

PARTNERS

Women's Support & Information Center (Estonia) – Lead partner
University of Tartu (Estonia)
Voiva – Empowering Old Age Coop (Finland)
Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture (Greece)
Women against Violence Europe (Austria)



Tartu Women's Shelter
Violence is not the way out.
There is a way out of violence.



UNIVERSITY OF TARTU



TISOVA

Training to Identify and Support
Older Victims of Abuse



OUTPUTS & EVENTS

- Interviews with domestic violence and eldercare workers, as well as **focus groups** with the elderly population to determine attitudes and perspectives
- Analytical report** on abuse of older women, including policy recommendations
- Training Curriculum** on providing support for elderly female victims of abuse
- Online Educational Course** for senior/day centre professionals/volunteers and domestic violence organizations
- Mutual Learning Workshops**
- National Roundtable Discussion Forums**

ProjectTISOVA # TISOVA # AgeingEqual



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Training to Identify and Support Older Victims of Abuse

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The TISOVA Project trains eldercare professionals, volunteers and older people to identify and provide assistance to elderly victims of abuse.

Types of elder abuse include:

- Neglect
- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Financial
- Violation of human and civil rights

All forms of abuse can have significant physical and psychological effects on victims, which becomes worse when victims are female and elderly, who have significantly higher mortality risk (DESA 2013).

TISOVA is a much-needed project in Europe. Senior and day centres are incredibly important institutions that are most likely to come across older women victims of abuse. However, senior centre workers (and even other seniors) may have seen the consequence of elder abuse for many years and not interfered. **People may lack the knowledge, confidence or understanding to identify abuse and its long-term impact.** This is made harder due to **inadequate screening procedures, time constraints and lack of knowledge** of available community support services.

This is a major public health concern and a matter of human rights!



OBJECTIVES



Design an interactive training programme to educate key groups about violence against older people, especially women



Strengthen the capacity of those who work with the elderly to respond to the specific needs of older women victims



Contribute to a better understanding of the experiences and needs of elderly (female) victims and empower them to seek assistance or take other action



Contribute to stakeholders' implementation of elder abuse policy into practice

Findings from TISOVA O1 Report and Policy Recommendations

- ▶ **Effectively addressing elder abuse requires a different approach** than methods to address violence against younger women – however, gender-specificity is important since violence against women does not stop at old age.
- ▶ **Make knowledge accessible:** alternative means of communication (e.g. through radio, local newspapers and television) must be utilized to not only reach older people, but also to effectively deliver information about elder abuse and their human rights as older people.
- ▶ **Elder abuse is not a 'private issue'** – it is a public health issue and a matter of older people's human rights.
- ▶ **Listen to the elderly,** take older people seriously and believe their complaints!
- ▶ **Empowerment through sustainable financial support:** pensions must be higher and allow older people to lead their lives with dignity.