



Kick-off of EU-project IMPRODOVA

IMPRODOVA, a research and innovation project funded by the European Union* involves a group of experienced researchers and practitioners from 8 countries, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Slovenia, and Scotland to improve the primary response to High Impact Domestic Violence (HIDV). The IMPRODOVA team will investigate HIDV responses carried out by law enforcement, medical practice, social and health care and NGOs.

The project aims to identify gaps in the co-operation of HIDV first line responders, identify promising examples of good practice, improve risk assessment tools and case documentations, develop professional training and provide recommendations on policies and data.

The IMPRODOVA kick-off meeting was held at the Medical Faculty of the University of Münster/Germany in May 2018. Representatives of 16 institutions of HIDV research and practice from the eight participating European Member States, as well as representatives of the European Women's lobby (EWL) and the Medical Women International Association (MWIA) met and discussed and agreed on the first steps of this 36-month work program to improve response strategies in the field of HIDV.

Data sources, crime statistics and victimization surveys suggest that over time there is little notable change in the reporting rates of domestic violence incidents. HIDV incidents cause grievous harm to individuals, relationships, families, communities and societies as a whole.

Therefore, it is necessary to find out:

- How do human and social factors shape the institutional responses to HIDV?
- Are there any gaps between official policy programs, resources and practical implementation in first responses to domestic violence?
- What kind of good practices, training provisions and policy recommendations can be identified to better address the problem of HIDV across Europe?

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