

**Study on international activities  
in the field of data collection on  
gender-based violence across the EU**

**Report**



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# 1. Introduction





# 1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the study is to review data collection activities related to gender-based violence by EU bodies and other international organisations as well as some European-wide civil society organisations. It also contains the assessment of planned activities addressing this subject. The study was carried out during December 2012 to May 2013.

The report first summarises the policy framework on combating gender-based violence in the European Union, the United Nations and the Council of Europe. Secondly, the findings of the study are presented organisation by organisation. Past as well as on-going activities will be discussed, after which future plans will be explored. Finally, the main findings will be discussed.

## 2. Policy framework





## 2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

Gender-based violence is a violation of fundamental human rights. It is violence directed against a person on the basis of gender, which constitutes a form of discrimination. Gender-based violence is an aspect of inequality between men and women, and it reinforces and perpetuates the power imbalance between the sexes.

The European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations have directed their efforts towards the eradication of gender-based violence and gender inequality. The purpose of their actions is to support their member countries in working towards the prevention of gender-based violence and enhancing protection for victims. Below we will summarise the most recent as well as most relevant policy developments concerning data collection on gender-based violence in the international community.

### 2.1. The European Union

The Council of the European Union has shown its commitment to the eradication of gender-based violence within the European Union, and recognises

the importance of data collection on the topic to support evidence-based policy <sup>(1)</sup>.

In the Council conclusions on combating violence against women and the provision of support services for victims of domestic violence <sup>(2)</sup> (2012), the Council calls on the Member States and the European Commission to improve the collection and dissemination at both national and EU level of comparable, reliable, regularly updated administrative and statistical data on all forms of violence against women, disaggregated by sex, age and victim–perpetrator relationship. The Council urges the Commission as well as the Member States to work in cooperation with national and European statistical offices and to make full use of the work of the

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<sup>(1)</sup> Report from the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 2009 (<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=4336&langId=en>).

<sup>(2)</sup> Council conclusions on combating violence against women, and the provision of support services for victims of domestic violence, 3 206th Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting, 6 December 2012 ([http://www.consilium.europa.eu//uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lisa/134081.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu//uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lisa/134081.pdf)).

EIGE where appropriate. Advice on the support of research and the exchange of good practice in this field is also provided.

Regarding the European Pact for Gender Equality <sup>(3)</sup> (2011), the Council encourages the Member States and the Commission, in particular through Eurostat, to further develop existing statistics and indicators disaggregated by sex and to fully utilise the capacities of EIGE.

In the 2010 Council conclusions on the eradication of violence against women in the EU <sup>(4)</sup>, the Council recalls on the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights to compile and publish reliable and comparable statistics on all grounds of discrimination, including comparative data on violence against women in the European Union. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights carried out a survey on violence against women in 2012.

The Council together with the European Parliament is committed to the rights of the victims and their protection, within the priorities of the Stockholm programme <sup>(5)</sup>. This commitment, as regards gender-based violence, has been communicated by the

European Commission in the action plan to implement the Stockholm programme <sup>(6)</sup>, although no direct references to data collection efforts are made.

The European Parliament has taken a stand on combating all forms of violence against women on multiple occasions. Parliament resolutions from 2006 <sup>(7)</sup>, 2009 <sup>(8)</sup> and 2011 <sup>(9)</sup> commit to combating and eradicating violence against women. In 2011, a new policy framework to fight violence against women was introduced. Plans to develop methodological guidelines and undertake new data collection efforts, in order to obtain comparable statistical data on gender-based violence, were proposed. The efforts on recording gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation (FGM), were deemed necessary in order to identify the extent of the problem and to provide a basis for a change in action towards the problem.

<sup>(3)</sup> Council conclusions on the European Pact for Gender Equality for the period 2011–20, 3 073rd Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting, 7 March 2011 ([http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/119628.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/119628.pdf)).

<sup>(4)</sup> Council conclusions on the Eradication of Violence Against Women in the European Union, 3 000th Employment and Social Policy Council meeting, 8 March 2010 ([http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/113226.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/113226.pdf)).

<sup>(5)</sup> European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2009 on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council — An area of freedom, security and justice serving the citizen — Stockholm programme P7\_TA(2009)0090 (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2009-0090+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>).

<sup>(6)</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions: Delivering an area of freedom, security and justice for Europe's citizens; Action plan implementing the Stockholm programme (COM(2010) 171 final) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0171:FIN:EN:PDF>).

<sup>(7)</sup> European Parliament resolution of 2 February 2006 on the current situation in combating violence against women and any future action (2004/2220(INI)) P6\_TA(2006)0038 (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P6-TA-2006-0038>).

<sup>(8)</sup> European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2009 on the elimination of violence against women P7\_TA(2009)0098 (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2009-0098+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>).

<sup>(9)</sup> European Parliament resolution of 5 April 2011 on the priorities and outline of a new EU policy framework to fight violence against women P7\_TA(2011)0127, (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2011-0127+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>).



In the 2011 resolution, the European Commission was called upon to develop and provide annual statistics on gender-based violence, including figures on how many women are killed annually by their partners or ex-partners, based on data from the EU Member States. The Parliament also noted that the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) will survey a representative sample of women from all Member States regarding their victimisation experiences. The Member States were urged, in their national statistics, to show the magnitude of gender-based violence and to ensure that data are collected on gender-based violence, inter alia on the sex of the victims, the sex of the perpetrators, their relationship, age, crime scene and injuries.

The European Parliament has also separately taken a stand on combating and ending female genital mutilation on two occasions, in 2009 <sup>(10)</sup> and 2012 <sup>(11)</sup>. In the 2009 resolution, the Parliament called on the Member States to quantify the number of women who have undergone female genital mutilation or are at risk in individual countries, taking into account the fact that there are as yet no figures available from many countries. The Parliament also called upon both the FRA and EIGE to take a leading role in combating FGM, believing that both these agencies could carry out priority research and awareness raising, thus helping to improve understanding of the FGM phenomenon at the European level.

In 2006, the Commission adopted a five-year EU action plan for the development of a comprehensive and coherent EU strategy to measure crime and criminal justice. The action plan 2006–10 <sup>(12)</sup> includes as one of its main objectives the measurement of violence against women, with the goal of producing a common EU framework for indicators and data collection on violence against women. Domestic violence was also addressed as a separate objective, with the aim of producing common indicators to measure domestic violence as well. Such a framework has not yet been put in place. Additionally, in line with the action plan, a task force on victimisation issues was established by Eurostat in order to examine the possibility of a European safety survey, which would also record women's experiences of victimisation. However, this survey will not be executed in the near future, as it did not obtain the approval of the European Parliament. The aim of the new action plan 2011–15 <sup>(13)</sup> is to continue and take forward the work started in 2006 and to focus on delivering results.

In addition, the Women's Charter <sup>(14)</sup> adopted by the European Commission is committed to strengthening gender equality in all Commission policies. To translate the Women's Charter's objectives into reality, an action plan was adopted for promoting equality between men and women — Strategy for

<sup>(10)</sup> European Parliament resolution of 24 March 2009 on combating female genital mutilation in the EU (2008/2071 (INI)) P6\_TA(2009)0161 (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P6-TA-2009-0161+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>).

<sup>(11)</sup> European Parliament resolution of 14 June 2012 on ending female genital mutilation (2012/2684(RSP)) P7\_TA-PROV(2012)0261 (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201206/20120628ATT47830/20120628ATT47830EN.pdf>).

<sup>(12)</sup> Developing a comprehensive and coherent EU strategy to measure crime and criminal justice: An EU action plan 2006–10 (2006/COM) 437 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0437:FIN:EN:PDF>).

<sup>(13)</sup> Measuring Crime in the EU: Statistics action plan 2011–15 (COM(2011) 713) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0713:FIN:EN:PDF>).

<sup>(14)</sup> Women's Charter 2010 (COM(2010) 78) (adopted at Women's Day, 2010) ([http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/president/news/documents/pdf/20100305\\_1\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/documents/pdf/20100305_1_en.pdf)).

equality between women and men <sup>(15)</sup>. The strategy represents the European Commission's work programme on gender equality for the period 2010–15. It is a comprehensive framework committing the Commission to mainstream gender equality into all its policies, including gender-based violence as one of its thematic priorities. Under the thematic area of dignity, integrity and an end to gender-based violence, the Commission announced as one of its key actions to adopt an EU-wide strategy on combating violence against women that will aim, for instance, at eradicating female genital mutilation using all appropriate instruments, including criminal law, supported by a European-wide awareness-raising campaign on violence against women.

The strategy (2010) addressed that gender mainstreaming will be implemented as an integral part of the Commission's policymaking. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has been established to promote gender equality in the EU. As part of the EIGE's work programme, the Institute will help the Commission and the Member States to report on the EU-level indicators <sup>(16)</sup> established under the Beijing Platform for Action in areas of particular concern and to develop further indicators where needed (such as on violence against women).

<sup>(15)</sup> Strategy for equality between women and men 2010–15, adopted in 2010 (COM(2010) 491 final) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0491:FIN:en:PDF>).equality between women and men 2010-2015, European Commission, 2010, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=6568&langId=en>

<sup>(16)</sup> Report from the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 2009 (<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=4336&langId=en>), Original indicators documented in: Draft Council conclusions on the review of the implementation by the Member States and the EU institutions of the Beijing Platform for Action, Permanent Representatives Committee (Part I), 22 November 2002 (<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/02/st14/st14578.en02.pdf>), Draft Council conclusions on sexual harassment at the workplace, Permanent Representatives Committee (Part I), 25 November 2004 (<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/04/st15/st15202.en04.pdf>).

## 2.2. The Council of Europe

Recommendation Rec(2002)5 <sup>(17)</sup> on the protection of women against violence, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in April 2002, was the first European level legal instrument to propose an extensive strategy to prevent violence against women and to protect victims. It expresses a consensus on general principles and it describes necessary measures in services, legislation, policymaking intervention with perpetrators, awareness raising, education and training as well as data collection. The implementation of the recommendation is monitored regularly. So far three monitoring cycles have been completed in 2007, 2008 and 2010 and the outcome published in analytical studies <sup>(18)</sup>.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in Recommendation 2002(5), notes that research, data collection and networking at the national and international level should be developed, in particular in the following seven fields:

<sup>(17)</sup> Recommendation Rec(2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member countries on the protection of women against violence (<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=280915>).

