

NEWSLETTER #5

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

The 5th newsletter for the EU project Care4Trauma gives and overview of recently completed Advocacy activities and organized trainings and capacity building programs at country levels, which have been previously built and taught by the Italian Society of Traumatic Stress Studies (SISST).

Advocacy activities included a set of Advocacy Meetings which were targeted towards policy and decision makers (municipalities, regions, state governments, and departments) and executives and key personnel of social services and institutions.

Each Partner organized the trainings and capacity building programs at the country level. The participants of the previous Train of trainers (ToT) led by SISST organized and lead the national trainings in their countries. The involvement of participants from the organizations dealing with shelters and GBV victims was fostered by promoting participation in the trainings among the partners’ organizations networks and thanks to the involvement of supporting public institutions.

The newsletter also includes information about upcoming activities, Production of Case Studies and drafting Trauma Informed Care Practice Handbook.

ADVOCACY MEETINGS

During its implementation **Care4Trauma project** produced in each of the Partners’ countries an in-depth analysis of the actual situation on the introduction and implementation of the trauma informed approaches and practices. The results were summarized in **Country Assessment Reports and The Data Reports**. These elements drove to the elaboration of **National Recommendations** 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.

The analytical investigation benefitted in large part from the inputs provided by social operators, the adoption of specific measures largely depends on the willingness and commitment of the policy makers level to effectively create the conditions for the implementation of the recommended actions. This was the main purpose of the advocacy activity

that was undertaken in order to disseminate, discuss and call to action the persons responsible for decisions at policy level.

In total, **18 meetings were conducted involving 104 policy makers** dealing with victims of gender-based violence.

National Advocacy Meetings in ITALY

In Italy, the following advocacy meeting were held:

- **Bologna**, 21 February 2024, 13 participants
- **Online**, 27 February 2024, 10 participants

In total, the meetings were attended by **23 participants**.

At the meetings prominent decision-makers participated, including the **Responsible for Piano di Uguaglianza in the Metropolitan City of Bologna**, the **Director of the Social Policies Sector in the Emilia-Romagna region**, and the **Deputy Mayor and Assessore for Pari Opportunita in 5 municipalities in the region**.

The participants discussed the operational aspects of trauma care approaches and the challenges faced by the policy level.

Among them were representatives of entities and agencies providing services, who shared their experiences in supporting victims of gender-based violence. Policymakers exchanged views with relevant actors in areas such as the judicial system, social services, and healthcare. Before the meetings, participants received the National Report, which includes an analysis, data, and recommendations for implementing trauma care approaches.

Key recommendations for implementing trauma care approaches were presented through presentations, emphasizing obstacles and gaps in justice and social care systems. Additionally, participants were informed about the activities of **Casa Phoebe**, which stands out for its implementation of trauma-informed care.



Advocacy meeting in Italy

National Advocacy Meetings in GREECE



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The Union of Women Associations of Heraklion and Heraklion Prefecture chose to proceed with bilateral meetings or meetings with limited participants to achieve maximum impact and have the opportunity to develop in depth discussions with the participants.

In Greece, the following advocacy meeting were held:

- **Heraklion**, 08/02/24, bilateral meeting with the Deputy Mayor of the Social Policy Department from the municipality of Heraklion
- **Heraklion**, 12/02/24, bilateral meeting with 4 representatives of the Prefectural Steering Committee of the party of new Democracy
- **Heraklion**, 13/02/24, bilateral meeting with the chief of the two public hospitals in Heraklion
- **Archalochori**, 19/02/24, bilateral meeting with the Mayor of Minoa-Pediados
- **Heraklion**, 27/02/24, bilateral meeting with chief and chief of staff of the 7th Healthcare District
- **Heraklion**, 11/03/24, bilateral meeting with the vice-regional commissioner for culture and equality from the Region of Crete and an officer from the department
- **Heraklion** 12/03/24, bilateral meeting with the Governor of Region of Crete
- **Agios Nicholas**, 14/03/24, bilateral meeting with the mayor, the vice-mayor and the head of Social Welfare Department of the Municipality of Agios Nicholas
- **Heraklion**, 15/03/24, bilateral meeting with the Vice regional commissioner, the general director and the supervisor of the Social Welfare Department of the Region of Crete.

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. Representatives from UWAH presented **Policy recommendations** produced as part of the Care4Trauma project, emphasizing their implementation based on the role, responsibility, and services of each agency.

Overall, decision-makers provided feedback from various perspectives, including practical considerations, alignment with policies, resource implications, and the need for collaboration among stakeholders.



