

# ONLINE DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED INDICATORS FOR DATA COLLECTION ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, RAPE AND FEMICIDE

## Background note

**Date:** 07 July 2016

**Time:** 10.00 to 17.30 (CEST)

**Place:** [EuroGender](#)

## 1. OBJECTIVE OF THE ONLINE DISCUSSION

An online discussion will take place on 7 July 2016 from 10:00 to 17:30 (CEST) on [Eurogender](#) in the context of the EIGE *Study on terminology and indicators used in data collection on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence* (hereinafter *the Study*) carried out by the contractor Milieu Ltd.

The overall objective of the Study is to establish a measure of violence against women (VAW) through the **use of indicators on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence (IPV)**, which will guide methods of data collection across the 28 Member States in a way that ensures reliable and comparable data on VAW.

You are invited to take part in this online forum to discuss the proposed indicators for data collection of instances of rape, femicide and intimate partner violence. We welcome your opinion on the methodology, as well as the measurability, specificity, complementarity and feasibility of the proposed indicators. Your input will help to establish the indicators to facilitate monitoring and policy evaluation across the EU to combat these forms of violence against women.

## 2. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE INDICATORS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED

Indicators for rape, femicide and intimate partner violence have been developed in the past, however, coordinated data collection processes have been put in place for very few of these. Milieu examined the type of data collected in the Member States in order to refine existing indicators and/or develop others that would better reflect measurability across existing data collection in the Member States and allow harmonised EU wide data collection. The focus throughout the Study is on outcome indicators that allow approximations of prevalence of these three forms of violence against women.

The first step was to gather important **outcome indicators** previously developed by international and EU bodies. These were reviewed and refined based on the results of the national research carried out for the Study.

The following **criteria** were considered when gathering these indicators:

<b>Relevance</b>	The relevance of the indicator is assessed in consultation with stakeholders and European policy (EU and Council of Europe).
<b>Measurability</b>	This looks at whether the proposed indicator can be populated by available data, including whether the data source uses a definition that approximately matches that used for the indicator. Measurability also looks at factors that may affect the quality of the data, as well as forthcoming changes in cross-national data collection processes (e.g. through the Istanbul Convention and Eurostat).
<b>Specificity</b>	The indicator should provide data on a clearly defined incident and not overlap with other indicators.
<b>Complementarity</b>	<p>The indicator aims to complement existing indicators in terms of the concepts measured. Two types of indicators exist: 1) indicators for which EU-level data collection processes have already been implemented by Eurostat-UNODC; and 2) indicators for which coordinated data collection processes from administrative sources across the EU are not yet in place (e.g. indicators suggested by the UN Statistical Commission, Council of Europe indicators on domestic violence).</p> <p>The indicators and their metadata should complement the data collection by Eurostat-UNODC. The outcome indicators developed should also complement other indicators measuring the effectiveness of policies combatting violence against women.</p>
<b>Validity</b>	Validity considerations include whether or not the indicator was approved, or considered appropriate to measure the concept in question, by the experts and stakeholders. The results of the first consultation meeting and the online discussion on July 7, together with input from the Senior Experts, the Advisory Board and the written comments by Eurostat and Council of Europe, will be taken into account.

The definitions of each form of violence have been developed from a thorough review and analysis of international standards, in particular the Istanbul Convention, the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical purposes (ICCS) tags, national level definitions and the feedback from participants in the consultation meeting on 26 April 2016 (attended by 40 participants, including representatives from Member States, international organisations, EIGE and independent experts).

### 3. PROPOSED INDICATORS

#### 3.1 Indicators for data collection on intimate partner violence

##### 3.1.1 General intimate partner violence indicator

**Indicator no. 1: Women victims of intimate partner violence aged 18 and over, as a share of the total population of women of the same age group**

##### Relevance

Research shows that the majority of cases of violence against women happen in the domestic sphere, often by women's partners. Intimate partner violence is considered the most common form of violence suffered by women <sup>(1)</sup>, mainly committed by their male partners <sup>(2)</sup>. The 2014 survey conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) showed the high prevalence of intimate partner violence against women, with an average 22 % of European women having been victims of physical and/or sexual violence by their partners since the age of 15, with prevalence across countries ranging from 13 % to 32 % <sup>(3)</sup>.

