGO Tallinn Women's Crisis Centre	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Estonia	Women's Shelter of Tartu (NGO)	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Finland	The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Finland	Private shelter in Espoo	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		yes	yes
Georgia	Anti-Violence Network of Georgia	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Georgia	"Sakhli" Advice Center for Women	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Greece	National Center of Social Solidarity, Dept. of Shelters	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Greece	European Network of Women	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Greece	Office of Equality of the Municipality of Athens – Shelter for Abused Women	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hungary	Anyaothton = Mother's Shelters	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Italy	LE ONDE	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Latvia	Social services of municipalities	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes



	Name of shelter/organisation	Is information on clients recorded?	Are both women and men accepted as clients?	Is the client's gender recorded?	Is the reason of the visit to the shelter recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish the cases where the reason is domestic violence?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Latvia	7 shelters which provide social rehabilitation services for children and women victims of violence run by NGOs	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes
Latvia	Zante's Family Crisis Centre	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	–	yes	–
Liechtenstein	Frauenhaus Liechtenstein	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lithuania	Klaipeda social and Psychological Services centre	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Luxembourg	L'ensemble des centres d'hébergement est chapeauté par le Ministère de l'Egalité des chances	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Moldova	no answer											
Montenegro	Centre for Social Welfare	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	–	–	–		no	
Netherlands	Parent organisation for the women shelters in the Netherlands: Federatie Opvang	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Poland	Special supporting institutions for victims of domestic violence	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	yes	yes	yes	yes
Portugal	UMAR – Uniao de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Romania	Parent organisation = National Agency for Family Protection	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovakia	NGO Gate into the Life	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Slovakia	Naruc Child Crisis Centre	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovakia	Civil Association Pro Familia, Shelter: Dakini	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovenia	Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Slovenia	Mother's home, Shelters for women	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	–	–	yes	–	yes	–
Slovenia	Women's Counselling Service	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Spain		yes	no	yes	yes	yes	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sweden												
Switzerland		yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Switzerland	DAO, umbrella organisation of shelters in Switzerland and Liechtenstein	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
United Kingdom	no answer											
Number of countries answering yes		26	9	25	25	26	24	18	23	20	23	20



Appendix 15. Replies to Section 10 of the questionnaire: Social services and social welfare institutions, telephone helplines

	Name of the helpline	Is information on the calls recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish cases where the reason is domestic violence?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the gender of the victim recorded?	Is the gender of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	Women's Helpline against Male Violence	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
Azerbaijan	no helplines in the country											
Belgium	Tele-Onthaal (Tele-Accueil) 106	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Bulgaria	24 Hour Helpline for victims of violence	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	Domestic Violence Helpline	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	Women's Help Now – SOS Line for Women and Children Victims of Violence	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	SOS Helpline for Women Victims of Violence	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	SOS Helpline Association for Family Protection U.Z.O.R.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cyprus	Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family – Crisis Helpline 1440	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Czech Republic	Helpline Magdala, Caritas Czech Republic	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Czech Republic	Helpline of the Intervention centre Prague	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no answer	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Czech Republic	DONA line	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Denmark	Hotline – Stop Violence against Women – Break the Silence	yes	yes	no answer								
Estonia	no answer											
Finland	National Women's Line in Finland	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	
Finland	Rape crisis centre Tukinainen	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Finland	Victim Support Finland	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no		no	
Georgia	no answer											
Greece	Telephone Helpline "197"	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Greece	SOS Helpline "By Your Side"	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hungary	Szociálpolitikai és Munkaügyi Intézet, Országos Kríziskezelő és Információs Telefonszolgálat	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hungary	NANE Helpline for violated women and children, ran by NANE-Women for Women Organisation	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Italy	1522	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Latvia	no answer											
Liechtenstein	Tel 143 Die Dargebotene Hand	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		yes	yes



	Name of the helpline	Is information on the calls recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish cases where the reason is domestic violence?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the gender of the victim recorded?	Is the gender of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Lithuania	Women's Helpline 8 ~ 800 66366	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Luxembourg	Centre de consultation pour femmes VISAVI Centre de consultation pour femmes Centre Ozanam Centre de consultation pour femmes Fraentelefon Centre de consultation pour femmes Foyer Sud	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Moldova	no answer											
Montenegro	In Montenegro there are SOS Helplines in nine municipalities. All of them have the same system of record and they are of NGO status	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Netherlands	38 Advies – en steunpunt huiselijk geweld (Advice and support Centres Domestic Violence)	yes	yes	yes	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Netherlands	Advice and Report Office Child Abuse and Neglect (AMK)	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	–	–	yes	–	yes	–
Netherlands	Stichting Korrelatie	yes	yes	yes	–	–	–	–	yes	–	–	–
Poland	Polish Nationwide Emergency Service for Victims Of Domestic Violence "Blue Line"	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Portugal	800202148	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Romania	Emergency telephone number for domestic violence victims	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovakia	Naruc Counselling and Training Centre Helpline	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Slovakia	C.A. Aid to children in risk	no										
Slovakia	Fenestra	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes
Slovakia	Telephone serving police, prosecutors and court	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Slovenia	SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Slovenia	Association against Violent Communication	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes
Slovenia	EMMA organisation, Help centre for victims of violence	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Spain	016	yes	yes	yes	no answer	no answer	no	no	no		no	
Sweden												
Switzerland	Beratungsstelle Opferhilfe, Bern	no										
Switzerland	Frautelefon, Opferhilfe Kanton Thurgau	no										
United Kingdom	no answer											
Number of countries answering yes		22	21	21	20	17	19	16	19	15	19	15



Appendix 16. Replies to Section 10 of the questionnaire: Social services and social welfare institutions, other service providers

	Name of the agency	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Austria	Intervention Centres (against violence in the family)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Azerbaijan	no answer									
Belgium	Unified welfare-centres	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation and Animus Association	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	Business Centre ROSA	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes
Croatia	Counselling Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence Slavonski Brod	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	Women Centre ADELA Sisak	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cyprus	no answer									
Czech Republic	Interventional centre	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Czech Republic	White Circle of Safety	yes	no answer	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Czech Republic	Intervention centre Brno	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Denmark	Mother's Aid	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	
Denmark	Victim Consulting	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no		no	
Denmark	Joan-Sisters	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Estonia	Victim Support (public agency)	yes	no	yes	no answer					
Finland	Social services departments and social welfare offices in cities and municipalities	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Finland	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no		yes	yes
Finland	The Finnish Association for Mental Health	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		yes	no
Finland	The Family Federation	no								
Georgia	no answer									
Greece	Consultation Centre for violence against women/General Secretariat for Gender Equality/Ministry of Interior	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hungary	no answer									
Italy										
Latvia	Woman and Children Crisis Centre in Talsi	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	-	no answer	
Liechtenstein	Office for Social Affairs (public service)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Liechtenstein	NGO, legal aid and counselling service for women	yes	no	no	no	no	no		no	
Lithuania	no answer									
Luxembourg	no answer									
Moldova	Maternal Centre "Ariadna"	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Moldova	Centre for Victims' Information and Counselling from Cahul, Republic of Moldova	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Montenegro	NGO "Legal Centre"	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Netherlands	no answer									
Poland	Women's Right Centre	no								
Poland	Caritas	no								



	Name of the agency	Is information on domestic violence recorded?	Is it possible to distinguish domestic violence against women?	Is it possible to distinguish the victim?	Is the age of the victim recorded?	Is the age of the perpetrator recorded?	Is the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?	Is the type of violence recorded?	If yes, is there a list of possible relationships to choose from?
Poland	City Council Social Help Centre (nationwide)	no								
Poland	Amnesty International	no								
Poland	Fenix, Counteracting Violence Centre Praga Południe, Warsaw	no								
Portugal	no answer									
Romania	Romanian Orthodox Church, through: a) Asociația DIACONIA, Bucharest; b) Fundația "Sf. Sava", Buzău.	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	yes	yes	yes	yes
Romania	Centres for counselling the victims of domestic violence	yes	yes	yes	yes	–	yes	yes	yes	yes
Romania	Centres for the assistance of perpetrators	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Romania	Probation Services with the County Tribunals	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no		no	
Slovakia	C.A. Aid to help children in risk – Hope Centre	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Slovakia	Fenestra (Counselling services)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Slovakia	Department of counselling and psychological services, Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Slovakia	Departments of socio-legal protection of children and social custodianship	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Slovenia	Associations against sexual abuse	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Slovenia	Legal-information Centre for NGOs – LIC	yes	no	no	no	no	no		no	
Spain	no answer									
Sweden										
Switzerland	no answer									
United Kingdom										
Number of countries answering yes		16	15	16	15	11	14	10	13	9



Appendix 17. National practices as examples of existing administrative data collection on domestic violence against women

Finland

1. The Police

The Finnish Police use nationwide data systems called RIKI and Patja where reported crime is recorded. The report of an offence form contains both compulsory and optional information on the crime. Gender and other personal data such as the age and address of the suspect(s) and the complainant(s) are always recorded. The problem with the report of an offence form is that it does not specify who the victim is. In many cases the complainant and the victim are the same person but that is not always the case. Thus, comprehensive information on the victims of domestic violence can not be found in police data.

The report of an offence form contains a field where it is possible to define the crime or case as domestic violence. Other options in this field are for example drug related crime, organised crime, crime against public order and security, or racist crime. This information is not compulsory, and only one of the listed options can be chosen. Consequently, some cases of domestic violence are being recorded as something else and some other cases might be recorded as domestic violence. Furthermore, because of the voluntary nature of the item, domestic violence is often not recorded as such.

The following definition of domestic violence is used in the police: A case is defined as domestic violence when violence has taken place in the family and has been directed at a member of the family. Domestic violence should be understood very broadly when it comes to the parties involved and the violence. Physical violence or threat of physical violence is considered to be domestic violence regardless of the scene when the perpetrator and the victim have an emotionally intimate relationship. The crime in question is often an offence defined in Chapter 21 (an assault, for example) or Chapter 25 (threat, for example) of the Penal Code of Finland.

Also, the information on the relationship of the suspect to the victim is optional. However, there is a part in the form where the police officer can verbally describe what happened, who was involved in the events etc. It is possible that the relationship of the suspect and victim is recorded here but there is much

variation in the accuracy of the descriptions: some police officers describe the events and circumstances very thoroughly while others might only write down a few lines. The statistical problem with this information is that its recording is not systematic and standardised, and it is not in numeric form.

EXAMPLE OF RECORDED INFORMATION

The following tables are from the police data system called Polstat which includes information on police activities, personnel, resources etc. The information on crimes in Polstat is derived from the police data systems RIKI and Patja. This means that the information and figures in Polstat are only as reliable as the information and figures in RIKI and Patja. As was mentioned above, information on domestic violence recorded by the police is not reliable because it is not compulsory to indicate whether the case is domestic violence or not.

Table 1: Number of cases defined as domestic violence by the police in Finland in 2000–2006

Year	Number of cases
2000	2 233
2001	2 380
2002	2 621
2003	2 348
2004	2 249
2005	3 691
2006	4 168

Source of information: Police database Polstat

Table 2: Crimes of homicide and bodily injury defined as domestic violence by the police in Finland in 2000–2006

Year	Number of crimes
2000	902
2001	987
2002	1 488
2003	1 717
2004	2 015
2005	3 302
2006	3 801

Source of information: Police database Polstat

Table 3: Sex offences defined as domestic violence by the police in Finland in 2000–2006

Year	Number of crimes
2000	10
2001	9
2002	68
2003	28
2004	39
2005	60
2006	55

Source of information: Police database Polstat

2. Emergency calls

The authority responsible for emergency calls in Finland is the Emergency Response Centre which works in close cooperation with the police. The person on call at the Emergency Response Centre records data based on the information given by the caller. If a patrol has been sent to the scene, the person on call at the Emergency Response Centre completes the recording according to the information the patrol gives on the circumstances and actions taken on the scene. Reporting the information from the scene is the responsibility of the police patrol, and recording the information as accurately as possible is the responsibility of the person on call at the Emergency Response Centre.

