



**D 3.1 Need Assessment Professionals Report:** Report of the results of the needs analysis that have been carried out. Report of 3 p each partner and 10 pages summary in English

## **1. Four country report on needs assessment for WP3: Frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes**

August 2022



Funded by  
the European Union



EUROPEAN NETWORK  
OF MIGRANT WOMEN



This report consists of the interviews/focus groups performed and a conclusion based on the rich data gathered. In total we reached 35 professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programs. The first part (1) is frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes, with the following breakdown: a brief description (1.1), followed by Approach to / care for migrant male clients and differences observed with other participants (1.3), Recommendations for frontline professionals on addressing DVA with men with a migrant background (1.4), Interest in and needs for specific training or guidelines (1.5) and a Conclusion (1.6). I

## 1. Interviews / focus group with frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes

All four country partners (France, Greece, Italy, Spain) performed interviews or focus groups with frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes. The report provides a summary of these rich data. See table below for the description of each country.

**France:** Seven people (6 female, 1 male) were interviewed by Psytel consultant Stéphane Punel (female, expert in gender-based violence). These people were social workers in police stations, in various social centers - a police officer in charge of a personal injury unit - a head of service in a departmental solidarity center - aged between 30 and 57 - working between 1 and 5 years in their post and two for 12 years.

**Greece:** The needs assessment of frontline professionals who encounter migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes was conducted through interviews in Greece. Ten interviews with 8 females and 2 male professionals (lawyers, psychologists and social workers) have been conducted via zoom platform, which took place in August on the following dates 04/08/22, 08/08/22, 11/08/22, 12/08/22, 26/08/2022 and 27/08/22. The interviews were conducted by two MOVE's project researchers from the Union of Women Association of Heraklion.

**Italy:** The Italian partner realized two Focus groups (photos of online meeting available upon request from national reports, not shown here due to confidentiality reasons):

- A Focus Group with 7 Social Workers (all females) who work in UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office). The Focus group was held on Zoom Platform on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June)
- A Focus group with 2 ethno clinical psychotherapists (1 male and 1 female) belonging to the MIND project promoted by the Cooperative Incontro. The project is aimed at supporting health workers in taking care of political refugees or migrants. The Focus group was held on Zoom Platform on the 26<sup>TH</sup> of July 2022

**Spain:** In Spain, the needs assessment held with frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes consisted of two focus

groups realized on Zoom platform, with a total of 9 professionals (7 females and 2 males), specifically (photos of online meeting available upon request from national reports, not shown here due to confidentiality reasons):

- 15/06/2022: Professionals focus group (online) (4 females, 1 male), with one MOVE project/Conexus Association researcher.
- 15/06/2022: Professionals focus group (online) (3 females, 1 male), with one MOVE project/Conexus Association researcher

### 1.1. Brief description of the sample of focus group / interview participants

**France:** 7 people – ranging from social workers in police stations, to working in various social centers , aged between 30 and 57 - working between 1 and 5 years in their post and two for 12 years

#### France:

Sample	Age	Sex	Gender	Professional Background	Service	Years
P1	30-40	Female	Woman	Social work	Maison departementales des solidarites (MDS) Longjumeau	1
P2	25-35	Female	Woman	Social work	French Red Cross	2
P3	30-40	Female	Woman	Social Work	Francais langue etrangere (FLE) Centre social	5
P4	30-40	Female	Woman	Psychology	Mediator for NGO	4
P5	30-40	Female	Woman	Social work	Ministere de la cohesion des territoires, France services	3
P6	40-50	Male	Man	Social work in Police	Centre Communale d'action communal (CCAS)	12
P7	40-60	Male	Man	Police	Ministry of the Interior	12

**Greece:**

<b>Sample</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Professional Background</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>P1</b>	39	Female	Woman	Law	NGO Greece Council Refugee	11
<b>P2</b>	28	Female	Woman	Psychology	National Public Health Organization	3
<b>P3</b>	31	Female	Woman	Social Work	National Public Health Organization	2
<b>P4</b>	38	Female	Woman	Social Work	Estia Programme - Local Psychosocial Services to Refugees	5
<b>P5</b>	33	Male	Man	Psychology	National Public Health Organization	3
<b>P6</b>	40	Female	Woman	Social Work	Ploigos	2
<b>P7</b>	33	Female	Woman	Social Work	ARSIS	3
<b>P8</b>	30	Male	Man	Social Work	National Public Health Organization	3
<b>P9</b>	43	Female	Woman	Social Work	Estia Programme - Local Psychosocial Services to Refugees	9
<b>P10</b>	42	Female	Woman	Psychology	NGO Greece Council Refugee	4

**Italy:**

Sample	Age	Sex	Gender	Professional Background	Service	Years
P1	66	Female	Woman	Social Worker	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)	26
P2	60	Female	Woman	Social Worker	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)	30
P3	65	Female	Woman	Social Worker	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)	17
P4	39	Female	Woman	Social Worker	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)	5
P5	43	Female	Man	Social Worker	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)	4
P6	28	Female	Woman	Social Worker	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)	1
P7	23	Female	Woman	Social Worker	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)	1
P8	56	Female	Woman	Ethno clinic, Psychologist and Psychotherapist	MIND Project, Cooperative Incontro	30

P9	54	Male	Men	Ethno clinic Social Worker	MIND Project, Cooperative Incontro	9
----	----	------	-----	-------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---

