

NEWSLETTER #6

“Improving GBV victims support services and the access to justice through Trauma-informed Care – Care4Trauma”

The 6th newsletter for the EU project Care4Trauma provides an **overview of project results and activities** that have been implemented in each partner country.

COUNTRY REPORTS

A **total of 5 Country Reports** were drafted in the scope of the project for [Croatia](#), [Estonia](#), [Greece](#), [Italy](#), and [Spain](#). Each partner’s Country Report provides an overview and analysis of the data on gender-based violence and the use of trauma-based assistance and support systems in their respective countries. The aim of these reports was to collect and analyse available data related to gender-based violence survivors’ access to justice as well as to provide detailed mapping of available victims’ support services and methodologies and good practices which implement a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) approach. The collection and the analysis of data was possible thanks to institutional sources (e.g. national statistical institutes, etc.), as well as literature review of relevant publications at national and European levels.

STATE-OF-ART ASSESSMENT REPORTS

The **State-of-Art Assessment Reports of [Estonia](#), [Croatia](#), [Greece](#), [Italy](#) and [Spain](#)** contain each country’s integration to the above-mentioned Country Reports on the application of TIC principles addressed in legislation, public policies and services in order to support gender-based violence survivors. The reports are built on the results of an online survey targeting professionals working in social, health and judiciary systems, as well as on semi-structured interviews targeting policy-makers and heads of institutions and NGOs working with women survivors of gender-based violence.



NATIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

The aim of the National Consultation Workshops, held in April in Barcelona, Madrid, Bologna, Tartu, Zagreb and Heraklion, was to inform the participants about the results of the mapping of the trauma-informed care system in each country, as well as about the findings of the Country Reports. Additionally, the workshops aimed to collect feedback from the participants to complement the findings from the survey and the semi-structured interviews. A total of 85 participants attended the workshops, in person and online. #Care4Trauma

ADVOCACY MEETINGS

National Recommendations were drafted individually for each Partners’ country, but also led to a more general set of recommendations that could be considered as valid support to any European country. **In total, 18 meetings were conducted involving 104 policy makers dealing with victims of gender-based violence.** The meetings aimed to inform decision-makers about the Trauma-Informed approach and propose targeted changes to better address the needs of survivors of violence against women. Overall, decision-makers provided feedback from various perspectives, including practical considerations, alignment with policies, resource implications, and the need for collaboration among stakeholders. Participants emphasized the importance of widespread education on TIC to ensure adequate protection and support for women survivors.



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ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY OF TRAINING OF TRAINERS PROGRAMME

The **Training of Trainers (ToT)** for social workers were held from the 5th to the 9th of June, while the ToT for psychologist were held from the 12th to the 16th of June, in **Bologna**. The trainings consisted of a **5-day interactive and immersive workshop program regarding essential concepts and practices of TIC implementation across different workplace settings**. The main goal of the training was to encourage practitioners to be mindful and critical of their standard practices and of their knowledge transfer styles as trainers. The training was therefore intended to increase awareness among workers of the effects of trauma on women victims of violence and their children and to promote the dissemination of the approach in their workplaces. Furthermore, the course aimed to motivate trainers to find a means of embedding TIC effectively into their training initiatives with a special attention to the organizational cultures they belong to.

ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY OF NATIONAL TRAININGS

National Training Programs address two different target groups of participants:

- **Program 1-** Fundamentals and Essential Elements of Trauma-Informed Care targeted social workers, social educators and lawyers involved in the provision of support to victims of GBV/ **Training Program for Social Operators** and
- **Program 2-** Psycho-traumatology and TIC Specialized curriculum addressed psychologists and psychiatrists involved in the provision of victim support to GBV victims/ **Training Program for Psychologists**.

National training programmes for social operators and psychologists were organized in each country from February-June 2024. The objectives of the training programme were as follows:

- To provide the participants with basic understanding of trauma and how it affects women survivors of violence;
- To establish awareness that trauma must be recognized, taken into account and systematically addressed in the prevention, treatment, and recovery process of women survivors of gender-based violence ;
- Train professionals to recognize the signs of trauma;

- Implement the principles of a trauma-informed approach in all areas of support provision, including staff, leadership, collaboration and communication with other institutions and policies;

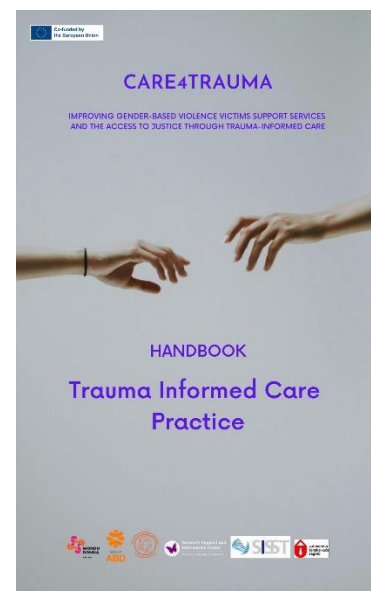
- Actively avoid re-traumatization of the service users and the professionals involved in their support provision.

As a result, **a total of 445 professionals were training in partner countries: 145 in Italy, 104 in Spain, 63 in Estonia, 51 in Croatia and 82 in Greece.**

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE PRACTICE HANDBOOK

The **handbook** was drafted by SISST with input from all partners and contains information and practical guidelines to support the translation of trauma-informed principles into practice. A set of strategies and good practices are included to steer the professional work of operators in different fields. The Handbook is divided in 5 chapters:

- An overview on trauma and Trauma-Informed care principles
- Different practices related to Trauma-Informed Care
- Information and explanation on how to implement trauma-informed approaches
- Good-practices and practical examples describing scenarios involving different professionals (social workers, educators, lawyers, psychologists).
- Case studies developed during the seminars organized under Task 3.4.



FINAL CONFERENCE

Final conference of the project was held on **22 November in Bologna**. With the participation of 56 professionals of different institutions and non-governmental organizations from Italy and the EU, this event provides an opportunity to present project results by exploring best practices in the management of complex traumas, reflecting on the role of women specialized services and their collaboration with different institutions in a joint effort to provide adequate support and protection to traumatized women survivors of intimate partner violence.



WSIC
There is a way out of violence!



NATIONAL PUBLIC EVENTS

National public events were organized in Italy and in Greece. In **Italy** Mondodonna organized a **workshop on 23 November 2024** with representatives of anti-violence centers across the country with the aim of discussing good practices, critical issues and future prospects regarding the protection of women with experiences of violence and complex trauma hosted within shelters.

In Greece UWAH organizes a public event on 28 November 2024 aiming to present project results and impact.

FOLLOW UP AND FUTURE PLANS

Project partners are committed to continue with trainings and advocacy activities related to the use of TIC approach at national and regional levels.