As part of the process of eliminating violence against women, all Member States must ensure that data on violence against women are systematically collected and disseminated under the framework of official statistics. Intimate partner violence and non-partner violence are essentially different in nature and should always be considered separately <sup>(4)</sup>.

Eurostat-UNODC joint data collection on crime and criminal justice statistics does not collect specific data on IPV (physical, psychological, economic and sexual violence). However, Eurostat-UNODC records information on the number of police offences that would fall under acts of intimate partner violence if they are committed by intimate partners, such as rape and sexual assault <sup>(5)</sup>.

##### Definition

Within the scope of this indicator, intimate partner violence should be understood as: ***Any act of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occurs between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.***

<sup>1</sup> Devries, K. M., Mak, J. Y. T., Garcia-Moreno et al. (2013), *The global prevalence of intimate partner violence against women*. Science, 340, 1527-1528; Stöckl, H., Devries, K., Rotstein, A., Abrahams, N. et al. (2013), *The global prevalence of intimate partner homicide: a systematic review*, Lancet, 382, pp. 859-865; World Health Organization (2013), *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*, Geneva: World Health Organization.

<sup>2</sup> Hamby, S. (2014), *Intimate partner and sexual violence research: Scientific progress, scientific challenges, and gender*. Trauma Violence Abuse, 15, pp. 149-158.

<sup>3</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (2014), *Violence against women: An EU-wide survey*, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

<sup>4</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical surveys*, Statistics Division of the United Nations, New York, United Nations 2014, p. 57.

<sup>5</sup> Eurostat, Crime and criminal justice statistics, data extracted in December 2015, available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Crime\\_and\\_criminal\\_justice\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Crime_and_criminal_justice_statistics), accessed on 22 June 2016.

## Sources and units of measurement

The indicator could be measured by the following sources and units:

1. Source: Police records of crimes (cases reported to the police); units: female victims.
2. Source: Hospital and healthcare professionals' records; units: female patients.
3. Source: Social Services Providers; units: women seeking shelter or assistance.

Data for sources 1 and 3 should always be provided. Source 3 would need to specify the types of social services providers covered by the data: telephone helplines, women's shelters, other social assistance. Data should be aggregated nationally, using methods that ensure national comparability and coverage. Where data come from more than one type of source (e.g. from telephone helplines and women's shelters), it may be submitted separately. Data from source 2, again, may prove more difficult to gather.

## Time span

The indicator should, if possible, show changes over time, with data provided for at least the current calendar year. Where available, comparable data from preceding years should also be provided.

## Complementarity

The indicator complements existing indicators such as:

1. WHO: Percentage of currently partnered girls and women aged 15–49 years who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their current intimate partner in the last 12 months <sup>(6)</sup>.
2. UN Expert Group: The percentage of women (of the total number of women who have ever had an intimate partner) who have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner during the last year. The percentage of women (of the total number of women who have ever had an intimate partner) who have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner during their lifetime. These indicators should be disaggregated further by frequency (one/few/many time(s)) <sup>(7)</sup>.
3. UN Special Rapporteur: Proportion of the female population who have experienced grave violence in the past 12 months (based on population survey), intimate partner violence falling within the scope of 'grave violence' <sup>(8)</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> WHO (2015), [Intimate partner violence prevalence](#).

<sup>7</sup> UN Expert Group Meeting (2007), [Indicators to measure violence against women](#).

<sup>8</sup> Human Rights Council (2008), [Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Erturk](#).

### Questions for online discussion:

*Is the indicator on IPV clear?*

*Does it cover the most important aspects of its incidence?*

*Do you agree with the age group of 18 and over?*

*Will the indicator help to achieve a comparable measurement of intimate partner violence across the Member States?*

*In your opinion, what challenges are likely to arise if this indicator is implemented at national level? How can these be overcome?*

## 3.1.2 Physical violence indicator

**Indicator no. 2: Women victims of physical violence aged 18 and over by an intimate partner or ex-partner, as a share of the total population of women**

### Relevance

Physical violence is an important dimension of intimate partner violence. It can occur alone or in combination with psychological, sexual or economic violence. Physical violence is considered one component of 'domestic violence' under the Istanbul Convention (Article 3(b)) <sup>(9)</sup> and the UN Statistical Commission <sup>(10)</sup>.