The reason of the call is recorded in one of the four following categories: domestic or family violence, disturbing noise, disturbing person or other reason. Emergency calls classified as domestic violence are cases where the police are asked to come to a private residence where violence is taking place. Here, violence means any kind of violence excluding cases where firearms or edged weapons are used. If firearms or edged weapons are used in a private residence, a different code is applied. This means that all other cases of violence taking place in a private residence are coded as domestic violence, regardless of the relationships between the people involved. Sirén and Lehti (2006) note that rather than domestic or family violence, these cases should be named as “residential violence” since the people involved in the violent situation do not necessarily live together or belong to the same family. Getting a clear picture about



the family connections might be hard for the person receiving the call, and classifying the case can then be problematic.

EXAMPLE OF RECORDED INFORMATION

Table 4: Number of emergency calls in Finland in 2002–2006

Year	Total number of calls	Number of calls for which the reason is domestic violence
2002	59 896	15 086
2003	63 888	15 300
2004	74 209	15 837
2005	81 227	17 133
2006	85 591	17 648

Source of information: Annual Report of the Finnish Police 2006

3. Restraining orders

Restraining orders are issued by the police or the District Courts in Finland. Different kinds of restraining orders are in place: a basic restraining order, an extended restraining order and an inside-the-family restraining order. The restraining order is valid for the period ordered by the District Court, however, for a maximum of one year, but this period may be extended, if necessary. An inside-the-family restraining order can, however, be imposed for a maximum of three months. Its period of validity will be decided case by case.

The reason behind most of the inside-the-family restraining orders is domestic violence. The following information is recorded by the police on inside-the-family restraining orders. The lists are not complete; only the information considered essential for the purposes of this study is listed below.

Information on the person on whom the order is imposed:

- name
- gender
- address
- social security number
- occupation
- citizenship

Information on the person to be protected by the order:

- name
- gender
- address
- social security number
- occupation
- citizenship
- type of restraining order
- length of restraining order

- relationship between the person to be protected and the person on whom the order is imposed
- date when the order comes into force
- date when the order expires

In addition to the information listed above, the form contains a part where the circumstances and events behind the need for an inside-the-family restraining order can be described. A description of the type of violence as well as what happened and who was present can be written down in this part of the form. The problem with this information is that it is not standardised, and consequently its accuracy depends on the person who writes it down.

District Courts have their own records on restraining orders. The record includes the name, age and other personal information of the parties involved as well as basic information about the case. More detailed information and a description of the circumstances and events behind the restraining order can be found from the application for a restraining order and the court decision.

EXAMPLE OF RECORDED INFORMATION

The following table is from the police data system Polstat. The figures include restraining orders issued by the District Courts, inquiries on restraining orders requested by District Courts, applications for restraining orders and restraining orders issued by the police. The figures include all restraining order matters, not only inside-the family restraining orders. More detailed information on restraining orders is not available in Polstat. It should also be emphasised once more that the reliability of the figures is not necessarily

the best possible because of deficiencies in the original recordings of the police data system.

Table 5: Restraining order matters in Finland in 2003–2006

Year	Number of crimes
2003	1 521
2004	1 775
2005	2 167
2006	2 104

Source of information: Police database Polstat

4. The public prosecutor

The public prosecutor does not record any information on domestic violence against women in Finland. The public prosecutor's statistics focus on the prosecuted persons and on the crime for which the person is prosecuted. The prosecuted person's date of birth and gender are recorded. Thus, it is possible to single out the number of men prosecuted for an assault from all the assaults but there is no information on the victim. Therefore assaults on women, for example, can not be distinguished from all assaults.

5. Judicial system

Statistics Finland produces statistics on sentences passed by courts of first instance. Statistics on sentences are compiled in the same way as in the prosecutors' statistics: they are made according to the sentenced person, not the victim. Information on the crime for which the person has been sentenced is available, as well as his/her gender. Distinguishing the cases of domestic violence or cases where the victim is a woman is not possible.



The same applies to prisoner statistics. Data are available on the prisoner's gender and principal offence but more specified information is not recorded.

EXAMPLE OF RECORDED INFORMATION

Table 6: Number of men sentenced to summary penal judgment or accused in courts of first instance, by principal offence, in Finland in 2005

Manslaughter	71
Murder	36
Assault	8 078
Aggravated assault	599
Petty assault	952
Negligent homicide, grossly negligent homicide	100
Negligent bodily injury, grossly negligent bodily injury	295
Rape, aggravated rape, coercion to sexual intercourse	84

Source of information: Statistics Finland: Yearbook of Justice Statistics 2006

6. Healthcare institutions and services

The Malmi Hospital Emergency Clinic in Helsinki

The Malmi Hospital Emergency Clinic in Helsinki and the Malmi Police Precinct have adopted a new system to improve the legal protection of the victims of violence and to facilitate co-operation between the authorities. The tool developed for this purpose is PAKE, a form charting the injuries sustained by the victim, in order to ensure that the patient's injuries and other related data are duly

recorded. The idea is to fill in the form with every patient who is a victim of violence. Those patients who explain that their injuries were caused by an accident are interviewed carefully so that the possibility of violence can be ruled out.

The PAKE form consists of two parts. The first part includes background information on violence and information on the course of events. Also the patient's personal information such as gender and age are recorded in this part of the PAKE form. Other issues that are recorded in this part of the form are:

- The venue
 - home, other apartment (address), other place
 - has the police been on the spot
 - has a report of an offence been made
- The perpetrator
 - identity is known; relationship to the victim
 - identity is unknown
 - victim doesn't want to tell, why
 - the same person has been violent before
- The offence/threats
 - hits, punches; with what instrument, where
 - kicks; where
 - strangling, suffocating; with what instrument
 - pushing over
 - unconsciousness
 - sexual violence; how
 - verbal violence, how
 - other kind of violence; what
- Pain caused by the violence

- Mental condition, the result of alcohol breath test
- Children
 - age of children
 - were the children on the spot; where and with whom are they at the moment
 - has child welfare been contacted
- Referral to other treatment

The second part of the PAKE form is a map of a human body where the patient's injuries and their locations are marked and drawn after they have been measured. The injuries are also photographed with a digital camera. The form and the photos are included in the patient's file. They can be used in the police investigation if there is one.

The Malmi Model Expert Network seeks to promote the approach and the PAKE form developed in Malmi, Helsinki, for wider application within the Province and beyond.

Example of recorded information

Tanja Noponen (2007) carried out a research project on the PAKE form. She analysed 399 forms that had been completed in the Malmi Hospital Emergency Clinic in 2003. It should be noted that the PAKE form is used in all cases of violence, not only domestic violence. Noponen however distinguished information on partner and domestic violence in the data. The report includes several tables of which one, showing the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim is reproduced below.

Table 7: Relationship between the perpetrator and the victim in cases of partner and domestic violence. Malmi Hospital Emergency Clinic 2003

Perpetrator	Victim	
	Woman (N=86)	Man (N=19)
Spouse	19 (22%)	3 (16%)
Ex-spouse	7 (8%)	
Partner	22 (26%)	5 (26%)
Ex-partner	3 (3%)	
Own child	6 (7%)	1 (5%)
Brother/sister	1 (1%)	3 (15%)
Boyfriend/girlfriend	23 (27%)	7 (37%)
Ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend	5 (6%)	

Source of information: Noponen 2007

Maternity and child welfare clinics

Maternity and child welfare clinics are organised within public health centres and are intended to ensure a good standard of health for the mother, the unborn child,

the infant and the family as a whole. The services are provided free of charge. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has issued a recommendation to maternity and child welfare clinics about screening

for domestic violence in 2004. This should be done by asking questions about violence from all women during the two first thirds of the pregnancy and in child welfare clinics when the mother brings



her child to the six month check-up and in yearly check-ups after that. A screening form that should be used as a tool in these situations has been designed. It should be noted that the form is not yet being used in every maternity and child welfare clinic in Finland, since its implementation requires training and also organising a chain of services for those mothers and women who are victims of domestic violence. The form includes the following questions which are always asked in private:

1. How do you feel about your relationship?
2. Does your partner ever behave in such a way that you are afraid of him?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
3. Does your partner humiliate, control or insult you?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
4. Has your present partner
 - threatened you with violence (including threatened by using a weapon or some other instrument)?
 - grabbed, pushed, hit, or kicked you?
 - used some other kind of physical violence against you?
 - pressured, forced or tried to force you into sexual intercourse?
5. When is the last time your present partner was violent against you?
 - during the last 12 months
 - during pregnancy
 - after childbirth
6. Has your present partner been violent against your child/children?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
7. Has any of your children seen or heard when your partner has been violent?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
8. What kind of support/help would you like to get?

In addition to these data, the mother's age (i.e. the potential victim's age) is recorded.

For other data recorded in healthcare institutions and services see Chapter 7: *National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, STAKES*.

7. *National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, STAKES*

Care register

STAKES is an expert agency whose key functions are research, development and statistics in the fields of welfare and health. One statistical source that STAKES maintains is the care register (register of patients) Hilmo. This register contains information about patients and the type of injuries and the treatment given in different hospital districts. The information is collected in STAKES from electronic forms that are filled in by the nursing staff in hospitals and health centres. The form is completed when:

- a patient is admitted to the hospital ward, both in public and private hospitals;
- a patient is admitted to the municipal health centre ward;
- a patient is treated at the outpatient department in a public hospital;
- a patient undergoes day surgery in a private hospital or health centre.

This means that the form is not used when a patient visits the municipal health centre but is not admitted to the ward, when the patient visits the company doctor/occupational health physician or a private medical centre.

The form contains a part about why the patient was seeking treatment (disease, injury, disorder). This is done by using the codes of the Finnish version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). Chapter 10 in ICD-10 is called External causes of morbidity and mortality. This chapter includes the subtitle Assault. This subtitle includes the codes that should be used when someone has tried to hurt someone else physically and on purpose. It is also possible to code who the perpetrator of violence is. The options are: spouse or partner; parent; victim's child; acquaintance or friend; official authority representative; other specified persons; unspecified person. It is important to take note of the fact that the codes in the chapter External causes of morbidity and mortality can only be used as sub or side diagnoses. The code of the main diagnosis for the patient must be chosen from other chapters in ICD-10.

In theory, with this coding it would be possible to get information on the number of women who have sought treatment from hospitals or health centres for injuries caused by domestic violence. In prac-

tice, the information in the care register Hilmo is not reliable and does not give a correct picture of violence against women. There are many reasons why the information is not reliable:

- There are over 10 000 codes in the ICD-10. When the reason for seeking treatment is known to be domestic violence, there are still more than 80 codes to choose from. It is therefore probable that the nursing staff and doctors do not fill in the form properly or accurately. The main diagnosis of the patient can not be chosen from the external causes of morbidity and mortality. These codes are therefore additional codes that are not necessarily used very often. It is also possible that the nursing staff does not know how to fill in the form or that they are not aware that there are so many codes that can be used.
- It is very likely that patients who are victims of domestic violence are not telling the real reason for seeking treatment. The medical staff is not always able to tell whether the injury is caused by physical violence or an accident. Cases where the patient does not disclose the cause of injuries or the doctor does not know what caused the injury are not coded as injuries caused by domestic violence.
- The Finnish version of ICD-10 is a translation of the original, English-language version. The translation of the perpetrators of violence in the category of spouse or partner has turned out to be ambiguous. This has led to a situation where violence between men is coded into the category of domestic violence. In other words, the term partner is misunderstood to stand for a friend, a buddy or a drinking friend. This means that according to this statistical source, it looks like more men than women are being treated for injuries that are caused by domestic violence.
- For all these reasons, the real number of men and women who have sought treatment for injuries caused by domestic violence cannot be found in Hilmo. The administrators of the register have tried to inform the hospitals and health centres about the meaning of the category spouse or partner. Even



though there has been some decline in the number of men who have been treated for injuries caused by domestic violence in this source, the proportion of men and women is still incorrect. As long as the term partner is misunderstood in the hospitals and health centres, the

information in the care register is not going to be useful if the objective is to assess the problem of domestic violence.

