

Improving Needs Assessment and Victim's

Support in Domestic Violence related

Criminal Proceedings



SAFE Ireland is a young, innovative and strategic national organisation. We represent and support the work of 40 specialist domestic violence member organisations across Ireland. Together we provide a range of services to support the safety and well being of 12,000 women and children annually. Through this work we understand the complexities, impact and pervasiveness of domestic violence in Ireland.

We are working to transform Ireland to be one of the safest countries in the world for women and children.

To achieve this we:

- Centre-stage and give public voice to the needs and experiences of women and children affected by domestic violence
- Increase public awareness and work with men to champion an end to violence against women and children
- Ensure the availability of services to women and children to provide safety and healing from domestic violence
- Work collaboratively with allies to progress our transformative change agenda
- Lead research to inform new strategies to address the effects and causes of gender-based-violence

Our Aim – Singular and Simple

We want to significantly change the response to violence against women in this country and enable society to take responsibility for the eradication of abuse and domestic violence.

Over the next five years we intend to implement important initiatives that will allow us to achieve the following objectives:

1. Raise Awareness and Affect Cultural Change
2. Transform Service Development
3. Achieve Legal Reform
4. Lead Trauma and Healing Research & Development

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INASC - Improving Needs Assessment and Victim's Support in Domestic Violence related Criminal Proceedings



European partnership

Alemanha / Zoom [Gesellschaft für prospektive Entwicklungen e.V.] Society for prospective developments; DHPol [Deutschen Hochschule der Polizei] German Police University

Austria / IKF [Institut für Konfliktforschung] Institute of Conflict Research

Países Baixos / [Verwey-Jonker Instituut] Verwey-Jonker Institute

Portugal/ CESIS—Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE

Directorate A
Unit A.4: Programme Management

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“As most women do not report violence and do not feel encouraged to do so by systems that are often seen as unsupportive, official criminal justice data only record those few cases that are reported. As a result, policy and practical responses to address violence against women are not always informed by comprehensive evidence.” (FRA (2014). *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey*).



The project INASC, co-funded by the Directorate-General Justice of the European Commission, aims to improve existing understanding of victims' experiences of trajectories of DV cases in the course of criminal proceedings and how these experiences relate to individual assessment mechanisms and outcomes.

Main aim

The main objective of this project is to develop practice-oriented research aiming at identifying a) crucial aspects of supporting mechanisms available to DV victims within the criminal justice system and of b) elements that influence the way victims are being supported and protected at three different levels: i) at the entrance door (security forces receiving the complaints and follow up criminal procedures); ii) at the enquiry stage (public prosecutors initiatives and decisions taken); iii) in court (courts procedures and final decisions).

Core activities / expected outcomes

The transnational team will produce national analyses on the criminal justice response (risk assessment, victims' protection mechanisms, referral procedures) and on the victims' experiences and perceptions of the way criminal justice is responding to their protection needs. A European comparative report of the outcomes of national research will be produced. The reports will include: literature review, including best practices; the legal framework on DV and description of protection procedures and mechanisms; quantitative analysis of needs and risk assessment procedures (with a particular focus on risk and needs assessment procedures); and a qualitative analysis of justice system's perceptions and practices regarding protection needs and risks.

The project will produce a common “judicial-oriented toolkit” based on a human rights framework to domestic violence. The judicial-oriented toolkit on DV victims' protection includes: i) a set of excellence criteria for the establishment or improvement of protection needs assessment mechanisms; ii) a booklet on case typologies; and iii) an

organisational self-assessment pack for criminal law enforcement agencies and professionals to evaluate the impact of assessment procedures on victims protection.

National advisory committees composed by experts and relevant key actors will accompany the Project's different stages. All final products will be validated by these national committees.

A final EU Seminar aiming at the launch of the Project's outcomes and sharing of experiences and best practices between experts and relevant key actors.

Target groups

Law enforcement agencies, Public Prosecutors, Judges, victim's support services.

Project timeline

From February 2014 till January 2016.

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