



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

FLASH REPORT

Country:	Estonia
Title:	Victim protection regarding intimate partner violence
Date:	18 September 2019
Expert:	Anu Laas
Update of flash report:	Estonia - Memorandum to the Cabinet on victim protection regarding intimate partner violence (PDF 139 kB)
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	National Action Plan for preventing intimate partner violence
Grounds of discrimination:	Gender
Field of application:	Violence against women
Source:	Policy development
Applicable law:	Action Plan for Preventing Intimate Partner Violence for 2019-2023 (<i>Lähisuhtevägivalla tegevuskava aastateks 2019-2023</i>)

Content

Policy development: On 29 April 2019, the right-wing Government took office. On 19 May 2019, the Action Programme of the Government of the Republic for 2019-2023 was adopted. Among the priorities, a family-friendly state was highlighted. One of the target activities of the Action Programme is tackling domestic violence. On 26 July 2019, the Action Plan for Preventing Intimate Partner Violence for 2019-2023 was adopted by the Government. Capacity building and training for specialists of victim support and protection are expected. Additionally, the Government is planning to implement the best practices of the Pärnu Pilot Project on a national level. The Pärnu Pilot Project has demonstrated the importance of fast risk assessment of intimate partner violence cases and the need to remove an offender from a victim's house immediately. A multi-sectoral approach for supporting victims of domestic violence is used and the promotion of awareness raising is also planned. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) method is being used in more serious cases of domestic violence. The two approaches together will provide safety and security for victims of domestic violence and their children.

Key points of analysis: The Pärnu Pilot Project was carried out from December 2017 until 31 March 2018. The Project was carried out on a county level. The purpose of the Project was to provide the best and most effective protection to the victim, to end violence, and to find ways to remove the offender from the house for 48 hours. The local government reserved vacant accommodation in the municipal housing stock for this purpose. A victim can feel safe for 48 hours and dedicate some time to decision-making. Support services are also available to the victim. The results of the Pärnu Pilot Project were analysed and it was decided to implement the Project on a national level.

The Pärnu Pilot Project emphasized the following aims:

- to improve the competences of specialists working with victims;
- to develop coordinated cooperation of specialists from different agencies – police officers, social workers, victim support officers, health care specialists, specialists from shelter, and others;
- to improve the data quality of the case management and to develop a new information sheet, keeping a record of the cases for risk assessment and victim's needs;
- to break the circle of violence and to promote more effective child protection;
- to improve knowledge about the specific needs of diverse groups of victims (people with disability and addictions, elderly etc.).

Internet link source:

Flash Report of 6 November 2018, <https://www.equalitylaw.eu/downloads/4734-estonia-memorandum-to-the-cabinet-on-victim-protection-regarding-intimate-partner-violence-pdf-139-kb>.

Vabariigi Valitsuse tegevusprogramm 2019–2023 (*Action Programme of the Government of the Republic for 2019-2023, 19 May 2019*). Available in Estonian at: https://www.valitsus.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/valitsus/RataseIivalitsus/vabariigi_valitsuse_tegevusprogramm_2019-2023.pdf.