EXAMPLE OF RECORDED INFORMATION

Table 8 illustrates the problems with the reliability of the information recorded

in the care register Hilmo when it comes to violence against women. It seems that more men than women have been treated for their injuries caused by domestic violence, which is not the case in reality.

Table 8: Number of treatment periods for injuries caused by assaults in Finland in 2006

Assailant	Patient	
	Men	Women
Spouse, partner	19 (22%)	3 (16%)
Parent/child	7 (8%)	
Acquaintance or friend	22 (26%)	5 (26%)
Other specified person	3 (3%)	
Unspecified person	6 (7%)	1 (5%)

Source of information: National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), Care register Hilmo

8. Statistics Finland

Statistics on domestic violence

Statistics Finland produces statistics on domestic violence based on domestic violence recorded by the police. Statistics Finland gets information on all manslaughters, murders, attempted manslaughters, attempted murders, assaults, aggravated assaults, petty assaults, sexual abuses of a child, aggravated sexual abuses of a child, rapes, aggravated rapes, coercions into sexual intercourse, other sex offences and other offences in the category of homicide and bodily injury recorded by the police during one year. This information is combined with data from the family statistics produced by Statistics Finland.

The police record the suspect's and complainant's personal identity number. By using this number, these people and their address and family relations can be found in the family statistics. However, there are cases when the personal identity numbers are not recorded (for example not all foreign persons have a Finnish personal identity number). In these cases the suspect and complainant cannot be found in the family statistics. Also, the police data is not combined with the family statistics at the time the crime is committed but at the end of each year. This means that possible changes in the family relations after the crime took place are not recorded in the family statistics.

Statistics Finland considers persons living in the same address to be a family. This means that violence between people who live in the same address is considered

domestic violence in this compilation. Family members who are not living in the same address are also taken into account in the statistics on domestic violence: violence towards father, mother, foster father, foster mother, child, spouse, ex-spouse or guardian who is not living in the same household with the perpetrator is also considered to be domestic or family violence.

Statistics Finland is also able to distinguish violence between cohabiting partners from the police data. Certain rules are used when reasoning who is a cohabiting partner. People:

- who regularly live together in the same address
 - who are of opposite sex
 - whose age difference is not larger than 14 years
 - who are not siblings
- are considered to be cohabiting partners. In case the couple has children together they are considered to be cohabiting partners no matter what their age difference is. However, the rules of reasoning who is a cohabiting partner are not without problems:
- a man and a woman who live together as flatmates are considered to be cohabiting partners
 - cohabiting partners whose age difference is more than 14 years are not considered to be cohabiting partners (unless they have a child together)
 - same sex couples who live together are not considered to be cohabiting partners.

The statistics produced by combining police data with the family statistics suffer from the same problem as police statistics on domestic violence against women: there is no information on the victim, only the complainant. Also, no information on violence between couples who are not living together is shown in this statistical source.

The statistics on domestic violence produced by Statistics Finland includes information on all domestic violence recorded by the police, domestic violence within the same household and domestic violence between close relatives. The following background information can be found in this source: age of complainant at the time of the incident, and gender of complainant. The violent offence is also recorded. Offences are from Chapters 20 and 21 in the Penal Code of Finland. Possible offences are: manslaughter, murder; attempted manslaughter, attempted murder; assault, aggravated assault, petty assault; sexual abuse of a child, aggravated sexual abuse of a child; rape, aggravated rape, coercion into sexual intercourse; other sex offences; other offences in the category of homicide and bodily injury.

EXAMPLE OF RECORDED INFORMATION

The four tables below are from Statistics Finland's statistics on domestic violence. The first table shows changes in domestic and intimate partner violence reported to the police in 1997–2005. The other tables show more specific information on incidents of domestic violence reported to the police in 2005.

Table 9: Domestic and intimate partner violence reported to the police in 1997–2005

Year	All complainants in domestic violence cases	Complainant female – Age Total	Complainant female – Age						
			-14	15-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
1997	2 694	2 178	97	119	448	680	573	191	70
1998	2 646	2 129	96	127	364	712	569	200	61
1999	2 756	2 221	83	141	369	696	615	246	71
2000	3 031	2 402	112	150	380	750	622	317	71
2001	3 167	2 532	126	152	449	780	673	275	77
2002	3 158	2 507	115	179	435	763	623	302	90
2003	3 567	2 801	225	178	456	779	738	316	109
2004	3 911	3 008	280	226	448	776	802	386	90
2005	4 109	3 195	307	236	574	818	776	366	118
Of which: intimate partner violence									
1997	1 719	1 556	-	63	344	552	435	136	26
1998	1 649	1 503	-	46	295	553	425	150	34
1999	1 762	1 594	-	47	311	549	469	192	26
2000	1 878	1 684	-	55	312	563	481	240	33
2001	1 969	1 766	1	64	379	586	504	189	43
2002	2 023	1 807	-	79	358	614	489	219	48
2003	2 183	1 956	6	89	367	624	566	241	63
2004	2 269	1 976	-	93	349	580	607	296	51
2005	2 423	2 153	-	108	470	635	587	277	76

Source of information: Statistics Finland: Crimes recorded by the police 2005

Table 10: Incidents of domestic violence reported to the police by age of complainant in 2005, complainant female

Crime	Total	Age of the complainant at the time of the incident						
		-14	15-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Manslaughter, murder	23	5	6	4	3	2	3	-
Attempted manslaughter, attempted murder	22	3	-	6	2	4	4	3
Assault	1 973	138	144	350	540	506	232	63
Aggravated assault	129	8	10	33	25	26	15	12
Petty assault	845	33	65	161	229	217	106	34
Sexual abuse of a child, aggravated sexual abuse of a child	116	108	8	-	-	-	-	-
Rape, aggravated rape, coercion into sexual intercourse	37	-	2	9	13	9	1	3
Other sex offences	13	-	2	9	13	9	1	3
Other offences in the category of homicide and bodily injury	37	12	-	6	3	9	4	3
Total	3 195	307	236	574	818	776	366	118

Source of information: Statistics Finland: Yearbook of Justice Statistics 2006



Table 11: Incidents of domestic violence reported to the police by age of complainant within same household in 2005, complainant female

Crime	Total	Age of the complainant at the time of the incident						
		-14	15-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Manslaughter, murder	18	5	6	3	2	1	1	-
Attempted manslaughter, attempted murder	16	3	-	4	2	3	2	2
Assault	1 629	100	136	299	438	414	194	48
Aggravated assault	98	3	10	27	21	21	9	7
Petty assault	716	22	59	149	190	175	89	32
Sexual abuse of a child, aggravated sexual abuse of a child	57	51	6	-	-	-	-	-
Rape, aggravated rape, coercion into sexual intercourse	28	-	1	9	9	5	1	3
Other sex offences	7	-	-	2	3	1	1	-
Other offences in the category of homicide and bodily injury	25	10	-	3	1	5	4	2
Total	2 594	194	218	496	666	625	301	94

Source of information: Statistics Finland: Yearbook of Justice Statistics 2006

Table 12: Incidents of domestic violence reported to the police by age of complainant among close relatives in 2005, complainant female

Crime	Total	Age of the complainant at the time of the incident						
		-14	15-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Manslaughter, murder	5	-	-	1	1	1	2	-
Attempted manslaughter, attempted murder	6	-	-	2	-	1	2	1
Assault	344	38	8	51	102	92	38	15
Aggravated assault	31	5	-	6	4	5	6	5
Petty assault	129	11	6	12	39	42	17	2
Sexual abuse of a child, aggravated sexual abuse of a child	59	57	2	-	-	-	-	-
Rape, aggravated rape, coercion into sexual intercourse	9	-	1	-	4	4	-	-
Other sex offences	6	-	1	3	-	2	-	-
Other offences in the category of homicide and bodily injury	12	2	-	3	2	4	-	1
Total	601	113	18	78	152	151	65	24

Source of information: Statistics Finland: Yearbook of Justice Statistics 2006

Statistics on causes of death

Statistics Finland also produces statistics on causes of death. The statistics on causes of death are compiled from data obtained from death certificates made by medical authorities, combined with data from the population information system of the Population Register Centre. Only the main cause of death is registered in the death certificate. This is done by applying the codes of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) at its most accurate level (3 or 4 digits). When the cause of death is not clear but an indication of violence is present, the death certificate is not written until the preliminary

results from the police investigation on whether the case is a suicide, accident, or crime, are available. Medical authorities thus co-operate with the police and for example information on the offender in the statistics on causes of death is received from the police. The statistics on causes of death cover persons who have died in Finland or abroad during the calendar year and who at the time of death were domiciled in Finland.

One of the statistical tables on causes of death shows the number of women who are killed by domestic violence each year. This table contains data on deaths and mortality by gender of victim and

offender, age of the victim and the relationship of the offender to the victim. The optional relationships are: offender is victim's spouse, offender is victim's parent, offender is victim's child, offender is victim's acquaintance or friend, offender is someone else whose relationship to the victim is known, offender's identity is unknown. This means that information on how many women, according to the death certificates made by medical authorities, are killed by domestic violence each year is available. However, the type of the violence that has caused the death is not recorded in this statistical source.



Table 13: Victims of lethal domestic violence by the relationship of offender to victim, and victim's gender in Finland in 2000–2006

Offender	Victim	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Spouse	Total	22	30	19	18	19	14	11
	Male	3	5	4	5	4	3	2
	Female	19	25	15	13	15	11	9
Parent	Total	5	5	13	2	5	7	2
	Male	1	4	5	2	3	4	2
	Female	4	1	8	-	2	3	-
Victim's child	Total	8	7	8	3	1	3	5
	Male	5	3	3	1	1	1	3
	Female	3	4	5	2	-	2	2
Acquaintance or friend	Total	40	55	36	28	38	23	41
	Male	32	44	31	26	32	18	29
	Female	8	11	5	2	6	5	12
Someone else (relationship to the victim known)	Total	37	37	39	20	39	26	19
	Male	33	36	28	18	35	23	19
	Female	4	1	11	2	4	3	-
Identity unknown	Total	27	20	18	28	28	32	29
	Male	22	15	18	18	25	26	22
	Female	5	5	-	10	3	6	7
Total	Total	139	154	133	99	130	105	107
	Male	96	107	89	70	100	75	77
	Female	43	47	44	29	30	30	30

Source of information: Statistics Finland: StatFin database

9. The National Research Institute of Legal Policy and the Police College of Finland

The Data Collection Instrument of the Finnish Homicide Monitoring System

The Data Collection Instrument of the Finnish Homicide Monitoring System (FHMS) was created as a joint effort of the Criminological Unit of the National Research Institute of Legal Policy and the Research Unit of the Police College of Finland, and it became operative as of 1 June 2002. The aim of the FHMS is to monitor the homicide phenomenon, to create a database for in-depth research, and to serve crime prevention and prevention targeting purposes. The database is based on the police data. The FHMS is thus based on information produced in preliminary police investigations. The data are collected directly from the chief investigator of each individual homicide on a standard electronic form. It is com-

pulsory for the investigating officers to complete the questionnaire. The general crime reporting system of the police is used in FHMS as a control and follow-up instrument to make sure that the data are really acquired from each registered homicide.

The database registers information on crimes investigated by the police under the following Penal Code titles: murder, manslaughter, killing, infanticide and negligent homicide committed in a single act with an intentional assault crime. Attempted homicides are not included.

Registering the information takes place primarily after the preliminary investigation has been closed. For crimes which are not cleared within a reasonable space of time, however, the available data are registered about one year after the start of the investigation, if the case is still being investigated as a probable homicide.

The database contains information on the main characteristics of the crimes, on

their regional and temporal distribution, on the socio-demographic background of both the victim and the main offender and on their crime scene behaviour. The system also contains information related to the investigation of the crimes and information on the behaviour of the suspects after the crime and during the investigation. The number of internal variables for each case is about 90. In addition, the National Research Institute of Legal policy inserts external data on prior crimes of offenders and victims, and also on the punishments received by offenders. This information is retrieved from the information system of the courts kept by Statistics Finland and the crime sanctions register, kept by the Ministry of Justice.