Physical violence may refer to different concepts depending on the context and the institution in which the term is used. In addition, discrepancies exist in the inclusion of acts of violence that do not leave any physical marks. According to the Istanbul Convention, for example, the term 'physical violence' refers to bodily harm suffered as a result of the application of immediate and unlawful physical force. It also encompasses 'violence resulting in the death of the victim' <sup>(11)</sup>. The ICCS has established tags for both serious assaults and minor assaults <sup>(12)</sup>.

The line between physical violence on the one hand and psychological and sexual violence on the other is not clear-cut. For example, the assault may be of a physical nature, but leave only psychological marks, which are often harder to prove. Whether physical or psychological injuries are necessary to identify an incident as physical violence depends on the Member State.

Different sources of data are used. Reliable data sources include law enforcement agencies and criminal justice authorities (prosecution and courts). On the other hand, UN recommendations <sup>(13)</sup> highlight the significance of under-reporting in intimate partner violence and domestic violence,

<sup>9</sup> Council of Europe (2011), [Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#), Council of Europe Treaty Series – No. 210, 2011, p.7 – Article 41.

<sup>10</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), [Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical surveys](#), Statistics Division of the United Nations, New York, United Nations 2014, p. 14.

<sup>11</sup> Council of Europe (2011), [Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#), Council of Europe Treaty Series – No. 210, 2011, p.32 – Article 35.

<sup>12</sup> UNODC (2015), [International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes](#) (ICCS).

<sup>13</sup> Second expert meeting on indicators on Violence Against Women in 2009.

stating that specific nation-wide surveys on violence against women are a better tool to measure intimate partner violence (<sup>14</sup>).

## Definition

Within the scope of this indicator, physical violence in the context of intimate partner violence should be understood as: **any act which causes physical harm to the partner or former partner as a result of unlawful physical force. Physical violence can take the form of, among others, serious and minor assault, deprivation of liberty and manslaughter.**

The suggested forms of physical violence correspond to ICCS tags and are in line with the most common forms of physical violence across the 28 Member States. In the future, Eurostat plans to apply the ICCS system, with which this proposed indicator is compatible. Implementation of the ICCS codes would allow distinctions to be made between different forms of physical violence and measuring, for example, the level of severity.

## Sources and units of measurement

The indicator could be measured by the following sources and units:

1. Source: police records of crimes (cases reported to the police); units: number of women victims recorded by the police per calendar year.
2. Source: Hospital and healthcare professionals' records; units: number of women patients per calendar year.

Source 1 data from every Member State would be very useful, while Source 2 could be optional, given the difficulties in gathering that data.

## Time span

The indicator should, if possible, show changes over time, with data provided for at least the current calendar year. Where available, comparable data from preceding years should also be provided.

## Complementarity

This indicator complements the following existing indicators:

1. The domestic violence indicator used by the FRA Survey, in that it refers specifically to physical violence (<sup>15</sup>).
2. The indicator adopted by the UN Statistical Commission (2009) and by the Friends of the Chair 'Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months/over lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency.' However, while this UN indicator was developed for surveys, the indicator

<sup>14</sup> UN Friends of the Chair, Meeting of the Friends of the Chair Group on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women, 9-11 December, 2011, 'Conclusions and Recommendations', p. 2, section 4.

<sup>15</sup> According to the FRA Survey, physical violence across the Member States is measured as the number of women aged 18-74 that have been exposed to physical violence as a proportion of all women aged 18 – 74. See FRA (2014), [Violence against women: an EU-wide survey – Main results](#), Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, pp. 99-27.

presented here is to be measured also by administrative sources and was adapted slightly for this purpose. Severity, frequency and reference period – 12 months or lifetime - was omitted in order to facilitate implementation.

3. UN Expert Group Meeting: The percentage of women (of the total number of women) who have experienced physical violence during the last year and the percentage of women (of the total number of women) who have experienced physical violence during their lifetime <sup>(16)</sup>.
4. WHO: Percentage of currently partnered girls and women aged 15–49 years who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their current intimate partner in the last 12 months <sup>(17)</sup>.
5. The indicator suggested complements Eurostat data collection, despite being broader in scope as to-date Eurostat collects data on homicide broken down by victim-partner relationship. While this is an important aspect of physical intimate partner violence, it falls short of measuring this form of violence against women.

