



Overview of Domestic violence in Europe

CEP Workshop on gender-based violence in probation
13-14 December 2022, Barcelona

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Funded by the
European Union

**OAK**
FOUNDATION



Contents

1. European Network for the Work With Perpetrators - WWP EN
2. Perpetrator programmes in short
3. Mapping of perpetrator programmes
4. Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe: challenges and good practices
5. Final remarks



1. European Network for the Work With Perpetrators - WWP EN



We are the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

Founded in 2014, we now unite 64 members active throughout 32 European countries. Our members include perpetrator programmes, researchers, as well as victim support services.

www.work-with-perpetrators.eu



European Network for the Work With Perpetrators (WWP EN)

- Informal founding: 2009 – 18 members, 13 countries
- Formal founding: 2014
- Membership now: 65 members from 32 countries
- Funding: European Commission, Oak Foundation, Membership Contributions, Provision of expert consultancy services



European Network for the Work With Perpetrators (WWP EN)

- Address violence in close relationships as a **gender-based** phenomenon
- Foster gender equality
- Improve safety of women and their children/others at risk from violence

Through: Promoting effective work with perpetrators



This is where sexualised violence happens.

Help us stop it.
#ResponsibleTogether #16Days
25 Nov - 10 Dec 2019, Across Europe



2018 Graz, Austria



2019 Helsinki, Finland



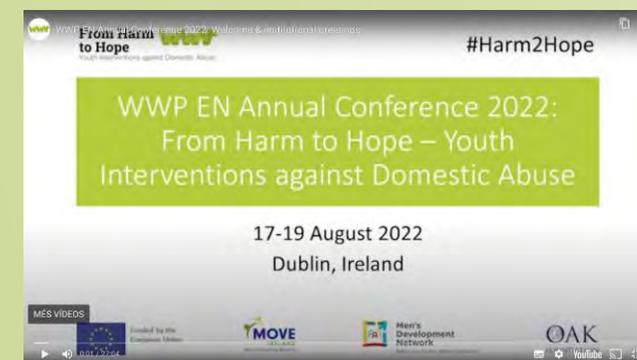
2020 online

“THE EFFECTS OF CYBER VIOLENCE ON WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE DEVASTATING, ALL-CONSUMING AND NEVER ENDING, BECAUSE THEY ARE PART OF A CONTINUUM OF VIOLENCE (OFFLINE AND ONLINE) THAT DEPRIVES THEM OF THEIR FREEDOM.”



kaspersky

Alessandra Pauncz, WWP EN Executive Director



From Harm to Hope
WWP EN Annual Conference 2022: From Harm to Hope – Youth Interventions against Domestic Abuse

17-19 August 2022
Dublin, Ireland

#Harm2Hope



Funded by the European Union



2019 WWP EN Annual Conference

Let's talk about it -
Advancing interventions on sexual violence
in perpetrator work

23-25 October
Heraklion, Greece



PRISON, PROBATION & PERPETRATOR PROGRAMMES
Collaboration for Change
2-3 SEPTEMBER 2020
ONLINE





child protection,
Covid-19,
Expert papers,
Support for shadow reports to Grevio...

Show your IMPACT

IMPACT 
Outcome
Monitoring Toolkit

WWP EN Training

Only well-educated professionals can provide safe, effective and accountable perpetrator work.



Upcoming Training

- 25 & 26 October: [Child-Centred Perpetrator Work](#) (SOLD OUT)
- 27 & 28 October: [Working on fathering with men who use violence](#) (SOLD OUT)



engage

Roadmap for frontline professionals interacting with male perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse

CONSCIOUS
SYSTEMIC PATH FOR THE RIGHTS

AN INTER-SYSTEMIC MODEL FOR PREVENTING REOFFENDING BY PERPETRATORS GUILTY OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



ASAP

A Systemic Approach for Perpetrators



FOCUS ON MEN

FOMEN

Men in care

WORKPLACE SUPPORT FOR CARING MASCULINITIES

ALIVE
Donne e Uomini Liberi dalla Violenza in Albania
UN PROGETTO COFINANZIATO DALLA AGENZIA ITALIANA PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO



MARVOW

Multi-Agency Responses to Violence against Older Women



DeStalk

detect and stop stalkerware and cyberviolence against women



WWP EN

European Network
for the Work with
Perpetrators of
Domestic Violence

Organisational Chart 2019



WWP EUROPEAN NETWORK

www.work-with-perpetrators.eu

MEMBERSHIP (FULL/AFFILIATE)

Individuals/organisations offering perpetrator work or victim/survivor support;
Individuals/organisations doing or managing research on intimate partner violence

BOARD

5-11 board members including min. 2 women's support services; elected by representatives of full members at the general meeting

CURRENT COMMITTEES

Election Committee
Equality Sub-Committee

CURRENT WORKING GROUPS

Working with Migrant Populations
Collaboration with Prisons & Probation
Quality Assurance
IMPACT Toolkit

COOPERATION WITH WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES

Min. 2 board members
Joint webinars
Participation in working groups
Expert papers

STAFF

Staff members coordinating the network activities; office based in Berlin, Germany