Of the total of 90 variables the following can be considered essential when assessing domestic violence against women:

1. Victim data (note that the questionnaire contains several other questions about the victim but the following ones are those considered essential when assessing domestic violence against women):

Victim sex

- male

- female

- unknown



Date of birth

Marital status at the time of the offence

- married
- cohabitation
- long-term boy/girlfriend, separate apartments
- no intimate partnership
- not known
- the sole adult of a single-parent family

Does the victim have children?

- yes
- no
- not known

Was the victim born in Finland?

- yes
- no

- not known

Citizenship

- Finnish citizen
- Finnish and other citizenship, what other: _____
- other citizenship, what: _____
- unknown

Did the victim live in Finland permanently or temporarily?

- long-term resident
- temporary (visit etc.)
- not known

Victim's living conditions at the time of the offence

(Note: this question refers to living conditions, not to the place of the offence)

The victim lived (or stayed on a long-term basis)

- apartment owned by the victim or his/her spouse
- apartment rented by the victim or his/her spouse
- with his/her parents
- in student dormitory
- in other dormitory
- with friends, acquaintances or relatives
- outdoors, junk boxes, makeshift huts, in forest
- prison
- other institution (for example, hospital)
- other situation, what: _____
- unknown

2. Information describing the offence (note that the questionnaire contains several other questions about the offence):

What kind of violence resulted in the victim's death (You may choose multiple options)

- hitting by hands
- kicking
- options 1 or 2, not known which
- the victim was pushed to ground
- strangulation by hands
- strangulation by rope etc.
- asphyxiation caused by a soft object
- asphyxiation caused by water

- injury caused by firearm
- injury caused by sharp object
- injury caused by blunt object
- injury caused by asphyxiation
- falling from high place
- injury caused by fire
- poison injuries
- injury caused by bacteria or viruses
- biting

- other mode of violence, what: _____
- Concerning the injuries inflicted on the victim, was there something that could point to the sexual motivation of the offender?
- no
- yes, what: _____

3. Offender data (note that the questionnaire contains several other questions about the offender):

Offender's personal id number:

Offender's address and post code:

Date of birth

- born: _____
- unknown

Offender's sex

- male
- female
- unknown

Marital status at the time of the offence

- married
- cohabitation
- long-term boy/girlfriend, separate apartments
- no intimate partnership
- not known
- the sole adult of a single-parent family

Does the offender have children?

- yes
- no
- not known

Was the offender born in Finland?

- yes
- no
- not known

Does the offender live in Finland permanently or temporarily?

- long-term resident
- temporary (visit etc.)
- not known

Offender citizenship

- Finnish citizen
- Finnish and other citizenship, what other: _____
- other citizenship, what: _____
- unknown

Offender's living conditions at the time of the offence

(Note: this question refers to living conditions, not to the place of the offence)

The offender lived (or stayed on a long-term basis)

- apartment own by the victim or his/her spouse
- rented apartment rented by the victim or his/her spouse
- with his/her parents
- in student dormitory
- in other dormitory
- with friends, acquaintances or relatives
- outdoors, junk boxes, makeshift huts, in forest (koija)
- prison
- other institution (for example hospital)
- other situation, what: _____
- unknown



4. Victim-offender relationship:

What was the relationship between the victim and the offender?

(Choose only one option. If two options fit the relationship, choose the one which is first on the list and with a smaller number. For example: if the offender was brother to victim, but also neighbour then choose brother).

The victim was to the offender:

- wife
- cohabiting female intimate partner
- girlfriend (=long-term intimate partnership without cohabitation)
- ex-wife, ex-cohabiting female partner, or ex-girlfriend
- husband
- cohabiting male intimate partner
- boyfriend (long-term intimate partnership without cohabitation)
- ex-husband, ex-cohabiting male partner, or ex-boyfriend
- intimate partner, same sex
- ex-intimate partner, same sex
- father
- mother
- brother
- sister
- son
- daughter
- child, sex unknown
- grandparent
- cousin
- "in-law"-relationship
- stepfather

- stepmother
- half sibling
- stepchild, adopted child, non-biological child
- intimate partner's ex-partner or other partner
- ex-partner's present intimate partner
- friend, pal, drinking buddy
- member of the same criminal organisation/group
- member of a competing criminal organisation/group
- co-worker
- neighbour
- resident in the same apartment/dormitory
- cellmate or fellow inmate
- other client to a bar/restaurant, previously unknown
- other client waiting to get inside a bar/restaurant, previously unknown
- restaurant doorman, previously unknown
- police/guard attempting arrest
- escaping crime suspect
- member of the same tribal or ethnic group
- totally unknown
- known by face, or by name
- other relationship, what: _____
- cannot be ascertained

For how long had the victim and the offender known one another? Please give your estimate even if the exact duration cannot be known.

- offender did not know at the time of the offence who the victim was

Offender had known the victim for:

- less than one day
- more than a day but less than a week
- at least week but no longer than one month
- at least a month, but no longer than a year
- more than a year but less than 2 years
- more than 2 year but less than 10 years
- more than 10 years

Overall, the information on homicides collected with the FHMS is extensive. With this data collection instrument it is also possible to get particular information on domestic violence against women that has resulted in the death of the victim.

EXAMPLE OF RECORDED INFORMATION

The National Research Institute of Legal Policy publishes a Review on Homicides based on the information collected with the FHMS. The following table is from the Review on Homicides 1/2007.

Table 14: Victims of lethal domestic violence by offender and gender in Finland between 1 June 2002 and 30 June 2006

Offender	Victim	1-30 June 2006
Spouse, ex-spouse (different sex)	Total	113
	Male	95
	Female	18
Spouse, ex-spouse (same sex)	Total	2
	Male	2
	Female	-
Mother or father	Total	33
	Male	20
	Female	13
Other relative	Total	33
	Male	19
	Female	14
Acquaintance or friend	Total	249
	Male	229
	Female	20

Source of information: Lehti 2007



Table 14: Victims of lethal domestic violence by offender and gender in Finland between 1 June 2002 and 30 June 2006

Offender	Victim	1-30 June 2006
Identity unknown	Total	64
	Male	57
	Female	7
No information on the offender	Total	20
	Male	20
	Female	-
Total	Total	514
	Male	365
	Female	149

Source of information: Lehti 2007

It is worth noting that data on homicides is compiled in two different statistics in Finland. The first one is the statistics on causes of death which is compiled from data obtained from death certificates made by medical authorities and data from the population information system of the Population Register Centre. The statistics on causes of death have been introduced earlier in this report, under the chapter Statistics Finland. The second source of information on homicides is the Data Collection Instrument of the Finnish Homicide Monitoring System. The information in this system is based on crimes recorded by the police.

There are differences in the information between the homicide monitoring system and the statistics on causes of death. Several reasons for the differences have been found (Lehti 2002), such as the timing of the data registration. However, what is mainly causing the differences are the cases of ambiguous deaths that are registered as homicides in one statistical source and as ambiguous deaths with an intentional assault crime, accidents or suicides in the other. Despite the differences, Lehti (2002) states that the information in these two statistical sources is fairly reliable, and fairly similar.

10. Social services and social welfare institutions

Social services departments and social welfare offices in cities and municipalities

At the moment, there is no systematic or nationwide data collection on domestic violence against women in social services departments or social welfare offices in Finland. Some departments or offices record information on their clients. At the moment, it is not possible to combine or aggregate this information since the varia-

bles and classifications applied as well as the data collection procedures are not uniform.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is at present co-ordinating a project the aim of which is to define what kinds of information is to be collected nationally in the social services in the future. One part of this project is to define the information that is to be collected in each agency of the social welfare services. The idea is to create a data system that is used in every social welfare office throughout the country. With a standardised data system and standardised forms it would be possible to collect commensurable, nationwide data on the clients of social welfare offices. The project is to be finished in 2011.

A working group consisting of specialists from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior and National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES) has drafted a standard form with questions on violence. This form is to be included in the client database of the social welfare services. The idea is that every client of the social services is asked a question on possible experiences of violence. If the answer is *no*, no further questions are asked. People who are either victims or perpetrators of violence are often seeking help for other problems than violence and this is why it is hard for people working in the social services to recognise the victims and perpetrators. The idea is that asking a question on possible experiences of violence makes it easier to screen for people who are or have been victims of violence and who need help with the problem.

The "violence form" has been drafted and its field testing started in a couple of municipalities in the autumn of 2007.

The following items are recorded when the client is either the victim or perpetrator of violence:

1. Information on the authority
 - unit, municipality, who is filling in the form
2. Information on the visit
 - is it a visit or a call, new client or repeated visits
3. Basic information on the client
 - gender, year of birth
4. Client's status
 - client is victim, client is perpetrator, client is both victim and perpetrator (in the same case), a child has been exposed to violence
5. Last occurrence of violence
 - during the last 24 hours, during the last week, during the last month, during the last year, earlier
6. Type of violence (it is possible to choose many)
 - physical violence, sexual violence, emotional/psychological violence, economic violence, neglect, cultural or religious violence
7. The relationship between victim and perpetrator:

Client is the victim of violence	Client is the perpetrator
- perpetrator's relationship to the victim:	- victim's relationship to the perpetrator:
a) spouse	a) spouse
b) ex-spouse	b) ex-spouse
c) boyfriend/girlfriend	c) boyfriend/girlfriend
d) parent or step-parent	d) parent or step-parent
e) child or step-child	e) child or step-child
f) sibling or step-sister/brother	f) sibling or step-sister/brother
g) other relative, acquaintance	g) other relative, acquaintance



Client is the victim of violence	Client is the perpetrator
h) client, patient, student, co-worker, boss, fellow student	h) client, patient, student, co-worker, boss, fellow student
i) unknown	i) unknown
j) many perpetrators	
- perpetrator's gender:	- perpetrator's gender:
a) male	a) male
b) female	b) female

8. Physical injuries

- a list of physical injuries

9. Mental or social damage

- a list of mental and social damage

10. Were children exposed to violence?

11. Duration and recurrence of the violence

12. Has the client received help from the following places:

- shelter, social welfare office, child welfare office, police, social worker at the police, legal aid office, family counselling centre, telephone help-line, support group, health centre or doctor, maternity clinic, day care, school, mental health clinic, AA, church, friends and acquaintances, relatives.

13. Has a crime report of an offence been made to the police?

The idea is that all municipalities in Finland should start using this form in their social welfare offices. The primary aim or purpose of the form is not collect-

ing data on the prevalence of violence or single incidents but to make it easier for the staff to recognise violence and provide help for the client. The questions are not compulsory and they should not be asked just for the sake of data collection.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

The church offers different kinds of services and help for people who are in difficult situations in their lives or have problems or worries. One of such services is a national telephone help-line where people can call when they feel like talking to someone. The following information on the calls and callers is collected: caller's gender, caller's age, living circumstances (alone, in a partner relationship, family, single parent), livelihood (employed, unemployed, retired, student) and the reason for calling/the topic of the call. The following categories are used when collecting information on the reason of the call: loneliness, sexuality, partner, family and relatives, other relationships, living circumstances, fundamental questions, death and grieving, suicide, illness (physical/mental), addiction, violence (domestic/other). Though it is probable that the reason for calling is discussed in a more detailed way during the conversation, the emerging information is not systematically recorded. This means that the church has the information on how many calls they have received because of domestic violence but more detailed information is missing.

The church also provides family counselling services. Family counselling centres provide support and help for people who have problems in the family or relationship. A question form is filled in for every client. The following items are recorded: client's gender, client's age, client's family, client's marital status, client's employment status and the reason for the visit. If the reason for the visit is relationship problems, the following categories are used when collecting information: crisis connected to a phase in life, traumatising, sudden crisis, psychosocial crisis, interaction problems, infidelity, physical/mental violence, sexual problems, divorce questions, problems with relatives or other close relationships, religious questions. The categories that are being used in the form have been changed since 2006 and therefore they are not the same as in table 15. A straight question about domestic violence (Has domestic violence occurred in your family?) has been added to the question form in recent years. There are no specific questions about domestic violence against women and more detailed information that might come up during the visit is not systematically recorded.

EXAMPLE OF RECORDED INFORMATION

Tables 15 and 16 show that the information collected by the church is not very accurate and that detailed information on violence against women can not be found from the church statistics.