### Spain:

Sample	Age	Sex	Gender	Professional Background	Service	Years
P1	26	Female	Woman	Social education	Department of Social Rights	2
P2	52	Female	Woman	Law	Department of Social Rights	2
P3	37	Male	Man	Social work; anthropology; masculinities and social action	Unemployed	/
P4	50	Female	Woman	Promotion of gender equality	Support service for migrant people; support service for young men	3
P5	?	Female	Woman	Psychology	Department of Social Rights	15
P6	38	Female	Woman	Social work	Social Services	15
P7	48	Male	Man	?	Job orientation	20
P8	41	Female	Woman	Social work	Social Services (area of violence)	4
P9	40	Female	Woman	Legal profession	Territorial social rights services	15

### 1.2. Approach to / care for migrant male clients and differences observed with other participants

**France:** None of the 6 staff interviewed have received specific training on male migrant perpetrators of violence. The majority are trained in domestic violence but for the victims and possibly for the children. The participants interviewed were not able to state how many perpetrators they have encountered who had a migrant background. There are also no official statistics on this info as it is prohibited by national law to document migrant status as it could be prejudice towards the person. The identification of perpetrators are done through the victim who provides the information and has a migrant background. These women with a migrant background have usually no access to the French language, no right to go out alone, no access to administration and money and the majority report being victims of physical violence.

Thus, identification is almost never through the perpetrator - except sometimes, when the perpetrator is violent within the structure and especially with the female staff - when he has misogynistic speeches and is omnipresent (does not let his partner speak - prevents her from going out most of the time) and is not willing to discuss the situation with specialized staff. Most of the time there are few words said by the perpetrator.

**Greece:** All the frontline professionals involved were from the migration/refugee field and had received basic training on the issue of gender-related issues and violence against women and girls.

- This training was provided by their agencies and other international organizations, such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- Only the minority of professionals had participated in institutionally provided seminars with interdisciplinary perspective.
- Most of them admitted that the organizations they worked for did not undertake education or support for migrant male perpetrators as it is not foreseen and due to their feminist approach.
- Regarding the issue of supporting male perpetrators and the criminal mediation process only one participant had received relevant training without a cross-cultural background, but she does not apply it in her work due to the aforementioned reasons.
- Only one participant undertakes at a basic level to provide (family) counseling and support to male migrant perpetrators; lacking, though, the necessary knowledge and skills.

Usually, the detection of male migrant perpetrators of violence is done either by an initial risk/ vulnerability assessment screening where some indicators are investigated, such as for example mental health, substance (ab)use, behavioral problems (e.g., aggressiveness), personality profile, socio-economic level, educational background, and cultural norms/beliefs on gender roles, or by the statements of women or partners made in the psychosocial and medical departments.

- Sometimes it is very difficult to identify them as their legal procedures (e.g., for asylum) run very fast and there is no time for such observations and interventions that require the cultivation of a trust relationship. However, professionals working directly with migrant communities, e.g., in camps and home visits, were able to observe suspicious behaviors in the field which helped them to identify such cases.
- Rarely do male migrants seek support on their own, as violence is most often normalized due to cultural background and because there is no support from organizations, as it is not in their competence to take on cases that are required by legal procedures and prosecution orders, and because they usually have a feminist approach. As one professional stated:  
*“The onus is on the victims –nor on the perpetrators. We keep perpetrators at bay because of conflicting interests”.*
- In addition, there is confusion about the roles of the professional if they are called upon to investigate to identify violence while they have undertaken to care for and support their needs. This compromises the relationship of trust and directly reduces it to a control mechanism of the justice system.

**Italy:** Male perpetrators sent to CAM are mainly those who arrive with a conviction for a crime of gender-based violence. Professionals who work in the service providers do not have a different approach based on the cultures of origin of the perpetrators and neither do they have specific training for working with migrants. Just one of them claims to have received a seminar on the work in mental health with migrants and another social worker received training related to Islamic radicalization that was aimed at that type of violence. The differences in working with migrants are mainly related to the fact that there are

cultural differences and linguistic aspects. Sometimes it has happened that there are cultural misunderstandings.

Two of the professionals participated to the focus group argue that detecting violence is very difficult: not only because the professionals are not trained in detecting violence with men but also because partly the system of reading violence in certain cultures, in particular Albanian and Moroccan, is extremely different.

The operator must also be very careful about how to ask the questions that could result in the loss of the relationship with the service user.

Often, the gender of the professional operator is important in detecting violence: a woman will not talk about violence with a male operator (even for sexual mutilation). If the professional who interview the man is a female, man will never talk about his attitudes towards women in front of a female operator.

**Spain:** *“I believed that the patriarchal system was the same everywhere”*

The majority of frontline professionals received training on gender-based violence, but not about working with perpetrators and without an intersectional perspective. Just one received training on addressing gender-based violence in migrant men thanks to the FOMEN project.

Even if they recognise that there are cultural differences to consider, the approach to migrant men is the same as with native men.

Most frequently, detection happens through children and women because they come for agreeing on visits, for education issues, for parenting skills, etc. Also, the detection happens through emergency because of injuries, victim support services, reports, social services, etc. Furthermore, teachers and tutors themselves detect some sexist behaviour in their students or in some cases the students themselves ask for help. Usually, men don't seek for help or they are obliged by legal action or referred by justice.



### 1.3. Referral to a perpetrator programme: help-seeking and asking about violence with men with a migrant background

**France:** Professionals will intervene with victims to protect them and will encourage them to file a complaint so that the perpetrator is obliged to go to support programmes. There is no upstream work with the perpetrator to prevent them from acting out.