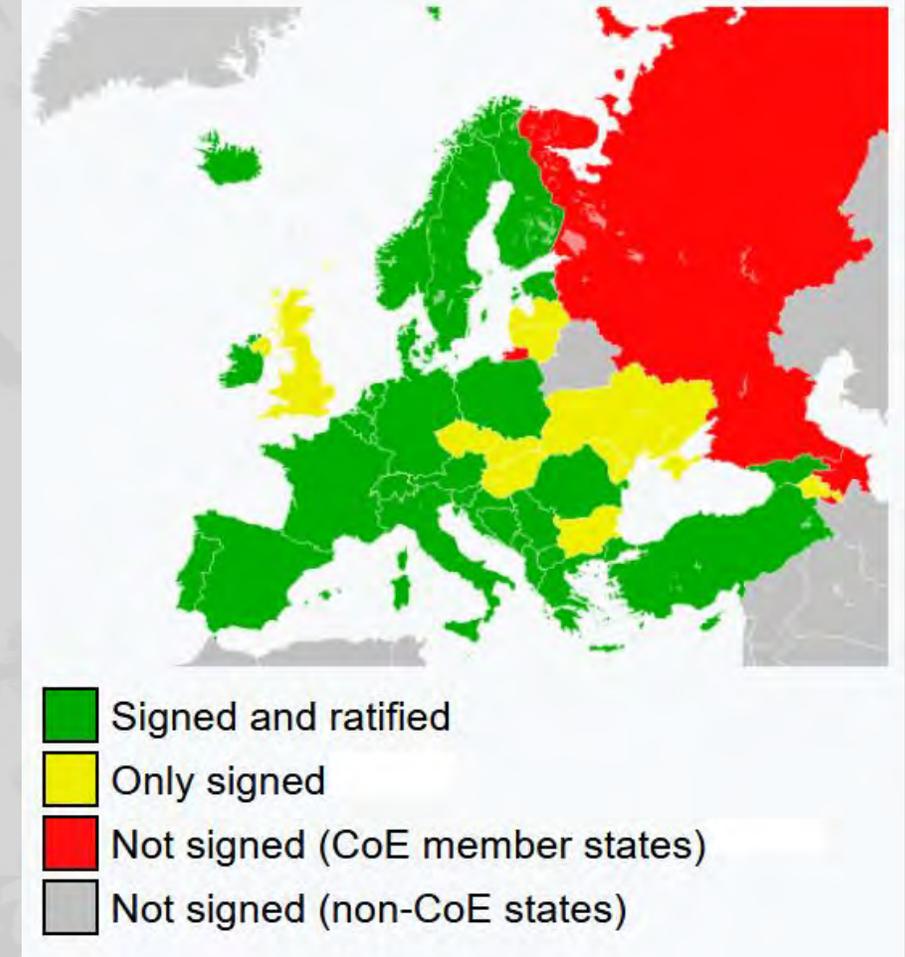
2. Perpetrator programmes in short

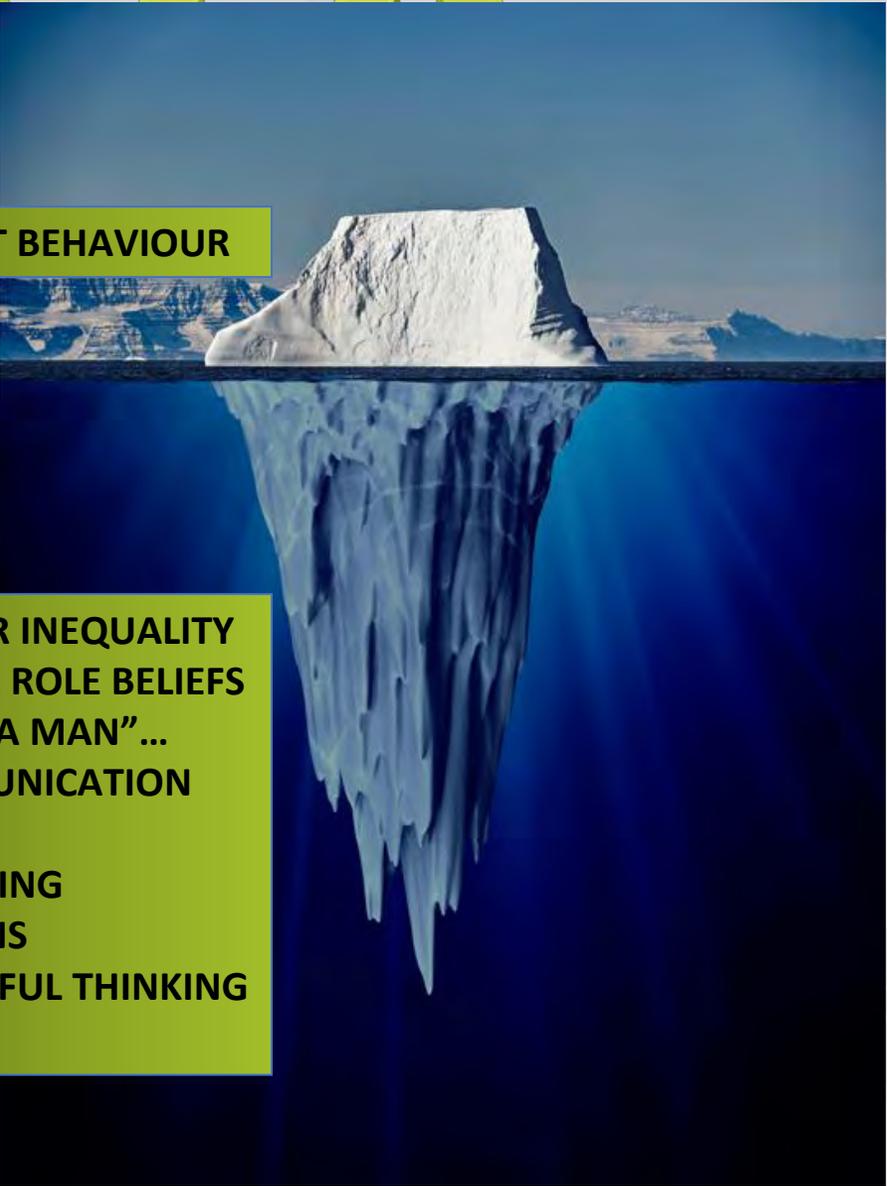


Article 16 of Istanbul convention (Part 1)

Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support:

1. **Programmes aimed at teaching perpetrators of domestic violence to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships with a view to preventing further violence and changing violent behavioural patterns.**
2. Treatment programmes aimed at preventing perpetrators, in particular sex offenders, from re-offending.
3. In taking the measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, Parties shall ensure that the safety of, support for and the human rights of victims are of primary concern and that, where appropriate, **these programmes are set up and implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for victims.**



An iceberg floating in the ocean. The small tip above the water is labeled 'VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR'. The much larger, jagged mass below the water is labeled with a list of underlying factors: 'GENDER INEQUALITY', 'GENDER ROLE BELIEFS - "BEING A MAN"...', 'COMMUNICATION SKILLS', 'MANAGING EMOTIONS', 'UNHELPFUL THINKING', and 'etc.'. The background shows a clear blue sky and distant mountains.

VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR

- GENDER INEQUALITY
- GENDER ROLE BELIEFS
- "BEING A MAN"...
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- MANAGING EMOTIONS
- UNHELPFUL THINKING
- etc.

Added value of perpetrator interventions

What “part of the iceberg” are we having an influence on:

- With ‘disruptive activities’ (restrictive and repressive measures)?
- With activities aimed at behaviour and attitude change (a key part of perpetrator programmes)?



Perpetrator programmes

1. Because they interrupt violence?
2. Because they break the intergenerational cycle of violence?
3. Because women ask for somebody to stop their partner's violence?



BUT ALSO BECAUSE

Domestic violence is about men's accountability to the system, their (ex-) partners, the support services and the society



Service providers of perpetrator programmes



Statutory agencies – social services, family centres, health services, probation, prisons



Civil society agencies - specialized perpetrator services victim services with attached perpetrator programme

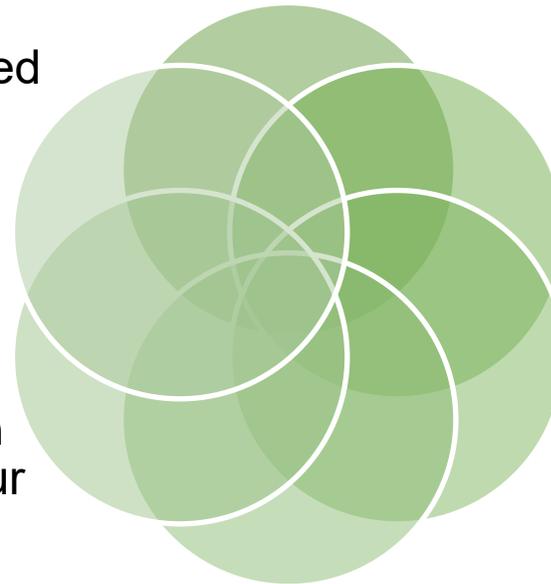


What works?

Coordinated community response – social response

Strong link with WSS
(standardized, case based cooperation, survivors' perspective informs all actions)

Ecological approach
(not limited to behaviour change)



Tailored interventions
(high/low risk, court mandated, voluntary, prison or probation or community)

Victim centred/gender informed

Risk assessment and management (standardized and ongoing)



Enrollment in perpetrator programme, any risks there?

“This time it will be different, Milan actually started a perpetrator program, I feel much safer now.”

Survivor

“You triggered me! You need to stop triggering me, that’s what I’m learning on my program.”