<sup>(18)</sup> Combating violence against women — Stocktaking study on measures and action taken in Council of Europe member countries, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2006, CDEG (2006) and 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 countries, Council of Europe 2007, CDEG (2007) 3, Analytical study of the second round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2008, CDEG (2008), Protecting women against violence. Analytical study of the results of the third round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member countries, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2010, CDEG (2010) ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation\\_studies\\_publications\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation_studies_publications_en.asp)).



- (a) preparation of statistics sorted by gender, integrated statistics and common indicators in order to better evaluate the scale of violence against women;
- (b) medium- and long-term consequences of assaults on victims;
- (c) consequence of violence on those who are witness to it, inter alia, within the family;
- (d) health, social and economic costs of violence against women;
- (e) assessment of the efficiency of the judiciary and legal systems in combating violence against women;
- (f) causes of violence against women, i.e. the reasons which cause men to be violent and the reasons why society condones such violence;
- (g) elaboration of criteria for benchmarking in the field of violence.

Reaffirming its commitment to the eradication of violence against women, the Council of Europe adopted an action plan <sup>(19)</sup> (2005), which envisaged the setting up of a task force to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, to assess progress at national level and establish instruments for quantifying developments at the European level with a view to drawing up proposals for action and implementing a campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, in close cooperation with other European and national actors, including civil society organisations.

The task force was responsible for the recommendations for future Council of Europe action in the field of violence against women, including for the recommendations on the drafting of a legally binding instrument in this field, which resulted in the development of the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention. The European-wide campaign ran for

two years in 2006–08 in 47 member countries raising awareness on the issue.

The Committee of Ministers established in December 2008 an ad hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO), consisting of member country representatives. The CAHVIO was mandated to prepare a draft convention to prevent and combat domestic violence including specific forms of violence against women as well as other forms of violence against women and to protect and support the victims of such violence and prosecute the perpetrators. The CAHVIO developed the first set of recommendations by the task force into a draft convention that was finalised in December 2010.

The Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence <sup>(20)</sup> was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 7 April 2011. It was opened for signature on 11 May 2011 on the occasion of the 121st session of the Committee of Ministers in Istanbul. It will enter into force following 10 ratifications. In May 2013, Turkey, Albania, Portugal and Montenegro have ratified the convention, and 25 member countries have signed the convention and are in the process of ratification.

<sup>(19)</sup> Action plan, Warsaw Summit, 2005 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dcr/summit/20050517\\_plan\\_action\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dcr/summit/20050517_plan_action_en.asp)).

<sup>(20)</sup> The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, 12 April 2011 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)).

The Istanbul Convention includes Article (11) <sup>(21)</sup> on data collection and research, which stipulates measures for the purpose of the implementation of the convention including e.g. collection of disaggregated <sup>(22)</sup> and relevant statistical data at regular intervals and supporting research in order to study the root causes and effects of violence against women, incidences and conviction rates.

## 2.3. The United Nations

Gender-based violence as a human rights violation and as a form of discrimination is an issue of major importance to the United Nations. Since the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of

Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) <sup>(23)</sup>, the UN has urged its member countries to work towards the eradication of gender-based violence and all kind of intolerance and discrimination based on gender. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women <sup>(24)</sup> (1992) has recommended that states parties should encourage the compilation of statistics and research on the extent, causes and effects of violence, and on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and deal with violence. The Committee has also recommended <sup>(25)</sup> (1989) to the states parties that they should include in their periodic reports to the Committee information about statistical data on the incidence of violence of all kinds against women and on women who are the victims of violence.

The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) <sup>(26)</sup>, under Strategic Objective D.2, lists the actions to be taken as regards data collection and research by a multitude of actors. The promotion of research, the collection of data and the compiling of statistics, especially concerning domestic violence relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women, is encouraged.

Over the years the United Nations General Assembly has adopted several resolutions on combating violence against women. Every year between 2007 and 2011 a resolution on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against

<sup>(21)</sup> Article 11 — Data collection and research:  
 '1. For the purpose of the implementation of this convention, Parties shall undertake to: a) collect disaggregated relevant statistical data at regular intervals on cases of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention; b) support research in the field of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this convention in order to study its root causes and effects, incidences and conviction rates, as well as the efficacy of measures taken to implement this convention.  
 2. Parties shall endeavour to conduct population-based surveys at regular intervals to assess the prevalence of and trends in all forms of violence covered by the scope of this convention.  
 3. Parties shall provide the group of experts, as referred to in Article 66 of this convention, with the information collected pursuant to this article in order to stimulate international cooperation and enable international benchmarking.  
 4. Parties shall ensure that the information collected pursuant to this article is available to the public.' ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)).

<sup>(22)</sup> Article 11, paragraph 76 in the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and explanatory report, Istanbul (Turkey) 11.V.2011. Data on victim and perpetrator should be disaggregated by sex, age, type of violence, the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim, geographical location, disability ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)).

<sup>(23)</sup> The United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) of 18 December 1979 (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>).

<sup>(24)</sup> General Recommendation No 19 of the CEDAW-Committee (11th Session, 1992), specific Recommendation 24(c) (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/recomm.htm>).

<sup>(25)</sup> General Recommendation No 12 of the CEDAW-Committee (eighth Session, 1989), point 4 (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/recomm.htm>).

<sup>(26)</sup> The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>).



women has been adopted <sup>(27)</sup>. In the first resolution on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women <sup>(28)</sup> (2007) states are urged to ensure the systematic collection and analysis of data on violence against women, with the involvement of national statistical offices and in partnership with other actors. The Statistical Commission was also requested to develop and propose a set of indicators on violence against women in order to assist states in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe has published a set of indicators and in 2010 developed in close cooperation with the Statistical Commission (see the chapter on UNECE).

The most important among the recent resolutions is the one on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women <sup>(29)</sup> (2011). Under the updated model strategies <sup>(30)</sup> a whole section is devoted to research and evaluation, where the member countries and other actors are urged, among other things, to set up and strengthen mechanisms for systematic and coordinated data collection on violence against women, to develop both modules and dedicated population-based surveys, including crime surveys, for assessing the nature and extent of the issue,

as well as to collect, analyse and publish data and information, disaggregated by gender, for the use of decision and policymaking in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The UN has also adopted a resolution on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations <sup>(31)</sup> (2012), where states are called upon to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data especially on such underdocumented forms of violence against women as female genital mutilation, and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice.

The 57th session of the Commission on the status of women was held in March 2013 and had as its topic the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. In the agreed conclusions <sup>(32)</sup> the importance of data collection on the prevention and elimination of violence against women is stressed and recognition is given to the fact that despite the progress that has been made, significant gaps and challenges remain in fulfilling commitments also as regards collection of data, analysis and research. The Commission asks governments and all relevant international as well as national actors to carry out multidisciplinary research and analysis, and improve the collection, harmonisation and use of administrative data.

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<sup>(27)</sup> A/RES/61/143, A/RES/62/133, A/RES/63/155, A/RES/64/137, A/RES/65/187 (<http://www.un.org>).

<sup>(28)</sup> Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (on the report of the Third Committee (A/61/438)) 61/143, Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/61/143&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/61/143&Lang=E)).

<sup>(29)</sup> Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (on the report of the Third Committee (A/65/457)) 65/228, Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/65/228>).

<sup>(30)</sup> Annex, A/RES/65/228, Updated model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against women in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/65/228>).

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<sup>(31)</sup> (A/C.3/67/L.21/Rev.1\*) United Nations General Assembly resolution on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/67/propolist.shtml>).

<sup>(32)</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, 57th session, 4 to 15 March 2013, Agenda item 3, Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st century' Draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Chair of the Commission, Ms Marjon V. Kamara (Liberia), on the basis of informal consultations, The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>).

# 3. Activities





## 3. ACTIVITIES

The descriptions of the data collection activities of EU bodies and the main international organisations are based on an e-questionnaire that was sent to 29 organisations, of which 16 replied. Also five face-to-face interviews were conducted (at the Council of Europe, Eurostat, FRA, UNECE and UNODC). The survey data was supplemented by desk research on various documents regarding the data collection on gender-based violence.

### 3.1. The European Union

#### **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**

The FRA collects and analyses official and non-official data on fundamental rights issues in the EU. Given the differences in data availability across the EU, the Agency also develops methods to improve data quality and comparability. The FRA also conducts its own primary fieldwork research and surveys.

The most important piece of research the FRA has conducted on gender-based violence against

women is a survey <sup>(33)</sup> that was carried out in the 27 EU Member States and Croatia during the year 2012. The survey provides for the first time comparable data on women's experiences of violence in the EU. The incidents captured include experiences of sexual, physical and psychological violence — ranging from domestic violence to sexual harassment at work and violence perpetrated by strangers. The survey also covers women's experiences of stalking and cybercrime, and asked adult women about their childhood experiences of violence. As part of the survey, a monitoring of articles regarding violence against women that were reported in the mainstream media of the participating countries was carried out for the period of the data collection which created an additional qualitative dataset on the topic of violence against women. The results will be published at the beginning of 2014. Before this full scale survey, FRA carried out in 2011 a pre-testing of the survey module in six EU countries which included both qualitative and quantitative research.

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<sup>(33)</sup> FRA survey on gender-based violence against women (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2012/fra-survey-gender-based-violence-against-women>).

The activities of the FRA are regulated by its multi-annual framework, which consists of nine core areas<sup>(34)</sup> within the field of fundamental rights, which do not include gender-based violence as such. However, if gender-based violence comes up in the FRA analysis, for instance within the area of non-discrimination, or within the area of asylum, migration and borders, then it is discussed in the FRA reports.

The FRA has also carried out various other studies that involve a gender component. This is the case for example of a study on irregular migrants employed in domestic work<sup>(35)</sup>, since the report shows that women were also exposed to abuse and violence. The same applies to the report on involuntary placement of persons with mental health problems<sup>(36)</sup>. Gender-based violence was not the main core subject of these particular projects but it emerged as part of that and is reflected in the reports. An on-going FRA project on children with disabilities<sup>(37)</sup> looks at hostility, including violence towards children with disabilities across the EU.

