

**PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
IN UKRAINE**

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Data collection on VAW and domestic violence

The Italian National Statistical Office Experience and Role in Addressing Violence against Women

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The Italian data background

- Istat carries out the VAW survey and has data on female homicides, plus juridical information

But these information, even if essential, are not enough in order to combat and to prevent VAW:

- There is the need for a more comprehensive approach
- And an informative system on VAW



to plan good policies

Experience of data fragmentary in the Italian Scenario

What policies do not need

Data on VAW measures are fragmented

- Different experiences at regional level
 - Violence against women observatories in some regions, good isolated experiences
- Just single experiences
 - Every shelter and VAW service has its statistical data collection, some really advanced, some rudimental
- Short view
 - Only some hospitals and health services collect data on VAW
- Unawareness of data importance
 - No correct identification of the problem in justice and police statistics

Comprensence of excellence and disregarding towards data

What policies do not need

- Too much emphasis to individual sensitivity on the topic
- No follow up of victims
- No common background in collecting data
- No evidence of the most important data
- No guarantee for periodicity, rigorous methodology, high standard quality information
- No coordination

... everyone moves without a direction

**Even if aware of problems
Istat could not change alone the situation
We needed an institutional
Designation**

**The Government – Department For Equality
opportunity made it
(the decision survived even if different
legislature)**

A new policy approach: attention to the importance of data

- Data are recognized as an essential tool for gender equality policy planning
- Need for good data for good policies

Which kind of data?

- Regular data
- High quality data
- Standardized data
- Speaking data
- Coordinated data

What policies need

The government decisions

- Task force establishment on VAW measurement
- The aim of the task force is to identify data useful to design adequate policies:
 - To eradicate and combat VAW violence
 - To protect victims
 - To help victims in escaping from violence and cope with suffered violence
 - Help in care, help the re-integration

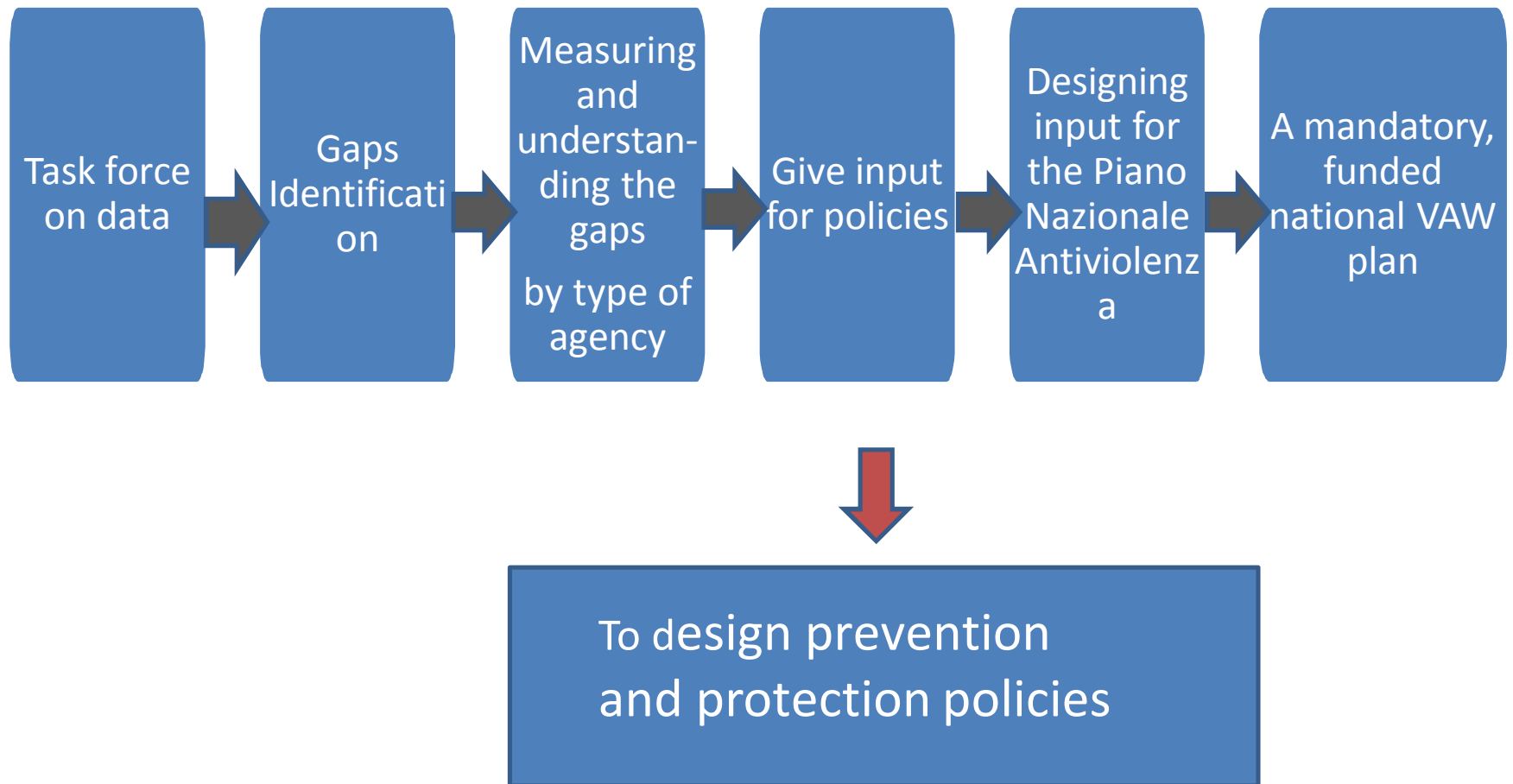
More concretely data were essential to:

- Measure the volume of VAW
- Understanding causes
- Monitor VAW
- Monitor the Victims protection

Coordinated by Istat → Because independent and *super partes*

Government Designation

The steps



A network work

In Partnership with all involved actors

Institutions: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of health, Ministry of Army, Ministry of work and Ministry of Social Politics

ONG: shelters, 1522, VAW services

VAW experts: academic, lawyers

A long and difficult work:

- First of all to share the same language
- And aims ...
- Assume a wider view → going out of the little *garden*

Identifying the gaps

- Analysis of the real situation of data on abused women and the protection system
- Looking at Identifying the gaps

What there is **versus** what there is not

- Which periodicity?
- Which best practices?
- Experiences on the territory
- Topic representativeness

Identifying solutions

- Need for data able to represent the problem
- Looking at possible solutions for each agency (ONG included) and their feasibility
- Establishing measures to address the VAW topic for:
 - Measuring VAW and gender's stereotypes
 - Monitoring VAW and victims protection system
 - Measure and monitor all justice aspects

The adopted measures become part of the VAW Action Plan that is approved by the government

From simple technical measures → political input → adopted and funded by the government

The task force proposal

An Informative system on VAW

- Developed and managed by Istat, in coordination with the VAW network
- A Comprehensive tool
- Periodically updated
- Storage for data (micro, macro and metadata), and analysis reports
- Build on several sources:
 - Population surveys, Administrative data, Shelters and ONG data

The task force proposal

- VAW survey → *every 4 years*
For prevalence, frequency, severity, causes, risk factors, violence witness, vaw dynamic, consequences...
- Quali-quantitative Survey on gender violence stereotypes
 - On citizens (also on own aggressive behavior)
 - On operators in social/health services

Periodically updated

The task force proposal

- Annual (harmonized) data collection on victims went to shelters, crisis center and VAW services (ONG)
 - continuous flow of data
 - Monitoring the real follow up of the victims
- Data collection from 1522 protection number
- Data from hospitals emergencies, social and health public services