#### **Questions for online discussion:**

*Is the indicator clear?*

*Does it cover the most important aspects of its incidence?*

*Do you agree with the age group of 18 and over?*

*Will the indicator help to achieve a comparable measurement across the Member States?*

*In your opinion, what challenges are likely to arise if this indicator is implemented at national level? How can these be overcome?*

### **3.1.3 Psychological violence indicator**

**Indicator no. 3: Women victims of psychological violence aged 18 and over by an intimate partner or ex-partner, as a share of the total population of women**

#### **Relevance**

Most Member States include psychological violence as a component of intimate partner violence or domestic violence, or have a separate offence of psychological violence where the victim-perpetrator relationship is recorded. Psychological violence is considered one component of 'domestic violence' under the Istanbul Convention (Article 3(b)) <sup>(18)</sup> and the UN Statistical

<sup>16</sup> UN Expert Group Meeting (2007), [Indicators to measure violence against women](#).

<sup>17</sup> WHO (2015), [Intimate partner violence prevalence](#).

<sup>18</sup> Council of Europe (2011), [Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#), Council of Europe Treaty Series – No. 210, 2011, p.7 – Article 41.



Commission (<sup>19</sup>). As with the other forms of intimate partner violence, therefore, it is useful to have a specific indicator related to psychological violence.

Measuring psychological violence across the Member States is challenging, as incidents of psychological violence may not constitute separate criminal offences in all cases. In those Member States where psychological violence constitutes a separate offence in the intimate partner violence context, separate data on cases of psychological violence may not be collected as they often occur in the context of other acts of violence, such as physical assault. In such cases, often it is only the most serious offence that is recorded. As a result, psychological violence may not be sufficiently represented in official data collection. In those Member States where psychological violence comprises separate criminal offences, such as slander and defamation, measurability has the potential to be more straightforward. Due to this risk of invisibility of psychological violence as a 'less important' form of violence a specific indicator on psychological violence is of particular importance in order to incite separate and more accurate data collection.

## Definition

Within the scope of this indicator, psychological violence in the context of intimate partner violence should be understood as: ***Any act or behaviour which causes psychological harm to the partner or former partner. Psychological violence can take the form of, among others, coercion, defamation, verbal insult or harassment.***

The suggested forms of psychological violence correspond to ICCS tags and are in line with the most common forms of psychological violence across the 28 Member States.

## Sources and units of measurements

The indicator could be measured by the following sources and units:

1. Source: police records of crimes; units: number of women victims recorded by the police per calendar year.
2. Source: Hospital and healthcare professionals' records, units: number of women patients per calendar year.

Source 1 data from every Member State would be very useful, with Source 2 data considered optional, given the difficulties in its collection.

## Time span

The indicator should, if possible, show changes over time, with data provided for at least the current calendar year. Where available, comparable data from preceding years should also be provided.

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<sup>19</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), [Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical surveys](#), Statistics Division of the United Nations, New York, United Nations 2014, p. 14.



## Complementarity

The indicator complements the Friends of the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission indicator on violence against women: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to psychological violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner <sup>(20)</sup>.

The proposed indicator is complementary, as it further specifies the concept and data sources used in the context of intimate partner violence and may be measured through sources other than surveys.

### **Questions for online discussion:**

*Is the indicator clear?*

*Does it cover the most important aspects of its incidence?*

*Do you agree with the age group of 18 and over?*

*Will the indicator help to achieve a comparable measurement across the Member States?*

*In your opinion, what challenges are likely to arise if the indicator is implemented at national level? How can these be overcome?*

## 3.1.4 Sexual violence indicator

**Indicator no. 5: Women victims of sexual violence aged 18 and over by an intimate partner or ex-partner, as a share of the total population of women**

### Relevance

Sexual violence is agreed to be a key component of intimate partner violence. Sexual violence is considered one component of 'domestic violence' under the Istanbul Convention (Article 3(b)) <sup>(21)</sup> and the UN Statistical Commission <sup>(22)</sup>. Sexual violence is a particular grave form of violence and criminalized, albeit in different forms, in all Member States. According to the Istanbul Convention, 'sexual violence and rape are a common form of exerting power and control in abusive relationships and are likely to occur during and after break-up' <sup>(23)</sup>. Due to its sensitive nature and the difficulty to prove lack of consent, sexual violence – in particular in relationships – is often not reported and recorded properly. A specific indicator on this form of violence is therefore of utmost importance both to gather a better picture on the extent and to raise awareness of this form of intimate partner violence.

<sup>20</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), [Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical surveys](#), Statistics Division of the United Nations, New York, 2014 United Nations (2014), p. 15.

