

E-MARIA - EUROPEAN MANUAL FOR RISK ASSESSMENT

NEWSLETTER

July 2013

E-MARIA is a project funded by the European Commission, DG Criminal Justice, to develop innovative approaches and instruments for risk assessment and management in the field of domestic violence, in order to increase the prediction of re-assault and to promote the safety and security of victims of violence, as well as the recovery, empowerment and autonomy of survivors and to prevent further victimisation.

E-MARIA FINAL CONFERENCE






The E-MARIA partnership held the final conference of the project on 2nd July in Lisbon in the Auditorium of the PT Forum. The conference was attended by approx. 60 professionals from different fields of intervention, e.g. police officers, social workers, prosecutors and lawyers.

The conference adopted the slogan that “risk assessment saves lives”. The main aims of the conference were:

- to disseminate the project products;
- to share experiences and good practices in the field of risk assessment and management;
- to reflect on the intervention in the field of IPV, stalking and risk assessment.

Among the participants we had the honour to welcome the Portuguese Minister of Justice, Paula Teixeira da Cruz, the Attorney General of the Republic, Joana Marques Vidal, the Representative of the Secretary of State of Parliamentary Affairs and for Equality and from the Council of Europe, José Mendes Bota.

Experts working in the field of intimate partner violence (IPV) and stalking were also invited, namely:

-  **Ann Moulds:** Ann Moulds is an anti-stalking campaigner. In 2009, she has launched the campaign Action Scotland Against Stalking, fighting for the recognition of stalking as a distinct and serious crime within Scots law. Scotland introduced pioneering stalking legislation, which made it a crime to cause a victim fear, alarm or distress.
-  **Davina James-Hanman:** Davina is the Director of AVA, which she took up following six years at L.B. Islington as the first local authority Domestic Violence Co-ordinator in the UK. She has worked in the field of violence against women for over two decades in a variety of capacities encompassing volunteer, front-line work, policy and strategy roles.
-  **Graziella Piga:** Graziella is a gender and anti-trafficking specialist with over 13 years of experience in the field of human rights, gender-based violence, good governance and institutional capacity-building. In her last post she managed a UN Women cross-regional programme. Previously, she worked in managerial and advisory posts with the OSCE in



Tajikistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. She also worked as a consultant for the OSCE Secretariat and UNWomen Trust Fund.

Both representatives of public policies and experts reinforced the importance of the Manual on the field of risk assessment and management, as an important instrument to contribute for the promotion of safety and prevent further revictimization. It was also reinforced that to achieve this aim, professionals should have the required training and expertise, knowledge and praxis on this field. The instruments and procedures also assume an important role.

The conference allowed to deepen some relevant aspects of DV/IPV, especially during the workshops: Risk Assessment and IPV; Risk Assessment and Stalking.

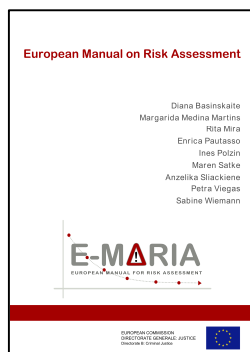
In the workshop dedicated to IPV, it was given attention to the new technologies. It was reflected how technology (smartphones, computers, laptops, tablets, social networks) is used to abuse, especially girls. The main outcome of this workshop is that the parental involvement and support should not be neglected.

The workshop dedicated to stalking reinforced the importance to not devalue the stalking, which happens in many DV/IPV situations. It is a serious crime and strategy of perpetrators that could be difficult to manage.

THE E-MARIA PRODUCTS

Please find a brief overview of the main products hereafter:

European Manual on Risk Assessment



Safety and security are basic conditions for victims/survivors to recover from their abusive relationship and to (re)-build their lives violence free.

The *European Manual for Risk Assessment* provides guidance for professionals in order to build a common language, embrace and reinforce common principles of intervention on risk assessment and management.

Consequently, the final result should contribute towards the prevention of revictimization and a decrease in the number of women killed in the context of gender-based violence, particularly intimate partner violence.

It is available in two versions: an E-Manual (full electronic version in English at http://e-maria.eu/?page_id=13) and a booklet (in English, German, Lithuanian and Portuguese). The booklet is a practical tool that supports professional praxis. It contains recommendations, useful tips and checklists in order to be an easy-to-use instrument in the intervention for survivors' protection.

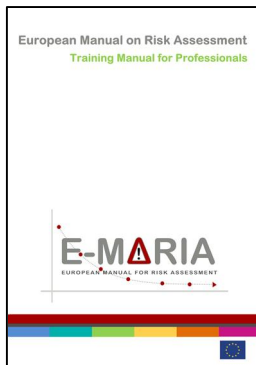
Both tools are directed to professionals who intervene in the field of IPV, with special focus on law enforcement officers, legal practitioners and frontline professionals.

In the Manual it is underlined that an integrated and holistic approach validating women's perception of risk will contribute to reduce homicides and attempts of homicide.



The Manual is available on the project website: http://e-maria.eu/?page_id=13. If you are interested in the booklet, please contact us (see last page).

Training for Professionals



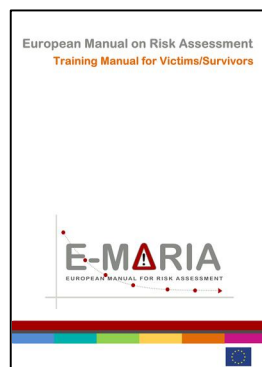
In complement to the Manual, the partnership developed a training course aimed to deepen knowledge on intimate partner violence (IPV), especially on risk assessment and management, and to promote understanding of the dynamic nature of risk and on how to assess and manage it. It also intends to contribute to promoting the recovery and empowerment of women survivors of violence.

The training targets are the professionals that work directly on this matter, with special focus on legal, paralegal and judicial professionals and law enforcement authorities, professionals who provide frontline services for victims. It is also useful for all professionals that directly or indirectly deal with DV/IPV.

Besides the content directly related to risk assessment and management, the training includes topics such as Human Rights, a general introduction to domestic violence/intimate partner violence, professional roles, community network, and coping strategies.

This training is based on a blended learning format, combining e-Learning with face-to-face workshops.

Training for Survivors



Based on the need analysis report of the project a training package for survivors of violence was developed. It intends to contribute to women's personal development and empowerment.

This training includes ten modules dedicated to different themes, including: Women Human Rights, domestic violence, children and domestic violence, personal safety, personal development, life project, active citizenship, prevention, gender equality, development of employment skills and ICT (Information and Communication Technologies).

Besides the awareness of women for all these subjects it is important to understand the protection mechanisms at European and at National levels, as well as to promote personal development and an active citizenship.



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E-MARIA WEBSITE

For further information, please contact either the coordinator or one of the partner organisations.

www.e-maria.eu

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