

PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

*- Project funded by SIDA
and implemented by the Council of Europe –*

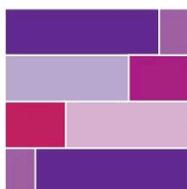
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “DATA COLLECTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: MOVING TOWARDS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION” SUMMARY

3-4 September 2015

This aims to summarize the main outcomes of the discussion that took place during the international conference “Data collection on violence against women and domestic violence: moving towards the requirement of the Istanbul Convention”. The participants in the conference agreed that the following key measures should be considered when discussing ways to improve the Ukrainian system for data collection:

General principles

- 1. Respect the principle of confidentiality of personal data, ensure anonymity and the safety and security of the data subject** (see art. 65 Istanbul Convention);
- 2. Ensure that data are processed electronically and not manually at every level;**
- 3. Ensure that an effective electronic database exists at every institution dealing with violence against women and domestic violence and that they are connected;**
- 4. Ensure that every existing or future database adopts a complete list of data categories** including :
 - age of both the victim and the perpetrator;
 - sex of both the victim and the perpetrator;



<http://www.coe.int/web/stop-violence-against-women-ukraine>

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- relationship of the perpetrator to the victim;
- type of violence;
- participation in perpetrator programme - if applicable;
- involvement of children as victims and/or witnesses of domestic violence, including their sex, age and any other relevant characteristics;
- perpetrator's previous convictions – if relevant and applicable;
- geographical location;
- contributing factors (alcoholism, drug abuse, etc);

Institutional framework

5. **Formally designate, at the national and regional level, one or more bodies responsible for co-ordinating the collection of data, analysing and disseminating its results,** as required by the Istanbul Convention (art. 10);
6. **Define the role of the State Statistics Service with regard to data collection, research and population based surveys;**

Co-ordination between different authorities and databases

7. **Create an electronic common to all relevant institutions database on domestic violence and violence against women** in compliance with personal data protection principles. The system of access to the database should be carefully set up: different levels of access should be considered and reflect the different types of authorities and responsibilities involved. A decision should be taken on the existing registers that will be connected to the common database;
8. **Improve the data collection system at the Ministry of Internal Affairs** by including the final court decisions related to criminal proceedings. Make this system accessible to other actors (i.e. Ministry of Social Policy);
9. **Foster the exchange of data between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine** regarding the outcome of administrative proceedings in court
10. **Improve the statistics report of the Centres of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth (CSSFCY)** by foreseeing disaggregation of data at least by type of service, service users (namely women, men, children), reason for assistance (physical violence, threat, etc.);

11. Improve the Common Register of Pre-Trial Investigations operated by the Prosecutor's General Office by introducing information on the victims and the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim;

Research and population based-surveys

12. Conduct periodical research and population-based surveys on domestic violence and violence against women and ensure that the information collected is available to the public, as required by the Istanbul Convention (art. 11);

13. Focus future research in the field of domestic violence and violence against women on: a) public awareness of existing legislation on violence against women and domestic violence; b) knowledge and capacity to recognise the most widespread forms of domestic violence (physical, sexual, economic and psychological violence); c) level of knowledge of the competent authorities and structures that should be contacted when seeking help; d) the level of intention to ask for help in cases of domestic violence; e) personal experience of gender-based violence over the recent 12 months, since attaining the age of 15; f) reasons why the victim did not ask for help; g) relationship to the perpetrator (former/current husband/partner, father/step-father, employer/colleague, etc); h) contributing factors (alcoholism, drug abuse, etc); i) correlation between actual experiences of violence and certain indicators, such as place of residence, region, education, social status, etc; j) link between domestic violence issues and the conflict in Eastern Ukraine;

14. Ensure that researches are carried out by competent and appropriately trained professionals in a climate of confidentiality;

15. Involve women's rights organisations and the academic community when conducting research in order to benefit from their expertise and relation of trust with victims of domestic violence and violence against women;

16. Analyse and disseminate data collected through existing helplines, at national and regional levels, whether operated by NGOs or by regional authorities;

Sources

17. Use *gbvims.com* as a source of information for: a) samples of questionnaires to be used by the social service when interviewing victims of domestic or gender-based violence; b) list of data categories to be included; c) example of Information Sharing Protocol; d) methodology to be used when collecting and sharing information on gender-based violence.