<sup>(34)</sup> According to the multiannual framework for the FRA for the period of 2013–17 the thematic areas are (a) access to justice; (b) victims of crime, including compensation to victims of crime; (c) information society and, in particular, respect for private life and protection of personal data; (d) Roma integration; (e) judicial cooperation, except in criminal matters; (f) rights of the child; (g) discrimination based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation; (h) immigration and integration of migrants, visa and border control and asylum; (i) racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

<sup>(35)</sup> Migrants in an irregular situation employed in domestic work: Fundamental rights challenges for the European Union and its Member States, FRA, 2011 (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2012/migrants-irregular-situation-employed-domestic-work-fundamental-rights-challenges>).

<sup>(36)</sup> Involuntary placement and involuntary treatment of persons with mental health problems, FRA, 2012 (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2012/involuntary-placement-and-involuntary-treatment-persons-mental-health-problems>).

<sup>(37)</sup> Children with disabilities: targeted violence and hostility, due 2014 (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2012/children-disabilities-targeted-violence-and-hostility>).

The FRA has also been actively involved in developing indicators and standards. The FRA has taken part for instance in the UNECE task force on measuring violence against women as well as the European Safety Survey Expert Group, and works closely with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on indicator development on fundamental rights. No decision has been made on indicator development based on the recent violence against women survey data.

In other surveys the FRA has conducted, for instance in the EU-MIDIS<sup>(38)</sup> survey, it is possible to show victimisation rates by gender and ethnicity. The main report on the results has been published in 2009. In the LGBT survey on discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, the data can be disaggregated by gender, sexual orientation and gender identity. At the end of the questionnaire there is an open field where the respondents could report on their own experiences. Thousands of responses have created a great deal of qualitative text to be analysed. The results of the LGBT survey have come out in 2013<sup>(39)</sup>. Also in the anti-Semitism survey<sup>(40)</sup> which covers Jewish people's experiences of hate crimes and discrimination, it is possible to disaggregate data by gender. The results of the anti-Semitism survey will appear in the autumn of 2013.

The FRA will publish the 'Gender-based violence against women: from childhood to adulthood'

<sup>(38)</sup> EU-MIDIS, *Main results report*, FRA, 2009 (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2011/eu-midis-european-union-minorities-and-discrimination-survey?tab=publications>).

<sup>(39)</sup> EU LGBT Survey results: *At a glance*, FRA, 2013 (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2013/fear-isolation-and-discrimination-common-europes-lgbt-community>).

<sup>(40)</sup> Fact sheet on the FRA survey of Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of anti-Semitism, FRA, 2012 (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2012/fra-survey-jewish-peoples-experiences-and-perceptions-antisemitism>).



report at the beginning of 2014. At the moment the FRA has no plans for a second sweep of the violence against women survey. In the near future the FRA will also publish a paper on forced marriage, based on desk research and requested specifically by DG Home Affairs. The FRA is also coming out with a report in 2013 on victim support service provision <sup>(41)</sup> in the EU-27, which draws extensively on survey research, including the violence against women survey.

In the coming years the FRA would like to see a survey on violence against women or gender-based violence conducted recurrently every few years. Other topics deemed important by the FRA include irregular migrants and severe forms of labour exploitation particularly in the EU, because there is a lot of discussion on criminalisation of migrants and hate crime discourse coming out of Member States. The FRA cautions against looking at gender too narrowly, and advocates looking at it through different grounds as well, not forgetting LGBT persons and persons with disabilities.

## Eurostat

Eurostat's purpose is to gather official quantitative data from several sectors of society, including criminal justice issues (e.g. police and prison) <sup>(42)</sup>. Most data are received from the national statistics institutes of the EU Member States. Also some EFTA-countries, as well as EU-candidate and potential candidate countries have participated in delivering data.

EU policy priorities, especially the policies of DG Justice of the European Commission, guide the work of Eurostat on gender-based violence and determine in which areas of work Eurostat gets involved. The most important policies that guide Eurostat's work are equal rights and anti-discrimination policies <sup>(43)</sup>. In practise, when policy needs for information on gender-based violence emerge, Eurostat has the task of providing that information.

Eurostat has a multiannual work programme (2013–17) <sup>(44)</sup> which covers all the statistical work Eurostat will be undertaking between 2013 and 2017. For new statistics, Eurostat will make a breakdown by gender where appropriate.

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<sup>(41)</sup> *Victim support services in the EU: An overview and assessment of victims' rights in practise, Annual work programme 2013*, FRA ([http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/2234-FRA\\_AWP2013\\_EN.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/2234-FRA_AWP2013_EN.pdf)).

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<sup>(42)</sup> *Annual report: Statistics in Focus*, The report (6/2012) contains no data on GBV ([http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-SF-12-006/EN/KS-SF-12-006-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-12-006/EN/KS-SF-12-006-EN.PDF)).

<sup>(43)</sup> DG Justice Management Plan 2013 (<http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/synthesis/amp/>).

<sup>(44)</sup> *European statistical programme 2013–17, Annual statistical work programme 2013* ([http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/pgp\\_ess/about\\_ess/statistical\\_programmes](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/pgp_ess/about_ess/statistical_programmes)).

The statistics action plan 2011–15 <sup>(45)</sup> continues the work started in 2006 <sup>(46)</sup>. No detailed instructions for Eurostat regarding what kind of information should be published on gender-based violence are given in the new action plan. The action plan recommends introducing demographic variables (gender, age, nationality) where appropriate.

Started under the previous action plan, a task force on victimisation issues was established by Eurostat in order to examine the possibility of the European safety survey (EU-SASU) <sup>(47)</sup> which would extensively record women's experiences of victimisation. During the SASU project a large manual was produced, in which standards for measuring victimisation were developed based on survey interview questions. However, this survey will not be conducted in 2013 as suggested, because the European Parliament rejected the SASU survey proposal <sup>(48)</sup>. Eurostat's position is that victimisation surveys across Europe are still needed. These studies could provide important data on violence against women and domestic violence. Nevertheless, for the time-being Eurostat has no plans for victimisation statistics.

<sup>(45)</sup> Measuring crime in the EU: Statistics action plan 2011–15 (COM(2011) 713) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0713:FIN:EN:PDF>).

<sup>(46)</sup> Developing a comprehensive and coherent EU strategy to measure crime and criminal justice: An EU action plan 2006–10((2006/COM) 437) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0437:FIN:EN:PDF>).

<sup>(47)</sup> Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on safety from crime, European Commission, COM(2011) 335 final 2011/0146 (COD) ([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009\\_2014/documents/com/com\\_com%282011%290335\\_/com\\_com%282011%290335\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/com/com_com%282011%290335_/com_com%282011%290335_en.pdf)).

<sup>(48)</sup> Decision of the rejection (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P7-TA-2012-494>).

Eurostat has intensified cooperation with the UNODC and will take over data collection of the crime trends survey of the UNODC in the region of the EU Member States <sup>(49)</sup> while the UNODC continues to carry out the data collection outside the EU. In principle, no additional data are to be collected at first. The data collection will start in 2014 and will provide data on homicide by gender. The problem with these data collection is that they are based on official crime statistics, which are crime-based. In most countries, only statistics on suspected persons can be provided by gender. However, Eurostat plans, in the future, to provide data disaggregated by gender on certain crime types, such as rape, sexual violence, domestic violence and hate crimes. In some countries this kind of data is already available.

The UNODC has developed an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes <sup>(50)</sup>. This coding system is based on 'events' and 'tags'. The events describe certain types of crimes — based more on behavioural descriptions than on the texts of crime codes — which are further depicted in detail with the tags. Tags related to gender-based violence are, for example, the gender of the victim and the perpetrator, the relation between the victim and the assailant, the circumstances in which the incident happened, and the motives behind the event. This classification will be finalised in 2015. Eurostat recommends that the EU Member States test the draft version of the classification. The use of the international classification of crimes would be a major improvement in the area of crime statistics and in describing gender-based violence as well.

<sup>(49)</sup> Statistics on crime and criminal justice, Working Group Meeting, 2013, Doc. CR/WG2018/8.

<sup>(50)</sup> *Principles and framework for an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes*, Report prepared by the UNODC/UNECE task force on crime classification, ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/8/Add.1 ([http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2011/8Add1-crime\\_classification\\_report.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2011/8Add1-crime_classification_report.pdf)).



## European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)

Eurofound, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, is a European Union body, set up to contribute to better living and working conditions in Europe. Eurofound's role is to provide information, advice and expertise on living and working conditions, industrial relations and managing change in Europe for actors in the field of EU social policy on the basis of comparative information and research.

The European working conditions survey, which has been conducted every five years since 1990 and concentrates on providing an overview of working conditions in Europe, has widened in content since the first edition and now also includes questions on sexual harassment. In the 2010 <sup>(51)</sup> edition the respondents, both female and male, were asked about physical violence, harassment, sexual harassment, unwanted sexual attention and verbal abuse experienced at the work place. There are two questions covering acts that can be regarded as sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

Over the last month, during the course of your work have you been subjected to (read out from 'a' to 'c', response alternatives: yes, no, dk, refusal):

- (a) verbal abuse?
- (b) unwanted sexual attention?
- (c) threats and humiliating behaviour?

Over the past 12 months, during the course of your work have you been subjected to (read out from 'a' to 'c', response alternatives: yes, no, dk, refusal):

- (a) physical violence?
- (b) bullying/harassment?
- (c) sexual harassment?

The next edition of the European working conditions survey will be launched in 2015. Questions on violence and harassment at the workplace from previous surveys are highly likely to be repeated. Eurofound is not involved as such in research on gender-based violence. Instead, it concentrates on examining physical and psychological violence at the workplace for all workers. Therefore it is not planning any activities or initiatives related strictly to gender-based violence. Nonetheless, gender policy applies to its work, which means that gender perspective is mainstreamed through its activities. Eurofound also published a report <sup>(52)</sup> in 2003 on preventing violence and harassment in the workplace, which is an assessment and compilation of European studies on the topic, including sexual harassment.