*“In France we are dealing with curative rather than preventive measures, whereas it would be possible to intervene as soon as they arrive in France to inform them about gender equality and the laws prohibiting such violence.”*

None of the people interviewed knew the national help number for perpetrators of domestic violence except for the police officer. No referrals or proposals were made.

*“I didn't know that there was a telephone number I could have given them to get help.”*

**Greece:** The vast majority of interviewed professionals underlined the difficulty of referrals to perpetrator's programmes due to lack of information about their existence and operation, and their lack of such programmes in general.

As two professionals stated: *“I am informed about perpetrator programmes; in fact, I am informed that they do not exist!”*, and *“We need to be informed about their operation by the professionals who work in such programmes”*.

Prevention efforts through information campaigns, interventions through parent and family groups, referrals to mental health services for psychiatric assessment or psychological support and counseling, and cooperation with the police for security reasons (remove the perpetrators and protect the victims) are mentioned as proposed means of action.

**Italy:** The vast majority of professionals interviewed do not detect gender-based violence even if it comes with gender-based violence. Sometimes people who arrive at the service for other crimes are detected as using gender-based violence but not because there is a specific detection, but it occurs only if there are visible signs or evident attitudes of violence, even against the same professionals.

After sending the men to the programs, the professionals would like to have feedback on the path that the man is taking, how the motivation has changed, if it has passed from an instrumental to an internal one; and to make the final evaluation that highlights how the path has evolved.

**Spain:** *“I had to accept that from their way of functioning, culture, rules, etc. there were differences and I had to respect this way of working”*

It is difficult to refer the man to a perpetrator programme because there is a lack of services; sometimes men are referred to mental health services, private psychologists, social services, even to victim support services.

In the case men are referred, professionals didn't receive a return about the case or any other further coordination, so they emphasize a follow up as necessary.

#### 1.4 Recommendations for frontline professionals on addressing DVA with men with a migrant background

**France:** The participants had the following recommendations:

- Dare to talk to them and ask them questions about how their relationship works - break the taboo on violence

*"We must help the perpetrators to recognise what violence in the couple is and to recognise themselves as perpetrators"*

- Provide information on the laws, gender equality and equality within the couple, what violence in the couple is

*"We cannot blame them for their behaviour if no one says anything and does not give them other reading cards"*

- Deconstruct sexist stereotypes with them, their wives, and children and in French society

*"We have a paradoxical discourse, we ask them to change their relationship with women, while our society is still marked by sexist stereotypes".*

- Explain that dialogue is more effective than violence. Sometimes, these men do not have the same understanding of violence as we do, because it is not repressed in their country. We need to inform them and give them the opportunity to use other codes
- Bring out the desire for change - what benefits they will get from it
- Work in a partnership network with shared confidentiality - exchange for the global consideration of the situation
- Dissociate the support of the man and the woman in a couple, by having identifiers that cannot be linked to one another

**Greece:** The basis of the discussion on addressing the violence used by men with migrant background should start by providing specialized training and education on the identification and management of perpetrators of violence against women and girls and broadening the knowledge of their cultural context.

*"The migration = refugee settings look like prisons, institutional violence and injustice are predominant in all over the place, at every level and phase" and "These people are like shadows [...] they respond to the violence they have suffered with violence... They have witnessed war and brutality; they have seen decapitation with their own eyes... Here, we talk about trauma and cultural context; professionals should be aware and sensitive to all these experiences"*

Cross-cultural approaches with an anti-racist character will therefore be very useful first in understanding the phenomenon and then in implementing compatible interventions.

According to professionals: it is recommended that frontline professionals work with their prejudices and stereotypes and recognize the difficulties brought about integration issues, legal status, documents and language restrictions. Moreover, identified as of paramount importance is good networking with the bodies dealing with this target group in order to achieve inter-agency cooperation for the best interests of all beneficiaries.

Equally important is the provision for the protection of victims and the services that can be provided to them (e.g., safe shelter) following the detection of an incident of domestic violence with a migrant background. Finally, it is considered of utmost importance that when perpetrators of domestic violence are identified, they are treated in a counseling setting, thus increasing the likelihood of developing a relationship of trust and thus changing their violent behavioral patterns.

**Italy:** The participants stated that having a protocol to follow would help them detect gender-based violence, even if these people come to the service with different crimes. Also have information about the cultures and histories of various cultures in order to avoid creating conflicts (e.g., the case of a man who yelled at the female professional because he was investigating private family aspects, culturally not accepted). Having aspects of ethnopsychiatry. They would like to have tools for reading violence.

**Spain:** *“It is important that the professional can say: “I don’t know how to deal with this case, I need help”*

Detection needs to be done earlier and separated from the justice system, by approaching men with understanding, promoting equality, and avoiding Eurocentrism. Additionally, it should be done from an intercultural and intersectional perspective, implementing intervention with a community approach.

In fact, they consider working in a multidisciplinary team and promoting a network between organizations as fundamental.

Beside this, frontline professionals should question their own prejudices and stereotypes, as well as consider the needs and the issues that migrant men must face, such as the language barrier, documents, etc.