Table 15: The most common reasons for coming to the church family counselling centres in 2006. (One client can have several reasons for coming to the centre.)

Reason for coming	Percentage of all clients
Contradictions in the relationship	23.1%
Communication problems	11.1%
Infidelity	9.7%
Divorce crisis after the decision of divorce has been made	7.7%
Crisis connected with a phase in life	7%
Mutual alienation	5.9%
Individual psychological problems	4.8%
Domestic violence	4.5%
Other individual, couple or family problems	26.2%

Source of information: The Family Unit of the Church Council



Table 16: Topics of the calls to the national help-line of the church in 2006.
(Many topics may be discussed during one call.)

Topic	Percentage of all calls
Living circumstances	26%
Loneliness	25%
Fundamental questions	19%
Mental sickness	16%
Family and relatives	14%
Spouse/partner	12%
Sexuality	11%
Physical sickness	10%
Other relationships	9%
Addictions	8%
Death and grieving	4%
Suicide	3%
Violence	2%

Source of information: The Family Unit of the Church Council

The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters

The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters is a central organisation for the member associations assisting families by means of institutional and community services and projects. The Federation is the biggest provider of shelter services in Finland (13 shelters with 61 places). These shelters have collected information on their clients since 1979. The information collection has become more detailed over the years, and from the beginning of October 2007, shelters under the Federation have been using a detailed standard form in their data collection. The form contains questions on the following issues:

- client's personal data
- name, social security number, gender, address, citizenship
- client's employment situation, client's living circumstances
- client's social worker and other service providers
- client's children
- essential health information (diseases, medication, allergies, substance abuse, mental problems, treatment)
- perpetrator's personal data,
 - name, gender, year of birth, address, citizenship
 - relationship to the victim, options: partner; cohabiting partner or spouse; divorced; divorce pending; registered relationship
- situation when the client enters the shelter:

- who has referred the client to the shelter
- reason for coming to the shelter
- type of violence, options: physical, mental, sexual, economic, cultural, religious, material
- duration of violence (occasional, repeated)
- child's position in the violent situation (victim, has been exposed to violence, has been neglected)
- previous visits to shelters
- information on restraining order
- action plan for the time in shelter and after the shelter

Private shelter in Espoo

The private shelter in Espoo provides services and help for women and their children who have experienced violence in the family or partner relationship. A form is filled in with every client and it includes the following information:

- client's personal data
- client's children
- type of violence (physical, sexual, mental, economic, cultural)
- who has referred the client to the shelter
- duration of violence
- previous visits to shelters
- contacts with other service providers and authorities

The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not recorded and no systematic information about the perpetrator is recorded.

National Women's Line in Finland

The National Women's Line in Finland is a national, free of charge telephone helpline that provides help, advice and support to girls and women who have experienced violence or threat of violence, and also to their friends and family. A form is filled in about every caller. The following issues are recorded:

Caller

- gender
- is the caller the victim of violence, close relative, other relative, friend or acquaintance, colleague or fellow student, neighbour, authority representative, perpetrator, other.

Victim

- gender
- age
- place of residence
- for how long violence, threat of violence or fear of violence has continued (once, less than one year or one year, less than five years or five years, less than ten years, ten years or more than ten years, no information)

Perpetrator

- who is or was the perpetrator: spouse or partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, ex-spouse or ex-boyfriend/girlfriend, parent or parents, child, other relative, friend or acquaintance, colleague or fellow student, authority, neighbour, client or patient, other.
- gender

Type of violence

- physical, mental, sexual, breaking of belongings and property, hidden



(feeling of threat), economic, religious, sexual harassment, discrimination, other, no information

Caller's situation

- what does the caller talk about (what is the caller's situation like)
- what topics are discussed during the call: violence or threat of violence; fear, anxiety, insecurity; powerlessness, frustration; guilt, shame; loneliness; sexuality, corporality; information on support and help services; other
- who has the victim told about the violence: authorities; spouse, partner or boyfriend/girlfriend; family members or relatives; friends or acquaintances; colleagues or fellow students; someone else, who; no one
- where has the victim received help: health services; social services; criminal system; shelter; mental health services; family clinic; spiritual services; peer group support; somewhere else, where; nowhere
- what sort of support is the caller looking for: criminal matters; divorce or property matters; custody or visiting rights matters; social services and benefit matters; residential matters; healthcare matters; mental health questions; spiritual questions; support groups; support person; other support
- what sort of support has been given to the caller

Rape crisis centre Tukinainen

Tukinainen rape crisis centre is a national resource centre that provides support and guidance for persons who have been sexually assaulted or abused, as well as for their families. There is a helpline for conversations and information about sexual assault and abuse. There is also free legal consultation for victims of domestic violence. A form is filled in for every caller. The following issues are recorded:

- caller's gender
- victim's gender (if the caller is not the victim)
- caller's place of residence

- victim's place of residence (if the caller is not the victim)
- is the caller: victim; spouse, partner, boyfriend; near relative; other relative; friend or acquaintance; colleague; neighbour; authority; perpetrator; other
- victim's nationality
- where did the caller hear about Tukinainen
- victim's age at the time of the call
- victim's age at the time of the offence
- the reasons of contacting Tukinainen: rape; attempted rape; sexual abuse; sexual harassment or molesting; coercion into a sexual act; incest; other sexual abuse of a child; doubt about incest or abuse; domestic violence/abuse; mental violence; pandering; trafficking in human beings; restraining order; consultancy; other, what
- scene of the offence: victim's private apartment; perpetrator's private apartment; shared private apartment; other private apartment; public space; workplace; cruise ship; means of transport; outdoors; other, what
- country of the offence
- perpetrator(s): partner, boyfriend; spouse; ex-partner; parent; other family member; other relative; friend; colleague; neighbour; other acquaintance; acquaintance from restaurant; acquaintance from the internet; professional helper (e.g. doctor, therapist); authority representative (e.g. police); someone in an authoritative position (based in the perpetrator's position; based on dependence; based on significant age difference); unknown; no information
- number of perpetrators
- gender of perpetrator(s)
- nationality of perpetrator(s)
- how long is it since the last offence
- consequences of the offence to the victim: physical, mental, posttraumatic stress disorders, social, sexual, changes in the ability to work or

study, changes in living circumstances, suicidal symptoms, use of intoxicants, legal consequences

- estimate of how many times the victim has experienced sexual violence
- legal process: report of an offence has been made to police; report of an offence has not been made; report of an offence has been withdrawn; conciliation; legal process is pending; legal process is closed; waiving of charges; no information
- medical examination of the victim
- guidance/informing of the victim
- guidance to other services of Tukinainen

Victim Support Finland

Victim Support Finland offers practical advice and psychological support to victims of crimes or attempted crimes and those closest to them, and witnesses of crime. Victim Support Finland maintains a national helpline offering callers practical advice and psychological support. Victim Support Finland also provides personal help in group activities or with a support volunteer. Certain information on the clients is collected in all services. This information includes the gender of the client/caller and the crime he/she has experienced. The options of the crimes are: domestic violence; sexual violence; other assault, robbery; threats, harassment, mental violence; homicide; burglary, theft; fraud, defalcation; racism; traffic offence; other crime. More detailed information that might come up during the call/visit is not systematically recorded. Victim Support Finland does not connect the information of the experienced crime to the caller's/client's gender and therefore the number of women who have experienced domestic violence can not be distinguished from the data.

EXAMPLE OF RECORDED INFORMATION

Some statistics on Victim Support Finland's clients and services can be found in the Internet. Table 17 shows the crimes that Victim Support Finland's clients have experienced.



Table 17: Crimes experienced by those who have sought help from Victim Support Finland's helpline in 2006

Crime	Percentage of callers
Threats, harassment, mental violence	19%
Domestic violence	13%
Other assault, robbery	12%
Sexual violence	10%
Burglary, theft	4%
Fraud, defalcation	2%
Homicide	1%
Other crime	7%

The Finnish Association for Mental Health

The Finnish Association for Mental Health is an expert organisation that collects and disseminates information on mental health to serve planning and decision-making, proposes initiatives and publishes reports, trains professionals and volunteers and publishes books and journals. The Association has a national crisis telephone, 10 crisis centres and an SOS service unit that provides services such as telephone consultation, crisis hours in the client reception, psychological first aid from an ambulant unit, and client group

activity. The Finnish Association for Mental Health collects information about its clients. The following data are recorded on the callers/clients: gender, age, employment situation and the reason of the call/visit. If the reason of the call or visit is violence, further questions on the type of the violence (domestic violence or sexual violence) are asked. Also, information on whether the caller/client is the victim or the perpetrator is recorded.

The Family Federation

The Family Federation is a social and health sector organisation focusing on families. The Federation provides services, acts as an advocate and carries out research. The Federation has a Partner Relationship Project that has its own national helpline as well as a Partner Relationship Centre that provides counselling, training, job consultation and therapy. The only information the Federation collects on the clients of the Partner Relationship Project is the number of clients or calls.

France

Maryse Jaspard et al. (2003, 15)¹⁴, commenting on the incompleteness of French violence statistics, states that the Ministry of the Interior has been publishing annual statistics of recorded crime in France, but these focus primarily on the perpetrators of violence. The Ministry of Defence is, on the other hand, publishing their statistics "État des victimes, des crimes et délits à la police judiciaire". Furthermore, in their "Annuaire statistique de la Justice", the Ministry of Justice reports on sentences but not on victims. There are some higher level tribunals (TGI) that are currently or in the near future assessing "les violences conjugales" (intimate partner violence). Some medico-legal units have produced statistical accounts about violence victims for whom they have provided services. Finally, the National Observatory of Decentralised Social Action (ODAS) has established statistics on features of abused children and of victims of sexual abuse. NGOs that provide

aid and support to female victims of violence collect statistics on persons with whom they have been in contact. There is a report (CESUR 1998) analysing 9 000 calls to a national helpline of the National Federation of Women's Solidarity. The "Collectif féministe contre le viol" makes up annual statistics of its clients (around 2 500 cases of rape and other sexual aggression/assaults). Finally, the "Association européenne contre les violences aux femmes au travail (AVFT)" has published an analysis of part of their files in a report on sexual harassment (Cromer 1995).¹⁵

Jaspard et al. do not provide detailed information about the exact statistical contents of the sources they mention. However, only the first ones of the administrative sources mentioned above can be seen as administrative data sources proper in the sense that they report on a regular basis and contain some relevant data on domestic violence against women. It would seem that none of the sources identified here provide comprehensive information about the topic of the present study.

Nevertheless, there have been important advances: the gendarmerie has established a special unit for victims, and this unit is also developing systematic data on domestic violence against women. A first achievement has been the compilation of a first national study on women killed in intimate relationships. The data had to be collected separately from each police district as such information is not recorded on a routine basis. A second important achievement is that a special government-commissioned national survey of violence against women (ENVEFF) has been carried out in 2000 (reported 2003 in the book by Maryse Jaspard et al.), which provides, for the first time, a comprehensive picture of women's victimisation to male violence. This work is, however, beyond the scope of the present study, as it focuses on standard administrative data sources rather than on survey sources.

Routine data at police level suffer from similar weaknesses found in many other countries. Also, prosecutor and court data contain little information on domestic violence against women. The only – and quite interesting – exception is that, after a recent law amendment, partner violence is interpreted as an aggravating factor in

14. Maryse Jaspard, Elizabeth Brown, Stéphanie Condon, Dominoque Fougeyrollas-Schwebel, Annik Houel, Brigitte Lhomond, Florence Maillochon, Marie-Josèphe Saurel-Cubizolles and Marie-Ange Schiltz (2003). Les violences envers les femmes en France. Une enquête nationale. Paris: La Documentation Française.

15. Cromer S. (1995). Le harcèlement sexuel en France – la levée d'un tabou 1985-1990. Paris: La Documentation Française.



violent offences. As a consequence of this innovation, police, prosecutor and court data do provide information on the number of offences, suspects, prosecuted, and convicted persons where the crime is an assault offence aggravated by the feature of being perpetrated by a partner. Consequently, police-recorded assaults do presently provide a figure on the number of those assaults where this provision was applied. Other characteristics of the violent event or of the parties involved are not recorded. Similarly, prosecutor and court data would reflect the same situation, i.e. no other data of relevance to this project are currently being recorded.