**Looking at actions
effectiveness**

The task force proposal

- Annual data collection about police statistics, justice statistics
- Essential the **relationship** between victim and perpetrator and the **gender** of both in order to identify the gender violence and VAW
- Data from criminal career
- Follow up of judicial proceedings
- Follow-up of the victims in the reporting and judicial itinerary

**Looking at actions
effectiveness**

The Italian Violence against Women Survey

Which kind of information: the essential issues to know

violence extension and nature

- Focus on **physical and sexual** violence (partner and non partner)
- Focus on **domestic** violence (Psychological and verbal violence, Economical violence, Stalking)

Focus on:

- Victim's violence perception as a crime
- Seriousness (**injuries and type of injuries, perceived seriousness, feeling of life in danger, use of medicines and therapy to cope with violence**)
- Intensity (**one or more times violence occurred, repetitiveness**)
- Violence dynamics (**arms, alcohol abuse of perpetrators**)
- Reporting behaviour and women capacity of seeking for help (**shelters, with whom women speak of violence, police relationship...**)
- Children witness of violence
- Violence in pregnancy

Which kind of information: the essential issues to understand violence risk factors

- **Abuse in WOMEN background**
 - Mother abuse history
 - Childhood victimisation
- **Abuse in the PARTNER background**
 - Experience of violence in childhood
 - Witness of father violence against own mother's
- **Individual factor risks partner's related**
 - partner's alcohol abuse
 - Partner violent outside family too
- **Social factor risks partner related**
 - Women considered as an object to denigration and berate

Violence definition:

Different forms of violence:

- **Verbal** (critics, humiliations,)
- **Psychological** (downgrading, blackmail, intimidation)
- **Economic** (control of expenditure, no access to money, no information on income)
- **Stalking**
- **Physical**
- **Sexual**

Psychological violence

- Most forms are not evident (threatening, downgrading, intimidation, limitation of freedom, excessive jealousy)
- Women rarely recognized it as violence
- Furthermore it's not visible from a social point of view, so it's difficult for women to speak about it and give vent to own's feeling
- It's culturally accepted that a woman has not to be autonomous thoughts, that she has to do what her husband is asking; or that she is or thinks to be what her husband tell her.
- It could be measured considering the different aspects of the daily life

Psychological violence

- denigration
- behaviour control
- segregation strategies
- intimidations
- heavy financial restraint

suffered by partner's side

Nature of violence - Stalking

- tried in a nagging way to talk to the woman against her will
- repeatedly asked for appointments to meet her
- waited for her outside home or at school or at work
- sent messages, telephone calls, e-mails, mails or undesired presents
- followed her or spied her
- adopted other strategies

By former partner and **non** partner (2014)

Nature of violence – physical violence

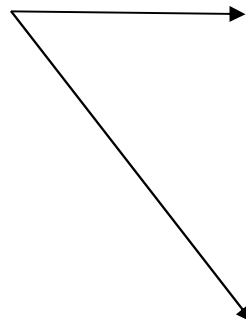
- **ranked from the less to the most serious one:**
 - threat to be physically hit
 - to be pushed, grabbed
 - to be yanked or knocked with an object
 - to be slapped, kicked, punched or bitten
 - attempted strangulation, of a choking, burning
 - threats with weapons
 - Other physical violence

Nature of violence – sexual violence

- rape
- other form of rape (anal or oral penetration)
(only if woman says “no” at rape question)
- attempted rape
- sexual intercourses with a third party
- **undesired sexual intercourses, suffered for fear of consequences**
- **degrading and humiliating sexual activities**
(only for partner violence)
- other sexual violence forms not included before

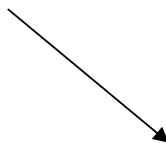
Author of violence

Partner



- **Current**
- **Previous**
- **Husband**
- **Cohabitant**
- **Fiancé**

Non partner



- **Unknown persons**
- **Acquaintances**
- **Friends**
- **Colleagues**
- **Family friends**
- **Relatives**
- **Others**

Occurrence period

partner violence

- the period is identified by the relationship

non partner violence

- since 16teen years old
- before 16teen years old
 - forced sexual activities by everyone
 - physical violence by parents

Reference period

- the life course
- the 12 last months (before the interviews)

But many other periods can be used

- before 20 years ago
- 10-20 years ago
- 5-10 years ago
- the last five years.

