

Violence against Women: Do the Governments Care?

Mapping the state response in CEE
and CIS countries

A project by the Open Society Institute
Network Women's Program/VAW
Monitoring Program

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Background

- Stop Violence against Women Website (www.stopvaw.org) managed by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights (MAHR)
- Establishment and coordination of the National Violence against Women Monitor Program and Network by OSI Network Women's Program/VAW Monitoring Program and MAHR
- National VAW Monitors: NGOs working in the field of violence against women from CEE and CIS countries; management of the Country Pages of the STOPVAW website

I. Monitoring methodology

- Basis: Recommendation Rec(2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the protection of women against violence – international norm, comprehensive, detailed; Monitoring Framework based on indicators prepared by the CoE Group of Specialists
- Building on the work of National VAW Monitors in 25 countries, with a request to involve other state and non-state actors in data collection
- Questions to map the response to VAW, focusing on the state performance

II. Examined fields – main proposed indicators in the light of the CoE

Monitoring Framework

1. State mechanisms: coordinating bodies, budget, action plans

- **Special tasks allocated to the national machinery**
- **Governmental coordinating bodies to implement measures in the field of VAW (budget, number of staff, role of NGOs)**
- **NAPs – tasks, responsible actors, budget, timeframe, monitoring mechanism; evaluation/progress report**
- **Special budget lines in the State budget to combat VAW, amount**
- **Special budget lines, schemes to support NGOs in the field, amount**
- **State review mechanism on laws and policies**
- **Financing systems to compensate VAW victims**

2. Legislation

- Special laws on different forms of VAW. Definition of VAW in the legislation
- Existence of (police or judicial) restraining, protection orders. Room for immediate protection; sanctions for infringement
- Criminal Code provisions to punish all forms of VAW
- Reference to VAW in laws on victim and witness protection. Conditions to avoid revictimization (in camera hearing)
- Free legal aid, representation and assistance (provider and funding: public or private)

3. Special protocols to deal with VAW cases.

Organizational cooperation

- Special protocols, codes of conduct for different professions; forms of VAW they cover
- Legal requirement for multi-agency work
- Systematic mechanism to involve NGOs to the drafting, designing, implementation and evaluation of laws and policies
- Medium- and long-term coordinated action plans for the different professions. Professions; tasks, deadline, responsible actors, money allocated. Progress/evaluation report

4. Special units in the law enforcement bodies

- Law enforcement bodies, forms of VAW they cover. Establishment: on organized or voluntarily basis

5. Services

- Shelters: number, room availability (per women inhabitants – using the CoE and EP recommendations), geographical coverage, availability of free of charge and immediate help, state's role in establishment, provider, funding (state contribution), legal basis for operation
- Hotlines
- Crisis intervention, counselling centers
- Treatment programs for offenders (analysis on the effectiveness)

6. Education and training

- Inclusion of VAW and gender-discrimination in the primary and secondary school curricula
- Mandatory training programs for future professionals on VAW (professions, duration, content, provider)
- Mandatory training programs for practicing professionals on VAW (professions, duration, content, provider, frequency)

7. Role of the media

- Media law provisions on VAW and the portrayal of women. Sanctions for the infringement
- Codes of conduct taking into account of VAW and promoting a non-stereotyped image
- Media watch organizations (state, non-state)
- VAW and gender-discrimination in the media school curricula
- Analysis on VAW and gender stereotypes in the media. Provider, funding

8. Awareness raising activities

- National campaigns (theme, provider, frequency, funding, evaluation of effectiveness)

9. Research and surveys

- Research and surveys conducted (theme; nature: representative or not, dedicated or not; provider; funding)

10. Statistics and data collection

- Common indicators to measure the scale of VAW
- Service-based data collection (criminal justice, social and health care fields): VAW-sensitive problem determination, gender-disaggregation, relationship between the persons concerned (perpetrator and victim)
- Case follow-up in criminal statistics: number and rate of of reported, recorded, prosecuted and convicted cases; distribution of applied sanctions
- Accessibility of service-based data for the public

11. Case law

- Number of VAW cases before the national human rights bodies
- Number of VAW cases before the international bodies

III. Conclusion, challenges

- Using an international norm as a basis: good guidance for data collection, useful for advocacy efforts. Proposal: inclusion of the planned indicators in a 'state obligation friendly' form
- NGO-based activity: information from the field, room for critical examination, but access to information from state actors is difficult. Proposal: working in state-non state partnership when putting indicators into action
- Challenge: formulation of quantitative indicators with a room for qualitative evaluation, comments; develop 'dynamic' indicators to measure progress at legislative and policy level