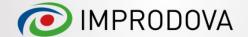


Field-study results: Risk -assessment tools and case documentation used by frontline responders

Dora Szegő researcher June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, online Examining risk assessment and case documentation processes in 8 European countries

-296 interviews addressing risk assessment procedures and tools in respect to case documentation and their use by frontline responders (FLR) of high impact domestic violence (HIDV): the police, the medical sector and the social sector.



#### Areas of the examination

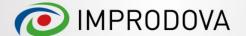
- We examined if risk assessment and case documentation procedures exist when FLR-s are handling HIDV?
- What kind of risk assessment instruments and related casedocumentation mechanisms are used? Especially concerning the level of standardization and spread of use
- What are the critical shortcomings of these tools?
- What are the main suggestions to improve risk assessment and case documentation processes?

## Key problems identified

- One third of the participating countries lack formal, standardised risk assessment tools and protocols or their protocols only cover certain parts/areas of the risk or are used only in certain types of crimes
- In some other countries (e.g.: in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Finland)
  there are effective instruments, but they are not generally used, only discretionally in

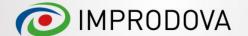
09.06.2021

- certain sectors
- certain regions/ police units, or other frontline agencies
- Good practices face obstacles to spread in the countries and across the different sectors
- Many countries lack cooperation and information sharing among FLR-s regarding risk assessment and risk-related case documentation procedures



## Typical shortcomings of risk assessment tools mentioned by the interviewees from partner countries

- the rigidity of existing formal risk assessment tools
- the lack of case-based sensitivity
- lack of multidisciplinary cooperation across the sectors in risk assessment and case documentation
- risk of ,false assessment' and negligence of certain risk situations



## Typical shortcomings of case documentation

- Documentation of DV incidents is often not unified, standardised and formalised
- In countries where there are no unified case documentation systems, regulations and practices often ensure a lot of discretion of what and how to document
- Discretional and informal processes and the lack of standards for DV case documentation hinder inter-sectorial cooperations between FLR agencies

# Suggestions how to improve risk assessment and case documentation tools and protocols

- Need for unified risk assessment and case documentation protocols accross the FLR sectors and country-wide
- Using risk assessment tools have to be accompanied by comprehensive and regular professional training
- Timing of the risk assessment process is crucial: the dynamic approach of risk assessment was preferred, meaning a continuous reevaluation of risks during the course of a case management
- It is important to acknowledge country-specific differences; models have to be tailor-made to the unique conditions of each countries



#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!