### 1.5 Interest in and needs for specific training or guidelines

**France:**

*“A guide without training is useless”*

Training is essential for all professionals and with migrant reception services (no referral from these services because they are not trained)

*“Training on perpetrators must be done as it was done for victims with the specificity of migration”*

- Recognise violence and the signs of identification in the perpetrators. The mechanisms
- Knowing how to approach this subject - asking the question without making them feel guilty

- How to create prevention actions
- Knowledge of the partnership network

**Greece:** All frontline professionals endorse the need for specialized training and guidelines relevant to both the detection and management of perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence and to parameters specific to the migration issues. As a key tool in the hands of professionals and not in the institutional framework, as most are, it emphasizes a genuine interest in the different experience without prejudice and stereotypes. These can lead to the cultivation of a relationship of trust that, under the right conditions, can lead to change. As professionals stated: *“There isn’t a common understanding and interventions by professionals”*, and *“Professionals from the other side have many prejudices towards perpetrators of violence and migrants/refugees in general, and they lack empathy towards them”*.

But beyond individual work tools based on the attitude of professionals, there is a need for institutionalized training of professionals on this population, either by qualifying professionals with experience in the respective field or in advance by studies. Such training should include legal and intercultural issues; while the cultural issues could be introduced by the migrants/refugees themselves, in the context of taking advantage of the experienced knowledge. However, it is also useful to incorporate issues relating to multidisciplinary and multi-agency cooperation, as well as to referral networks and pathways.

Finally, emphasis is placed on the presence of many different professionals, institutions, and services during the training sessions in order to allow for interaction between the different parties, sharing and experiential exercises in the preparation of the training. The participation of the beneficiaries who carry the experience would also be very helpful.

**Italy:** The participants stated they are sure that the service would support training on cultural aspects related to working with migrant men.

- Training that may contain psychoeducational aspects related to the detection of gender-based violence and social aspects related more to carrying out network interventions.
- Teachers from other cultures would be welcome.
- Training on the network in which there are also professionals from other services.

Training methodology:

Mixed online training: a little that can be done in a group but also with separate modules. No more than 2 hours each module. Macro-theme is interculturality aimed at social workers.

**Spain:** *“It is necessary to teach how to unlearn in order to relearn everything that is internalised”*

Frontline professionals have an interest in receiving training or having guidelines in order to address gender-based violence with migrant men, in a space for sharing and of trust.

In particular, the training should be based on how to make a reception, detection and risk indicators, interview techniques and intervention tools, with the use of real case studies.

In order to carry a more appropriate intervention, knowledge about the cultures with which they are dealing, in particular the salient points of cultural characteristics, is a necessity as a way not to miss valuable information in the history of violence.

They declared that the training would be more effective if it would be held by one of the collective or by one professional with migrant background.

### 1.6 Conclusion

These exchanges with professionals demonstrate that identification of perpetrators with a migrant background needs to be done earlier and separated from the justice system. Men need to be approached with understanding, and avoiding Eurocentrism. Additionally, across the four countries there was the statement that an intercultural and intersectional perspective is needed for implementing intervention with a community approach.

A main conclusion is that multidisciplinary team is needed for working with this target group and the need to promote a network between organizations. Although this resonated throughout the interviews and focus groups, the HOW of doing this was not discussed. They asked for training on this, based on real case studies.

The frontline professionals were aware of the needs and the issues that migrant men must face, such as the language barrier, documents, etc. but have to face and confront their own prejudices and cultural preferences.

## 2. Country Results Report

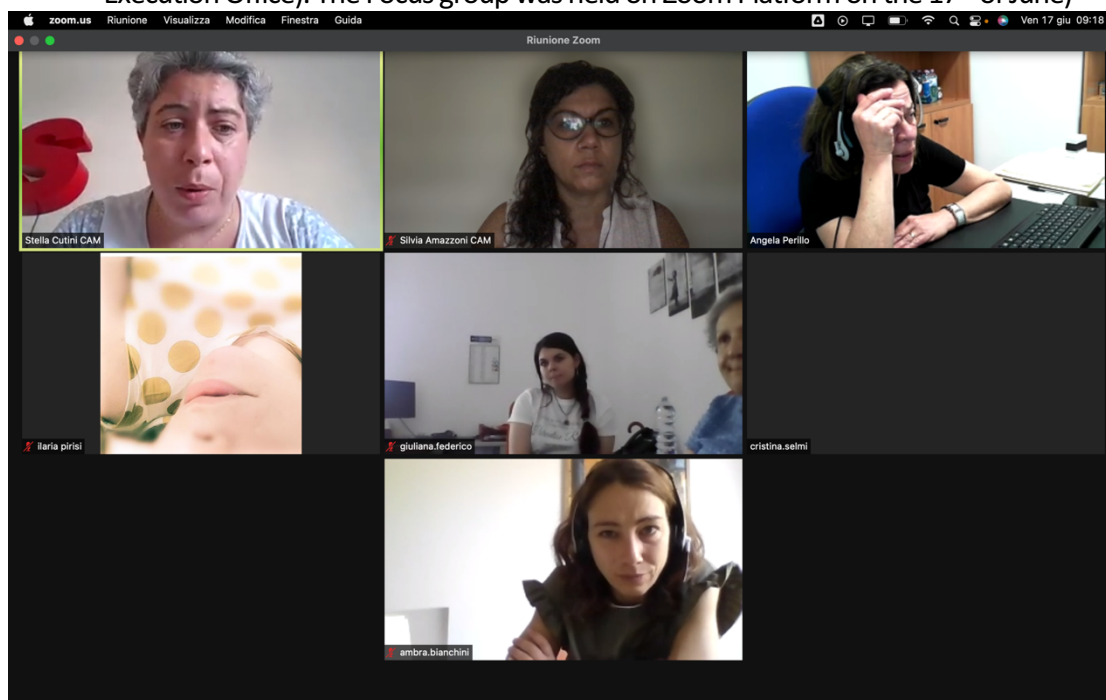
**Country report on needs assessment for WP3:** Frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmed

### a. Italy – CAM

We held in total 2 focus groups: one with social workers who work in UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office) and the second FG with ethno clinical psychotherapist who collaborate in the MIND project which wants support refugees and migrants in health issues. In total we reached 9 professionals.