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<sup>(51)</sup> *Fifth European working conditions survey, overview report*, Eurofound, Dublin, 2012 (<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/ewcs/2010/index.htm>).

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<sup>(52)</sup> Vittorio, Di Martino, Helge Hoel and Cary L. Cooper (2003), *Preventing violence and harassment in the workplace*, Eurofound, Dublin, 2003 (<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/2002/109/en/1/ef02109en.pdf>).

## European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) works towards a safer and healthier working environment and promotes a culture of risk prevention to improve working conditions in Europe. It identifies and assesses new and emerging risks at work, and mainstreams occupational safety and health into other policy areas such as education, public health and research.

EU-OSHA has covered the issue of violence and sexual harassment towards women in the workplace in its reports on occupational safety and health. In 2009 and 2010, the Agency commissioned an update to its previous research on gender issues at work<sup>(53)</sup>, which found that inequality both inside and outside the workplace can have an effect on the health and safety of women at work. The report<sup>(54)</sup> on the risks and trends in the safety and health of women at work also provides a policy perspective and is meant to fulfil the task outlined by the European strategy on health and safety at work<sup>(55)</sup> for EU-OSHA's European Risk Observatory, examining the specific challenges in terms of health and safety posed by the more extensive integration of women in the labour market. Amongst other issues the report also dealt with women's risk of exposure to sexual harassment at work.

Another EU-OSHA review concentrating on violence and harassment at work<sup>(56)</sup> (2010) provides an in-depth review of data from the different EU Member States, presenting the prevalence of violence and harassment at work based on international and national statistics, as well as the results of studies on antecedents and consequences of work-related violence.

In the report 'OSH in figures: stress at work — facts and figures'<sup>(57)</sup> (2009), sexual harassment was dealt with in relation to characteristics that have been identified contributing to work-related stress that may seriously affect both mental and physical health.

The EU-OSHA healthy workplaces campaign in the coming years 2014–15 will be dedicated to counteracting psychosocial risks at work, and aspects related to violence and sexual harassment will also be covered in the campaign materials. The campaign is designed to help national authorities, companies, organisations, managers, workers and their representatives, and other stakeholders to work together in order to enhance health and safety in the workplace.

EU-OSHA deems further exploration of the problem of violence and sexual harassment in the workplace to be important. Overall awareness-raising of the problem among employers and employees is considered necessary.

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<sup>(53)</sup> EU-OSHA, *Gender issues in safety and health at work, A review*, 2003 (<https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/209>).

<sup>(54)</sup> Risks and trends in the safety and health of women at work, *European Risk Observatory, A summary of an Agency report*, 2011 (<https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/news-risks-trends-osh-women>).

<sup>(55)</sup> Improving quality and productivity at work: Community strategy 2007–12 on health and safety at work, COM(2007) 62 final (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0062:FIN:en:PDF>).

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<sup>(56)</sup> EU-OSHA, *Workplace violence and harassment: A European picture*, 2010 (<https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/violence-harassment-TERO09010ENC/view>).

<sup>(57)</sup> EU-OSHA, *OSH in figures: stress at work — facts and figures*, 2009 ([http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/TE-81-08-478-EN-C\\_OSH\\_in\\_figures\\_stress\\_at\\_work/view](http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/TE-81-08-478-EN-C_OSH_in_figures_stress_at_work/view)).



## DG Justice

The European Commission is committed to a strengthened policy response to combat all forms of violence against women within the EU territory and in EU's external policies. This commitment is shown for example in the Women's Charter <sup>(58)</sup> the action plan implementing the Stockholm programme <sup>(59)</sup> and the strategy for equality between women and men 2010–15 <sup>(60)</sup>. As from May 2011, the Gender Equality Unit in DG Justice/D2 is in charge of implementing the EU policy on violence against women within the EU borders.

The strategy for equality between women and men represents the European Commission's work programme on gender equality for the period 2010–15. It is a comprehensive framework committing the Commission to promoting gender equality into all its policies, including counteracting gender-based violence as one of its thematic priorities. The Commission announced as one of its key actions the adoption of an EU-wide strategy on combating violence against women that will aim, for instance, at eradicating female genital mutilation using all appropriate instruments, including criminal law,

supported by a European-wide awareness-raising campaign on violence against women.

Under the thematic area of dignity, integrity and gender-based violence, the EU will seek to protect women and children from gender-based violence through a package of legislation and practical measures on victims' right <sup>(61)</sup>, and continue financial support through the Daphne III programme <sup>(62)</sup> to civil society organisations and local authorities for the implementation of transnational projects to combat violence against women, children and young people.

The key priorities of DG Justice/D2 include improving knowledge and understanding of the problem, legislative action within the limits of EU competences, exchange of good practices, counteracting sex discrimination and empowering women, awareness raising and funding.

Achievements regarding data collection and improving knowledge on the extent of the phenomenon have included a Eurobarometer survey <sup>(63)</sup> on domestic violence against women which was carried out in 2010 by the Commission, and the FRA's

<sup>(58)</sup> Communication from the Commission for a strengthened commitment to equality between women and men: A Women's Charter (COM(2010) 78) (adopted at Women's Day, 2010) ([http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/president/news/documents/pdf/20100305\\_1\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/documents/pdf/20100305_1_en.pdf)).

<sup>(59)</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions: Delivering an area of freedom, security and justice for Europe's citizens, Action plan implementing the Stockholm programme (COM(2010) 171 final) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0171:FIN:EN:PDF>).

<sup>(60)</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions: Strategy for equality between women and men 2010–15, adopted in 2010 (COM(2010) 491 final) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0491:FIN:en:PDF>).

<sup>(61)</sup> Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA ([http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga\\_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=32012L0029](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=32012L0029))

<sup>(62)</sup> Decision No 779/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2007 establishing for the period 2007–2013 a specific programme to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk (Daphne III programme) as part of the general programme 'Fundamental Rights and Justice' (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:173:0019:0026:EN:PDF>).

<sup>(63)</sup> Special Eurobarometer 344 (2010), *Domestic Violence against Women Report*, European Commission ([http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_344\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_344_en.pdf)).

(European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) EU-wide survey on violence against women, the results of which will be published in 2014.

Ending female genital mutilation is among the main priorities of the Commission. Hence, DG Justice asked the European Institute for Gender Equality to assess the reliability and comparability of data available on female genital mutilation in Member States, which resulted in the EIGE's report 'Female genital mutilation in the European Union and Croatia' <sup>(64)</sup>.

The main policy outputs for DG Justice for the year 2013 include the mid-term review of the EU strategy for equality between women and men, the annual progress report on equality between women and men in the EU, the communication on female genital mutilation, and the campaign on violence against women (including FGM) <sup>(65)</sup>.

## 3.2. The United Nations

### United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC collects data on crime globally in order to make policy-relevant information and analysis available in a timely manner to the international community. The UNODC works on the development of standards for national crime and criminal justice information systems and for the conduct of victimisation surveys. The Office also aims to enhance the cross-national comparability of data through the development of key indicators and data reporting tools <sup>(66)</sup>.

The most important policy that guides the work of the UNODC on gender-based violence data collection is the updated model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against women in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice <sup>(67)</sup>.

The UNODC collects annually data on crime and criminal justice (the United Nations survey of crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems, UN-CTS), from statistical offices and other national institutions. The data are collected globally, but European countries have been the most active

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<sup>(64)</sup> *Female genital mutilation in the European Union and Croatia — Report*, EIGE 2013 (<http://eige.europa.eu/content/document/female-genital-mutilation-in-the-european-union-and-croatia-report>).

<sup>(65)</sup> DG Justice Management Plan 2013 (<http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/synthesis/amp/>).

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<sup>(66)</sup> Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics, UNODC (<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime.html>).

<sup>(67)</sup> Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (on the report of the Third Committee (A/65/457)) 65/228, Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/65/228>).



participants<sup>(68)</sup>. The questionnaire contains breakdowns across gender on different stages of the criminal justice system<sup>(69)</sup>. In addition, rape figures recorded by the police describe mostly crimes committed against women.

The UNODC is actively developing the first international classification of crime for statistical purposes, which includes a section on injurious acts of sexual nature. The development of the classification is under way and it is due to be completed by the end of 2014. The classification contains variables describing the gender of the victim and the assailant, the relation of the victim to the offender, and the circumstances of the violent incident. These variables can be used for classifying both register data and victimisation survey data. The classification would provide important tools for analysing

gender-based violence — if utilised systematically in the countries.

As its future plans in terms of data collection on gender-based violence, the UNODC reports that a project under development aims at developing a global repository of information on crimes against women, the development of a manual on how to mainstream gender in crime and criminal justice statistics, and a regular global report on violence against women.

The UNODC stresses that in the area of data collection on gender-based violence in the EU, an EU-level programme of surveys on violence against women is needed, including specific studies on violence against women in minority groups as well as studies on men's experiences of violence and men's perceptions of violence against women.

## United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

The UNECE's major aim is to promote European-wide economic integration and cooperation. It coordinates among other things statistical activities through the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau, and the Database of International Statistical Activities. The UNECE develops guidelines and training materials on statistical methodology and practices working with groups of specialists from national and international statistical organisations. The UNECE also provides on-line data on its 56 member countries in Europe, central Asia and North America. One of the tasks of the UNECE is to support statistical capacity-building activities based on the countries' needs, i.e. to develop models and tools for the methodological work of the countries so that the countries would be able to provide comparable data on violence against women. The UNECE has also provided technical assistance to individual countries outside the EU for conducting violence against women surveys.

<sup>(68)</sup> There are plans for changing the data collection so that Eurostat would be responsible for collecting the UN-CTS data from the EU Member States, and UNODC to take care of other regions of the world (see the description of Eurostat in this report.). The change does not increase information on gender-based violence, but aims at avoiding double data collection.