<sup>21</sup> Council of Europe (2011), [Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#), Council of Europe Treaty Series – No. 210, 2011, p.7 – Article 41.

<sup>22</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), [Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical surveys](#), Statistics Division of the United Nations, New York, United Nations 2014, p. 33.

<sup>23</sup> Council of Europe (2011), [Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#), Council of Europe Treaty Series – No. 210, 2011, p.7 – Article 41.

Most Member States' definitions include sexual violence as a component of intimate partner violence, domestic violence or a sexual offence where the victim-perpetrator relationship is recorded. Only Ireland, Spain and Slovakia do not cover sexual violence within the context of an intimate partner relationship. Sexual violence specifically covers sexual assault in at least 22 Member States <sup>(24)</sup> and rape in 20 Member States <sup>(25)</sup>.

Eurostat-UNODC records information on the number of police offences relating to sexual violence (2008-2013) by combining data on rape and sexual assault <sup>(26)</sup>. According to Eurostat, rape is defined as 'sexual intercourse without valid consent' and sexual assault as 'an unwanted sexual act'. The latter includes, among others, drug-facilitated sexual assault, sexual assault committed against partners, and harassment. The data provided by Eurostat is not disaggregated by age or victim-perpetrator relationship <sup>(27)</sup>.

Data on sexual violence cases may either be collected under the offence of domestic violence or intimate partner violence, or it may be collected separately under a sexual offence with a disaggregation of the victim-perpetrator relationship.

## Definition

Within the scope of this indicator, sexual violence in the context of intimate partner violence should be understood as: ***any sexual act performed on the victim without consent. Sexual violence can take the form of rape or sexual assault.***

The suggested forms of sexual violence correspond to ICCS tags and are in line with the most common forms of sexual violence across the 28 Member States.

## Sources and units of measurements

The indicator could be measured by the following sources and units:

1. Source: police records of crimes; units: number of women victims recorded by the police per calendar year.
2. Source: Hospital and healthcare professionals' records; units: number of women patients per calendar year.

Source 1 data from all Member States would be very useful, with Source 2 data considered optional, given the difficulties in its collection.

## Time span

The indicator should, if possible, show changes over time, with data provided for at least the current calendar year. Where available, comparable data from preceding years should also be provided.

<sup>24</sup> BE, BG, CZ, DK, DE, EE, EL, FR, HR, HU, IT, CY, LV, LT, LU, NL, AT, PL, PT, RO, FI, SE.

<sup>25</sup> BE, BG, CZ, DK, DE, EE, EL, FR, HR, IT, CY, LT, LU, HU, NL, AT, PL, RO, FI, SE.

<sup>26</sup> Eurostat, Crime and criminal justice statistics, data extracted in December 2015, available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Crime\\_and\\_criminal\\_justice\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Crime_and_criminal_justice_statistics), accessed on 22 June 2016.

<sup>27</sup> Eurostat, Crime and criminal justice statistics, data extracted in December 2015 available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Crime\\_and\\_criminal\\_justice\\_statistics#Source\\_data\\_for\\_tables\\_and\\_figures\\_28MS\\_Excel](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Crime_and_criminal_justice_statistics#Source_data_for_tables_and_figures_28MS_Excel), accessed on 22 June 2016.

## Complementarity

The indicator complements existing indicators, in that it further specifies the concept and data sources used, such as:

- 1) Friends of the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission indicator: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the past 12 months (and during lifetime) by the intimate partner <sup>(28)</sup>.
- 2) UN Expert Group Meeting: The percentage of women (of the total number of women) who have experienced sexual violence during the last year and the percentage of women (of the total number of women) who have experienced sexual violence during their lifetime <sup>(29)</sup>.
- 3) WHO: Percentage of currently partnered girls and women aged 15–49 years who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their current intimate partner in the last 12 months <sup>(30)</sup>.

### Questions for online discussion:

*Is the indicator clear?*

*Does it cover the most important aspects of its incidence?*

*Do you agree with the age group of 18 and over?*

*Will the indicator help to achieve a comparable measurement across the Member States?*

*In your opinion, what challenges are likely to arise if the indicator is implemented at national level? How can these be overcome?*

## 3.1.5 Economic violence indicator

**Indicator no. 5: Women victims of economic violence aged 18 and over by an intimate partner or ex-partner, as a share of the total population of women**

### Relevance

Economic violence is an important component of intimate partner violence, as economic dependency of women persists in many European countries, especially in the South and East of Europe. Economic violence is a separate component of 'domestic violence' by the UN Statistical

<sup>28</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), [Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical surveys](#), Statistics Division of the United Nations, New York, 2014 United Nations (2014), p. 15.