#### 1. Interviews / focus group with frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes

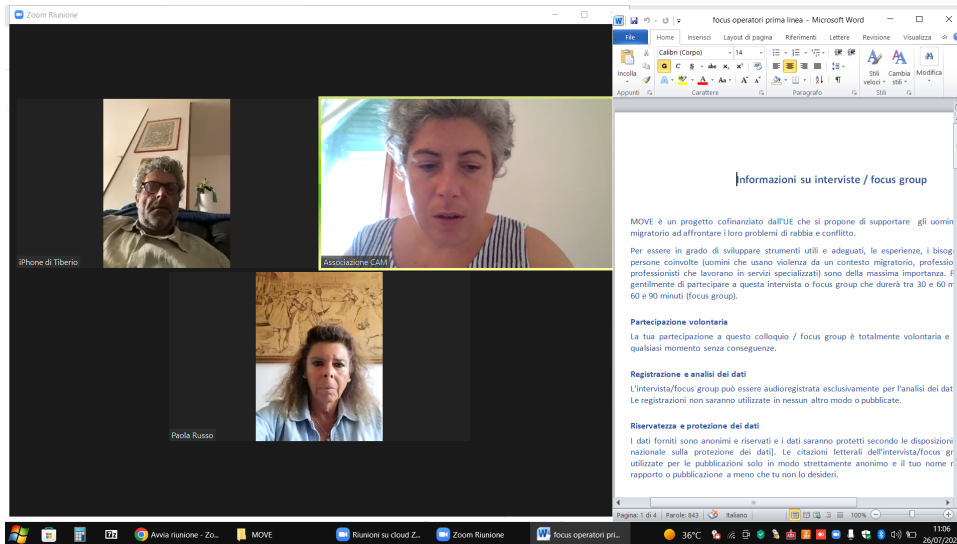
We realized a Focus Group with 7 Social Workers who work in UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office). The Focus group was held on Zoom Platform on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June



#### 1.1. Brief description of the sample of focus group / interview participants (age, sex, how many years working, profession from first page of interview guide)

Sex/gender	Ages	Background	Years of Working	Association
Female/woman	66	Social Worker	26	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)
Female/woman	60	Social Worker	30	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)
Female/woman	65	Social Worker	17	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)
Female/woman	39	Social Worker	5	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)
Female/woman	43	Social Worker	4	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)
Female/woman	28	Social Worker	1	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)
Female/woman	23	Social Worker	1	UIEPE (Interdistrict External Penalty Execution Office)

## II FOCUS GROUP



We run a second FG in date 26<sup>TH</sup> of July 2022 with two ethno-clinical psychotherapists belonging to the MIND project promoted by the Cooperative Incontro. The project is aimed at supporting health workers in taking care of political refugees or migrants.

## 1.2. Approach to / care for migrant male clients and differences observed with other participants

They often send people to CAM especially those who arrive with a conviction for a crime of gender violence. They do not have a different approach based on the cultures of origin and neither do they have specific training for working with migrants. Just one of them claims to have receive a seminar on the work in mental health with migrants and another person received training related to Islamic radicalization that was aimed at that type of violence. The differences in working with migrants are mainly related to the fact that there are cultural differences and linguistic aspects. Sometimes it has happened that there are cultural misunderstandings.

## II FOCUS GROUP

Professionals trained in detecting violence and raising awareness of taking care of women victims of violence. At the service, it is not possible to detect violence perpetrated by men unless there is an active social service for maltreatment. Spontaneous detection cannot be done both because the operators are not sufficiently trained, and because the system of reading violence in certain cultures, in particular Albanian and Moroccan, is extremely different.

Women have internalized that violence is part of relationships also at the push of the family, which on the one hand invites us to endure as women and religious values that aim to relegate women to specific roles.

The operator must also be very careful about how to ask the questions that could result in the loss of the relationship with the user.

It is difficult to detect violence with men and women because their family system supports violence and provides a very different reading of it than we do. It is read as a need to bring women back to Islamic and Muslim rules. The woman is alone, the family members do not argue: the man who mistreats is seen as the one who is right and the woman instead is considered in the wrong



because she is rebelling. The sons support the father. If the woman rebels, she will be out of the family system.

The gender of the operator is important in detecting violence: a woman will not talk about violence with a male operator (even for sexual mutilation). If she is a man she will never talk about his attitudes towards women in front of a female operator. The network of these people somehow invites them to stay in that role and not to rebel. Whoever does it because she has a sensitive network in Italy finds herself mostly alone with respect to the family to which she belongs, as if she were betraying her. Husband's family too. The reading of violence is different from the reading of violence given by an Italian person.

### 1.3. Referral to a perpetrator programme: help-seeking and asking about violence with men with a migrant background.

They do not do a survey of gender-based violence based on documentation. Sometimes people who arrive at the service for other crimes are detected gender violence but not because there is a specific detection but it occurs only if there are visible signs or evident attitudes of violence, even against the same operators.