<sup>(69)</sup> From police statistics available: homicide victims (total number, perpetrator: intimate partner or family member, homicide details: robbery, gang crime, organised crime, other/unknown. Also homicide data across five age categories are enquired by gender and whether firearm or knife was used). Rape victims are not asked by gender in the police section. Data on suspects by gender: total number, juveniles, crime categories: homicide, homicide + attempted homicide, rape. Prosecuted and convicted persons: total number, homicide, homicide + attempt, rape, juveniles. Female prisoners. Number of female police and court personnel is asked. The victim survey section asks data for robbery, sexual assault, and bribery by gender. Data on homicide is available from [http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Homicide/Homicides\\_by\\_sex.xls](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Homicide/Homicides_by_sex.xls) A statistics report *Global Study on Homicide, trends, contents, data* including a chapter 'Women and intimate partner/family-related homicide' has been published in 2011 (<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime/global-study-on-homicide-2011.html>).

The following policies guide the work of the UNECE on gender-based violence <sup>(70)</sup>: the Beijing Platform for Action, and the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women <sup>(71)</sup> (2007). The resolution stresses the importance of strengthening national capacities (especially the national statistical offices) and efforts in collecting, processing and dissemination of data aggregated by sex, age and other relevant information, for their possible use for legislative, policy and programme development against all forms of violence against women. The same document also requests a set of possible indicators to be developed on violence against women in order to assist the member countries in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women, and a database to be built on the basis of the responses provided by the states.

The UNECE has carried out activities that take into account gender-based violence in the EU. It has coordinated the UNECE task force on gender-based violence in 2005–11, which was part of the project ‘Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities’. The task force supported the global effort towards developing indicators on violence against women <sup>(72)</sup>, developed a survey module <sup>(73)</sup>

for collecting data on the set of internationally agreed indicators, and built statistical capacity in countries neighbouring the EU. During the project, the UNECE tested and finalised the survey module as well as organised two expert meetings and two capacity-building workshops <sup>(74)</sup> on measuring violence against women.

Register-based data are collected regularly from international and national sources for the UNECE gender statistics database <sup>(75)</sup>. The database contains information from different areas of social life; crime is only a small section of the database. One main idea behind the database is to show gender differences in statistics between the countries <sup>(76)</sup>.

To improve the monitoring of gender equality in the UNECE region and develop gender-relevant statistical indicators as well as propose ways for sustainable data collection on indicators, the UNECE has established a task force on indicators of gender equality <sup>(77)</sup>. The task force will recommend, among other things, a set of indicators on gender-based violence to be covered through regular statistical surveys in the UNECE region (Europe, North

<sup>(70)</sup> A VAW-related website of UNECE (<http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/VAW>).

<sup>(71)</sup> A/RES/61/143 and the consecutive UNGA Resolutions, A/RES/62/133, A/RES/63/155, A/RES/64/137 and A/RES/65/187 (<http://www.un.org>).

<sup>(72)</sup> Gender-based violence against women is described via a set of indicators. See: ‘Follow-up to the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on statistical indicators for measuring violence against women’, Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations E/CN.3/2012/20, Statistical Commission, 43rd session, 28 February to 2 March 2012 (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc12/2012-20-ViolenceWomen-E.pdf>).

<sup>(73)</sup> Questionnaire, interviewer’s manual and facilitator’s manual: (<http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/VAW/Survey+module+for+measuring+violence+against+women>).

<sup>(74)</sup> <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/VAW/Measuring+violence+against+women>

<sup>(75)</sup> The following statistics are available: victims of crime by type of crime and sex, convictions by age category and sex of offender, convictions by type of offence and sex of offender, victims of homicide by relationship of perpetrator to victim and sex, prisoners by citizenship and sex. This is a public, easy-to-use database based on data from Eurostat, UNODC and individual countries. Crimes included: homicide, serious assault, robbery, sexual assault (<http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/database/STAT/30-GE/07-CV/?lang=1>).

<sup>(76)</sup> UNECE has published a report on the gender statistics approach: *Developing Gender Statistics: A Practical Tool*, Geneva, 2010 (<http://www.unece.org/stat-shome/publications-amp-resources/publications/demographic-and-social-statistics/population-and-migration/2010/developing-gender-statistics-a-practical-tool/developing-gender-statistics-a-practical-tool.html>).

<sup>(77)</sup> <http://www.unece.org/statistics/about-us/statstos/task-force-on-indicators-of-gender-equality.html>



America, Caucasus, central Asia and Israel). The recommendation is scheduled for publication in December 2013. Some additional indicators such as stalking and domestic violence against men will be presented in the new recommendation.

The UNECE notes that in the EU as well as in other countries, a regular survey that collects data for the internationally agreed indicators on measuring violence against women as a minimum should be established. The UNECE arranges biannual meetings where gender statistics are discussed.

## United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

The UNSD compiles and disseminates global statistical information, develops standards and norms for statistical activities, and supports countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems. It facilitates the coordination of international statistical activities and supports the functioning of the UN Statistical Commission. Violence against women is only one topic in its activity.

The policies that guide the work of the UNSD on improving statistics and data collection on violence against women are described in the General Assembly's 'Resolution on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women' (2007), in which the Statistical Commission was tasked with the development of a set of possible indicators to assist states in assessing the scope and incidence of violence against women <sup>(78)</sup>.

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<sup>(78)</sup> UNGA Resolution A/RES/61/143 ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/61/143&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/61/143&Lang=E)), UN Statistical Commission decision 29/116 - formation of the Friends of the Chair (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc08/Report-English.pdf>).

In 2009 the Friends of the Chair developed indicators on violence against women. A group of experts established by the United Nations Statistical Commission developed a list of core indicators to be compiled through population-based surveys <sup>(79)</sup>.

'Guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women: statistical surveys' <sup>(80)</sup> will be published by the UNSD in autumn 2013. These guidelines have been prepared to assist countries in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women. Over the years, the UN Regional Commission has been involved in this work, especially the UNECE.

The UNSD will promote the data collection aspects of the Istanbul Convention <sup>(81)</sup> by conducting national and regional training events in order to train statisticians in national statistical offices to carry out dedicated surveys on violence against women. As more countries conduct these surveys and data become available, the UNSD envisions the possibility of an international database to compile and disseminate the data.

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<sup>(79)</sup> Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women, Note by the Secretary-General. E/CN.3/2009/13. ([http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/reports/E\\_CN-3\\_2009-13-en.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/reports/E_CN-3_2009-13-en.pdf)).

<sup>(80)</sup> The guidelines focus on the use of dedicated VAW surveys and provide instructions on how to produce the list of core VAW indicators. See: United Nations Economic and Social Council E/CN.3/2013/10 (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/2013-10-GenderStats-E.pdf>).

<sup>(81)</sup> Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention — Data collection and research ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)).

## United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

UN Women works on several fronts towards ending violence against women and girls. Initiatives range from working to establish legal frameworks and specific national actions, to supporting prevention at the grassroots level. UN Women has also supported data collection on violence against women, facilitating new learning on the issue.

UN Women has been actively involved in the work on developing indicators to measure violence against women and contributed to the work of the Friends of the Chair to the UN Statistical Commission. As a result, a core set of nine indicators<sup>(82)</sup> was developed and was recently approved by the UN Statistical Commission. In addition, UN Women has also contributed to the development of the 'Guidelines to measure violence against women', produced by the UN Statistics Division. These guidelines are due for publication in 2013. UN Women is also a member of the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics<sup>(83)</sup> which was asked by the UN Statistical Commission to identify a minimum set of gender indicators for compilation. A list of 52 indicators<sup>(84)</sup> was identified, including violence against

women indicators<sup>(85)</sup> and was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in February 2013 for global data collection and compilation.

UN Women has participated in a number of data collection exercises. For instance, in 2011 it compiled a dataset<sup>(86)</sup> presenting existing prevalence data from 86 countries, including some EU Member States, on physical and sexual violence against women, forced sexual initiation and abuse during pregnancy, mainly drawn from leading international surveys<sup>(87)</sup>. Since 2000, UN Women has published the *Progress of the World's Women Report*, which is a biennial investigation of progress made towards a world where women live free from violence, poverty and inequality. The report<sup>(88)</sup> from 2011 focuses on women's access to justice and offers fresh perspectives and approaches to ensuring that women globally can access justice whether in the home, the workplace or in public life.

An example on the work done on the country level is a Kosovo-wide population survey on domestic violence<sup>(89)</sup> that surveyed women on domestic

<sup>(82)</sup> *Report on the Meeting of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women* (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/docs/finalreport.pdf>).

<sup>(83)</sup> *United Nations Statistical Commission report on the 44th session (26 February to 1 March 2013), Economic and Social Council Official Records 2013, Supplement No 4* (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/2013-Report-E.pdf>).

<sup>(84)</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council Statistical Commission 44th session 26 February to 1 March 2013 *Gender statistics report of the Secretary-General* (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/2013-10-GenderStats-E.pdf>).

<sup>(85)</sup> Indicator 48 Proportion of women aged 15–49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by an intimate partner, Indicator 49 Proportion of women aged 15–49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by persons other than an intimate partner, Indicator 50 Prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting (for relevant countries only) (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/2013-10-GenderStats-E.pdf>).

<sup>(86)</sup> *Violence against Women Prevalence Data: Surveys by country* (2011) ([http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/facts\\_figures.html](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts_figures.html)).

<sup>(87)</sup> Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Reproductive health surveys, Demographic and health surveys, Violence against women surveys and the World Health Organisation Multi-Country Study ([http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/facts\\_figures.html](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts_figures.html)).

<sup>(88)</sup> *Progress of the World's Women: in pursuit of justice* (2011), UN Women (<http://progress.unwomen.org/pdfs/EN-Report-Progress.pdf>).

<sup>(89)</sup> [http://www.stopvaw.org/uploads/security\\_begins\\_at\\_home.pdf](http://www.stopvaw.org/uploads/security_begins_at_home.pdf)



violence in 2010 and was undertaken by the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) and supported by UN Women. Other surveys that UN Women has conducted take place outside of Europe.

There has also been an inventory of past and ongoing activities on the issue of violence against women by the entities of the United Nations system<sup>(90)</sup>. It was compiled by UN Women on the basis of inputs provided by United Nations entities originally starting in 2007 and updated in the following years. As part of the inventory, there is a chapter which describes the work on data collection and analysis on violence against women carried out by different UN entities over the years. A large part of the chapter describes UN work in the developing countries, since that is where their mandate principally lies.

