

Background Note – Meeting of 14.09.2016 on Recommendations

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The views expressed herein are those of the consultants alone and do not necessarily represent the official views of EIGE.

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1 Background Note

This Background Note aims to support the discussion by providing some explanatory information. The proposed recommendations accompany this Note and will be form the basis of the discussions during the meeting.

1. General background of the study

Since 2010, EIGE has been actively contributing to increasing knowledge of the phenomenon of violence against women across the EU. In this regard, EIGE has mapped the existing data available on different forms of violence against women, identified effective practices in combating violence and analysed legal and background information which gives the framework for EU work on combating violence against women. With the aim of improving the collection and availability of administrative data on violence against women and the need for comparability across the EU, EIGE has analysed and highlighted current gaps in definitions, understandings of concepts and collection of administrative data across the EU, as well as the diversity of legislative approaches across the Member States. Current data collection practices need to be improved to ensure administrative data are comparable across the EU.

As a starting point for developing harmonised data collection rape, femicide and intimate partner violence were chosen as they represent the most serious and most widely criminalised acts of violence against women. EIGE seeks to establish a measure for these specific forms of violence against women that can guide and support regular collection of reliable and comparable administrative data in this area across the 28 EU Member States. This will add value to EIGE's on-going work to improve administrative data collection on violence against women.

Comparison of the actual extent of violence against women is substantially impaired by the lack of comparable and reliable EU-wide data. Differences in legal definitions of forms of violence and units of measurement hinder the collection of comparable data across the EU Member States ⁽¹⁾. This study is designed to address this issue, focusing on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence as the most serious and more widely criminalised forms of violence against women.

The overall objective of the *Study on Terminology and indicators for data collection on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence* commissioned by EIGE to Milieu Ltd is to establish a measure of violence against women through the use of indicators on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence, which will guide methods of administrative data collection to ensure reliable and comparable data on violence against women across the 28 European Union (EU) Member States. The Study focuses on the analysis of official administrative data sources. More specifically, the study aims to:

1. Develop definitions of rape, femicide, and intimate partner violence for statistical purposes.
2. Establish indicators on rape, femicide, and intimate partner violence based on harmonised data collection.
3. Propose recommendations for Member States and EU bodies on the further development of administrative data collection on rape, femicide, and intimate partner violence.

2. Introduction to the objectives of the meeting

The meeting on 14 September 2016 will gather 40 participants, including representatives from Member States, international organisations, EIGE and expert consultants. The meeting will agree on recommendations for Member States and the relevant bodies of the European Commission to facilitate the harmonisation of administrative data collection on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence. The recommendations suggest improvements to be made at national and EU level.

The participants will enable:

- Discussion of the proposed recommendations.

¹ See EIGE, [Administrative data sources on gender-based violence against women in the EU: Report, Current status and potential for the collection of comparable data](#), 2014; UN, [The World's Women 2015 Trends and Statistics](#), 2015; WHO, [Violence against women: Definition and scope of the problem](#), 1997 and WHO, [World report on violence and health](#), 2002, p.5.

- Analysis of the feasibility of their implementation, including identification of the obstacles and means of overcoming these.
- Agreement on recommendations to improve the administrative data collection of rape, intimate partner violence and femicide.

The proposed recommendations are accompanied by specific questions for the participants to consider (see below). The participants are invited to provide constructive feedback on the proposed recommendations during the meeting in group discussions and plenary sessions. The participants will be divided into three groups. Each group will be led by a facilitator, who will be in charge of facilitate the discussion and report the main outcomes of the discussions during the plenary sessions. The group facilitators will be:

- Group 1 facilitator: Elena Fries-Tersch (Social Researcher, Milieu Ltd)
- Group 2 facilitator: Tugce Tugran (Social Researcher, Milieu Ltd)
- Group 3 facilitator: Renee Romkens (replaced by Tim de Jong for the last session) (Senior Researchers, ATRIA)

The plenary sessions will be the opportunity for sharing the outcomes of each group's discussions, further discuss some points and agree on the recommendations. The plenary sessions will be facilitated by Nathalie Meurens (Milieu Ltd).