Perpetrator



3. Mapping of Perpetrator Programmes



Mapping Perpetrator Programmes



To map perpetrator programmes quality and implementation



To assess the alignment of programmes with international standards

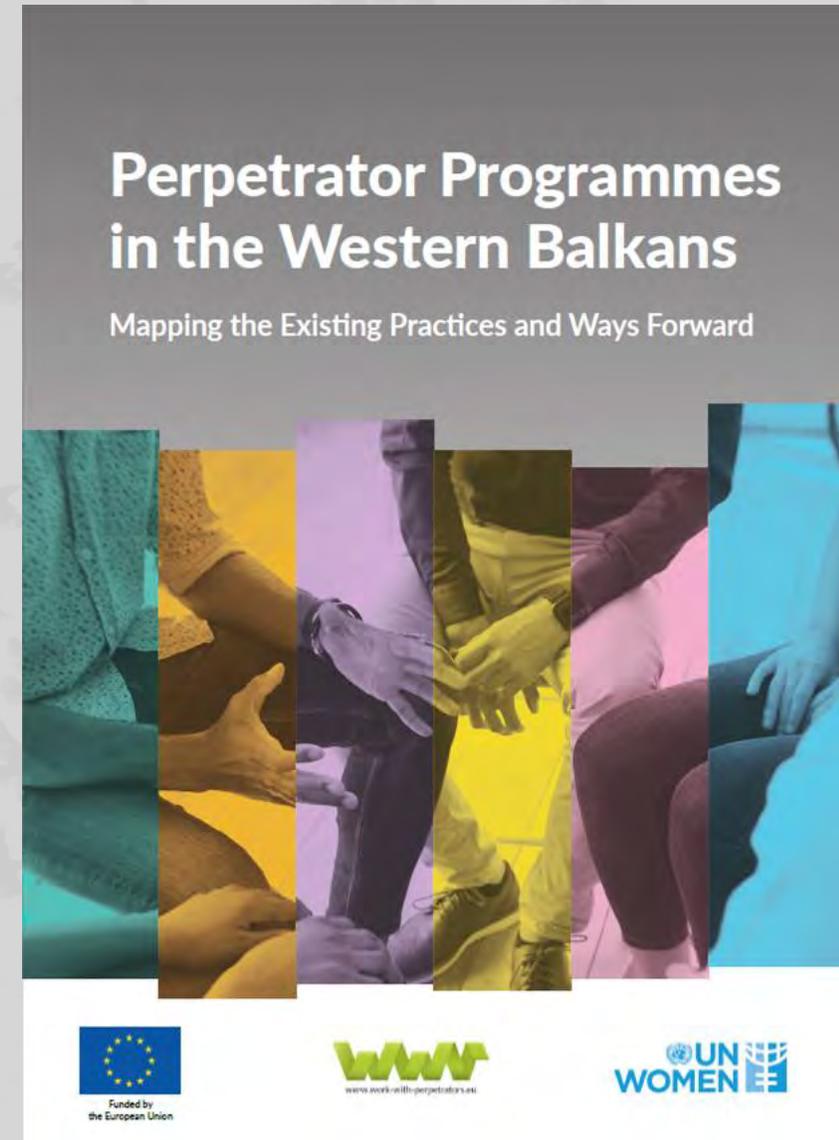


To develop recommendations



Mapping Perpetrator Programmes

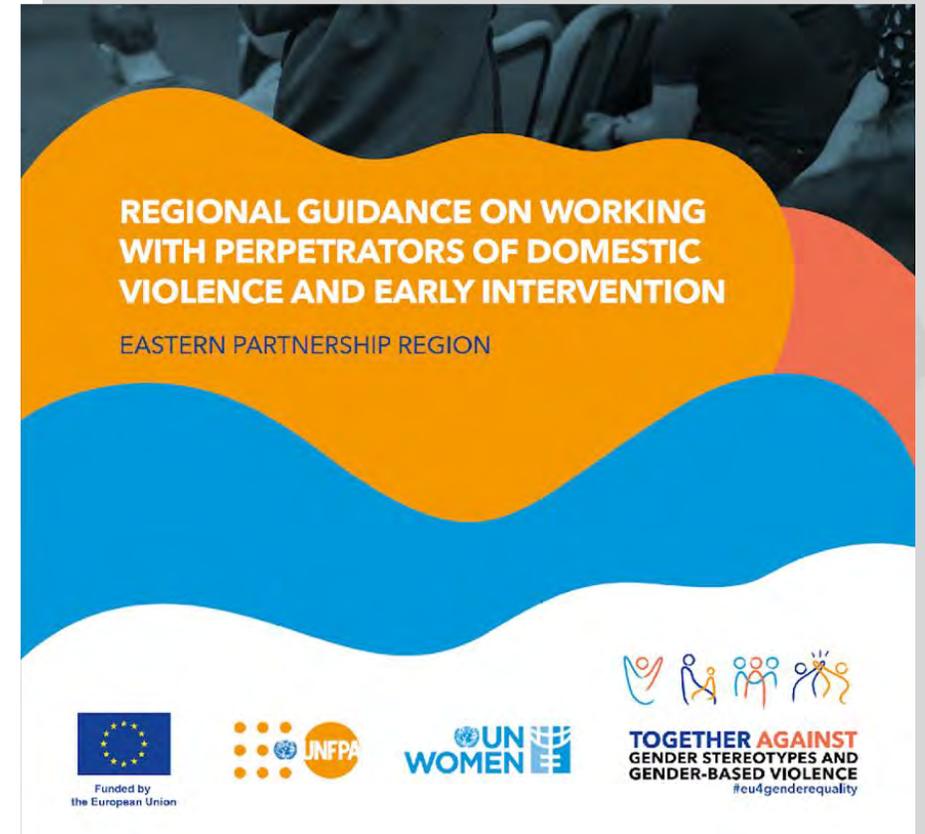
- **STOPP**-Supporting the implementation of programmes for perpetrators of violence against women and domestic violence in Turkey and the Western Balkans (first regional research)
- Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.





Mapping Perpetrator Programmes

- The first regional research of perpetrator programmes in **EAP countries**
- Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine



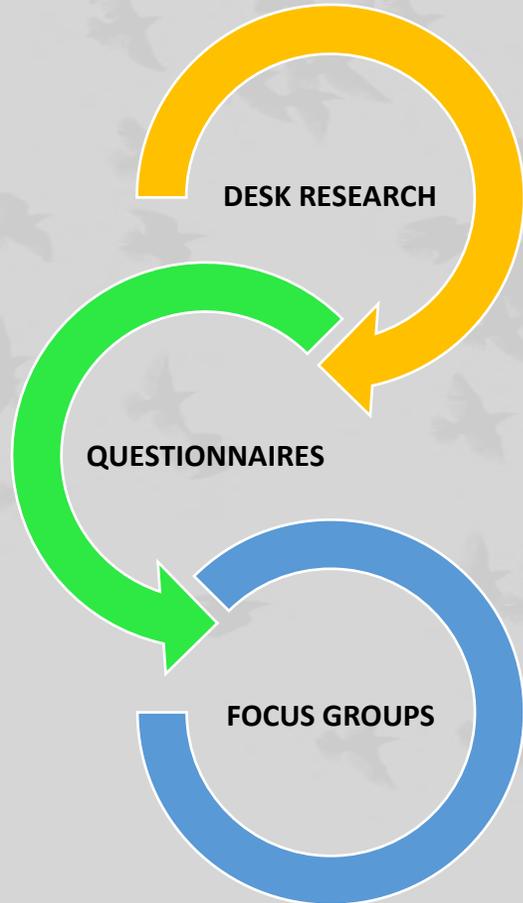


Mapping Perpetrator Programmes

- Current mappings:
 1. Mapping of perpetrator programmes in **Ireland**
 2. Mapping of perpetrator programmes in **Europe** (WWP EN members)



Methodology



Target groups:

- Perpetrator programmes (123) from 32 countries
- Survivor support services (58)
- Stakeholders (21)
- Survivors (7)

Data collection: July 2021 – December 2022



Mapping Perpetrator Programmes: main results

Lack of survivor safety-oriented interventions

Lack of specialized interventions for different target groups

Weak gender-informed perspectives

Lack of quality assurance and evaluation of programmes

Lack of accountability of perpetrators



Lack of survivor-safety oriented interventions

Council of Europe, 2014

- Integrates or is directly linked to a women's support service;
- Includes the perspective of children;
- Follows specific procedures for carrying out a systematic risk assessment and management;



- Many programmes **don't have survivor contact** and support, or just contact at the beginning.
- Not all programmes **inform survivors** about the limitations of the programme or its content.
- Few programmes collect information from survivors to **assess risk**.
- There are no specific **protocols for cooperation** with VSS and the contact is **not structured**.
- Not all programmes have a **standardized procedure to assess risk** (often conceptualized as static) .
- Most organizations are focused exclusively on the **perpetrator and behaviour change**, and don't have structures that keep survivors safe.