<sup>29</sup> UN Expert Group Meeting (2007), [Indicators to measure violence against women](#).

<sup>30</sup> WHO (2015), [Intimate partner violence prevalence](#).

Commission<sup>(31)</sup> and is considered an important aspect by the Istanbul Convention although it is mentioned that 'economic violence can be related to psychological violence'<sup>(32)</sup>.

Economic violence is included in different international definitions<sup>(33)</sup>, as well as in 14 Member States' definitions of intimate partner violence or domestic violence. The concept is very broad and varies depending on the type of source providing data (i.e. damage to property, restriction of individual freedom, financial dependency).

Measuring economic violence is made more difficult by the fact that administrative data is often reduced to limited offences (i.e. destruction of property and payment of alimonies), and the wide range of interpretations of its legal definitions.

## Definition

For this indicator, economic violence in the context of intimate partner violence should be understood as: ***Any act or behaviour which causes economic harm to the partner. Economic violence can take the form of, among others, property damage, restricting access to financial resources, education or the labour market, or not complying with economic responsibilities, such as alimony.***

The suggested forms of economic violence correspond to ICCS tags and are in line with the most common forms of economic violence recognised across the Member States.

## Sources and units of measurements

The indicator could be measured by the following sources and units:

1. Source: police records of crimes; units: women victims.
2. Source: international or national prevalence surveys; units: number of women respondents.

## Time span

The indicator should, if possible, show changes over time, with data provided for at least the current calendar year. Where available, comparable data from preceding years should also be provided.

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<sup>31</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), [Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical surveys](#), Statistics Division of the United Nations, New York, United Nations 2014, p. 33.

<sup>32</sup> Council of Europe (2011), [Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#), Council of Europe Treaty Series – No. 210, 2011, p.7 – Article 41.

<sup>33</sup> EIGE (2014), [Administrative data sources on gender-based violence against women in the EU: Report, Current status and potential for the collection of comparable data](#); UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (2000), [Domestic violence against women and girls](#), No. 6, June 2000; Council of Europe (2011), [Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#), Council of Europe Treaty Series, No. 210, p. 31; UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), [Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical surveys](#), Statistics Division of the United Nations, New York, United Nations 2014, p. 17.

## Complementarity

The indicator complements existing indicators to measure the effectiveness of policies combatting violence against women, such as the UN Friends of the Chair indicator: 'Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to economic violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner' <sup>(34)</sup>.

While the UN indicator aims to measure violence against women in general, the proposed indicator is established in the context of intimate partner violence, with the aim of measuring economic violence through administrative sources.

The proposed indicator can be measured using ICCS tags, such as 'damage to personal property' (Code 05042) and, potentially, the tag 'other acts against liberty' (020299) <sup>(35)</sup>.

### Questions for online discussion:

*Is the indicator clear?*

*Does it cover the most important aspects of its incidence?*

*Do you agree with the age group of 18 and over?*

*Will the indicator help to achieve a comparable measurement across the Member States?*

*In your opinion, what challenges are likely to arise if this indicator is implemented at national level? How can these be overcome?*

## 3.2 Indicators for data collection on rape

**Indicator no. 6: Women victims of rape aged 18 and over, as a share of the population of women aged 18 and over.**

### Relevance

Rape is a recurring form of sexual violence for which data is widely collected across the 28 Member States. With the exception of Italy and Hungary, all Member States have separate offences for rape, often encompassing a number of specific offenses recorded by the police as number of victims. Rape is also reflected in health data, as it is registered as instances of injury and maltreatment. These offences, however, are defined differently across Member States.

While Member States differ in the specificities of the acts falling within the scope of rape as opposed to sexual assault, a consensus exists that it implies both a 'lack of consent' and 'sexual intercourse'. The definition used by Eurostat is, in fact, based on these elements: 'sexual intercourse without valid consent' <sup>(36)</sup>. On the other hand, the Istanbul Convention defines rape within the

<sup>34</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), [Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical surveys](#), Statistics Division of the United Nations, New York, 2014 United Nations (2014). p. 15.

