



Cross-national document analysis completed: covering regulatory frameworks, data sources, risk assessments, case documentation practices and existing training for different professions

Content assessment on training materials completed

Assessment of National Response Platform integrated and Roadmap finalized

2018

2019

2020

2021

Field studies completed

Content finalised (tools, modules, training material developed)

Final conference

### Project partners:

German Police University (DHPol), Germany (Coordination)  
 Vienna Centre for Societal Security (VICESSE), Austria  
 Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), Austria  
 Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), France  
 Centre de Recherche de l'Ecole des Officiers de la Gendarmerie Nationale (CREOGN), France  
 Police University College (POLAMK), Finland  
 The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland  
 University of Münster (WWU), Germany  
 Police Berlin (PB), Germany  
 European Research Services GmbH (ERS), Germany  
 FORESEE Research Group (FORESEE), Hungary  
 Ministry of Internal Affairs (PSP/ISCPSI), Portugal  
 University of Glasgow (UoG), Scotland  
 Police Scotland (PS), Scotland, United Kingdom  
 University of Maribor (UM), Slovenia  
 Ministry of Interior, General Police Directorate (MOI), Slovenia

### Work Plan:

- WP 1 Contextualizing the frontline response
- WP 2 Exploring the frontline response
- WP 3 Development of IMPRODOVA toolkits
- WP 4 Assessing the IMPRODOVA toolkits
- WP 5 Dissemination, communication and exploitation
- WP 6 Coordination and management



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# IMPRODOVA

Improving Frontline Responses to High Impact Domestic Violence



International research evidence highlights the profound impact of domestic violence (DV) on the life of mainly women and their children, but men can be victims as well. Yet, less than one third of domestic violence victims seek help from the police and domestic abuse remains an enduring social problem.\*

International organizations have promoted standards for how police and other frontline responders such as the medical community or social services should address this particular form of violence in a way that is consistent with the Istanbul Convention. However, relatively little has been done to ascertain how far these high-level standards have been converted into practice 'on the ground', or to identify the still existing barriers or facilitators to report DV.

The ambition of IMPRODOVA is to address these critical issues through a conceptually and methodologically innovative two-fold approach:

- examining through robust research whether, and how, the key objectives of the international policies and guidance are currently met; and
- developing this advanced knowledge into new, implementable solutions for practitioners and policy makers working at the national and local levels.

\* Fundamental Rights Agency 2014

## The IMPRODOVA project

IMPRODOVA is a research and innovation project concerning human factors shaping responses to domestic violence, a behavior causing physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behavior. IMPRODOVA's operational definition of high impact domestic violence (HIDV) is serious violence within the family, against children, spouses and elderly family members. Seriousness can be intensity, duration and consequences of violence.

The project will study responses to domestic violence in eight European partner countries (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Scotland and Slovenia). IMPRODOVA aims to improve and integrate the response of police, social work, health and non-governmental organizations and other actors making up the ecosystem of frontline responders to domestic violence. Across Europe, there are examples of good practices from which we can learn.

## The project goals

- Map the regulatory frameworks, guidelines, risk assessment formats and training materials shaping institutional responses to HIDV in Europe and identify gaps, shortcomings and incompatibilities.
- Document how the present regulatory frameworks shape the work and cooperation of frontline responders in the field and identify the role played by human factors. Describe and highlight good practices.
- Develop new and re-design existing tool kits, guidance and training for frontline responders exploiting the results of in-depth field research, using first-hand stakeholder knowledge and addressing gaps identified, taking into account variations across different national and local sites.
- Assess, validate and adapt tools and guidelines using stakeholders' feedback to demonstrate the feasibility of an innovative approach to support and govern frontline responder networks in HIDV, exploiting stakeholders' knowledge, using a bottom-up strategy to identify and productively address human factors.
- Improve the cooperation and performance of frontline responder ecosystems to HIDV considering existing heterogeneities across different settings.
- Create a positive feedback loop, which increases reporting rates of HIDV to police, and the medical profession, community and social work practitioners who act as first responders and agents of HIDV victims' risk assessment.

***“Often when DV occurs, police officers arrive at the scene too late to reduce coercive control in intimate partnerships, or to prevent such violent encounters in the future. However, law enforcement together with other first responders like family doctors, victim services, public health, and youth administration can cooperate in order to stop escalation, traumatization and violent offending. This is the starting point of IMPRODOVA.”***

Prof. Dr. Joachim Kersten  
Coordinator of the IMPRODOVA project

## Anticipated impacts of IMPRODOVA



Policy-making recommendations for high impact domestic violence: realistically applicable/ implementable by European law enforcement agencies and other first responders



Shared European approaches and tools for assessing risks related to high impact domestic violence: based on and validated by the needs and requirements expressed by European practitioners



Recommendations and models for efficient ways to organize inter-agency cooperation between the police, medical and health care services, social work and NGOs



Training materials designed to improve competencies for first responders to better deal with DV cases, support victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and enhance cooperation across multiple agencies



Recommendations for practitioners responding to domestic violence cases: sensitive to multicultural and gender issues, and to the ethical challenges, psychological stress, and specific safety risks to law enforcement agencies in entering the private sphere in which domestic violence occurs



Awareness raising among teachers, social workers, health care workers and citizens about the destructive consequences of domestic violence, and about the importance of consolidated efforts against violence



Recommendations for comparable survey research that would extend and complement existing Eurobarometer and other domestic violence data: to build a responsive evidence base for ongoing practice improvements