Weak gender informed perspectives

Council of Europe, 2014

- Ensures qualification and training for staff (including an understanding of the dynamics of violent relationships and a commitment to violence-free relationships and to gender equality).
- Uses an ecological model to understand the different paths to violence (societal, institutional, community and individual levels)



- Most organisations say they incorporate the gender perspective but this is **not structured** (no specific sessions on gender stereotypes or protocols that would ensure the facilitators work within this framework).
- **Anger management** / clinical approach.
- Staff needs to be **trained in gender** approach.
- Add on to other services **without specialization** (health centres, etc.)



Lack of quality assurance and evaluation

Council of Europe, 2014

- Monitors, documents and evaluates both processes and outcomes.
- Works with a wider definition of “success” to include positive outcomes for women partners other than an end to the violent behaviour of the perpetrator



- Evaluation usually doesn't include the **perspective of survivors**
- **Psychological inventories** for outcomes measurement (not beyond behaviour change)



4. Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe: challenges and good practices



Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- Variety of practices, models, service providers, and territorial coverage
- Service providers
 1. State agencies, mostly prison and probation (Sweden, Scotland)
 2. NGOs (Austria, Ireland, Denmark)
 3. State institutions and NGOs (Spain)



Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- No **international or national standards** for work with perpetrators in prison or probation.
- Standards for **community based programmes** (WWP EN standards, RESPECT).
- **Working guidelines**, ex: Caledonian System Scotland, England and Wales programmes accredited by the *“Correctional Services Advice and Accreditation Panel within the Ministry of Justice”*.
- Some countries **have started to create standards** for all contexts: Austria *“Federal Working Group on Victim Safety Oriented Work with Perpetrators”*; Sweden Grevio report creation of standards as a priority.



Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- **Challenges:**

1. Ensure victims safety and security
2. Multiagency cooperation and continuity of interventions (post-penal support)
3. Interventions “one size fits all”



Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- **Challenge 1: Ensure victims safety and security**
- **Article 16 Istanbul Convention – Preventive programmes of intervention and treatment**
- *“Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support **programmes aimed at teaching perpetrators of domestic violence to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships** with a view to preventing further violence and changing violent behavioural patterns.”*
- *“Parties shall ensure that **these programmes are set up and implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for victims.**”*



Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- **Challenge 1: Ensure victims safety and security**
- Victim support, **more than just a referral** of the victim to the support service (joint risk assessment and management, planning, evaluation, etc.)
- Conception that the **victim is safe** because the perpetrator is in jail, perpetrators might continue the abuse, even if being in jail.



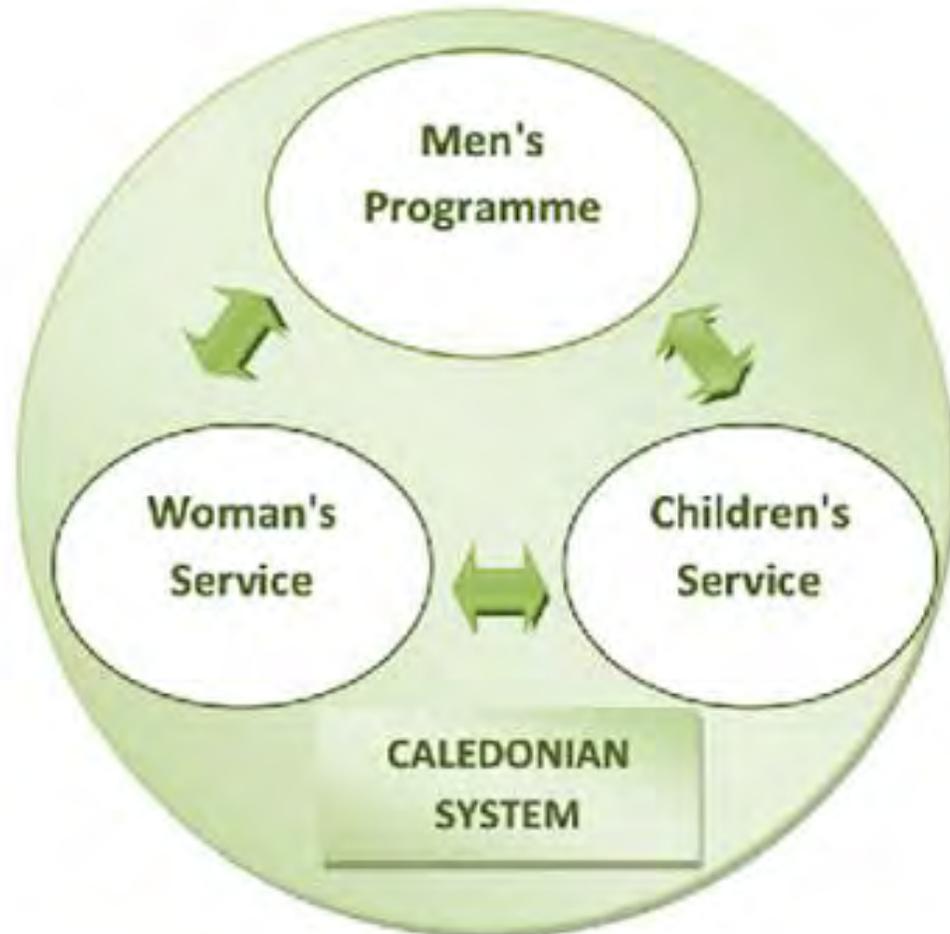
Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- **Best practice: Ensure victims safety and security**
- In England and Wales, inclusion of Woman Safety Worker in all cases of identified domestic violence (no matter the crime man is convicted for).
- Ireland: NGOs that provide the programmes for perpetrators referred by Irish Probation service also provide Partner Support Service, which is funded by the Justice Department.



Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- **Best practice: Ensure victims safety and security**





Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

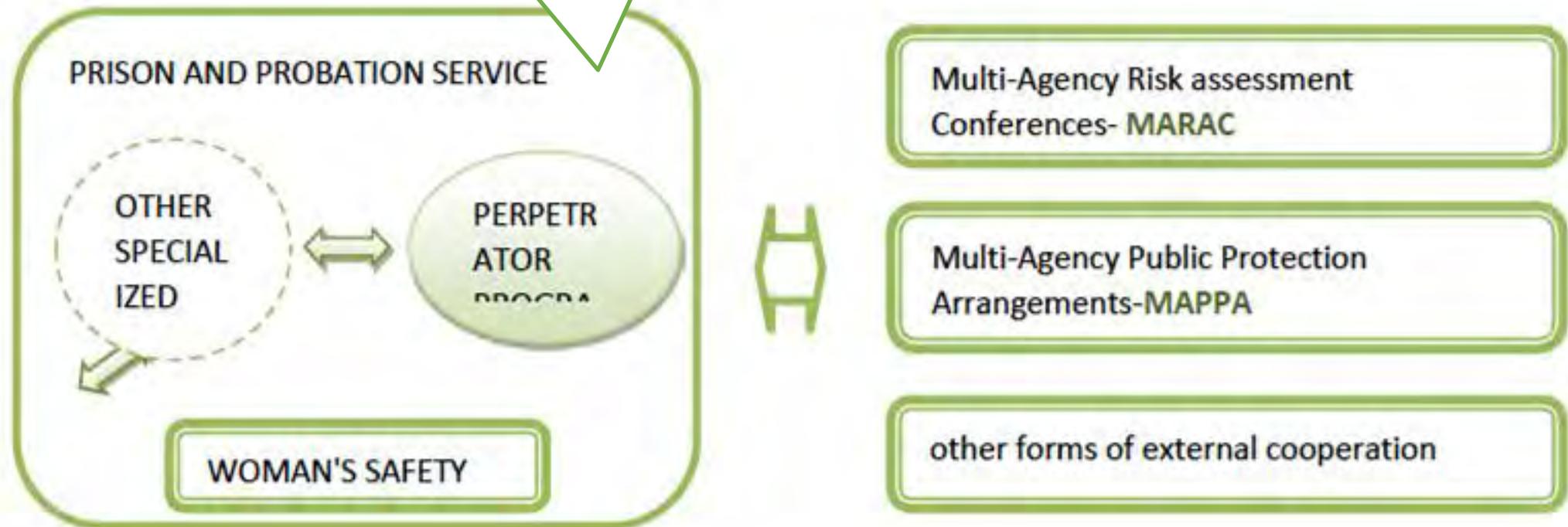
- **Challenge 2: Multiagency cooperation and continuity of interventions (post-penal support)**
- Not clear how this is established, **not enough information** (need for standards or non-publicly available documents).
- **Referrals** that do not fulfil the inclusion criteria.
- **Limited information** from perpetrators (more difficult risk assessment and support planning).
- **No post-penal support**, or no link to intervention after the sentence has finished.



Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- **Best practice: Multiagency cooperation and continuity of interventions (post-penal support) England and Wales**

all convicts with history of DV are sent to PP, even if they are convicted for some other crime





Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- **Challenge 3: Interventions “one size fits all”**
- **High heterogeneous perpetrators** in prison and probation: psychopathology, alcohol and drugs abuse.
- How to design interventions for such an **heterogeneous and multi-problematic** population?
- How to maintain a **gender-approach** in such a criminological setting?
- *Risk-Need-Responsivity Model?*



Perpetrator programmes in prison and probation in Europe

- **Good practice: Interventions “one size fits all”**
- **England and wales:**
 - How to work with **women perpetrators**, with a gender approach and emphasizing the connection victimization – aggression.
 - How to work with **perpetrators with personality disorder** (based on the theory of mentalization, pilot phase)
- **Spain (Contexto program): Individualized Motivational Plan (IMP)**



5. Final Remarks



Final Remarks: steps forward for PP

- More information is needed, regarding not only the existence of **victim support service**, but the type of the support it provides, principles of the work and its benefits for the victims.
- Information on the procedures or protocols about the **cooperation** of perpetrator programmes with external agencies are not found for the majority of the programmes. Importance for the post-penal continuity.
- Very important to adjust the programmes to **heterogeneous population**. For most of the programmes there is no data if and how this is tackled.
- Standardized and ongoing **risk assessment and management** procedures.
- Importance of **evaluating the outcome and process**, few evaluations in the prison and probation context



Website: www.work-with-perpetrators.eu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WwpEuropeanNetwork/>

LinkedIn company page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/work-with-perpetrators-european-network/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/european_network_wwp/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/wwp_en

More information: info@work-with-perpetrators.eu

Email: berta.vc@work-with-perpetrators.eu



Funded by the European Union & Oak Foundation



Do perpetrator programs work?

- What do we want to measure?
- Recidivism rates or different kind of control and sense of safety of the victim
- What do we need to evaluate?
- What works for whom and under what circumstances?
- IMPACT measures these variables and the change in behaviour, the impact of the behaviour and the changes in the safety for victims
- Collecting information from partner and perpetrators at different points in time.



Do perpetrator programs work?

- What do we want to measure?
- Recidivism rates
- How do measure this?
- Re-arrest
- Re-offence
- As reported by offender
- As reported by partner or ex-partner



Preliminary results

- Controversial data on the outcome: what kind of violence are you measuring? How do you measure if there has been re-offence? How do you compare different treatment programs? (In some studies men that had finished the programs were summed to ones that had only attended one session)
- Largest scale study so far is MIRABEL in 2018 UK: six measures of success.
 1. improved relationship
 2. expanded “space for action”
 3. safety and freedom from violence and abuse for women and children
 4. safe and positive shared parenting
 5. enhanced awareness of self and other
 6. safer, healthier childhoods

The Impact Toolkit: beyond the analysis of behavior change

Times Impact for client and (ex-) partner:

- **Time 0** – as soon as possible after the client is first in touch with the programme.
- **Time 1** – at the start of the programme.
- **Time 2** – half way through the programme.
- **Time 3** – at the end of the programme or when the man stops coming to the programme.
- **Time 4** – at 6 months after programme completion.

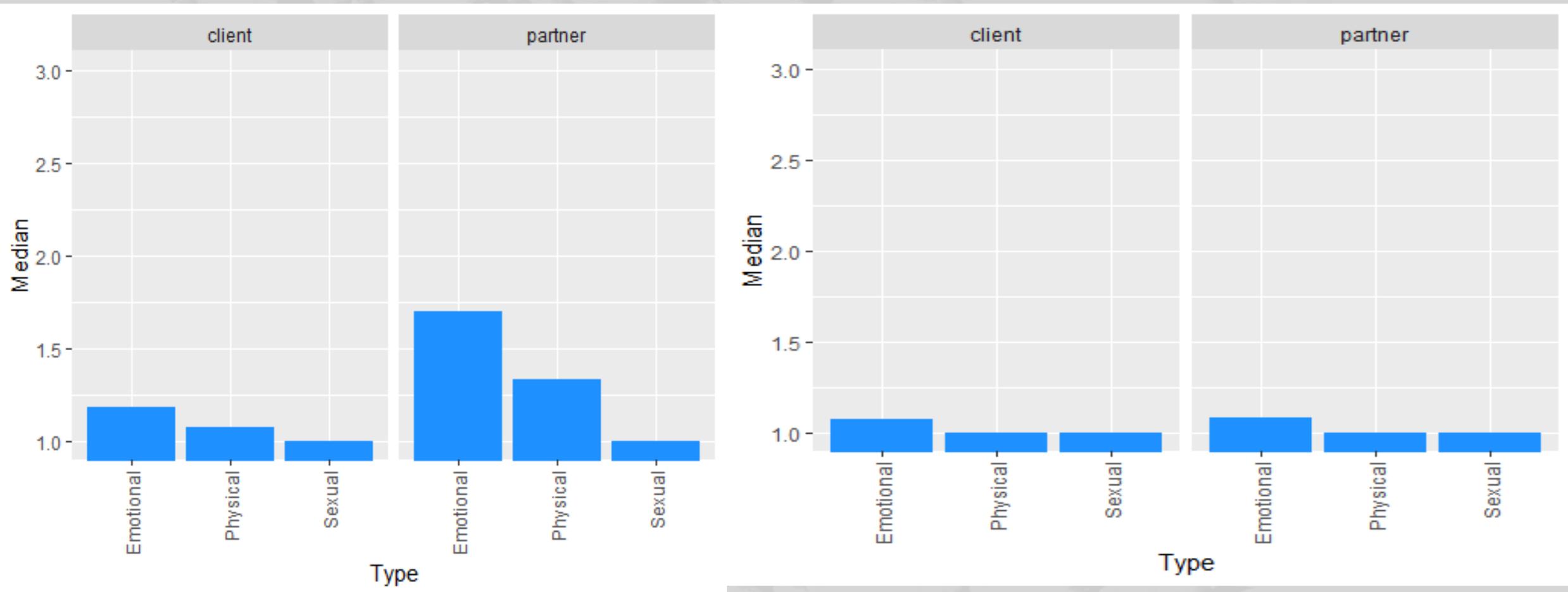


Preliminary results across Europe

- In regard to the presence and frequency of abusive behaviours:
 1. Clients acknowledge lower frequency of emotional, physical and sexual abusive behaviour at the beginning of the programme than their (ex-) partners.
 2. While many men reported only physical behaviour, (ex-) partners mostly **reported physical connected to emotional behaviours**.
 3. Correlations among **emotional and physical behaviours**; the more emotional behaviours they report, the more likely they are to report more physical behaviours (both).
 4. **Statistical significant reduction of physical and emotional abusive behaviour according to C & P.**
 5. **Men's and (ex-) partners' views converge more at the end of the programme for all of the abusive behaviors.**

