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STAYSAFE

STATE OF PLAY IN PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Stay Safe final event
17th March 2022



έδρα

κοινωνικές συνεταιριστικές
δραστηριότητες
ευπαθών ομάδων

stay

preventing and responding to
sexual violence against
women with disabilities

safe



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Stay Safe project: preventing and responding to sexual violence against women with psycho-social disabilities



Anziani e non solo società cooperativa sociale (ANS)



Safe space associação saúde mental portugal (SAFE SPACE)



Universidade do Porto (UP)



Eurocarers (EuCa)



έδρα κοινωνικές συνεταιριστικές
δραστηριότητες
ευπαθών ομάδων

Kinonikes sineteristikes drastiriotites
efpathon omadon (EDRA)



Socialiniu inovaciju fondas (SIF)



Fundacion intras (INTRA)

The first action of the project was an analysis of the current incidents and forms of sexual harassment and sexual violence against women with disabilities within the participant countries (Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Lithuania and across Europe), through desk research and fieldwork.

This original work included a) national investigations, which took place in all the implementing partner countries, b) comparison of the national findings and a further analysis of them in the context of EU.

A. Desk Research

Partners were expected to collect information, so as to :

- map and analysis (overview) on current incidents and forms of sexual harassment and sexual violence against women with psychosocial disabilities;
- present the legal frameworks and policies;
- introduce measures and initiatives undertaken to prevent and reduce these phenomena;
- identify best practices/ models/ global examples which have been proved successful;
- discuss the gaps in these fields and the needs of the target groups in the partner countries and the EU;
- provide bibliographical reference for the research undertaken in the field

B. Fieldwork

This task included:

- a) interviews with women with psychosocial disabilities
- b) interviews with professionals working in the mental disability field, including psychologists, social workers, medical staff, carers, informal carers, etc.

Key findings from the desk research

Socio-political background analysis:

Conducting the past decade's background socio-political analysis of the participating countries, it emerged as an apparent conclusion that it was a period characterized by **many challenges** impacting the quality of welfare provisions and services. This outcome was quite apparent through the partners of the south European context.



Key findings from the desk research

Definition of Gender Based Violence:

It became visible that all the countries of the consortium are following the lines of the Istanbul Convention and other international treaties.

As of November 2019, all EU Member States had signed the Convention, and 21 (BE, DK, DE, EL, EE, ES, FR, HR, IE, IT, CY, LU, MT, NL, AT, PL, PT, RO, SI, FI, SE) had ratified it.



Key findings from the desk research

Statistics:

The current analysis of the gender violence-based statistics within the countries of the consortium reveals a worrying situation as the phenomenon of GBV/ DV remains as threatening dimension growing in times of crisis as the recent COVID-19 pandemic.



Key findings from the desk research

Legal framework against gender-based violence:

All countries maintain **similar laws** and, in all countries, the necessary legal system is in place to condemn cases of violence.



Key findings from the desk research

Legal framework against gender-based violence:

All participating countries have established national prevention frameworks which are developed according to national specializations.

Common framework is the occurrence of national plans, graduation of services in political, managerial and geographical levels, the existence of nationwide hotlines, and awareness programmes.



Key findings from the desk research

Gender-based violence against women with disabilities:

Common assumption among the participating research teams was the absence of coherent policies and programmes regarding individuals with disabilities suffering and the serious danger to be exposed in circumstances of GBV/DV, as the women with psychosocial disabilities.



Key findings from the fieldwork research

The interviews with women with disabilities:

As a common conclusion it emerged that, although at different extents, all the 19 interviewed women have experienced some form of sexual abuse or harassment at some point in their life, showing how widespread the phenomenon is. In all cases, researchers underlined challenges in identification and reporting of cases.

THE CONSORTIUM

Stay Safe is a transnational project co-ordinated by Anziani e non solo and involving 6 organisations from 6 countries:

- EDRA (Greece)
- Fundacion Intrus (Spain)
- Safe Space (Portugal)
- Porto University (Portugal)
- Social Innovation Fund (Lithuania)
- Eurocarers (Belgium)

 
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WOMEN WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES HAVE THE HIGHEST RISK TO BE VICTIM OF VIOLENCE

WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES ARE LESS LIKELY TO DISCLOSE VIOLENCE OR SEEK HELP

WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES ARE OFTEN UNAWARE THEY ARE BEING ABUSED



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Key findings from the fieldwork research

The survey of the professionals:

In all countries the interviewed professionals identified violence against women with disabilities as an **existing problem** while at the same time mentioning a **lack of training opportunities** in the field as well as a lack of knowledge about **practical procedures to prevent and respond** to cases of violence.

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Key findings from the fieldwork research

There is a general, strong agreement that all involved countries would benefit of dedicated training programmes for women and professionals in the field and that more research would be needed on this topic.

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Stay Safe Outputs

STAYSAFE: PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO
SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH
DISABILITIES – *Collection of all national reports*

STATE OF THE ART AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN
FIVE EU COUNTRIES – *Executive summary*

STATE OF THE ART AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN
FIVE EU COUNTRIES – *Comparative report*





State of Play Remarks

It seems necessary:

- to invest more in the research and in the development of operational guidelines;
- to promote training opportunities for both targets (professionals working in the fields of disability / GBV and women themselves);
- to ensure that women can find information and Support services which can be accessible (in all meaning) to them;
- to adopt in every service professional practices that support the unveil of violence: remove taboos concerning sexuality of disabled women;
- to adopt a non-judgmental-social approach and to promote the independency of people with psychosocial disabilities.



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Thank you! Ευχαριστώ πολύ!

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