Based on the participants' feedback and the meeting's discussions, the recommendations will be further refined and finalised. Once agreed and finalised, these recommendations will become an integral part of the Institute's work and the basis for further data consolidation at EU level.

3. Proposed Recommendations:

The proposed recommendations here aim to improve data collection on rape, intimate femicide and intimate partner violence. The recommendations focus on **administrative data** collection as a starting point to achieve comparable data collection. While administrative data may suffer from underreporting, they represent an important source of reliable data. Administrative data from the **police and justice services** are particularly targeted by the recommendations being the most reliable sources. Health services data are also relevant as providing reliable data. On the other hand, due to the limitations in terms of comparability and reliability of social services data, those are not considered within the scope of these recommendations.

The recommendations are the result of the work carried out under the study. They take into account the European Statistics Code of Practice, as well as the Member States' obligations under EU legislation and the Istanbul Convention. The recommendations are also in line with the competences of the EU and the mandate of Eurostat in respect of this data consolidation and they mirror the indicators proposed within the scope of this Study. Indicators have been developed with the view of guiding methods of data collection across the 28 Member States in a way that ensures reliable and comparable data on three forms of violence.

4. List of questions:

4.1 Common questions: for all recommendations

- Do you agree with this recommendation?
- Do you foresee any obstacle in implementing this recommendation?
- Do you have any suggestion which could help make this recommendation feasible?
- Do you agree that this recommendation should be implemented in the short term? What would support its implementation?
- Do you have further suggestions or comments?

4.2 Specific questions

Proposed recommendations for the EU institutions

Recommendation 1: Inclusion of Violence against Women in follow-up European Statistical Policies

- The topic of violence against women was left out of European statistical programme. Can you elaborate on the reasons why that was the case?

Recommendation 2: Development of a legal act on a data compilation system

- In your opinion, what would be the reaction of Member States to such an initiative from the EC?

Recommendation 3: Monitoring of the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive and standardised data collection on victim of rape, femicide and intimate partner violence

- In your opinion, what would be the reaction of Member States to such an initiative from the EC?

Recommendation 4: Support the call for the accession of the EU to the Istanbul Convention

- Do you see any major obstacles for the accession of EU to the Istanbul convention? If yes, what kinds of obstacles are mostly likely to arise?

Proposed recommendations for the Eurostat (Working group on crime and criminal justice)

Recommendation 5: Eurostat to compile disaggregated data in line with the Istanbul Convention

- While the research and contacts with national authorities show that Member States collect data on homicide and rape disaggregated by sex, only a limited number of them seem to be reporting this data to Eurostat. Can you elaborate on why this is the case?
- Do you think some proposed breakdowns are more essential than others? If so which ones? Would you suggest additional breakdowns?
- Inclusion of geographical location (of crime) is suggested as additional information about the registered crime. Would you say that this suggestion is relevant as a short term or long term goal?

Recommendation 6: Harmonise units of measurement (all types of violence)

- Harmonising data collection across institutions and countries necessitates harmonizing units of measurement. What are the main challenges, in your opinion, to harmonizing units of measurement?
- A major difference between countries is the state at which a crime is recorded during the investigation process. Some may record the crime when it is reported to the police, some other record investigated offences etc... This leads to different outcomes. To overcome this, data could be recorded for the same crime at different stages of investigation. Would you say this is a feasible option? Why and why not?
- Can you think of other feasible alternatives to facilitate the process of harmonizing units of measurement?

Recommendation 7: Inclusion of additional offences related to intimate partner violence and femicide in Eurostat data compilation

- Eurostat already combines data on several types of offences, as provided by the Member States. Would you say it is rather feasible to expand this process to other crimes, namely femicide and IPV? Why and why not?
- In the past it has been proposed that the data on Intimate Partner Violence offences should be aggregated into four sub-categories, namely physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. In your opinion what are the advantages and inconveniences of such an approach?
- The recommendation envisages additional data collection on other types of incidents which may or may not be covered by the legal system in your country. Do you think it is still feasible to collect data on different types of violence mentioned even if there is no specific legal basis for each of them?

