

Good policies and practices to facilitate women's access to justice



Comissão para a Cidadania e Igualdade de Género
Presidência do Conselho de Ministros

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The **Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG)** aims to ensure the implementation of public policies, in Portugal, in the field of citizenship and the promotion of equality between women and men, in particular:

- by promoting actions aimed at the civic awareness regarding the identification of situations of discrimination and of forms to eliminate them,
- and on the prevention and fight against domestic and gender-based violence and trafficking in human beings – CIG coordinates **V National Plan to Prevent and Combat Domestic and Gender-based Violence (2014–2017)**

GOOD PRACTICE: TELEASSISTANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

TARGET GROUP: VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- This program arose from the need to ensure protection and security to victims of domestic violence and decrease their risk of revictimization and is coordinated by **CIG**.
- It aimed to increase the protection and security of the victim, ensuring 24 hours/a day, and free of charge, adequate response to emergency and crisis situations.

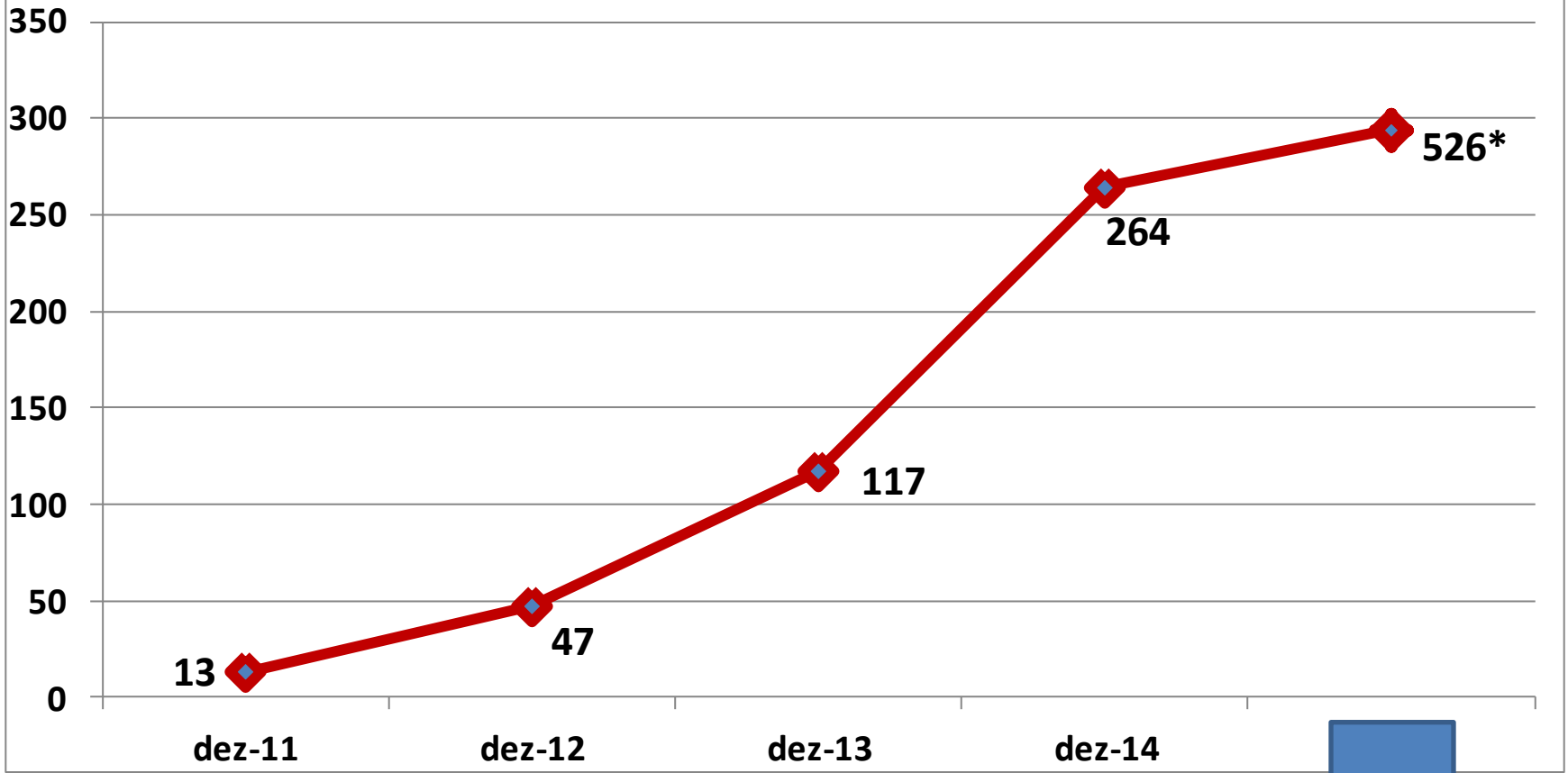
TELEASSISTANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

