



WHOSEFVA

**Working with Healthcare Organizations to
Support Elderly Female Victims of Abuse**
(01.12.2016 - 30.11.2018)



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Background Information

- Elder abuse and violence remains a growing problem across all EU regions.
- It is a worldwide concern that touches on human rights and gender equality
- Due to the ageing population, the extent of elder abuse can be expected to grow with it.
- Whilst this is the case, there remains a lack of data, evidence and work in the area.
- As a result, the ageing population and safety of the older persons bring challenges for social and health care services and professionals.
- Social and health care workers are in the key position to recognise and support older victims of abuse yet there needs to be a more effective system in place to recognize victims in a safe way for both parties.

The main issues identified include:

- Lack of experience and knowledge in the area of elder abuse, how to identify characteristics of abuse, the prevalence of such and how to support victims.
- There is lack of guidance at national level
- Access to relevant training programmes is lacking due to time constraints and funding in the area.

Project Information

- WHOSEFVA - Working with Healthcare organisations to support elderly female victims of Abuse
 - 1 Dec 2016 – 30 Nov 2018
 - To support health and social care organisations health care organisations via development of a training manual.
 - To develop universal standards
 - To increase the capacity of DV organisations and provide training on how best to support older victims.
 - To advocate healthcare policy changes at national level.

Partners

The project consists of 8 partners in 6 European countries:

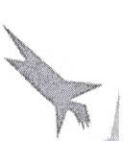
1. ***Women's Support and Information Centre in Estonia*** offers assistance to domestic violence victims
2. ***Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu*** - conducted research on domestic violence in Estonia
3. ***Kilcooley Women's Centre*** offers a range of support services for all ages, with a particular focus on support for elders
4. ***Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture, Greece*** provides, among the other activities, direct help to women-victims of violence and their children



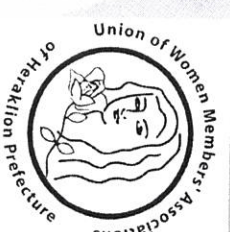
UNIVERSITY OF TARTU



NAISTEN LINJA



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5. **Centre Marta** provides support to women in Latvia – non-citizens and migrants, women

with low income and unemployed women, female victims of human trafficking and of domestic violence and work towards the effective elimination of domestic violence

6. **The Austrian Women's Shelter Network** is a network of autonomous Women's Shelters

7. **Women against Violence Europe, WAVE**, is a legal entity and a formal network non-governmental organisation composed of European women's NGOs working in the field of combating violence against women and children.

8. **Women's Line Finland** were a partner for one year, the work is continued by osk VoiVa-Empowering Old Age Cooperative, a national non-governmental organization focusing on preventing violence and abuse of older people.



Project Outcomes

Development and adaptation of pre-designed training into a manual

Delivery of training and to experts working in the field of domestic violence and in health and social care settings and to medical staff

Focus groups and interviews with older victims of violence carried out to gain a better understanding of their experiences, needs, concerns and expectations.

Development of an online training programme

Dissemination of project results

Overview of Policy Recommendations

- Still in the process of being finalised at this stage
- Responses from MLW and other activities carried out as part of WHOSEFVA project are currently being collated to create EU recommendations.
- International Documents consulted – Istanbul Convention, European Charter and MIPAA

Legislation in the UK

- More tailored responses are required
- No adequate legislation in the UK – interpretations differ
- Deficit remains in the protection of Older People
- Ongoing work continues in the right direction

SEHSCT

SED & SVP

MARAC

Older Peoples Commissioner

Adhoc and bespoke training practices.

Moving Forward

- Research and development
- Raise awareness
- Support Services
- Legislation & funding
- Training



Questions...



Thank you for listening.

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