Intensity of violence

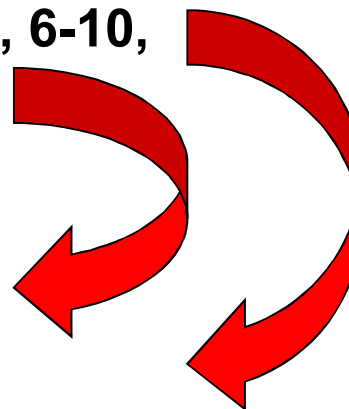
- More complex issue
- How to ask numbers of incidents
- Do women remember well?
- Subjective dimension in quantifying series of incidents
- How to count series of incidents

Intensity of violence

numbers of incidents

**How many times did it happen? 1, 2-4, 6-10,
more than 10**

don't know/don't remember



how often did it happen?

- every day/almost every day;
- one or more times a weeks (1-3);
- one or more times a month (1-3);
- one or more times a year;
- only in particular periods of the year but in repetitively way;
- don't know/don't remember; don't answer/refuse"

Victims and offender characteristics

- geographical area
- victims' characteristics
 - age
 - civil status
 - Citizenship
 - level of education,
 - professional status, etc.....
- offenders' characteristic

Violence Seriousness

Critics aspects:

- **information on the last episodes**
- **ambivalence of seriousness measure**
 - reporting behaviour
 - getting in touch with shelters or other specialised agency
 - Injuries and types of injuries
 - use of alcohol or medication
 - Use of professional counselling to cope with violent experience
 - regarding to the incident as a crime

Possibility of ranking the screening questions

Use of frequency

Use of violence length (duration)

Violence details

- Episode contextualization (Place, period of the year)
- Author's characteristics
- Episode details
- Seriousness and consequences of violence
- Victim behaviors and reaction
- Relation with police
- Seeking for help
- Violence story in case of domestic violence
 - including violence when the victim is pregnant
 - children witness of the violence
 - children as victims of violence
 - Attempts to escape from violence
 - Economic loss and cost
 - Consequences

Which methodology

- Use of large and representative samples of the population
- Use of validated instruments and appropriate methodology
- Use of standardized procedures
- Periodically repeated, approx. every 4 year
- Focus on quality besides quantity
- A Dedicated survey instead of a module in another survey

Istat VAW Survey: 2006 -2014

- Large sample size ~ 25.000 women aged between 16 and 70
- Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing
- In 2014, 3.800 foreign resident women, representative of the first 6 most numerous nationality → CAPI
- Respondents sensitization
- Accurate selection and training of interviewers
- Continuous daily monitoring (8 months)
- Supervision and support during the interviews collection
- Psychological support during training and fieldwork
- Shelters address if women asked for help

How to collect data: the questionnaire

- Data are collected **investigating behaviours**
- Violence is defined in a way that women can remember and reflect their lives as if in a mirror
- Psychological violence questions are measured considering the different aspects of the daily life
- **3 screening for current/ex/non partner**
- **No name violence**
 - Nor in the name survey
 - Nor in the advanced letter
 - Nor from the people answering to the toll free number
 - Nor in the introduction
 - Nor in the questions

In conclusion

- It's important to develop and reinforce a deep relationship between **data users** and **data producers**
- It is important the coordination of the National Statistical Office, independent and expert of methodology
- It is essential working side by side in network
 - **Common proposals to ONG and Institutions**
 - **Common definitions**
 - **Changes in data sets and databases**
- Input in the action plan
- Public funds for every institution