Homicides: the 2006 homicide situation has been analysed and reported by the Gendarmerie (Direction Générale de la

Gendarmerie Nationale). This study is based on homicide data collected separately from all local units of the Gendarmerie, counting victims of partner and family violence, speaking about “homicides conjugaux”. This study is able to distinguish women killed by their male partners, including ex-partners, from the rest. It also provides data on the age of victims and perpetrators – however not separately for cases where women were killed by their (ex)partners; but this would of course be possible to do from the original data. Similarly, the modus operandi is provided as a simple one-dimensional distribution. (Type of violence is thus not provided). There is a plan to continue with such special studies. As this is – for the time being – a single study, it can not be con-

sidered standard “administrative data”, at least not until this report becomes a regular routine.

Hospitals: No information was found.

Social services: No detailed information was found. There is however a special unit in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, responsible for domestic violence against women. Their possibilities for effective action have however been severely limited by systematic resource reductions.

Emergency calls: No information was found.

Telephone helplines: See Jaspard et al.

Shelters: No information was found – but see Jaspard et al.

Czech Republic

A new law on domestic violence took force on 1 July 2004. Police use this as the basis for recording. The variables and classifications do not correspond to the variables suggested by the Council of Europe *Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* as contained in the Campaign Blueprint. Two levels of police are dealing with domestic violence. In the first place, it is the local police, but criminal cases may go to the criminal investigation police. Both are applying a common unified data system. The general crime data recorded by the police do not comprise victim characteristics or type of violence, or relationship between victim and offender, as is the case in most police crime data systems in other countries too.

In the Czech Republic, there is a recently introduced system of restraining/protection/barring orders that are being imposed by police on the spot if they recognise a domestic violence situation on an emergency call. The solution follows the Austrian model. After a three-year pilot in some parts of the country, restraining/protection/barring orders were introduced nationally as of 1 January 2007, accompanied by substantial training efforts. The system seems to produce a lot of cases, 700 until the end of September 2007. The order must be given by the police if domestic violence is observed, even against the will of the parties concerned, if the policeman has recognised domestic violence as defined in the SARA methodology, and if there is a high level of risk of future violence; then police can remove

the offender. 24 hours is the time limit for handing the case over to a multi-disciplinary intervention centre. Next, within another 24 hours, the intervention centre must contact the victim to start finding a way to solve the problem. The victim will have 10 days to consider and decide what to do – whether to allow the man to return or to ask for a prolongation of the order from the court, for a maximum of 6 or even 12 months.

In the law, there is not a narrow provision on domestic violence against women. Instead, the law speaks about domestic violence as violence in the home by or against a dependant. Consequently, the law does not concern only female victims of partner violence, but any family/household member may be involved, and there is no discretion as to the relationship between victim (the person who suffered damage) and the perpetrator.

At least for the time being, the government has assigned the NGO White Circle with the task of monitoring the implementation of the new system of restraining/protection/barring orders.

For restraining/protection/barring orders, specific information about the victims is collected. In this system, the victim is defined as the person who suffered damage; a special form (a “SARA card”) is completed. This is used to collect details about each case, such as the region, the date/month, the sex of the victim, the sex of the offender, the age of the victim, the relationship between victim and offender, and what happened. There is no direct information on the type of violence

involved. The relationship between victim and offender is classified in detail: married; only partners; divorced (by law) but living together in the same address (because of housing shortage, this is said to be quite common), relatives (sisters, brothers), trans-generational (parent-child-grandparent), other (such as parent and adult daughter whose boyfriend abuses her parents, i.e. a kind of “informal in-law”), ex-partner. In addition, also other data are collected on children, on contacts with the intervention centre, etc. Except for the type of violence that is not being described, this solution is clearly corresponding to the basic requirements of the Council of Europe criteria.

The completed “SARA card” is given to the next step of the procedure, a specialist policeman from a special unit for domestic violence against women, with special training.

In the (Swedish and Canadian inspired) SARA methodology, domestic violence is defined for the policemen by four factors:

- violence, repeated between the same people;
- escalation;
- we can recognise who is the abuser and who is the victim;
- private place.

This means that the domestic violence against women as understood in the Council of Europe definition cannot be singled out from all cases. Rather, the criteria applied here are more specific and would likely exclude part of the kinds of events that meet the Council of Europe



criteria: it is not clear for instance how ex-partners should be treated in this system.

The NGO White Ring provides shelter services for victims of domestic violence. It also runs a special hotline, but in this context only very basic information is recorded, no details sought for in this study. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, providing expert advice and professional counselling. The helpline is not free but the client pays the cost of the call, as it is run by paid professionals, and without regular public funding.

Spain

In Spain, the collection of data on domestic violence against women is currently at a turning point. This is because a State Observatory on Violence against Women was established in Spain in June 2006. This Observatory is a collegiate body with representatives of the administration and civil society (including, among others, unions, NGOs, and researchers) attached to the Ministry for Equality under the Government Delegation on Gender Violence. The Observatory is in charge of collecting all information held by the public and private institutions that are involved in combating gender-based violence, such as social services, health care, education, judicial authorities and police. The task of the Observatory is to assess the magnitude of the phenomenon of violence against women and its evolution, with a special focus on the groups of women who are most severely affected, their ages and the circumstances in which violence usually takes place so that the main risk situations can be determined. The purpose of this collection of data is to assess and evaluate the political initiatives that have been put into practice, to make proposals for new measures and for amending those that are malfunctioning in order to eradicate violence against women from Spanish society and to diminish its impacts on society. The definition of gender violence that the State Observatory addresses is established in Article 1 of the 1/2004 Act on *Measures for Protection against Gender Violence*, “to combat the violence exercised against women by their present or former spouses or by men with whom they maintain or have maintained analogous affective relations, with or without cohabitation, as an expression of discrimination, the situation

In prosecutor and court data, domestic violence against women is not recorded, apart from the protection/expulsion/barring/restraining order cases.

The cause of death statistics contain the standard information based on the ICD-10 classification, and are therefore not up to the requirements of the Council of Europe.

Hospitals: The Ministry of Health has prepared a special card for awareness-raising among doctors, not a statistical form. They are obliged to record, and this is considered to work well. There is also a

of inequality and the power relations prevailing between the sexes”.

According to the comment in the second statistical bulletin of the Government Delegation on Gender Violence and the State Observatory on Violence against Women, one of the difficulties in analysing the evolution and extent of gender-based violence is the heterogeneity of the data and information available. To solve this problem, a *System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence* has been developed in the State Observatory on Violence against Women. The idea is that by pulling together certain variables and indicators, a database on gender-based violence could be developed in the future. This database would contain continuous, up-to-date data that could be useful when planning action and policies on violence against women.

The purpose of the indicators comprised in the database is not only to describe the extent of violence but also to assess the resources and measures taken against the problem. Some of the indicators are based on information that already exists or will soon be available, while others refer to information that is necessary but unavailable or not disposable for the time being.

Before discussing the System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence in detail, some features of already existing data collection on domestic violence against women are briefly introduced. The description is based on discussions Mr Aromaa and Ms Ruuskanen had with Mrs Carvajal and her colleagues in Madrid in October 2007.

1. Police

The Spanish police are divided into the National Police and the Civil Guard

special provision on child victims of domestic violence (Act on family and social care institutions for children). There is no information on the variables and classifications applied.

The social services are recording domestic violence if they suspect something. Only basic information is being recorded such as name, age, and the fact that domestic violence is being suspected. No information on the definition of domestic violence applied in this context was found.

(Guardia Civil). These police bodies have consistent data on domestic violence since 1995. The Autonomous Communities of the Basque Country, Catalonia and Navarra have their own police forces and also their own data collection. Data on domestic violence are available from the police forces of the Autonomous Communities as well, but it is not compatible with the data of the National Police and the Civil Guard. The police are obliged to record cases of domestic violence so that they can be distinguished from other cases. A new, uniform police data system has been designed at the Ministry of Interior and its implementation was started in the autumn of 2007.

2. Judicial authorities

Two different data sources, the judicial authorities and the Ministry of Justice, provide information. The Ministry of Justice also maintains a register on victims of violence based on information received from courts. It is possible to distinguish female victims of domestic violence in this register.

3. Health care

The statistics on domestic violence in the health care sector are not reliable. However, a health care protocol aiming at consistent practices in the whole country has been created in 2007. The aim is to create common indicators related to gender-based violence that would be accepted and used in the whole country, including the Autonomous Communities. The idea is to connect health care data with information on assaults from courts. The intention is that if health care staff suspects that the patient is a victim of domestic violence, they could report the case to the police without the patient's approval.



4. Social services

The social services in Spain have a uniform data system that covers 70% of the country. The Basque Country and Catalonia are not part of the system, and they do not send their information to the central government. Overall, information on

domestic violence against women gained by the social services is quite insignificant.

5. The System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence

The *System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence* is divided into three parts. Each part includes indicators

that can be used for different purposes when describing the extent of violence against women, the available resources, and the measures taken against violence. The contents and the structure of the system are shown in the following table.

Table 18: The System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence

Analysis and magnitude of gender-based violence	Recorded violence
	Description of the victim
	Description of the suspected perpetrator
	Deceased victims
	Indicators from the Macro surveys on violence against women and other studies
Analysis of the adopted measures	Data from the security forces (Fuerzas y Cuerpos de Seguridad)
	Judicial data
	Training of the professionals
	Education
	Media and public opinion
	Health care
	Social services
	Labour
Resources	Police resources
	Judicial resources
	Training of the professionals
	Education resources
	Media resources
	Healthcarehealthcare resources
	Social services resources
	Social security and labour resources
	Budget for developing the measures

The second one of the three parts of the system of indicators, i.e. *Analysis of the adopted measures*, is the most relevant one considering the purpose of this study. This part shows what kinds of data and information different public and private institutions should collect on violence against women. Some of the institutions included in the Spanish system are not in the scope of this study and therefore they are not discussed in this report. The ones that are covered here are: security forces, justice system, health care and social services. Also, information on deceased victims from the part *Analysis and magnitude of gender-based violence* are included here. The indicators are introduced here in the same way as they are written down in the System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence. Below, only data directly relevant to the present task are

presented. The system comprises a large number of other variables as well.

1. Data from the security forces (Fuerzas y Cuerpos de Seguridad)

Data from the security forces means basically data recorded by different bodies of police, i.e. the National Police, the Civil Guard, the police of autonomous regions and the municipal police.

Number of charges of gender-based violence pressed

Number of charges that have been withdrawn

Charges pressed by

- victim
 - yes
 - no
- if no: relationship to the victim
 - none
 - family member
 - neighbour

- acquaintance
- victim's socio-demographic characteristics

Suspect

- relationship to the victim
 - spouse
 - ex-spouse
 - companion
 - ex-companion
 - fiancé/fiancée
 - ex-fiancé/ex-fiancée
- suspect's socio-demographic characteristics

Type of the reported violence

- physical
 - injuries
 - › yes
 - › no
 - if yes:
 - › slight
 - › grave
 - › very grave



- › disability
- mental
- sexual
 - injuries
 - › yes
 - › no
 - if yes:
 - › slight
 - › grave
 - › very grave
 - › disability
- economic

Risk assessment reports

Actions taken by the police

Interventions because of gender-based violence

- number
- date
- place

Police detentions because of gender-based violence

- facts of the detention, date and place
- socio-demographic characteristics of the arrested person
- possession of arms (legal or illegal)

2. Judicial data

The chapter dealing with judicial data is very long and for someone not familiar with the Spanish legal system quite hard to understand. Since 2005 special courts for gender violence are being created. These courts deal with the penal as well as the civil aspects that may be involved in the case. A Public Prosecutor for cases of Violence against Women with the status of Divisional Prosecutor has been established to coordinate the action guidelines for Prosecutor's Offices in gender violence that have been created in the Regional High Courts and the County Courts. Some other types of courts, as courts on duty, may have to take decisions on gender violence cases. Due to the complexity of the Spanish judiciary system, the judicial data is recorded, even duplicating the information, by all legal practitioners involved in the case: judge, prosecutor and solicitors.