- Victims of domestic violence had access to this program whenever they were at-risk of revictimization, had specific security needs and a Criminal Court decided her/his protection.
- The psychosocial support and protection by Teleassistance were operated for a period of time not exceeding six months, renewable by Court decision.
- The decision could only be taken after the victim's consent.
- It was considered that Teleassistance was especially suited for the following situations: high revictimization risk; low social support; no cohabitation with the aggressor.

TELEASSISTANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

- The program appealed to appropriate technology, ensuring victim support a 24H/ day, 365 days/year to the following needs: information, emotional support and, if necessary, police protection.
- In addition to a telephone service, the technological support system allowed the victim's geographical tracking, fundamental in emergency/crisis situations.
- Equipment given to victims consisted of a mobile voice and GPS device connected directly to a call-center.

Teleassistance devices



*at 5th october

GOOD PRACTICE: TRAINING

- TARGET GROUP: PROFESSIONALS
- Training is provided to professionals involved in the area of domestic violence, in particular judges, security forces, health professionals and professionals from the children's protection commissions.
- Within law enforcement authorities – for example within the Public Security Police (PSP), the National Republican Guard (GNR) and the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) – awareness-raising and training activities on gender equality were undertaken.
- Furthermore, specific training on domestic and/or gender-based violence is provided to magistrates, law enforcement officials, education and health professionals, social workers, local authorities' staff, mediators and journalists.

GOOD PRACTICE: TRAINING

- The training of magistrates and law enforcement officers covers issues such as victim protection and assistance, remote surveillance, risk assessment, violent crimes, sex crimes and hate crimes against LGBT people.
- Training activities have been also organised for media professionals and journalism students on the role of media in reporting domestic violence (in particular spousal homicide), rights of the child and elimination of stereotypes in information and advertising. In 2011, the Commission for the Protection of Children and Youngsters at Risk (CNPCJR) launched an online Guide for media professionals (http://www.cnpcjr.pt/Manual_Competicencias_Comunicacionais/default.html). It is a training resource for the promotion of the Rights of the Child and for the prevention of any type of violence against children or youngsters.
- In the last 3 years, specific training was provided to migrant support staff on “gender equality, gender-based violence and multiculturalism”.

GOOD PRACTICE: TRAINING

- In 2013, 2014 and 2015, both security forces (GNR and PSP) received training sessions on the new risk assessment tool for domestic violence cases.
- Regarding the combat against a particular harmful practice that discriminates against girls and women – Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – a Procedural Guide for Criminal Police Staff was published and training to judges and public prosecutors is provided in the Centre for Judicial Studies.

GOOD PRACTICE: DATA COLLECTION

- TARGET GROUP: PUBLIC IN GENERAL

Data collection in police statistics:

Every year, the Ministry of Home Affairs produces an annual report regarding to Domestic Violence police registrations on domestic violence, with data disaggregated by sex.

A standard notification was created in January 2006, which makes it possible to gather more accurate and detailed statistics on domestic violence recorded by the Police. This form allows the analysis of several variables characterizing the victim, the perpetrator, the relationship, age, etc., and the context of the aggression thus allowing the production of reliable internationally comparable indicators on the extension and configuration of the phenomenon.

The data is available online on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Since November 2014, Police has been used a new Risk assessment tool for domestic violence cases.

GOOD PRACTICE: DATA COLLECTION

- Data collection in criminal justice statistics:
- National criminal justice statistics on domestic violence are collected in Portugal. The collected data are available on the website of the Ministry of Justice. Data is regularly collected and the statistics on domestic violence are sex-disaggregated for the victim and the perpetrator, the age of the victim and perpetrator is specified and the relationship, and other relevant variables (such place and hour of crime, if there were children presented, if the perpetrator used any kind of weapon).

Thank you for the attention!



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