<sup>36</sup> [Eurostat Crime and criminal justice explanatory texts \(metadata\)](#).

<sup>36</sup> [Eurostat Crime and criminal justice explanatory texts \(metadata\)](#).

broader category of sexual violence as ‘the vaginal, anal or oral penetration of another person’s body which that person has not consented to. The penetration may be performed with a bodily part or an object’ <sup>(37)</sup>.

## Definition

Within the scope of this indicator, rape should be understood as: ***sexual penetration, whether vaginal, anal or oral, through the use of an object or body parts, without consent, using force or by taking advantage of the vulnerability of the victim.***

## Sources and units of measurement

The indicator could be measured by the following sources and units:

1. Source: police records of crimes (cases reported to the police); units: number of women victims recorded by the police per calendar year.
2. Source: Hospital and healthcare professionals’ records; units: number of women patients per calendar year.

Source 1 figures from every Member State would be very useful, while source 2 data could remain optional, given the difficulties in its collection.

## Time span

The indicator should, if possible, show changes over time. Data should be provided for the current calendar year at a minimum. If possible, comparable data from preceding years should also be provided.

## Complementarity

At international and EU level, several indicators exist that include measurement of rape, for example:

- Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women: Total number and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence during their lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency <sup>(38)</sup>.
- UN Expert Group: The percentage of women (of the total number of women) who have experienced rape/sexual assault during the last year <sup>(39)</sup>.
- UN Special Rapporteur: Flat and increased reporting rate, and increased and flat rates of prosecution and conviction, for all forms of violence, including rape and marital rape <sup>(40)</sup>.

<sup>37</sup> Article 36 of the Istanbul Convention; Council of Europe (2011), [Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#), Council of Europe Treaty Series, No. 210, p. 32.

<sup>38</sup> Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women (2008), [Report of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women](#).

<sup>39</sup> UN Expert Group Meeting (2007), [Indicators to measure violence against women](#).

<sup>40</sup> Human Rights Council (2008), [Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Erturk](#).

The indicator presented here complements these existing ones, in that it focuses only on rape, providing a specific concept combined with specific data sources and units of measurement.

The proposed indicator is compatible with the ICCS coding system, as the following ICCS tags can be used to measure rape: rape, rape with force, rape without force, statutory rape and other rape <sup>(41)</sup>.

#### **Questions for online discussion:**

*Is the proposed indicator clear?*

*Does it cover the most important aspects of the incidence of rape of women?*

*Do you agree with the age group of 18 and over?*

*Will the indicator help to achieve a comparable measurement of rape across the Member States?*

*In your opinion, what challenges are likely to arise if this indicator is implemented at national level? How can those be overcome?*

### **3.3 Indicators for data collection on femicide**

**Indicator no. 7: Women victims of intimate femicide aged 18 and over committed by an intimate partner as a share of the women victims of homicide aged 18 and over**

**Alternative title: Women victims of intimate femicide aged 18 and over as a share of women victims of homicide aged 18 and over**

#### **Relevance**

The term 'femicide' was firstly defined as '*the murders of women by men motivated by hatred, contempt, pleasure or a sense of ownership of women*' and later as '*the killing of females by males because they are females*' <sup>(42)</sup>. Murder of women - femicide - comprises a wide range of violent acts, such as murder in the context of intimate partner violence, sexual murder, killings of prostitutes, killings in the name of honour, female infanticide and dowry-related deaths <sup>(43)</sup>, although some may not apply directly to the European context.

The different definitions and classifications used in the conceptualisation of femicide often complicate the collection of data and could result in incomparable documentation <sup>(44)</sup>. As most

<sup>41</sup> UNODC (2015), *International Classification of crime for statistical purposes (ICCS)*, p. 25.

<sup>42</sup> UN Expert Group on gender-related killing of women and girls (2014), *Information on gender-related killing of women and girls provided by civil society organisations and academia*, Bangkok, p. 2; Human Rights Council (2012), *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences*, prepared by Rashida Manjoo, p. 6.

<sup>43</sup> UN, Human Rights Council seventh session (2008), *Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural, including the rights to development*, A/HRC/7/6, 29 January 2008.

<sup>44</sup> The Istanbul Convention does not cover femicide, the killing of women, or homicide, and does not, therefore, provide any input towards a definition of femicide. The GREVIO questionnaire, however, requests those states who are party to the Convention to provide data on the deaths and attempted murders of women.



cases of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners, this indicator focuses on intimate femicide <sup>(45)</sup>.