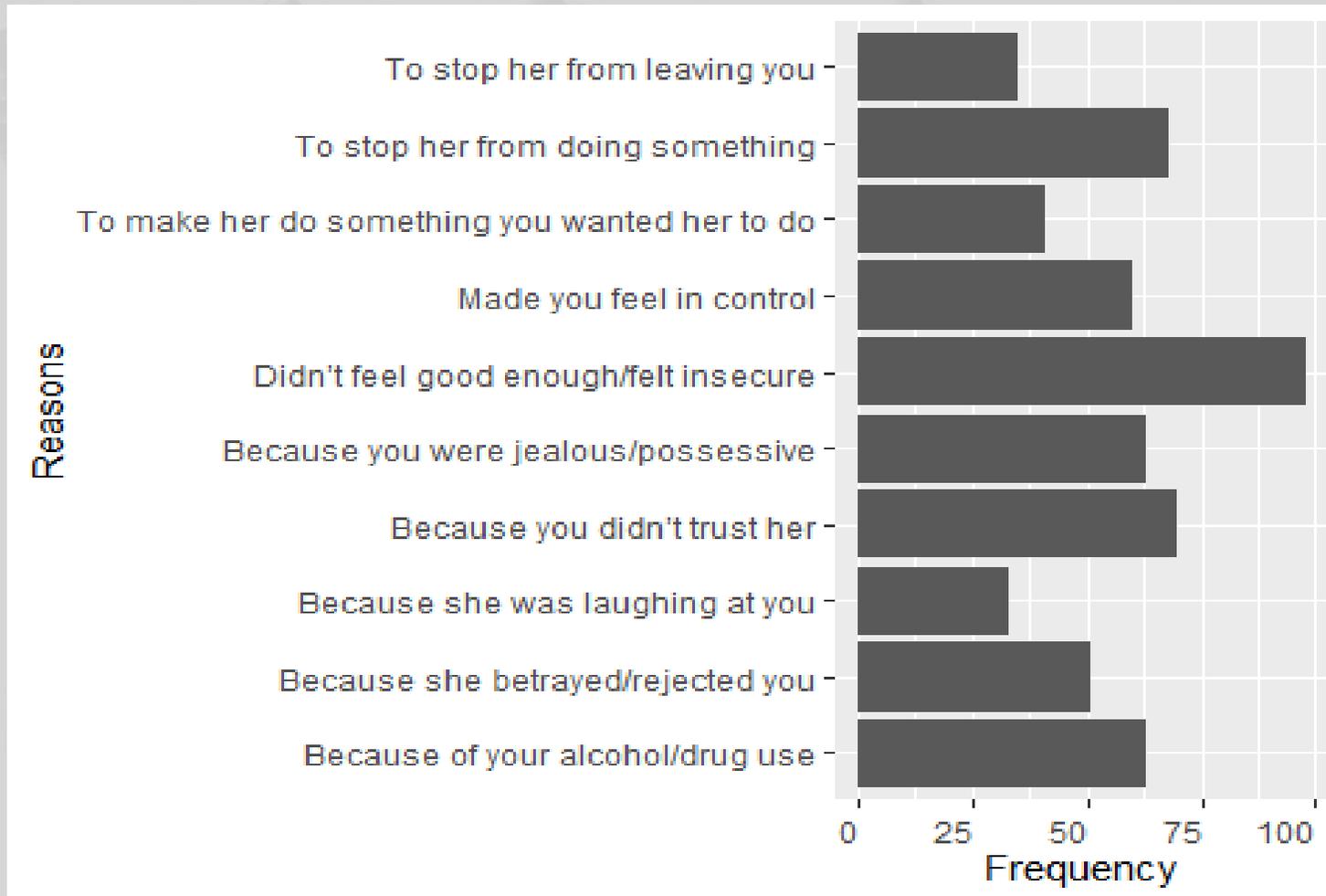
WWM

Preliminary results across Europe: How is the violence at the end of the program?





Preliminary results across Europe



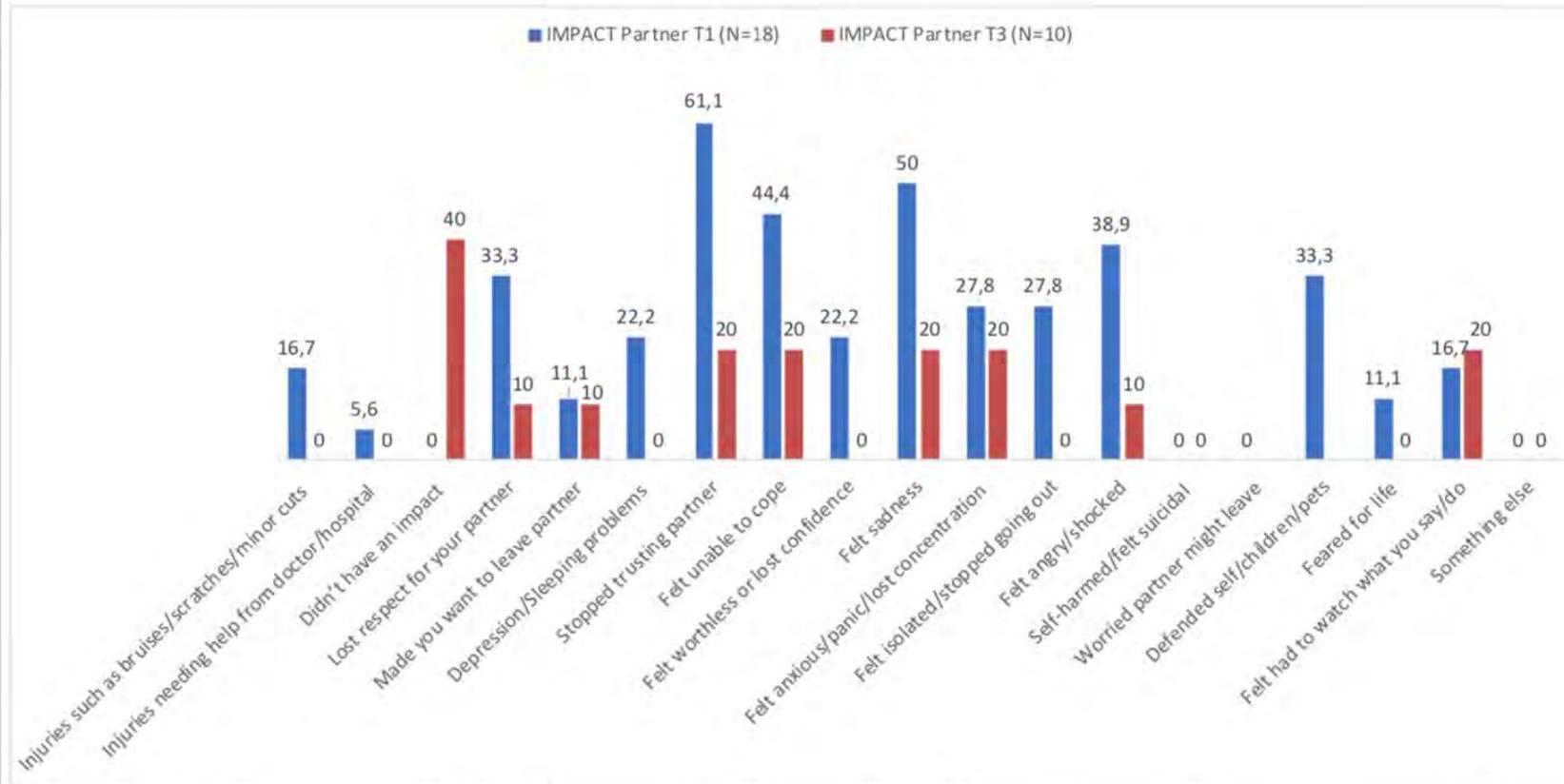


Preliminary results across Europe

- Regarding the impact of men's violent behaviour:
 1. Men recognize a **similar number of impacts** than their (ex-) partners, but those impacts are slightly different than the ones recognized by the (ex-) partners.
 2. Men have more difficulties identifying their (ex-) partners' **short-term physical impacts** (such as bruises/ scratches/ minor cuts), and **long-term psychological impacts** such as: depression or sleeping problems; and the fact that the partner had to **be careful of what she said or did**.
 3. **Impacts decrease throughout the programme**
- Men's motivation for programme refer to the relationship but also to improving parenting, and some to stop one's own behaviour.