After sending them to the programs, they would like to have feedback on the path that the man is taking, how the motivation has changed, if it has passed from an instrumental to an internal one; make the final evaluation that highlights how the path has evolved.

## **II FOCUS GROUP**

In the last years, the interviewed professionals refer that they have sent two migrant males to the perpetrator program. The men were referral to the program as they had all the documentation. The men were referred to us by the social services. To send the program, we asked for help from cultural mediators who explained the Italian legal context and we worked on family and religious values that support and support and normalize violence. One of the two men was included in the CAM path and his adhesion was possible thanks to the reference support network that constantly worked on motivation, mainly external (he had to do it because the Court had prescribed it). So we have constantly solicited membership by relying on whether or not to make visits with the children.

### 1.4 Recommendations for frontline professionals on addressing DVA with men with a migrant background

Maybe have a protocol to follow that will help us detect gender-based violence, even if these people come to our service with different crimes. Also have information about the cultures and histories of various cultures in order to avoid creating conflicts (eg the case of a man who yelled at the female operator because he was investigating private family aspects, culturally not accepted). Having aspects of ethnopsychiatry.

They would like to have tools for reading violence.

## **II FOCUS GROUP**



A Specific training on cultural countertransference which is the basis for ethnoclinics. Each operator should know this both to access cultural content but also for the relationship.

### 1.5 Interest in and needs for specific training or guidelines

They are sure that the service would support training on cultural aspects related to working with migrant men.

- Training that may contain psychoeducational aspects related to the detection of gender-based violence and social aspects related more to carrying out network interventions.
- Teachers from other cultures would be welcome;
- Training on the network in which there are also professionals from other services

Training methodology:

Mixed online training: a little that can be done in a group but also with separate modules. Fifteen years no more than 2 hours. Macro-theme is interculturality aimed at social workers.

## b. Spain- Conexus

### 1. Interviews / focus group with frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes



1.1. Brief description of the sample of focus group / interview participants (*age, sex, how many years working, profession from first page of interview guide*)

In Spain, the needs assessment held with frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes consisted of two focus groups realized on Zoom platform, with a total of 9 professionals (7 females and 2 males), specifically:

- 15/06/2022: Professionals focus group (online) (4 females, 1 male), with one MOVE project/Conexus Association researcher.
- 15/06/2022: Professionals focus group (online) (3 females, 1 male), with one MOVE project/Conexus Association researcher.

More information about the sample is included in the following box:

Sample	Age	Sex	Gender	Professional Background	Service	Years
P1	26	Female	Woman	Social education	Department of Social Rights	2
P2	52	Female	Woman	Law	Department of Social Rights	2
P3	37	Male	Man	Social work; anthropology; masculinities and social action	Unemployed	/
P4	50	Female	Woman	Promotion of gender equality	Support service for migrant people; support service for young men	3
P5	?	Female	Woman	Psychology	Department of Social Rights	15
P6	38	Female	Woman	Social work	Social Services	15
P7	48	Male	Man	?	Job orientation	20
P8	41	Female	Woman	Social work	Social Services (area of violence)	4
P9	40	Female	Woman	Legal profession	Territorial social rights services	15

1.2. Approach to / care for migrant male clients and differences observed with other participants

*“I believed that the patriarchal system was the same everywhere”*

The majority of frontline professionals received training on gender based violence, but not about working with perpetrators and without an intersectional perspective. Just one received training on addressing gender based violence in migrant men thanks to the FOMEN project.

Even if they recognise that there are cultural differences to take into account, the approach to migrant men is the same as with native men.

Most frequently, detection happens through children and women because they come for agreeing on visits, for education issues, for parenting skills, etc. Also the detection happens through emergency because of injuries, victim support services, reports, social services, etc. Furthermore, teachers and tutors themselves detect some sexist behaviour in their students or in some cases the students themselves ask for help. Usually men don't seek for help or they are obliged by legal action or referred by justice.

### 1.3. Referral to a perpetrator programme: help-seeking and asking about violence with men with a migrant background

*"I had to accept that from their way of functioning, culture, rules, etc. there were differences and I had to respect this way of working"*

It is difficult to refer the man to a perpetrator programme because there is a lack of services; sometimes men are referred to mental health services, private psychologists, social services, even to victim support services.

In the case men are referred, professionals didn't receive a return about the case or any other further coordination, so they emphasize a follow up as necessary.

### 1.4 Recommendations for frontline professionals on addressing DVA with men with a migrant background

*"It is important that the professional can say: "I don't know how to deal with this case, I need help"*

Detection needs to be done earlier and separated from the justice system, by approaching men with understanding, promoting equality and avoiding Eurocentrism. Additionally, it should be done from an intercultural and intersectional perspective, implementing intervention with a community approach.

In fact, they consider working in a multidisciplinary team and promoting a network between organizations as fundamental.

Beside this, frontline professionals should question their own prejudices and stereotypes, as well as take into account the needs and the issues that migrant men have to face, such as the language barrier, documents, etc.

### 1.5 Interest in and needs for specific training or guidelines

*"It is necessary to teach how to unlearn in order to relearn everything that is internalised"*

Frontline professionals have an interest in receiving training or having guidelines in order to address gender based violence with migrant men, in a space for sharing and of trust.

In particular, the training should be based on how to make a reception, detection and risk indicators, interview techniques and intervention tools, with the use of real case studies.

In order to carry a more appropriate intervention, knowledge about the cultures with which they are dealing with, in particular the salient points of cultural characteristics, is a necessity as a way not to miss valuable information in the history of violence.