Intimate femicide is not only the most extreme consequence of intimate partner violence, it also has a significant and prolonged impact on women's surroundings. Surviving children of women killed by their intimate partners, for example, experience long-lasting effects, since they lose one parent to the murder, the other parent to jail, and often have to leave their parental home and adjust to a new environment where they risk labelling as the child of the murderer <sup>(46)</sup>.

Even with the increasing attention paid to femicide, there is no consistency in terminology (femicide is not defined in any Member States) nor any reliable data collection on intimate femicide. The proposed indicator seeks to help the institutions who collect data to focus their attention on women victims killed by their intimate partners by using existing data on homicide and collecting them in a more harmonised and accurate way.

In terms of data collection, homicide data will be reviewed to gain a picture of femicide prevalence in the EU. The reliability and accuracy of homicide data must be ensured, with a need to strengthen collection and analysis of mortality data, disaggregate these data by sex and, in the case of murders, to ensure that the victim-perpetrator relationship is documented.

## Definition

Within the scope of this indicator, femicide should be understood as: ***the killing of a woman by an intimate partner and death of a woman as a result of a practice that is harmful to women. Intimate partner is understood as former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the victim shares or has shared a residence with the perpetrator.***

Data collection on killing of women can be based on the ICCS tags of intentional and non-intentional homicide, together with the victim-perpetrator relationship disaggregation. The practices harmful to women may include female genital mutilation (FGM) related death and death as a result of unsafe abortion, both of which are specific offences in a number of Member States, falling under the ICCS tag 'other acts leading to death'. Harmful practices can include female foeticide, falling under the ICCS tag 'illegal foeticide'.

## Sources and units of measurements

The indicator could be measured by the following sources and units:

1. Source: police records of crimes; units: number of women victims.
2. Source: hospital and healthcare professionals' records, units: number of women victims; death records of women

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<sup>45</sup> Globally, as many as 38 % of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner. Source: WHO, Violence against women factsheet, updated January 2016, available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>. One study indicates that there are approximately 3,500 IPV-related deaths every year in Europe. Source: Project DAPHNE (2007), *Estimation of mortality linked to intimate partner violence in Europe - IPV EU Mortality*, June 2010, available at: <http://psytel.eu/violences.php>.

<sup>46</sup> Lewandowski, L. et al. 'He killed my mommy!': murder or attempted murder of a child's mother. *Journal of Family Violence*, 2004, 19:211–20.

In most Member States, data from the **health sector** are collected in line with the ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases) coding system <sup>(47)</sup>. In addition to codes for actual injuries or diseases, the system includes a category 'External causes of morbidity and mortality', which includes codes relevant for **homicide**. The health sector may, therefore, provide valuable data on femicide.

Source 1 data from all Member States would be very useful, with optional source 2 data, given the difficulties in its collection.

### Time span

The indicator should, if possible, show changes over time, with data provided for at least the current calendar year. Where available, comparable data from preceding years should also be provided.

### Complementarity

The proposed indicator complements existing indicators on homicide in order to enrich the information by providing a measure of women victims of intimate femicide by intimate partner as a share of the total number of homicides of women. For example, the UN measure - number of intentional homicides per 100,000 population <sup>(48)</sup>.

This would permit a more accurate estimation of the prevalence of intimate femicide in the EU and help to encourage the political will to create and implement better policies combatting violence against women, particularly femicide.

#### Questions for online discussion:

*Is the indicator clear?*

*Does it cover the most important aspects of the incidence of femicide against women?*

*Do you agree with the age group of 18 and over?*

*Will the indicator help to achieve a comparable measurement of femicide across the Member States?*

*In your opinion, what challenges are likely to arise if the indicator is implemented at national level? How can these be overcome?*

## 4 COMMON QUESTIONS TO ALL PROPOSED INDICATORS ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, RAPE AND FEMICIDE

#### Questions for online discussion:

<sup>47</sup> WHO web portal, Programmes, Classifications, Classification of Diseases (ICD), '[International Classification of Diseases](#)'.

<sup>48</sup> UN [indicator on homicide](#).

*Do you think that the indicators should be worded to apply to ANY data collection sector (crime, justice, health and social services) or should they be tailored to the sector?*

*Do you think that the proposed indicators are sufficient to support policy development?*