Besides the recording of the personal data of victim and suspect, such as birthday, relationship between both, nationality, etc., the system intends to provide in-depth information in areas such as:

Judicial processes

- Person or body who reports: victim, family member of the victim, police, health system, social services, prosecutor

- Kind of procedure: fast judgement, ordinary judgement, jury court, etc.
- Legal aid to victims
- Data protection
- Forensic reports either on the victim or on the aggressor

Protection orders

- Type, length, control mechanisms

Protective custody

- Dismissal of the proceedings
- No evidence of crime
- Attrition

Sentences

- Condemnation
 - Type of court that issued the sentence
 - Type of crime: homicide, injuries, coercion, offences, threats, etc.
 - Type of penalties: prison, services for the benefit of the community, non-molestation orders, mandatory participation in perpetrator programmes, other protective measures
- Absolutory sentences

3. Health care

Victims of gender-based violence as patients of health care

- number of female victims of gender-based violence as patients of health care
 - in hospitals
 - in health centres
 - in mental health centres
 - in centres of primary care (Centros de Atención Primaria)

4. Social services

Female victims of gender-based violence as clients of consultation centres and information services

- client's socio-demographic characteristics
- number of clients of psychological consultation services provided for female victims of violence, organised by autonomous communities
 - number of used services
- number of users of judicial consultation services
 - number of used services
 - women's socio-demographic characteristics
- number of clients of mobile or land-line telephone assistance
 - number of clients of mobile telephone assistance

- number of clients of phones provided by the security forces
- number of clients of phones provided by social services
- women's socio-demographic characteristics
- number of clients of free telephone assistance
 - national
 - autonomous communities
 - local

Female victims of gender-based violence who use services offering immediate help (emergency devices, online consultation, emergency number 112 etc.)

- number of clients according to the type of immediate help
- client's socio-demographic characteristics

Clients of temporary refuge (immediate refuge centres, shelters, protected housing)

- number of clients of temporary refuge centres
 - number of children of women who are clients of the temporary refuge centres
- number of clients of temporary refuge centres according to the type of centre
 - immediate refuge centres
 - shelters
 - centres of integral attention (centros de atención integral)
 - protected housing
 - other
- average stay in temporary refuge centres
- number of demands of admission to refuge centres
- number of denials
- number of clients
- client's socio-demographic characteristics

5. Deceased victims

Deceased victims of gender-based violence according to the Organic Law 1/2004¹⁶

- number of victims
- socio-demographic characteristics of

16. It should be noted that according to the Organic Law 1/2004, the purpose of the Act is "to combat the violence exercised against women by their present or former spouses or by men with whom they maintain or have maintained analogous affective relations, with or without cohabitation, as an expression of discrimination, the situation of inequality and the power relations prevailing between the sexes".



- victims
- perpetrators
- facts of the aggression
- relationship to the perpetrator
 - living together or not
 - couple in crisis
- previous institutional protection
 - denunciations
 - protection measures
 - social services
 - health services
 - mobile or landline telephone assistance
 - other

Deceased victims in family environment

- number of victims
- socio-demographic characteristics of
 - victims
 - perpetrators
- facts of the aggression
- relationship to the perpetrator
 - living together or not
- previous institutional protection
 - denunciations
 - protection measures
 - social services

Sweden

1. Police and criminal justice system

Sweden's official crime statistics are produced by The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brottsförebyggande rådet – Brå). The Council compiles statistics on offences that are reported to the police, the customs authority and the prosecution service. This statistical source distinguishes some characteristics of the victim in crimes against life and health (chapter 3 of the Penal Code). The sex of the victim is expressed by distinguishing for example assaults against women and assaults against men. Children are divided into age groups and are as of 2008 even distinguishable by sex. Information on the victim's age (for men and women) is not available.

The statistics on reported offences do not contain information on the perpetrator. Consequently, information on the perpetrator's sex or age is missing. The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is classified for assaults with codes acquainted with victim and not acquainted with victim. The definition of acquainted with victim is quite broad and covers basically everyone who is not a complete stranger to the victim. Thus, it is

- health services
- mobile or landline telephone assistance
- other

The *System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence* is an important and challenging project that attempts to create a tool for uniform, comparable data collection on violence against women in Spain. The system is very extensive and detailed, and only some parts of it have been discussed in this report. Despite its extent, the system is still lacking some essential variables from the point of view of the present study.

According to the *Blueprint of the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, data collection should be disaggregated by sex, the type of violence as well as by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim. This was taken as a guideline when drafting the questionnaire on administrative data collection on violence against women, and questions of sex, type of violence and relationship of the perpetrator to the victim were included in each part of the questionnaire. It should be

not possible to distinguish cases of domestic violence against women in this source.

Another statistical source compiled by the Council is the statistics on persons convicted of offences. This source does not contain information on the victim, and thus it is not possible to distinguish how many men have been convicted of, for example, assaults against their wives or girlfriends each year.

2. STUK – structured information on crime

The judicial authorities of Sweden have taken an initiative to create a new structure for classifying crimes. This initiative is called STUK; the acronym stands for "structured information on crime". The aim of STUK is to have a uniform set of provisions for all judicial authorities on how to compile and structure the kind of information on crimes that authorities are dealing with within the criminal procedure. For example, the codes and classifications used by the police are to be replaced by new ones after the introduction of STUK. One objective of the new system is to make it possible to follow the flow of cases through the criminal procedure, i.e. to follow several aspects of each crime from the report of an offence to the

noted that recording data according to the *System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence* is planned to be done for the first time in 2008. Not all of the information will be recorded at the first time. This means that the implementation of the system is still in its early stage and only starting off. The State Observatory on Violence against Women is and has been organising seminars and meetings with the institutions that are involved in combating gender-based violence in order to motivate them to start planning and carrying out data collection according to the System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence.

Overall, assessing the System of Indicators and Variables on Gender-Based Violence as a whole is quite challenging. Evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of the system is possible only after it has been in use for a few years. An evaluation of the system should definitely be done so that other countries could learn from the Spanish experience.

Structured information makes it easier for authorities to change and reuse the information. STUK is not a new data system but a model that will be implemented for use in already existing data systems of the relevant authorities. Most parts of STUK are to be implemented in 2012.

STUK contains legal information, operational information and criminological information of which the latter is of interest. Legal and criminological information is based on data recorded by crime detecting authorities when a suspected crime is discovered and investigated. The criminological classification is dealt with by the authority – police, customs or public prosecutor – that makes the initial legal classification. Even the initial legal classification can be changed by different authorities that participate in the investigation and detection of the crime – if it is found to be needed. After that, criminological information is updated by different authorities that participate in the investigation and detection of the crime. The criminological part of STUK is presented here on a general level. It is worth noting that the following categories contain very detailed options to choose from when



classifying a crime. These options are not presented here, except for the ones that describe the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

Time

- time, date and day of the week when the crime took place

Place

- geographical location and physical environment of the crime

Method of crime

- description of how the crime was committed

Situation

- description of the circumstances of the crime

Effect

- description of the consequences of the crime

Specific focus area

- information on the kinds of crimes that have taken place in a specific context and are of specific interest is described here

The object of crime

- the property that the crime is directed at

The person who is exposed to the crime

- physical or legal person who has been exposed to the crime
- terms such as victim or complainant are not used on purpose since these terms can not be used for both physical and legal persons
- the following information is recorded for identified physical persons:
 - personal identity number
 - sex
 - age at the time of the crime
 - role in the event (for example police officer, social worker, taxi driver, tourist, client etc.)
 - branch of employment of the person
- there are also variables that are recorded if the physical person is unidentified or if the exposed person is a legal person

The person who has committed the crime

- this is a summary term for all the roles that a person suspected of a crime can have
- the following information is recorded for identified physical persons:
 - personal identity number
 - sex
 - age at the time of the crime
 - role in the event (for example police officer, social worker, taxi driver, tourist, client etc.)
 - branch of employment of the person
- in STUK, different authorities may use different terms for the person who has committed the crime, for example:
 - suspect
 - accused
 - condemned

Relationship

- the possible relationship between the person exposed to the crime and the person who has committed the crime is recorded
- options for relationships are:
 - unknown
 - › recognises from before
 - › does not recognise at all
 - casual acquaintance
 - acquaintance
 - › family/related
 - parent
 - parent's partner
 - child
 - partner's child
 - partner
 - sibling
 - other relative
 - › ex-partner
 - › friend, close acquaintance
 - › professional relationship

Source of information: Strukturerad information om brott. STUK – Ett nytt sätt att koda brott. Slutrapport. September 2002.

STUK is a very useful project. One of its advantages is that it allows the case flow through the criminal justice process to be followed. This would be quite unique in the world. In the light of the aims of this study, STUK allows the collection of reliable information on (recorded) violence against women. STUK includes all the relevant indicators (victim and perpetrator, their sex and age as well as the relationship between them and the type of violence) that are needed

for getting a sufficiently detailed overall picture of cases of domestic violence against women recorded by the police and the criminal justice system.

3. Restraining orders

Restraining orders are issued by public prosecutors in Sweden. On the restraining orders, a lot of data are recorded; however, systematic information on the relationship between the person to be protected and the person on whom the order is imposed is not included. It is of interest that Brå published a study on restraining orders in 2007. This study deals with experiences of people who have been involved in restraining order cases, in one role or another. The study contains information on sex and age of the person to be protected and the person on whom the order is imposed as well as on the relationship between them. However, this information can not be found from one single source. The study combined data from several sources of information. This means that this kind of information is not routinely recorded by one single authority dealing with restraining orders in Sweden. However, the Council is looking into possibilities to start compiling this type of statistics on a more regular basis. According to Brå sources, the statistics may nevertheless only contain information on sex and age of the person to be protected and the person on whom the order is imposed.

4. Victims of lethal domestic violence against women

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention publishes studies on lethal domestic violence against women. Several sources of information have been used for collecting the data for these studies. These include for example the National Police Board's report of an offence register, original reports of an offence, interviews with police officers investigating the cases, and court decisions. The most recent study (Brå 2007) contains information for example on the sex, age, country of birth and the social status of the victim and the perpetrator. The relationship between victim and perpetrator is also dealt with in the study. The perpetrators are either:

- men who have or have had an intimate relationship with the woman – meaning spouse, cohabiting partner, a man engaged to her, or boyfriend;



- family members (other than men in an intimate relationship with the woman);
- children under 15 years old;
- acquaintances or friends who are not members of the family;
- strangers.

The Council's most recent study (2007) covers very well the questions addressed in this study. The information is however not recorded by a single authority and is thus not directly available from one single source (cf. The Data Collection Instrument of the Finnish Homicide Monitoring System, page 27). Consequently, the information must be compiled from several sources by a researcher when it needs to be updated.

5. Health care

The National Board of Health and Welfare publishes statistics in the areas of health and medical care (including causes of death) and social services in Sweden. The board compiles statistics on inpatient care from the Hospital Discharge Register and visits to the medical practitioner in outpatient care in hospitals (including emergency care). The Hospital Discharge Register covers both public and private hospitals. The following information, among other items, is recorded:

- patient's gender
- patient's age
- patient's home county
- principal and side diagnosis according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)

As in Finland, also in Sweden the codes in the chapter External causes of morbidity and mortality can only be used as sub or side diagnoses. The code of the main diagnosis of the patient must be chosen from other chapters in ICD-10.

In the Swedish version of the chapter Assault (codes X85-Y09) in ICD-10, only sub-chapter Other maltreatment syndromes (code Y07) includes codes for defining who the perpetrator of the violence is. The options are:

- spouse or partner;
- parent;
- acquaintance or friend;
- official authority;
- other specified person;
- unspecified person.

These codes are in active use but in practice the most common choice is "unspecified person". It should also be noted that the codes of the chapter Exter-

nal causes of morbidity and mortality are actually being used very comprehensively in Sweden: in recent years, the code was not used in a maximum of only 3% of cases where there was an external cause.