## International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The main aims of the International Labour Organisation are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.

The forms of gender-based violence that the ILO primarily addresses relate to sexual harassment in the world of work. Sexual harassment falls under the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention<sup>(91)</sup>. There is also reference to gender-based violence in the Indigenous and Tribal

Peoples Convention<sup>(92)</sup>. Recent standards that refer directly to gender-based violence include the Domestic Workers Convention<sup>(93)</sup> and the HIV and AIDS Recommendation<sup>(94)</sup>.

The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations monitors the implementation of the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention and if concerns are raised by the ILO social partners on this issue, data and information are collected.

The ILO's work is predominantly in non-EU countries. Global studies the ILO has conducted may refer to EU-level initiatives; however, an in-depth study on gender-based violence in the EU has not been conducted in recent years, nor is it in the plans for the future. Examples on the ILO's work on gender-based violence include a working paper on gender-based violence in the world of work: *Overview and selected annotated bibliography*<sup>(95)</sup> as well as the *Framework guidelines for addressing workplace*

<sup>(90)</sup> *Inventory of United Nations system activities to prevent and eliminate violence against women* (2013) (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-inventory.htm>).

<sup>(91)</sup> The ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (C111) ([http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312256:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312256:NO)).

<sup>(92)</sup> The Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No 169), Article 20(3) specifically calls for protection against sexual harassment ([http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C169](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C169)).

<sup>(93)</sup> The Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No 189) ([http://www.ilo.org/washington/areas/promoting-international-labor-standards/WCMS\\_170438/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/washington/areas/promoting-international-labor-standards/WCMS_170438/lang-en/index.htm)).

<sup>(94)</sup> The HIV and AIDS Recommendation, 2010 (No 200) ([http://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/whatwedo/projects/prevention-of-hiv-in-the-world-of-work/publications/WCMS\\_180564/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/whatwedo/projects/prevention-of-hiv-in-the-world-of-work/publications/WCMS_180564/lang-en/index.htm)).

<sup>(95)</sup> Cruz, Adrienne & Klinger, Sabine (2011): *Gender-based violence in the world of work: Overview and selected annotated bibliography*, Working paper 3/2011, ILO, Bureau for Gender Equality, Geneva, 2011 ([http://www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/WCMS\\_155763/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/WCMS_155763/lang-en/index.htm)).

*violence in the health sector* <sup>(96)</sup>, which is a training manual incorporating a gender element as well. The ILO has also published a code of practice on workplace violence in services sectors and measures to combat this phenomenon <sup>(97)</sup> and another paper on *Sexual harassment at work: national and international responses* <sup>(98)</sup>.

The ILO is planning to present the topic of work-related violence to labour statisticians at the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians (October 2013) with a view to receiving guidance on the topic. However, this initiative goes beyond the EU.

In the future, the ILO deems it important that data are collected on a regular basis on incidences of sexual harassment at work and that national statistical institutes allocate resources to collect statistics on the topic on a regular basis.

## World Health Organisation (WHO) <sup>(99)</sup>

For the World Health Organisation violence against women is a major public health problem as well as a human rights violation. The WHO has actively tackled violence committed against women by number of means, the most important of which being the *WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women* <sup>(100)</sup>. The study did not cover the EU Member States. However, the survey instruments encompassing the questionnaire and a training manual for the interviewers are valuable tools for studying domestic violence against women.

The WHO has also published a manual on how to research violence against women <sup>(101)</sup>, which presents methods for conducting surveys and qualitative research on gender-based violence in countries which have limited resources for studying the phenomenon. The manual covers different aspects of the research process, from study design to training field workers as well as clear guidelines for protecting the safety of women participating in the research.

As regards the safety of the female interviewees during an interview which covers sensitive topics, the

<sup>(96)</sup> *Framework guidelines for addressing workplace violence in the health sector: The training manual*, ILO, International Council of Nurses, World Health Organisation, Public Services International, Geneva, 2005 ([http://www.ilo.org/safework/info/instr/WCMS\\_108542/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/safework/info/instr/WCMS_108542/lang--en/index.htm)).

<sup>(97)</sup> *Code of practice on workplace violence in services sectors and measures to combat this phenomenon*, Meeting of Experts to Develop a Code of Practice on Violence and Stress at Work in Services: A Threat to Productivity and Decent Work (8–15 October 2003) Geneva, International Labour Organisation, sectoral activities programme ([http://www.ilo.org/safework/info/standards-and-instruments/codes/WCMS\\_107705/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/safework/info/standards-and-instruments/codes/WCMS_107705/lang--en/index.htm)).

<sup>(98)</sup> McCann, Deirdre (2005), 'Sexual harassment at work: national and international responses', *Conditions of Work and Employment Series No 2*, International Labour Organisation, 2005. ([http://www.ilo.org/travail/whatwedo/publications/WCMS\\_TRAVAIL\\_PUB\\_2/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/travail/whatwedo/publications/WCMS_TRAVAIL_PUB_2/lang--en/index.htm)).

<sup>(99)</sup> The WHO did not respond to our questionnaire, so this chapter is based only on desk research.

<sup>(100)</sup> García-Moreno, Claudia, Jansen, A.F.M., Henrica, Ellsberg, Mary, Heise, Lori & Watts, Charlotte (2005): *WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: full report, Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses*, World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland ([http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who\\_multicountry\\_study/summary\\_report/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/summary_report/en/index.html)). Questionnaire and description of the field work are included in the report.

<sup>(101)</sup> Ellsberg, Mary & Heise, Lori (2005), *Researching Violence against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists*, Washington DC, United States, World Health Organisation, PATH; 2005 (<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9241546476/en/>).



WHO has published another manual on ethical and safety recommendations<sup>(102)</sup> to be taken into account when interviewing women on domestic violence.

## United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef)<sup>(103)</sup>

The United Nations Children's Fund is a major global actor in the field of child protection and development; hence the work it does is mainly carried out in the developing world. Unicef measures the situation of children and women and follows progress through data collection and analysis. It maintains and updates global databases and promotes dissemination of evidence-based data for planning and advocacy. For instance, Unicef assists countries in the collection of data through Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)<sup>(104)</sup>, however none has been conducted in the EU. The same is true with demographic and health surveys (DHS), which collect data, for instance, on female genital mutilations and violence against children but not in the EU Member States. The data collected and analysed are disseminated in the publication *Progress for children*<sup>(105)</sup>.

Unicef has also published a report on female genital mutilation<sup>(106)</sup>, which utilises data from DHS and MICS, neither of which cover any of the EU Member States.

## 3.3. Other organisations

### The Council of Europe (CoE)

The Council of Europe's mandate focuses on setting and promoting standards in the area of human rights, rule of law and democracy. Therefore its research activities are carried out in the context of that mandate and focus on monitoring the compliance of the member countries with Council of Europe's standards or their promotion.

The Council of Europe has undertaken a series of initiatives to promote the protection of women against violence since the 1990s. These initiatives include first of all the adoption, in 2002, of Council of Europe Recommendation Rec(2002)5<sup>(107)</sup> of the Committee of Ministers to member countries on the protection of women against violence, which for the first time provided a comprehensive framework of measures that European states may follow in order to tackle such violence. The implementation of a monitoring framework in order to oversee to what extent states have implemented the set of recommended measures contained in Recommendation Rec(2002)5 represents the data collection efforts of the Council of Europe.

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<sup>(102)</sup> WHO (2001), *Putting women first: Ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence against women*, Department of Gender and Women's Health, Family and Community Health, World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland ([http://www.who.int/gender/documents/violence/who\\_fch\\_gwh\\_01.1/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/gender/documents/violence/who_fch_gwh_01.1/en/index.html)).

<sup>(103)</sup> Unicef did not respond to our questionnaire, so this chapter is based only on desk research.

<sup>(104)</sup> About MICS: <http://www.childinfo.org/mics.html>

<sup>(105)</sup> The databases on child protection can be accessed through: <http://www.childinfo.org>. The report is found from: <http://www.childinfo.org/protection.html>

<sup>(106)</sup> Unicef (2005), *Female Genital Mutilation/cutting: A statistical exploration*, Unicef, New York ([http://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_29994.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_29994.html)).

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<sup>(107)</sup> Recommendation Rec(2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member countries on the protection of women against violence (<https://wcd.coe.int/View-Doc.jsp?id=280915>).

So far three monitoring rounds (2007 <sup>(108)</sup>, 2008 <sup>(109)</sup> and 2010 <sup>(110)</sup>) have been carried out. A set of 20 questions which were developed for the first round have been used in all subsequent rounds of monitoring and were sent to government representatives in the 47 member countries. The information obtained was analysed in reports which include a cross-country comparative description of legislative and other measures regarding the different forms of violence against women as well as descriptive numerical information. The last round of monitoring will be launched in April 2013 and the results will be published in December 2013.

The Council of Europe has run a European-wide campaign (47 member countries), from 2006–08, to combat violence against women, including domestic violence. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has also adopted a series of recommendations and resolutions on different forms of violence against women such as domestic

violence <sup>(111)</sup>, date-rape drugs <sup>(112)</sup>, forced marriages and child marriages <sup>(113)</sup>, so-called ‘honour crimes’ <sup>(114)</sup> and female genital mutilation <sup>(115)</sup>.

Most importantly, following a two-year drafting process, the Council of Europe adopted the first European legally binding treaty to tackle violence against women in all its forms: the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) <sup>(116)</sup>. The convention focuses on all forms of violence (psychological and physical violence, stalking, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced sterilisation and abortion, sexual violence and rape both in and outside intimate relationships, sexual harassment and honour-related crimes) and includes a comprehensive catalogue of measures that parties will need to take in the area of prevention, protection and support, investigations and prosecution, as well as the adoption of a holistic and coordinated approach between all relevant actors. In order to promote the signing and ratification of the convention, a series of pro-

<sup>(108)</sup> Combating violence against women — Stocktaking study on measures and action taken in Council of Europe member countries, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2006, CDEG (2006) and 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 countries, Council of Europe 2007, CDEG (2007)3 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation\\_studies\\_publications\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation_studies_publications_en.asp)).