Advocacy meetings in Greece

National Advocacy Meetings in ESTONIA

In Estonia, the following advocacy meeting were held:

- **Ministry of Justice of Estonia**, October 31st 2023, with 2 participants.
- **Estonian Riigikogu (Parliament)**, on November 13th 2023, with 4 participants.
- **Tartu City Council**, on December 21st 2023, with 8 participants.

It total, the meetings were attended by **14 participants**.

The Care4Trauma advocacy meetings included discussions with key stakeholders such as **Members of Parliament Irja Lutsar and Liisa-Ly Pakosta**. These meetings emphasized the importance of implementing trauma-informed practices within the judicial system and legislative processes to better support individuals who have experienced trauma, including victims of domestic violence. By integrating trauma-informed training and policies, judicial staff and policy makers can create more empathetic and responsive systems that prioritize the well-being of all individuals involved. Additionally, meetings with members of the Tartu City Council highlighted the significance of local policymakers being familiar with trauma-informed practices to ensure inclusive and supportive environments at the community level. Throughout these discussions, feedback emphasized the need for policymakers to understand the widespread impact of trauma and prioritize the implementation of trauma-informed approaches across various sectors,

including education and healthcare. Ultimately, advocating for trauma-informed practices to policymakers seeks to foster healing, resilience, and societal well-being by creating more compassionate and understanding communities.



Advocacy Meeting in Estonia, 21.12.2023

National Advocacy Meetings in SPAIN

In Spain, **ABD** has held the following advocacy meetings:

- In online format, on 14th November, with the assistance of 12 persons
- In online format, on 16th November, with the assistance of 19 persons
- In online format, on 4th December, with the assistance of 3 persons

It total, the meetings were attended by **34 participants**.

The online meetings on **November 14th and 16th** targeted executives and key professionals of social services responsible for programs assisting women victims of Gender-based violence and their children. Participants included coordinators and directors of these services from Madrid and Catalunya, along with psychologists and social educators. Noteworthy attendees on November 16th were 2 representatives of **Madrid City Council**, including **the Head of the Unit on Intimate Partner/Ex-Partner Violence and the Head of the Section for the Assistance to Victims of Gender Violence**. The **December 4th** meeting saw the presence of **Laia Rosich**, the **General Director for the eradication of gender-based violence of the Government of Catalunya**, and **Rosa Codina**, **Deputy Director of Management of Services and Resources for the Attention to gender-based violence**.

The meetings featured presentations on research findings and policy recommendations regarding Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) in judicial and social systems. Feedback from participants was positive, acknowledging the relevance of the information presented. The presence of representatives from Madrid City Council and the Government of Catalunya added value to discussions, signaling a commitment to addressing gender-based

violence. Participants appreciated the interactive nature of the meetings, expressing interest in the Care 4 Trauma training and indicating readiness to apply for it. Overall, the meetings effectively disseminated research findings, presented policy recommendations, and engaged key professionals and stakeholders in discussions about implementing TIC approaches in combating gender-based violence.

National Advocacy Meetings in CROATIA

In Croatia the **Autonomous Women’s House Zagreb** organized the advocacy meeting with heads of services and departments of relevant institutions, academia and NGOs on **24 January 2024** in Zagreb, at the premises of Hotel Dubrovnik. The aim of the meeting was to **inform the participants about Trauma-informed care approach and its relevance in daily work with women survivors**, as well as to present the finding of research conducted in the scope of the project Care4Trauma. Finally, a set of recommendations resulting from research findings which were also completed with the feedback received from Women specialized services and NGO during the consultation workshop, were presented to the participants. The participants were invited to take part in the discussion about the policy recommendations and their future use in practice. A total of **26 participants** attended the meeting which was held from 10:00 -13:15 hrs.



Advocacy meeting in Croatia

The Care4Trauma project meeting convened 26 participants from various institutions and academia. Attendees included heads of services and departments from organizations such as the **Ministry of Justice, County Court, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of the Interior, Police Academy, Judicial Academy, and various academic faculties and specialized services for women**.

Participants expressed readiness to attend upcoming project trainings in spring 2024. Concerns were raised about the misuse of psychological support received by women survivors in child custody cases, leading to their

stigmatization. Participants advocated for urgent changes in this practice and emphasized the importance of widespread education on TIC to ensure adequate protection and support for women survivors.

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**.