While ICD-10 is the main source of healthcare information in Sweden, information on injuries is recorded also in the Injury Data Base IDB which is a European database. IDB Sweden includes information from outpatient departments and emergency centres in hospitals and covers approximately 7% of the population at the moment. Information on injuries was in 2007 recorded in eight hospitals that have agreed to apply the IDB. The National Board of Health and Welfare has estimated that the database should eventually include approximately 15% of the population so that it would in the future be representative for the whole country.

Data are collected with question forms filled in by patients. The form includes detailed questions about the incident that has caused the injury. Some of the information is filled in by the administrative and the medical staff of the hospital. The information is then coded and recorded by trained coders. The coding is done according to NCECI (NOMESCO Classification of External Causes of Injuries). This classification is designed by the Nordic Centre for Classifications in Health Care which operates under Uppsala University and is responsible for the co-ordination of classifications used within the healthcare systems in the Nordic countries.

The NOMESCO Classification of External Causes of Injuries includes many indicators and variables concerning for example the reason for contacting healthcare personnel, place of occurrence, natural forces, accidental events, violent events and intentional self-harm events. Only the indicators and variables that are concerned relevant regarding the aims of this study are presented here. This does not mean that indicators that are not shown here would not bring additional information about domestic violence against women. It should also be noted that the variables are introduced here on a general level; for example the options in chapter *Violence events* include many sub-choices and explanations that can be found in the classification.

1. Reason for contact

- violence

- assault, fight
- sexual assault
- neglect
- violence, other specified
- violence, unspecified

2. Violence events

- assault by release of energy
- assault by collapse of materials
- assault by use of machinery, equipment and materials
- assault by use of means of transport
- push or pull resulting in fall (assault)
- assault by bodily force (incl. sexual assault)
- assault by use of biological substances
- neglect, abandonment and other maltreatment
- violence event, other specified and unspecified

3. Violence module

- counterpart in event of violence
 - person unknown
 - person known
 - › present spouse/partner
 - › former spouse/partner
 - › child/grandchild
 - › parent/grandparent
 - › other family member
 - › friend
 - › acquaintance
 - › person in dependence
 - › person known, other specified
 - › person known, unspecified
 - police authority
 - counterpart unspecified
- number of counterparts
 - one person
 - two persons
 - 3-5 persons
 - six persons or more
 - number of counterparts unspecified
- counterpart's sex
 - male
 - female
 - counterpart's sex unspecified
- counterpart's age
 - child
 - adolescent
 - adult
 - old
 - counterpart's age unspecified
- event of violence in home/residence
 - injured person's home
 - counterpart's home
 - other person's home
 - home/residence unspecified



In addition to these data, personal data of the victim are recorded. These include: victim's age, gender, date of birth, residence and occupation.

The NCECI is a very good and useful tool for the recording of information on injuries. With this classification it is possible to distinguish the cases where a woman has sought medical help for injuries caused by domestic violence.

6. Causes of death

The Causes of Death Register is maintained by The National Board of Health and Welfare. The Causes of Death Register includes all those who have died during one calendar year and were registered in Sweden at the time of death, regardless of whether the death occurred

inside or outside the country. The underlying cause of death is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases, ICD-10. For injuries, the external cause of the injury is shown.

The main variables included in the register are: social security number, home district, sex, date of death, underlying cause of death, nature of the injury, multiple causes of death, has an autopsy been made and if so what kind of autopsy, operations within four weeks before death, injuries/poisoning, was the death alcohol-related, was it narcotics-related and did the deceased have diabetes.

The cause of death is coded with three-digit codes of ICD-10. This means that when the cause of death is from the chapter Assault, only the "method" of

assault can be distinguished (such as assault by hanging, strangulation and suffocation, assault by drowning and submersion or sexual assault by bodily force). As noted earlier, only code Y07 of the Swedish version of ICD-10, Other maltreatment syndromes, includes options for defining who the perpetrator of violence is. This is however not possible in causes of death statistics since only three digits are used, while defining the perpetrator of violence would require a fourth digit. This means that it is not possible to find out the number of women who have died because of an assault by their spouses, partners or other family members from the Causes of Death Register.

Switzerland

1. Police

Until very recently, each Canton had its own manually created police information system, and these were neither compatible nor comparable. Each of them was designed differently, and they did not comprise systematic victim information. This is because a new electronic standard data system is currently being introduced these days (2006–2009), eventually to be applied in all Cantons in the same fashion.

The new system comprises explicit codes for the kind of issues explored in this study, i.e. crimes against persons. One category of crimes against persons in this system is "häusliche Gewalt" (domestic violence). Its definition is not fully identical with the Council of Europe definition of domestic violence – instead, it comprises only violence against women by her intimate partners, family members and relatives. Furthermore, whether the violence takes place at the victim's home or elsewhere is not of relevance in the Council of Europe framework.¹⁷

The system does recognise suspect, victim¹⁸, their age and nationality, residence status (refugee/asylum seeker etc.), their relationship, their age, the type of violence according to the criminal code and also the kind of weapon used in cases

of physical violence¹⁹, and a few other variables. The victim is defined as the person who suffered harm, physical or psychological. The family relationship between victim and perpetrator is classified as follows (for women and men, and victims and suspects alike):

- spouse, intimate partner
- ex-spouse, ex-partner
- parent, replacement parent, child
- relative

The full code for the relationship between suspect and victim is much longer, and allows also for multiple choices, since a person can, for example, indeed simultaneously be child and neighbour, or relative, workmate and client.

According to the Swiss experts, what variables/characteristics were still felt to be of interest but not comprised in the data system were socio-economic data and information about the involvement of alcohol and narcotics. These were, however, felt to be very difficult for practical

purposes, and likely to remain relatively unreliable and incomplete, the insufficient quality making it probably not worth the considerable extra effort their inclusion would require. Consequently, these variables are not comprised in the new system.

When considering whether the police data are generally speaking reliable, it was felt to be usually at good level, admitting that they are only as good as police can be – police may be incompetent, unmotivated, or biased, and the way to control the volume and impact of such possible sources of error are random checks, done with the objective of controlling whether the original police crime report and the recorded data are in conflict or not. Generally speaking there was a good level of confidence in this feature of the data.

Police statistics now reflect the situation as seen when the investigation is completed (output statistics), not when it was initiated (input statistics). However, cases where the victim withdraws claims/the report (this is legally allowed in many lenient offences/complainant offences) and where the charges were consequently dropped, do not disappear from the system. It is instead possible to see what such cases were like (applying the same suspect-victim variables across the line), and what happened to them in the process.

The new information system is not yet operational in all Cantons but will be soon. It replaces an old manual system where this kind of data was not available, except if the original files are consulted (retrospective time series are thus not possible in realistic terms). The new system

17. Definitions are not unimportant: the comparability of any data on domestic violence clearly depends on, i.e., what is comprised in the term domestic violence and what is not. It would seem quite likely that identical definitions are not to be found very often in comparisons across countries, or, for that matter, in comparisons across the different administrative sectors that deal with victims of domestic violence.

18. The same person can in principle be both victim and suspect, as it is often both participants in a violent encounter who resort to violence and who are being assaulted at the same time. Also, there may be situations with several participants – how these are coded is also of some relevance. A technical note: police data define the roles of the persons involved in principle as "alleged" as there is not yet a binding legal decision as to what happened and what can be proven.

19. The issue of "type of violence" is not fully covered by these characteristics: if there is a need to distinguish between physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, economic or any other such violence, then these variables do not provide a full description. Similarly, if the violence should be subdivided into serious and not-so-serious, and maybe some further category, the same problem arises.



allows all kinds of analyses on top of routine reporting templates. This was considered to be a major advantage as compared with the manual system. (Of course, in principle, also manual data can be analysed freely, but the practical cost would in fact usually be prohibitive).

The police data are validated by the Federal Statistics Office, and published by that office. The FSO also validates the data, making both routine automatic logic checks and random checks that go back to original files, in order to control the validity and the reliability of the data. What was felt to be lacking is adequate resources for further analysis and development – the FSO has access to much valuable data that could be analysed further, in part to better understand what the figures mean and how they can be interpreted, in part to further improve future data.

What would still be of interest is a solution that allows a follow-up of the case flow. This is presently not possible as prosecutors and courts are not applying the same definitions and classifications that have been adopted at police level.

2. Police emergency calls

Police emergency calls are recorded according to the kind of emergency expressed when police are called to intervene, but since there is no obvious offence, there are no obvious suspects or victims either, and normally, no police investiga-

tion can be carried out. Therefore, this source is currently not available for singling out domestic violence from the mass of all emergency calls. Neither is it possible to see what kind of parties were involved (sex, age), what their relationship was, or what type of violence was possibly used.

3. Restraining orders

Restraining orders are used widely in the country. They can be granted on a temporary basis by police, and also by courts. The data about them do not comprise sex and age of perpetrator, or the relationship between perpetrator and victim, or the type of violence.

4. Health care

In Switzerland, hospitals use a data system where domestic violence is recognised. However, the use of the code is voluntary, and the experience was that very often, healthcare staff members do not see it as their duty to go beyond their “core” responsibilities which are to see to the patient’s medical needs rather than prodding into their private affairs. Consequently, while police record 2 000 cases of domestic violence annually, the hospitals record 20. Whether the definition of domestic violence in the hospital information system is identical to the one used in the police system is not clear. Furthermore, there are Canton-level differences in these data.

Public and private hospitals and emergency clinics, as well as private practitioners could use the same variables and classifications but they are not doing this. In any of these, there is no systematic data on the perpetrator or the relationship between victim and perpetrator, or the type of violence used, beyond what the patient chooses to disclose. Also, such information is not recorded at standard basis, and identical classifications are not applied.

5. Social services

For the social services, much the same seems to be true as was observed for the healthcare services. It was felt that there is a long way to go before more accurate and comprehensive information about domestic violence can be expected to become available from this sector.

6. Shelters

Shelters are being maintained by different kinds of public, semi-public, and private agencies, including NGOs. They are all members of a national union of shelters, and are collecting uniform data on their clients. The data neither comprise sex and age of the perpetrator, nor the relationship between victim and perpetrator, nor the type of violence that was used prior to the victim’s arrival at the shelter.

Germany

Initially, a separate country report on Germany had not been envisaged. However, due to its federal structure and size, Germany is a special case among the countries the questionnaire was sent to, which requires a short description.

Germany, a federal state, reported that given the time-frame of this study, it was impossible to fill in the questionnaire as none of the questions referred to federal responsibility. This means not only that a German version of the questionnaire would need to be forwarded to 16 Länder administrations, followed by a translation of the answers into English, but also that these administrations would need to forward the questionnaire for example in the field of courts of first instance to 803 of these courts. This would also mean involving 5,000 prosecutors for the area of prosecutors and an unknown number of police stations. In addition there are more than 400 women’s shelters in Germany.

Neither the Federal Government nor the Länder-Governments keep statistics and data available on their work.

However, data on crime are collected systematically on a yearly basis in the police crime statistics. The Police Crime Statistics of 2006 records information on, among others, suspects and victims. Age and sex of suspects are recorded regularly, while information on victims is recorded only for certain offences or offence categories. These are: murder and manslaughter; offences against sexual self-determination with the use of violence or exploiting a state of dependence; robbery, extortion accompanied by violence, and assault on motorists with intent to rob; bodily injury; offences against personal freedom. The following information is recorded on victims: age, sex, endangerment and victim-suspect-relationship. Options for relationships are: related, acquainted, fellow countryman, passing

relationship, no relationship, unclear. The closest relationship always has priority when a case is coded. According to the German Penal Code, related means:

“A relative is whoever belongs among the following persons:

- a) relations by blood or marriage in direct line, the spouse, the fiancé, siblings, the spouses of siblings, siblings of spouses, even if the marriage upon which the relationship was based no longer exists, or the relationship by blood or marriage has ceased to exist;
- b) foster parents and foster children”.

Since spouses and partners are not distinguished from other relatives in German police statistics, it is not possible to find out for example the number of assaults where the victim is a woman and the suspect is her spouse, partner.

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