<sup>(109)</sup> Analytical study of the second round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002)5, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2008, CDEG (2008) ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation\\_studies\\_publications\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation_studies_publications_en.asp)).

<sup>(110)</sup> Protecting women against violence, Analytical study of the results of the third round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member countries, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2010, CDEG (2010) ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation\\_studies\\_publications\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation_studies_publications_en.asp)).

<sup>(111)</sup> Recommendation 1817 (2007) on ‘Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women’, Midterm assessment of the campaign (<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta07/EREC1817.htm>).

<sup>(112)</sup> Recommendation 1777 (2007) on sexual assaults linked to ‘date-rape drugs’ (<http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta07/erec1777.htm>).

<sup>(113)</sup> Recommendation 1723 (2005) on ‘Forced marriages and child marriages’ (<http://assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta05/EREC1723.htm>).

<sup>(114)</sup> Recommendation 1327 (2003) on so-called ‘honour crimes’ (<http://assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta03/ERES1327.htm>).

<sup>(115)</sup> Resolution 1247 (2001) on ‘female genital mutilation’ (<http://assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta01/ERES1247.htm>).

<sup>(116)</sup> The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, 12 April 2011 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)).



motional activities have been put in place, such as regional seminars and conferences as well as the provision of legal and technical support to member countries so that they bring their measures and legislation in line with the standards contained in the Istanbul Convention. The Council of Europe has also published various studies, including thematic papers <sup>(117)</sup> on the different provisions of the convention.

When the Istanbul Convention enters into force, following its ratification by 10 member countries, a group of independent experts called Grevio will be established to monitor the implementation of the convention together with the Committee of Parties. State parties will have to provide information on measures taken to implement the convention on the basis of a questionnaire. The questionnaire will be drawn up by Grevio. In addition to states parties' replies to the questionnaire, Grevio will turn to information from civil society organisations, national human rights institutions and national parliaments for its recommendations.

In addition to monitoring the compliance of the member countries in implementing the Council of Europe's legal standards, the Council of Europe has published compilations of national legislation <sup>(118)</sup> studies in the area of data collection <sup>(119)</sup>, forced

marriage <sup>(120)</sup>, minimum standards for support services <sup>(121)</sup> and on the role of men in combating violence against women <sup>(122)</sup>. The study that is most closely linked to data collection on gender-based violence is the administrative data collection on domestic violence that identifies a series of relevant categories and designs a model approach for the collection of administrative data in the field of violence against women and domestic violence.

During 2013, the Council of Europe is planning to conduct a study on the costs of violence against women (domestic violence, sexual assault, rape and stalking) in Poland in order to facilitate the ratification process of the Istanbul Convention. The results are expected in December 2013.

In order to implement the requirements of the Istanbul Convention in the area of data collection (Article 11), the Council of Europe considers it helpful to develop commonly accepted data categories for the collection of administrative data on violence against women. The Council of Europe also deems it desirable that prevalence surveys such as the survey recently carried out by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights are carried out at regular intervals.

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<sup>(117)</sup> For instance a fact sheet on protecting migrant women, refugee women and women asylum-seekers from gender-based violence ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/brochures\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/brochures_en.asp)).

<sup>(118)</sup> Legislation in the member countries of the Council of Europe in the field of violence against women, Council of Europe, 2009 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation\\_studies\\_publications\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation_studies_publications_en.asp)).

<sup>(119)</sup> Administrative data collection on domestic violence in Council of Europe member countries, Council of Europe, 2008 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation\\_studies\\_publications\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation_studies_publications_en.asp)).

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<sup>(120)</sup> Forced marriages in Council of Europe member countries: a comparative study of legislation and political initiatives, Council of Europe, 2006 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation\\_studies\\_publications\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation_studies_publications_en.asp)).

<sup>(121)</sup> Combating violence against women: minimum standards for support services, Council of Europe, 2006 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation\\_studies\\_publications\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation_studies_publications_en.asp)).

<sup>(122)</sup> Violence in the family: the place and role of men, Conference proceedings, Strasbourg 6–7 December 2005 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation\\_studies\\_publications\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/documentation_studies_publications_en.asp)).

## Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD Development Centre (OECD)

The task of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is to provide policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

The Development Centre of the OECD produces the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI). The idea of the SIGI is to measure social institutions<sup>(123)</sup> that discriminate against women and girls and cause gender inequality. It includes five sub-indices, one on violence against women.

No EU Member States including Croatia are included in the index, although EU-candidate countries are included: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The SIGI index was first produced in 2009 and updated in 2012. The next index will be released in 2014. It is envisaged that it will contain data for all EU countries, as well.

The SIGI includes several indicators that are relevant to the analysis of gender-based violence: early marriage, violence against women, female genital mutilation (FGM) and missing women<sup>(124)</sup>. The violence against

women section includes three dimensions: existence of laws, attitudes and prevalence of violence.

The laws section comprises qualitative assessments about the existence of laws against sexual assault and rape, against domestic violence and against sexual harassment. FGM is calculated as a percentage of women aged 15–49 who have undergone female genital mutilation. Attitudes on domestic violence are described by a percentage of women who agree that a husband or partner is justified in beating his wife or partner under certain circumstances. The prevalence of domestic violence is calculated as a percentage of women who have experienced physical and sexual violence from an intimate partner at some time in their life. The indicators seem concise and reasonable. Missing information causes problems when comparing the countries outside the EU, but most EU countries will obviously be able to provide data for the SIGI.

According to the OECD Development Centre, in addition to prevalence studies a greater focus is needed on attitudinal data in order to track norms and stereotypes related to violence against women.

## International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

As an intergovernmental body, the IOM works globally towards humane and orderly management of migration with respect to the migrants' human rights.

When it comes to gender-based violence, the IOM is involved globally in preventing gender-based violence affecting women and girls at each stage of the migration process, building the capacity of partners in addressing this phenomenon and providing assistance and rehabilitation services to victims. The IOM's approach to violence against migrant women and girls is outlined in the information sheet on 'Taking action against violence and discrimination affecting migrant women and

<sup>(123)</sup> Social institutions are social relations defined as formal and informal laws, social norms and practices that influence the decisions, choices and behaviours of groups, communities and individuals ([http://www.oecd.org/dev/poverty/OECD\\_DEV\\_Policy%20Brief\\_March%202013.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dev/poverty/OECD_DEV_Policy%20Brief_March%202013.pdf)).

<sup>(124)</sup> Details of the SIGI (<http://genderindex.org/data>); the complete country-level dataset and definitions of the variables used for the SIGI are available (<http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?datasetcode=GIIDB2012>). Issues paper: Transforming social institutions to prevent violence against women and girls and improve development outcomes (2013) ([http://www.oecd.org/dev/poverty/OECD\\_DEV\\_Policy%20Brief\\_March%202013.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dev/poverty/OECD_DEV_Policy%20Brief_March%202013.pdf)).



girls' <sup>(125)</sup>, which describes the different situations that increase migrant women's vulnerability to violence.

The issue of violence against women and girls and their special need for protection was one of the main factors leading to the adoption of the IOM gender policy in 1995. Since then, the IOM has been committed to ensuring that the particular needs of all migrant women are identified and addressed by IOM projects and services <sup>(126)</sup>.

The IOM is also committed to upholding the human dignity and well-being of migrants. In this framework female genital mutilation is approached as hindering integration and as a form of gender-based violence, as well as being a reproductive health and human rights issue. The IOM has published a factsheet on 'Female genital mutilation' <sup>(127)</sup> to raise awareness on the procedure in the migration context.

However, as regards gender and migration, the IOM is focusing most of its efforts on the phenomenon of human trafficking and has implemented more than 800 projects in over 100 countries since 1994 and provided assistance to nearly 50 000 trafficked persons, three quarters of them women.

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<sup>(125)</sup> Taking action against violence and discrimination affecting migrant women and girls, IOM, 2013 (<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/what-we-do/iom-and-gender/key-documents/taking-action-against-violence-a.html>).

<sup>(126)</sup> Staff and programme policies on gender issues, adopted at the 71st session of the Council, 2006, Breaking the cycle of vulnerability, Responding to the health needs of trafficked women in East and Southern Africa ([http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=7&products\\_id=125](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=7&products_id=125)).

<sup>(127)</sup> Supporting the abandonment of female genital mutilation in the context of migration, IOM ([http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/projects/documents/fgm\\_infosheet.pdf](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/projects/documents/fgm_infosheet.pdf)).

## Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The participating states in OSCE include all the EU Member States as well as the candidate countries. The OSCE has a solid policy framework when it comes to working with domestic violence which includes the 2004 action plan for the promotion of gender equality <sup>(128)</sup> where domestic violence is identified as a priority area as well as the Ministerial Council Decision No 15/05 <sup>(129)</sup> on preventing and combating violence against women, which urges the participating states to take all the necessary steps to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls during and after armed conflict and emergencies.

The OSCE assists the participating states that are part of the EU in implementing their gender equality commitments, including those on domestic violence. Furthermore, OSCE is assisting participating states in developing the police response to domestic violence and assisting in developing a legal framework under which to prosecute domestic violence offenders. These activities are mostly carried out in participating states that have an OSCE field presence, i.e. in the Balkans, eastern Europe, central Asia and southern Caucasus.

The OSCE has published a toolkit of best practices <sup>(130)</sup> to combat domestic violence in the OSCE region.

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<sup>(128)</sup> Ministerial Decision No 14/04 on 2004 OSCE action plan for the promotion of gender equality (<http://www.osce.org/mc/23295>).

<sup>(129)</sup> Ministerial Council Decision No 15/05 on preventing and combating violence against women (<http://www.osce.org/mc/17451>).

<sup>(130)</sup> *Bringing Security Home: Combating violence against women in the OSCE region* (<http://www.osce.org/gender/37438>).

The OSCE, in cooperation with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, will be collecting population survey data on domestic violence across the OSCE region. The FRA carried out the study in the EU Member States including Croatia and the OSCE is planning to extend the study to the rest of the OSCE region creating comparable statistics across Europe, central Asia and North America. The study will be completed in four to five years.

