

Upskilling social care professionals in local authorities to prevent gender-based violence

1st training



Co-funded by
the European Union

Erasmus+ 2022-1-EL01-KA210-VET-000082477



Media Headlines

Rights and freedom

Femicide

🕒 This article is more than 10 months old

A woman murdered every month: is this Greece's moment of reckoning on femicide?

▲▲ They try to make excuses and say it was a crime of passion or something else, so they get a lesser sentence



“For decades, the Greek justice system showed leniency to abusers citing ‘crimes of passion,’” Clio Papapantoleon, a prominent lawyer, said. Now, she notes, she is receiving a surge in requests for representation from victims of domestic violence.

In Greece, a String of Killings Pushes Domestic Abuse Into the Spotlight

Several deadly assaults on women by their partners appear to have encouraged more victims to speak up in a country where such attacks have rarely been publicly discussed.

By Niki Kitsantonis

Jan. 23, 2022

ATHENS — One woman was suffocated, her body found next to her baby. Another was pushed off a cliff. Yet another was stabbed 23 times.

introduced nationwide to monitor such cases. In addition, six frontline units, with personnel specially trained to support victims, opened in city precincts at the end of last year — five in Athens and one in Thessaloniki.

Source: The New York Times, 2022; The Guardian, 2021

Statistics in Greece

- ❖ Visible **increase from one year to another**: increase in **years during/post Coronavirus pandemic**
- ❖ Only reported cases, so **many more other cases that are not reported**

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021
Annual number of reported domestic violence offenses	4722	5220	5669	8776
Annual number of men perpetrators of domestic violence	4202	4618	4436	7571
Women victims of intentional homicide in connection to the law on domestic violence	13	8	8	23

Table 1: Police indicators regarding violence against women – Data retrieved from GSDFPGE, www.isotita.gr

Statistics in Greece

- ❖ The **majority of the victims** of domestic violence are **women**, while the **perpetrators of domestic violence** with women as the victims are **almost all men**.
- ❖ The aggressors are most of the times a close person of the victim:
 - ❖ **58% spouse or ex-spouse**
 - ❖ **15% intimate partner**
 - ❖ **11% family member**

From a total of 5805 victims (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 73.5% are women• 93% of these cases the perpetrators are men
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Table 2: Police Records on the gender of victims and perpetrators - Data retrieved from GSDFPGE, www.isotita.gr

Statistics in Europe

- ❖ One third of women in the EU have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15
- ❖ 35% of women in the EU have experienced controlling behaviour from their current or previous partner
- ❖ About 50 women lose their lives to domestic violence every week
- ❖ Some 74% of Europeans believe that violence against women is common in their country

Violence against women increased because of the lockdown measures in response to the Covid-19 pandemic:

- ❖ **Social Isolation:** no family or friends
- ❖ **Fear of the virus:** getting infected



How authorities help in Greece?

The Network of Structures for victims of gender-based violence:

- ❖ The national **SOS 15900** 24-hour helpline
- ❖ **43 Counselling Centres** providing social, psychological, legal consultation and occupational support
- ❖ **19 Women's Shelters** that provide safe accommodation and meals to women victims of gender-based violence and their children



But...Media headlines?

Data from the Greek justice ministry shows consistently low rates of prosecutions and convictions under a 2006 law criminalising domestic violence. An average of just 3,566 men a year have been prosecuted for domestic violence since 2016. Conviction rates are also low: on average, just 23% of men prosecuted were convicted, and the vast majority received suspended sentences.

The percentage of men serving prison time after domestic violence convictions also fell from a high of 16.4% in 2016 to as low as 6% in 2019 even as convictions for domestic violence hit a five-year peak. It is this environment, campaigners say, that discourages women from reporting domestic violence at all.

When a woman reported domestic violence in her building in the Athens suburb of Dafni in July, it took 25 minutes for the police to arrive. All the neighbours could hear Anisa's husband abusing her but the police officers did not bother to get out of the patrol car. "They just rolled down their car windows and left," Anisa's neighbour angrily wrote on Facebook that evening. "No stress, guys. Television only cares about the bodies. So when he kills her, I'll tell a television channel to call you."

Less than three weeks later, Anisa was dead, murdered by her husband. Neither can be named in full as the case has yet to reach trial. In a statement to police, the perpetrator described how he was overcome with jealousy after Anisa allegedly cheated on him. "I took the knife with my right hand and entered her room. She was sleeping, and I rushed to her and lay on her, stabbing her with the knife in her neck," he said. He later retracted his claim that Anisa was asleep when he killed her.

...killed her. That's all I have to say," their neighbour wrote on Facebook after the murder. At the time, Anisa's murder was the sixth domestic violence murder in Greece this year. Since then, at least another six women across the country have been murdered by their partners or ex-partners.

Lack of prevention of gender-based violence

In 2020

3132 - prosecutions against aggressors of domestic violence

...but **only 656 convictions and only 90 men** are serving out a sentence in a correctional facility for a criminal offence against a member of their family

Law Related:

Society Related:

Lack of awareness about domestic violence against women

❖ Lack of special training of the local authorities: social stigma, stereotyping and shame

❖ Lack of awareness about prevention facilities

❖ Lack of strict rules and charges

❖ **Gender Inequality**

❖ Socio-demographic factors: age, unemployment, trauma, ethnicity

❖ Societal attitudes and cultural related factors

Gender Inequalities in Greece

Gender Equality Index (2021)

- ❖ 85% of women are still the ones taking care of the households
- ❖ Have very little economical, political and social power roles in society (only between 8 and 22%)

Consequences

- ❖ **Male dominant culture:** the idea of being the strong provider for the family
- ❖ Normalization of **violence** or **controlling behavior** towards women
- ❖ **Objectification** and **shaming**
- ❖ **Stereotyping, discrimination** and **inequality**

What to do? – Project idea



- ❖ **What?** – Train the **Local Authorities** about **Stereotyping, Stigma and Shame** towards **Gender Based Violence** and **Gender Inequalities**
- ❖ **Who?** – Employees from the **Public Social Services:** nurses, social workers, psychologists, mental health workers, etc.
- ❖ **How?** – Training Methods focused on **Axiological and Cognitive Strategies**
- ❖ **Why?** – **Remove Stereotyping, Stigma and Shame Perceptions** about Gender-Based Violence and Gender Inequalities; therefore, allow better prevention facilities for victims of violence

Methodology of the project



- ❖ Testing **Stereotyping Levels** of the participants
- ❖ 8 – 10 sessions of Educational Strategies for Self Improvement, Self Efficacy, Communication Skills, Positive Attitudes towards difficulty

❖ **Pre – Post Training Assessment** of Stereotyping Levels



Impact on society

- ❖ Develop better **prevention and support facilities** for victims of gender-based violence
- ❖ **Prevent** gender-based **murders** and violence cases
- ❖ **Reduce** levels of **stigma, stereotyping and discrimination** towards gender-based victims
- ❖ **Empower** and **support victims** of gender-based violence to report abuse
- ❖ **Help** and **support victims** to get out of an abusive relationship
- ❖ Contribute to the creation of an **inclusive society**



THANK YOU!