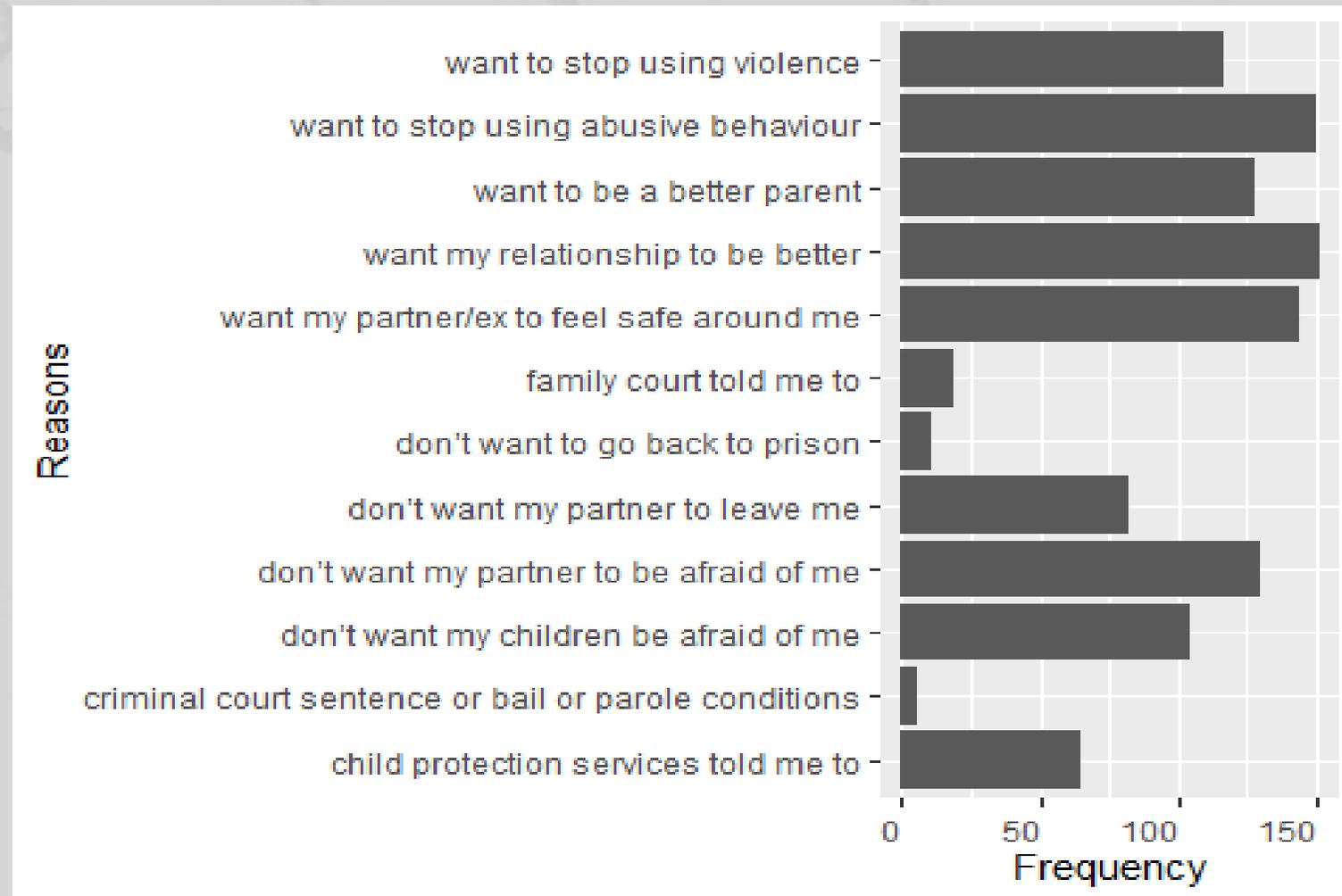
W Preliminary results across Europe

Graphic 15. (Ex-) Partners' Most commonly reported impact compared T1 and T3 (percentages)





Preliminary results across Europe





Preliminary results across Europe





How to engage perpetrators in programs?

- Motivational interview
- Role clarification
- Reinforcing and modeling pro-social values
- Collaborative problem-solving
- Centre on the person, focus on the violence
- Strong relationship building capacity of service provider
- Chris Trotter, *Working with involuntary clients - A guide to practice*, Routledge, 1999



Framework for analysis

Access to perpetrator programmes and quality assurance

- Legislation
- Geographical distribution
- Different types of programmes
- Diverse pathways to programmes
- Funding
- Evaluations
- Accreditation and licencing
- National standards and guidelines and national networks

Coordinated policies and and cooperation with women support services

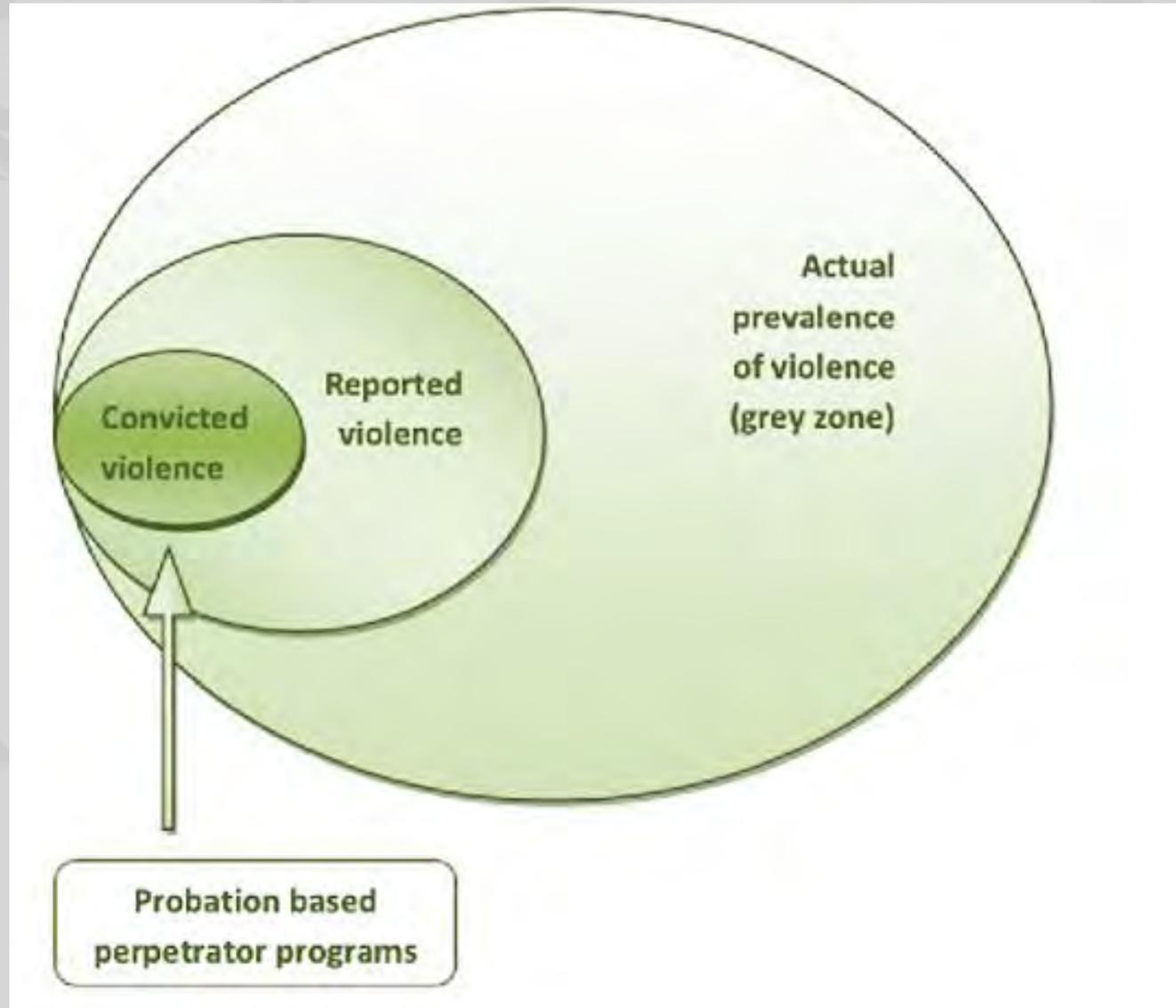
- Adopt a comprehensive approach
- Involve all stakeholders
- Close cooperation with survivor support services
- Safe survivor contact procedures
- Develop instruments for cooperation, including protocols and agreements