## 3.4. Civil society organisations

### Amnesty International (AI)

Amnesty International launched the 'END FGM' campaign in 2009 in partnership with 15 partner organisations and individual activists across Europe. The campaign aims to place the issue of female genital mutilation on the EU agenda<sup>(131)</sup> and to echo the voices of women living with FGM and those at risk.

The campaign monitors and seeks to influence EU developments in the field of data collection on female genital mutilation, violence against women, asylum, health and EU external relations. It also seeks to ensure that FGM is given attention in the European media. In 2010, a petition was launched to call on the EU to develop a plan of action on FGM. One part of the campaign is 'Art for Action' that combines activism and art.

The campaign also works with individuals who have been confronted with the practice in their life and who would like to speak about their experience with the objective of bringing about political and societal change. At the national level, the

campaign also cooperates with 15 partner organisations which are experts on women's rights and FGM/harmful practices in 13 EU Member States. These organisations work with communities, religious leaders, health professionals and national governments. All these actors work together to ensure that demands of the 'END FGM' campaign are relayed and supported at the national and the EU level.

The campaign has not been involved with any data collection activities at the EU level. It has however developed a resource centre<sup>(132)</sup> that encompasses all the information gathered during the campaign. In March 2013 the 'END FGM' campaign released an e-learning tool on FGM for health and asylum professionals<sup>(133)</sup>. The campaign is also working on a handbook on the Istanbul Convention explaining the states' obligations in addressing the issue of FGM.

The campaign urges the EU institutions to develop a common definition of FGM prevalence and create common indicators for the collection of comparable quantitative data. An EU-wide prevalence study should look at the risk of FGM for second and third-generation women and girls originating from FGM practising countries. The EU should also develop qualitative data on socio-cultural factors surrounding the practice of female genital mutilation in the EU. This should include the development of indicators and mechanisms dedicated to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of international human rights law obligations, including the recent UN General Assembly resolution on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female

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<sup>(131)</sup> *Ending Female Genital Mutilation, A strategy for the European Union institutions*, ([http://www.endfgm.eu/content/assets/END\\_FGM\\_Final\\_Strategy.pdf](http://www.endfgm.eu/content/assets/END_FGM_Final_Strategy.pdf)).

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<sup>(132)</sup> A collection of key resource material related to the practice of FGM (<http://www.endfgm.eu/en/resources>).

<sup>(133)</sup> United to end female genital Mutilation e-learning tool (<http://www.uefgm.org/Index.aspx?Language=EN>).



genital mutilations<sup>(134)</sup>. For example, studies on the impact of FGM prosecutions on the best interest of the girl child should be carried out.

## Women against Violence Europe (WAVE)

Women against Violence Europe is an informal network of European women's civil society organisations working in the field of combating violence against women and children (105 women's organisations in 46 European countries). The network focuses specifically on violence in the family and in intimate relationships promoting and strengthening the human rights of women and children as well as preventing violence.

WAVE has recently carried out two projects related to data collection on gender-based violence against women. The first project resulted in the Protect II 'Guidance report for the improvement of data on gender-based violence against women in the European Union'<sup>(135)</sup> and the second in the country report 2012<sup>(136)</sup>. WAVE has also conducted a study commissioned by the EIGE that provided an overview of prevalence rates and criminal statistics in the EU-27 and Croatia. The study also included recommendations in the area of data collection. The study was used as a basis for the 2012 EIGE report *Review of the implementation of the Beijing*

*platform for action in the EU Member States: violence against women — Victim support.*

The country report 2012 encompasses data not only from the 27 EU Member States but also from 19 non-EU countries, giving a total of 46 European countries. The areas of focus for data collection in the country report 2012 were prevalence studies and administrative data (police and courts) on violence against women with a focus on domestic violence and intimate partner violence. The country report 2012 analyses the available prevalence studies on violence against women, scope of survey, level of data disaggregation (gender, age, relationship), types of perpetrators, availability of the survey results, whether surveys are conducted on a regular basis, and the forms of violence covered in the survey.

The report analyses administrative data from the police and courts to determine the rates of reported violence and the rates of convictions, availability of the data, whether the data are regularly collected, level of disaggregation (gender, age, relationship), and whether data on femicide are available. This was done for all EU Member States and was based on the data that were readily available on websites of relevant institutions and ministries.

According to WAVE, police and court data on domestic violence or intimate partner violence often lack gender, age or relationship disaggregation. As these data should be used to monitor the implementation of the law, there should be information available on the number of cases that entered the court and the number that were dropped and the reason why they were dropped as well as the conviction rates. Court data should be merged with police data to show the flow of the cases through the criminal justice system.

Most important in the area of population, surveys would according to WAVE be to ensure that the focus is narrow (violence against women committed

<sup>(134)</sup> A/C.3/67/L.21/Rev.1.\* United Nations General Assembly resolution on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/67/propolist.shtml>).

<sup>(135)</sup> Protect II 'guidance report for the improvement of data on gender-based violence against women in the European Union', WAVE, 2013, Vienna (<http://www.wave-network.org/content/protect-ii-capacity-building-risk-assessment-and-safety-management-protect-high-risk-victims>).

<sup>(136)</sup> *Country report 2012: Reality check on data collection and European services for women and children survivors of violence — A Right for protection and support?* WAVE, 2013, Vienna (<http://www.wave-network.org/content/wave-country-report-2012-now-online>).

### 3. Activities

by men), that best methods of data collection are used in future surveys and that efforts are made to include all groups of women (including vulnerable groups).

Topics that require more research would include undocumented migrant women's access to services, including healthcare; the effects of violence on children who witness violence against their mothers; health consequences of violence against women, and economic consequences of violence against women.



# Appendix





# APPENDIX

## Appendix 1: Questionnaire used in the study

### Study on international activities in data collection on gender-based violence across the EU

Name of the organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Please, answer to each question, if possible. Note that most of the questions are open-ended because we wish you to write down your responses freely on the document.

For the purpose of this study, gender-based violence refers to violence that is primarily directed against women and girls because of their sex/gender, or affects them disproportionately.

The following forms of gender-based violence are included in the scope of this study.

1. Intimate partner violence/domestic violence against women.
2. Sexual violence (outside intimate relationships):
  - sexual assault (excl. rape)
  - rape
  - sexual harassment.
3. Stalking.
4. Harmful traditional practices:
  - female genital mutilation
  - forced marriage
  - honour-based violence.

Please note, that trafficking is excluded from this study.

**1. Please describe what kind of activities, projects or initiatives your organisation has carried out that take into account gender-based violence in the EU. Please list individual activities or projects.**

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**2. How has your organisation been involved in data collection (statistics, surveys, qualitative data resources etc.) in the field of gender-based violence?**

(a) In the European Union \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Globally

a. \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Otherwise

a. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Has your organisation carried out any of the following activities on gender-based violence that concern EU institutions or EU Member States?**

(a) Developing standards, harmonised definitions, indicators or methodological tools on gender-based violence  
0. No

1. Yes → What kinds of activities?

→ If published, where can it be found?

---

(b) Collecting survey data (interview surveys based on a sample of female population) on gender-based violence  
0. No

1. Yes → What kinds of surveys and in which year?

→ If the data are published, where can it be found?

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(c) Collecting other quantitative data (statistics, e.g. police data, judicial data) on gender-based violence  
0. No

1. Yes → What kind of quantitative data (e.g. form of violence, prevalence)?

→ If the data are published, where can it be found?

---

(d) Collecting qualitative data on gender-based violence (e.g. case studies, interviews, women's stories)  
0. No

1. Yes → What kind of qualitative data?

→ If the data are published, where can it be found?

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(e) Evaluations of projects focusing on gender-based violence

0. No

1. Yes → What kinds of evaluations?

---

→ If published, where can it be found?

---

(f) Other kinds of research studies or e.g. policy recommendations on data collection

0. No

1. Yes → What kinds of studies or policy recommendations?

---

→ If published, where can it be found?

---

**4. Has there been any working groups under the responsibility of your organisation that operate in the field of data collection on gender-based violence in the EU?**

0. No

1. Yes → What kinds of working groups?

---

**5. Is your organisation part of international or European-wide working groups or initiatives on data collection on gender-based violence?**

0. No

1. Yes → What kinds of working groups?

---

**6. Are there any other information sources available in your organisation, such as databases, manuals, handbooks or guidelines on gender-based violence concerning the EU Member States?**

0. No → Are you planning to develop any such data sources in the future?

1. Yes → What kind of data sources?

---

**7. What are your organisation's plans for the future in terms of data collection on gender-based violence in the EU? Please list individual activities or projects.**

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**8. In your professional opinion, what needs to be done that is not already being done in the area of data collection on gender-based violence in the EU (e.g. important topics to be researched, specific vulnerable groups to be prioritised)? Would your organisation like and/or have the mandate to do that?**

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**9. Which are the most important policies that guide your work on gender-based violence? Please include where to find the overarching framework documents describing the work of your institution on gender-based violence.**

---

**10. How is your organisation going to take into account and promote the data collection aspects of the Council of Europe Convention (Istanbul Convention) on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and domestic Violence in your work?**

---

**11. Other comments related to the issue.**

---

Please save this questionnaire and send it to [elina.kervinen@om.fi](mailto:elina.kervinen@om.fi).

**Thank you for your responses.**



## Appendix 2: List of respondent organisations and face-to-face interviews

Organisation	Survey response	Face-to-face interview	Interviewees
FRA		x	Jo Goodey, Sami Nevala
Eurostat		x	Agnieszka Litwinska, Steve Clarke
Eurofound	x		
EU-OSHA	x		
Council of Europe	x	x	Johanna Nelles
OSCE	x		
OECD	x		
IOM	x		
UNODC	x	x	Angela Me, Kristiina Kangaspunta
UNECE	x	x	Andres Vikat
UN Women	x		
UNSD	x		
WHO			
ILO	x		
UNDP			
UN OHCHR			
UNHCR			
Unicef			
UNFPA			
Amnesty International	x		
WAVE	x		
European Women's Lobby			
DG Justice	x		
DG Home Affairs (HOME)			
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL)			
DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)			
DG Development and Cooperation — EuropeAid (DEVCO)			
European External Action Service			
Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM)			

European Institute for Gender Equality

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