They declared that the training would be more effective if it would be held by one of the collective or by one professional with migrant background.

## **c. France - Psytel**

1. Entretiens / groupes de discussion avec des professionnels de première ligne qui entrent en contact avec des hommes migrants et se réfèrent à des programmes d'agresseurs

### **1.1. Brève description de l'échantillon de participants aux groupes de discussion / entrevues (âge, sexe, combien d'années de travail, profession à partir de la première page du guide d'entrevue)**

6 people - social workers in police stations, in various social centres - a police officer in charge of a personal injury unit - a head of service in a departmental solidarity centre - aged between 30 and 57 - working between 1 and 5 years in their post and two for 12 years

### **1.2. Approche et soins pour les clients migrants de sexe masculin et différences observées avec d'autres participants**

None have received specific training on male migrant perpetrators of violence. The majority are trained in domestic violence but for the victims and possibly for the children.

- They cannot state how many perpetrators in this category they have encountered. No statistics in this sense because prohibited
- The indicators of identification are through the victim - no access to the French language, no right to go out alone - no access to administration and money - physical violence.
- Identification is almost never through the perpetrator - except sometimes, when the perpetrator is violent within the structure and especially with the female staff - when he has misogynistic speeches and no questioning - omnipresent and does not let his partner speak - prevents her from going out - most of the time, there is no discussion of the situation. Most of the

time no word to the author. Except for the police who will try to understand the recidivism, to avoid it.

*We're used to helping the female victim now, but it's true that we don't deal with the perpetrator. That's what the courts do when the victim files a complaint*

### **1.3.Orientation vers un programme d'aide pour auteurs d'actes d'infraction: recherche d'aide et questions sur la violence avec des hommes issus de l'immigration**

Professionals will intervene with victims to protect them and will encourage them to file a complaint so that the perpetrator is obliged to go to support programmes  
No upstream work with the perpetrator to prevent them from acting out

*In France we are dealing with curative rather than preventive measures, whereas it would be possible to intervene as soon as they arrive in France to inform them about gender equality and the laws prohibiting such violence.*

None of the people interviewed knew the national help number for perpetrators of domestic violence except for the police officer. No referrals or proposals were made

*I didn't know that there was a telephone number I could have given them to get help.*

### **1.4Recommandations à l'intention des professionnels de première ligne sur la façon de traiter la DVA avec les hommes issus de l'immigration**

- Dare to talk to them and ask them questions about how their relationship works - break the taboo on violence

*We must help the perpetrators to recognise what violence in the couple is and to recognise themselves as perpetrators.*

- Provide information on the laws, gender equality and equality within the couple, what violence in the couple is

*We cannot blame them for their behaviour if no one says anything and does not give them other reading cards*

- Deconstruct sexist stereotypes with them, their wives and children and in French society

*We have a paradoxical discourse, we ask them to change their relationship with women, while our society is still marked by sexist stereotypes*

- Explain that dialogue is more effective than violence. Sometimes, these men do not have the same understanding of violence as we do, because it is not repressed

in their country. We need to inform them and give them the opportunity to use other codes

- Bring out the desire for change - what benefits they will get from it
- Work in a partnership network with shared secrecy - exchange for the global consideration of the situation
- Dissociate the support of the man and the woman in a couple, by putting a double reference.

#### 1.5 Intérêt et besoins en formation ou lignes directrices spécifiques

*A guide without training is useless*

- Training is essential for all professionals and with migrant reception services (no referral from these services because they are not trained)

*Training on perpetrators must be done as it was done for victims with the specificity of migration*

- Recognise violence and the signs of identification in the perpetrators. The mechanisms
- Knowing how to approach this subject - asking the question without making them feel guilty
- How to create prevention actions
- Knowledge of the partnership network

*It is complicated to ignore the fact that he is a violent man. As with the victims, we have to break down our prejudices, our representations, that's what training is for*

## d. Greece – UWAH

### 1. Interviews / focus group with frontline professionals who come into contact with migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes

The needs assessment of frontline professionals who encounter migrant men and refer to perpetrator programmes was conducted through interviews in Greece. Ten interviews (8 female and 2 male) have been conducted so far via zoom platform, which took place in August on the following dates 04/08/22, 08/08/22, 11/08/22, 12/08/22, 26/08/2022 and 27/08/22. The interviews were conducted by two MOVE's project researchers from the Union of Women Association of Heraklion.

#### 1.1. Brief description of the sample of focus group / interview participants (age, sex, how many years working, profession from first page of interview guide)

Information about the sample you can find in the box below:

Sample	Age	Sex	Gender	Professional Background	Service	Years
--------	-----	-----	--------	-------------------------	---------	-------

<b>P1</b>	39	Female	Woman	Law	NGO Greece Council Refugee	11
<b>P2</b>	28	Female	Woman	Psychology	National Public Health Organization	3
<b>P3</b>	31	Female	Woman	Social Work	National Public Health Organization	2
<b>P4</b>	38	Female	Woman	Social Work	Estia Programme Local Psychosocial Services to Refugees	5
<b>P5</b>	33	Male	Man	Psychology	National Public Health Organization	3
<b>P6</b>	40	Female	Woman	Social Work	Ploigos	2
<b>P7</b>	33	Female	Woman	Social Work	ARSIS	3
<b>P8</b>	30	Male	Man	Social Work	National Public Health Organization	3
<b>P9</b>	43	Female	Woman	Social Work	Estia Programme Local Psychosocial Services to Refugees	9
<b>P10</b>	42	Female	Woman	Psychology	NGO Greece Council Refugee	4