Gender perspective and implementation of minimum standards of practice

- Adopt a gender perspective
- Prioritize women and children
- Avoid obligatory mediation and reconciliation
- Programs are not reduced to anger management, alcohol and drug treatment, mental health treatment
- Risk assessment
- Training of professionals
- Assist perpetrators to change by recognising that their use of violence is a choice they make and challenging any denial, justification or blaming of others (while treating the perpetrator with respect);

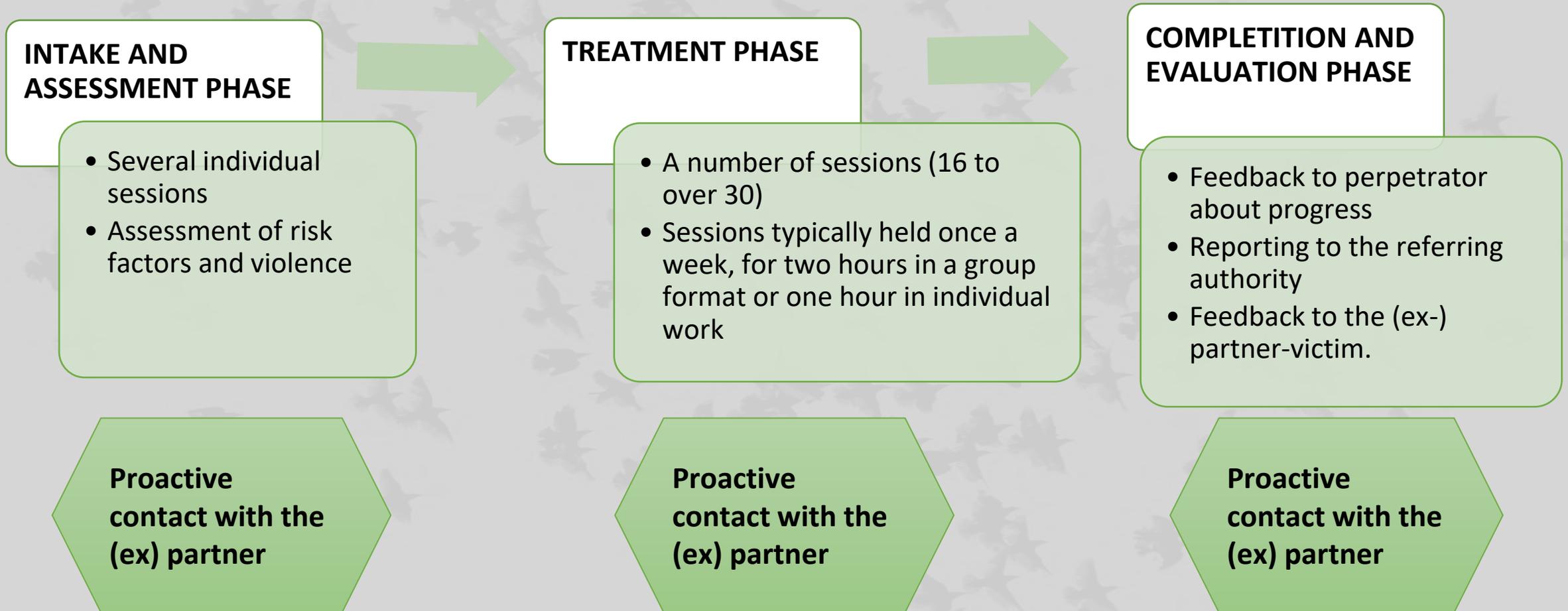


Perpetrator programmes in community setting





Typical programme structure





4. New trends: Cyberviolence



The problem

- European Union Agency for the Fundamental Rights, 5% of women in the EU have experienced one or more forms of cyberstalking since the age of 15 (FRA, 2014).
- European Institute for Gender Equality, 70% of women who have experienced cyber stalking, have also experienced at least one form of physical or/and sexual violence from an intimate partner (EIGE, 2017)
- Cyber violence is a growing threat, especially for women and girls.



The challenges

- Development of **capacity building and tools**:
 - **No clear definitions** (currently GREVIO “General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women”, October 2021), no previous tools
 - No information and available **data on professionals’ knowledge and needs**
 - Complex phenomena, **multi-professional approach** (multi-agency)



Activities: needs assessment

Aware of forms of cyberviolence but **they do not have specific knowledge & skills**

detect and assess cyberviolence

20% are trained & 6% have specific procedures or tools to detect cyberviolence

specific tools differentiated for PP and VSS

< 50% of participants knew about a variety of forms of cyberviolence

detect and assess the different types of cyberviolence

Actions to manage cyberviolence and avoid "paradoxical effects"

> 60% organization pays attention to cyberviolence but not in a structured way, and nearly 10% said never paid attention to it



The project: capacity building

Destalk ([web link](#)):

1. Online training: [link to register for the course](#)
 - E-learning on cyberviolence and stalkerware (English, German, Italian, French and Spanish).
 - Target groups: professionals working with victims and perpetrators, and public entities.
2. Capacity building of NGOs and professionals
 - Workshops with professionals on cyberviolence and stalkerware.
 - Target groups – Professionals working with victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence.



DeStalk

detect and stop stalkerware and
cyberviolence against women



The project: capacity building

103

from perpetrator
programmes

f

**4.53 / 5
points**

89

from public
authorities

526 participants

80+ participants are still studying online course



Project impact: practical changes

+ increased sensitivity and assessment

+ improved skills to recognize digital violence

+ check about cyber violence with perp.

+ train other colleagues

+ incorporation of safety planning

+ adopting a gender perspective



What works?

- Coordinated community response – social response
- Tailored interventions: different kinds of perpetrators (high/low risk, court mandated, voluntary, prison or probation or community)
- Victim centred/gender informed
- Risk assessment and management (standardized and ongoing)
- Ecological approach (not limited to behaviour change)
- Strong link with WSS (Standardized, case based cooperation, survivors' perspective informs all actions)