CROATIA

1ST Training Program for Social Operators

- **Zagreb**
- 4 days training (8 hours each day) **from April 8th till 11th 2024.**
- Program was held by Anita Lauri Korajlija and Kristina Kulic and prepared by Anita Lauri Korajlija, Kristina Kulic and Marina Kovacevic.
- **11 participants** attended the training

1ST Training Program for Psychologists

- **Zagreb**
- 4 days training (8 hours each day) **from April 22nd till 25th 2024**
- Program was held by Anita Lauri Korajlija and Kristina Kulic and prepared by Anita Lauri Korajlija, Kristina Kulic and Marina Kovacevic
- **17 participants** attended the training



ESTONIA

1ST Training Program for Social Operators

- **Tartu**
- 4 days training (**1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th of February 2024.**)
- Program was held by Pille Tsopp-Pagan and Triin Taal
- **19 participants** attended the training



Training for Social Operators in Estonia

2ND Training Program for Social Operators

- **Tallinn**
- 4 days training (**4th, 5th, 9th and 10th 2024.**)
- Program was held by Mariana Saksniit, Pille Tsopp-Pagan, Triin Taal
- **31 participants** attended the training



1ST Training Program for Psychologists

- **Tartu**
- 4 days training (26th, 27th of March 2024 and 2nd, 3rd of April 2024)
- Program was held by Mariana Saksniit and Kätlin Juurik
- **20 participants** attended the training



SPAIN

1ST Training Program for Psychologists

During the month of April 2024, the ABD completed four training courses under the Care4Trauma project and aimed at psychosocial care professionals who provide support to women survivors of gender-based violence. Two of the trainings have been carried out online and two in person in Barcelona and Madrid. The trainings were intended to provide participants with a basic understanding of trauma and teach them how to implement the Trauma-Informed Care methodology. In total, more than 100 people have participated in these trainings, both online and in person, showing great interest and commitment to addressing trauma information in the services they provide to victims of violence.



ITALY

1ST Training Program for Social Operators

- **Bologna**
- 4 days of training (16th, 21st of January 2024 and 2nd, 6th of February 2024)
- **23 participants** attended the training



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Organization and delivery of national trainings

According to the project plan, training is planned for 13 groups as part of program 1 and for 11 groups as part of program 2.

By the next newsletter, they will also be conducted and reported on:

Program 1:

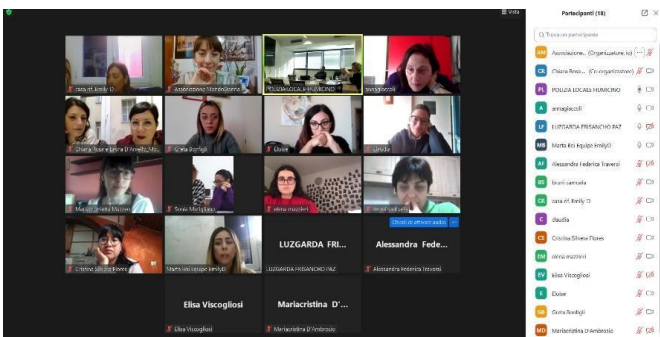
- Italy -2 groups
- Greece – 2 groups
- Spain – 3 groups
- Croatia – 1 group

Program 2:

- Italy – 3 groups
- Greece – 2 groups
- Spain – 3 groups
- Croatia – 1 group

2ND Training Program for Social Operators

- **Online**
- **25 participants** attended to training



Production of Case Studies

Partners will organize seminars for the production and discussion of case studies, based on the guidelines provided by SISST. The seminars will focus on involving the professionals from different fields (social operators, lawyers, psychologists) who have followed the two different types of training in order to discuss cases encountered by organizations who provide support to victims of GBV. The discussions will lead to the production of case studies per country that will be included in the Trauma Informed Care Practice Handbook. These seminars will be managed by a facilitator and will target the participants of the national training activities.

- 1 seminar in Croatia
- 1 seminar in Greece
- 1 seminar in Estonia
- 1 seminar in Italy
- 1 seminar in Spain

Trauma Informed Care Practice Handbook

This handbook, which will be drafted by SISST, will contain information and practical guidelines to support the translation of trauma-informed principles into practice. A set of strategies and good practices will be included to steer the professional work of operators in different fields. Tentatively, the TIC Practice Handbook will be divided in **5 different chapters** regarding:

- An overview on trauma and Trauma-Informed care principles
- A chapter focusing on the different practices related to Trauma-Informed Care
- A chapter containing information and explanation on how to implement trauma-informed approaches
- A chapter focused on good-practices and practical examples describing scenarios involving different professionals (social workers, educators, lawyers, psychologists).
- A chapter focused on case studies developed during the seminars organized under Task 3.4.

The Scientific Committee will be convened for the validation of the content of the Practice Handbook in order to guarantee the required level of quality. The Handbook will be made available in **national languages and in English** version for larger dissemination.

