



Republic of Serbia
GOVERNMENT
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
COORDINATION BODY FOR GENDER
EQUALITY

The cost of domestic violence against women

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Assessment of costs

- Precondition for more efficient and cost effective prevention of violence against women
- Precondition for realistic strategic documents, policies and measures
- Precondition for prioritizing as budgets are limited
- Precondition for societies without violence



Why research and analysis ?

- Research necessary to access the cost of violence
- Serbian example-limited to budget expenditures resulting from cases of violence against women
- Necessary to conduct periodic more in depth research and analysis



Research information and findings

- Conducted in 2009 by AWC
- Goal to conduct preliminary assessment of costs
- Emphasis on the existence and approximate dimension of costs
- Put forward an idea and model for assessment making
- Identified info and data required



Research information and findings/ difficulties:

- No available, accessible, reliable data
- Difficult to access costs (eg. health system)
- No unified system of data collection- majority based on misdemeanor charges and sex of perpetrator, often legally invisible
- No cooperation, lengthy procedures

Research information and findings- Serbian case

- Budget costs amounted to 2.2. -2.7 million EUR in 2009
- The analysis covered only state costs
Indicated minimum budget costs, including costs of personnel
- Not included:
 - costs of development, implementation and supervision of relevant policies
 - costs of shelters (in Denmark 30 %)
 - costs which could not be calculated or lacked available data and information (administrative, car and fuel costs, health care costs etc.)



Research information and findings- Serbian case

- From highest to lowest costs: social work centers, police, judiciary and the prosecutor's office
- Provided also an assessment of annual budget costs in case of institutional response to the violence
- The costs of prevalence of violence amounted to 0.8% to 4.9% Serbia GDP
- Did not include the victims costs (106 to 256 times higher).



Research information and findings- Serbian case

- Proposition: Cost of the state system response accounts for little more than 1/10 of the total costs
- Assumption: non-measurable and hidden costs of emotional distress and suffering totaled 12.6 – 32.9 million EUR
- Conclusion: total costs would have amounted between 16.8 – 43.9 million EUR



Research information and findings- conclusions:

- Provided valuable information on the missing data
- Emphasized the need for serious improvements in collecting and processing the statistical data of violence and related costs
- Stressed the need for coordinated and multidisciplinary approach



Research information and findings-conclusions:

- Domestic violence against women is a serious and expensive social problem
- Calls for and deserves significant commitment of the state and society on the whole
- It is rising problem as we are living in societies more prone to every form of violence



Research information and findings- conclusions:

- Cost assessment important for policy making/ central registry of cases of domestic violence, standard operative procedures, protocols etc./
- Cost assessment important for effective law, policy and strategy implementation (trend monitoring and adjustments)
- Cost assessment important for continuous system response improvement



Overall conclusions:

- Without cost assessment there will be:
 - no effective policies, measures and adequate legal and social response to violence
 - no appropriate and efficient state response to violence against women
 - no safety for women and girls
 - no sustainable development and economic prosperity

Thank you

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