## 1.2. Approach to / care for migrant male clients and differences observed with other participants

All the frontline professionals involved were from the migration/refugee field and had received basic training on the issue of gender-related issues and violence against women and girls, provided by their agencies and other international organizations, such as United Nations High Commissioner. Only the minority of professionals had participated in institutionally provided seminars with interdisciplinary perspective. Most of them admitted that the organizations they worked for did not undertake education or support for migrant male perpetrators as it is not foreseen and due to their feminist approach. Regarding the issue of supporting male perpetrators and the criminal mediation process only one participant had received relevant training without a cross-cultural background, but she does not apply it in her work due to the aforementioned reasons. Only one participant undertakes at a basic level to provide (family) counseling and support to male migrant perpetrators; lacking, though, the necessary knowledge and skills.

Usually, the detection of male migrant perpetrators of violence is done either by an initial risk/vulnerability assessment screening where some indicators are investigated, such as for example mental health, substance (ab)use, behavioral problems (e.g., aggressiveness), personality profile, socio-economic level, educational background, and cultural norms/beliefs on gender roles, or by the statements of women or partners made in the psychosocial and medical departments. Sometimes it is very difficult to identify them as their legal procedures (e.g. for asylum) run very fast and there is no time for such observations and interventions that require the cultivation of a trust relationship. However, professionals working directly with migrant communities, e.g., in camps and home visits, were able to observe suspicious behaviors in the field which helped them to identify such cases.



Rarely do male migrants seek support on their own, as violence is most often normalized due to cultural background and because there is no support from organizations, as it is not in their competence to take on cases that are required by legal procedures and prosecution orders, and because they usually have a feminist approach. As one professional stated: *“The onus is on the victims –nor on the perpetrators. We keep perpetrators at bay because of conflicting interests”*.

In addition, there is confusion about the roles of the professional if they are called upon to conduct an investigation to identify violence while they have undertaken to care for and support their needs. This compromises the relationship of trust and directly reduces it to a control mechanism of the justice system.

## 1.2. Referral to a perpetrator programme: help-seeking and asking about violence with men with a migrant background

The vast majority of interviewed professionals underlined the difficulty of referrals to perpetrator’s programmes due to lack of information about their existence and operation, and their lack of such programmes in general. As two professionals stated: *“I am informed about perpetrator programmes; in fact, I am informed that they do not exist!”*, and *“We need to be informed about their operation by the professionals who work in such programmes”*. Prevention efforts through information campaigns, interventions through parent and family groups, referrals to mental health services for psychiatric assessment or psychological support and counseling, and cooperation with the police for security reasons (remove the perpetrators and protect the victims) are mentioned as proposed means of action.

## 1.4 Recommendations for frontline professionals on addressing DVA with men with a migrant background

The basis of the discussion on addressing the violence used by men with migrant background should start by providing specialized training and education on the identification and management of perpetrators of violence against women and girls and broadening the knowledge of their cultural context. *“The migration settings look like prisons, institutional violence and injustice are predominant in all over the place, at every level and phase”* and *“These people are like shadows [...] they respond to the violence they have suffered with violence... They have witnessed war and brutality; they have seen decapitation with their own eyes... Here, we talk about trauma and cultural context; professionals should be aware and sensitive to all these experiences”*. Cross-cultural approaches with an anti-racist character will therefore be very useful first in understanding the phenomenon and then in implementing compatible interventions. According to professionals:

To this end, it is recommended that frontline professionals work with their prejudices and stereotypes and recognize the difficulties brought about integration issues, legal status, documents and language restrictions. Moreover, identified as of paramount importance is good networking with the bodies dealing with this target group in order to achieve inter-agency cooperation for the best interests of all beneficiaries.

Equally important is the provision for the protection of victims and the services that can be provided to them (e.g., safe shelter) following the detection of an incident of domestic violence with a migrant background.



Finally, it is considered of utmost importance that when perpetrators of domestic violence are identified, they are treated in a counseling setting, thus increasing the likelihood of developing a relationship of trust and thus change their violent behavioral patterns.

### 1.5 Interest in and needs for specific training or guidelines

All frontline professionals endorse the need for specialized training and guidelines relevant to both the detection and management of perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence and to parameters specific to the migration issues. As a key tool in the hands of professionals and not in the institutional framework, as most are, it emphasizes a genuine interest in the different experience without prejudice and stereotypes. These can lead to the cultivation of a relationship of trust that, under the right conditions, can lead to change. As professionals stated: *“There isn’t a common understanding and interventions by professionals”*, and *“Professionals from the other side have many prejudices towards perpetrators of violence and migrants/refugees in general, and they lack empathy towards them”*.

But beyond individual work tools based on the attitude of professionals, there is a need for institutionalized training of professionals on this population, either by qualifying professionals with experience in the respective field during their work or in advance by studies. Such training should include legal and intercultural issues; while the cultural issues could be introduced by the migrants/refugees themselves, in the context of taking advantage of the experienced knowledge. However, it is also useful to incorporate issues relating to multidisciplinary and multi-agency cooperation, as well as to referral networks and pathways.

Finally, emphasis is placed on the presence of many different professionals, institutions and services during the training sessions in order to allow for interaction between the different parties, sharing and experiential exercises in the preparation of the training. The participation of the beneficiaries who carry the experience would also be very helpful.