Recommendation 8: Lobbying for developing specific ICCS coding categories for femicide, female genital mutilation and rape

8.1 Femicide:

- The proposed tags and category for femicide are: 0108 'femicide', 01081 'intentional femicide', 01082 'attempted intentional femicide' and 01083 'non intentional femicide'. Do you have any other suggestions?

8.2 Female genital mutilation²

- Can you elaborate on the status of data collection on FGM in your country? (No collection, plans, already collecting?) Which institution? If not collected yet, are there any plans for near future?
- The suggested tags for FGM are 020131 'female genital mutilation' and 020132 'Threat of female genital mutilation'. Do you have other suggestions regarding the FGM tags and category?

8.3 Rape:

- Is attempted rape and rape are recorded separately in your country? If not, is it feasible to collect data separately? What would be the main obstacles to do so?

² In accordance with the Terms of References for this Study, female genital mutilation is also discussed in these recommendations in relation with the need for a specific coding for data collection.

Recommendation 9: Align the definition of rape with that of ICCS

- In your opinion, what are the main challenges of aligning the definition of rape with that of ICCS? How these can be overcome?

Recommendation 10: Link data collection through GREVIO questionnaire with Eurostat data compilation on crime statistics

- In your opinion, what are the main challenges of linking data collection with Eurostat using the GREVIO questionnaire?

Recommendation 11: Eurostat health data on causes of death

- ICD-10 seems to have an overarching, inclusive system of categorization which might serve as a basis for data collection. However, study showed that the information collected using ICD-10 codes is rather sporadic and scattered. Can you elaborate on reasons why that is the case? What are the main issues about applying it in health sector in your country?
- Given that ICD-10 codes are already developed and in place, using additional codes to record the relationship was suggested. Would using ICD-10 additional codes to record relationship be feasible? If not, why?

Proposed recommendations for Member States

\Recommendation 12: Modify categories of victim-perpetrator relationship

- In some Member States, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is specified, using terms like intimate partner, spouse etc. If that specific information is not recorded in your Member State, do you think it is feasible to add more specific categories to the existing ones to distinguish family relations from intimate relations? What are the main obstacles, if any, to do so?

Recommendation 13: Provide separate data on the specific age group 18 years and over

- Depending on how the victim's age is recorded in your country, do you think it is feasible or not to provide different age categories for the victims 18- and 18+? Can you elaborate on possible challenges and ways to overcome these challenges?

Recommendation 14: Align national data collection with the ICCS system and support the monitoring of its implementation

- What are the main obstacles, if any, to align data collection practices of national institutions with the ICCS codes mentioned before? In your opinion, how these obstacles can be overcome?

Recommendation 15: Improving the quality of administrative data collection through training and the implementation of the European Statistical Code of Practice

- What can best support your Member States in the training of its staff?
- What are the main obstacles to follow the principles of the European Statistical Code of Practice?

Recommendation 16: Implementation of national correspondence tables for data submission

- Correspondence tables serve as a conversion tool between different legal systems and categorisations. This would ease some of the burdens of harmonisation process. What is your opinion on the feasibility of correspondence tables and do you know any initiatives taking place in your country?

Recommendation 17: Publication of data and metadata

- Research shows that some countries publish, usually via the website of statistical offices, detailed information on metadata. The same thing cannot be said however for all other sources of information -justice statistics from Ministry of Justice for instance- or all countries. What are the main obstacles to publishing metadata for available information? How these obstacles can be overcome?
- How can metadata documentation be improved in order to highlight the gender statistics gaps what refers to violence against women administrative data collection?

Recommendation 18: Further involvement of National Statistical Offices

- Is the national statistical office in your country responsible for compiling data from different institutions?
- To what extent do you think it is feasible to have a specific unit within the NSO responsible for compiling of data on violence against women? What are the possible challenges, if any, and how they can be overcome?

Recommendation 19: Measurement of violence against women through national surveys

- Is your country regularly carrying out surveys to measure the phenomenon of violence against women? If not, are there any plans to do so in the near future?

Recommendation 20: Improvement to the regular measuring of estimating the costs of violence against women in police and justice sectors

- Are there any initiatives in your country to measure the cost of violence against women?
- What kinds of costs are covered?

5. Contacts

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