



E-MARIA - EUROPEAN MANUAL FOR RISK ASSESSMENT

NEWSLETTER

January 2012

E-MARIA is funded by the European Commission, DG Criminal Justice, to develop innovative approaches to and instruments for risk assessment 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.

In the intervention in domestic violence safety of women and children is paramount at all times. Thus risk assessment – applying formal instruments to assess the likelihood that intimate partner violence will be repeated and escalated – plays a central role and must be given utmost priority. It is the basis for establishing a safety plan to guarantee the safety and security, preventing further acts of violence or murder and allowing survivors of violence to live a life without violence.

E-MARIA seeks to improve the intervention in domestic violence by creating instruments and tools that allow a high level of efficacy and efficiency in the protection and safety of the survivors and by promoting their recovery, and consequently their empowerment and autonomy, and to prevent further victimisation.

E-MARIA addresses professionals who intervene in the field of domestic violence, and women survivors for whom training sessions will be offered aiming at accompanying their recovery process and promoting their autonomy.



E-MARIA PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIRST PROJECT PHASE

The project started in June 2011 and was officially inaugurated by a virtual online meeting that took place end of June with representatives of all four partner institutions from Portugal, Austria, Germany and Lithuania. During this meeting the first project steps were discussed and scheduled in accordance with the project design.

Kick-off meeting in Lisbon

Even though the virtual meeting was a good starting point, a “real” partner meeting took place end of August in Lisbon where the project partners met “physically”. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to get to know to each other and to intensively work and further plan the project and its activities, which are outlined hereafter.

Online survey

In autumn the project team launched an online survey to gather information on existing approaches to and instruments for risk assessment used by professionals and their experience with the respective approaches and instruments. The survey addresses all professionals who provide frontline services for victims of domestic violence, with special focus on legal, paralegal and judicial professionals and law enforcement authorities as well as all professionals who intervene in the field of domestic violence, taking into account that the implementation of risk assessment has an impact on all levels of the intervention.

The online survey is still open and the E-MARIA team invites you to contribute to the research by answering the questions provided in the questionnaire.

Please follow the link:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/671281/E-MARIA-survey>



Stocktaking and needs analysis

Research activities as well as interviews with professionals have been conducted to consolidate the findings of the online survey and to gather additional information on existing risk assessment tools, legal aspects related to risk assessment, safety planning, legal implications as well as available training for women survivors. The stocktaking and needs analysis phase aims to create a sound common basis for the development of a European Manual on Risk Assessment composed by several sections, such as guidelines and tools for implementing risk assessment and safety plans, good practice examples, available resources, legal and criminal systems. Moreover project partners will develop training modules for professionals as well as for women survivors to promote their recovery, empowerment and autonomy.

E-MARIA WEBSITE

The project website was implemented in autumn 2011 and offers information on the project. It will be updated regularly to allow an interested public to get a closer insight in the project work. The website gives interested visitors the opportunity to exchange experience and information on project related topics.

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

www.e-maria.eu

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