

## 6. WOMEN'S CENTRES

### Introduction

For detailed information on this section, please see tables 20 and 21 on pages 95 and 96.

This section on women's centres is included in this year's WAVE Report for the first time. The term 'women's centre' includes all women's services providing non-residential specialist support such as information, advice, advocacy counselling, practical support, court accompaniment, pro-active support, outreach services, and so on. It includes women's crisis or counselling centres serving women survivors of violence, rape crisis centres, pro-active intervention centres, regional domestic violence centres and similar services serving only or predominantly women. This means that some centres, in addition to supporting women, may also support children, both girls and boys, who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. Some centres - for example, those supporting victims of sexual violence - may also support male victims. They belong to the range of specialist women's support services as defined in the Istanbul Convention Article 22 (Council of Europe, 2012 p. 13) and conceptualise violence against women as gender-based violence which is rooted in inequality between women and men.

As was the case with women's shelters, women's centres have their historical roots in the women's movement which developed in Western Europe and the USA at the end of the 1960s. Women's consciousness raising groups developed as part of a political movement creating women only spaces for political and cultural activism and solidarity. Not only did these groups support victims, it also created a space in which women were able to speak openly about their experiences of violence and this resulted in radical changes in the perception and popular definitions of violence in women's lives. In contrast to men's definitions of violence, which had been dominant up to that point, women were identifying the home and the private space of intimate relationships as being the main location of their experience of violence. The women's movement brought this previously private issue into the public and political sphere and still today the main contrast in men's and women's experiences of violence is that women experience most violence at home and men experience most violence in public spaces. Both men and women experience violence overwhelmingly from men (Müller, Schröttle et al., 2005; Jungnitz et al., 2004).

Women's shelters developed to deal with the fact that for most women, physical, psychological and sexual violence perpetrated by their husbands or partners was the most pressing problem. At the same time, rape crisis centres developed to provide services for the increasing number of women who were beginning to be able to speak out about sexual violence in general. In time, these rape crisis centres found themselves dealing with more and more women who were reporting having experienced sexual violence as children within and outside the family. As a result of this sexual violence against children has been firmly brought into the public domain. The women's movement was crucial to these developments, their slogan "the personal is political" enabled women to overcome their individual shame which had kept them silenced. Challenging male violence became a political focus, which has resulted in that which was previously seen as private relationship issues to be recognised as a major human rights violation, which has played a significant role in the oppression of women worldwide.

In former communist countries, women's centres started to be opened in the beginning of the 1990s. The Autonomous Women's Centre Belgrade was one of the first initiatives against gender-based violence of the emerging women's movement in Eastern Europe. In contrast to the women's movement in the West, which was able to organize and gain support from the 1960s onwards, feminists in the east were facing extremely difficult situations in societies in transition from totalitarian regimes to emerging democratic, capitalist societies with no tradition of civil society organizations and little support for the new women's movement (WAVE, 2015, p. 40 & 43). A continuing and concerning consequence of these difficulties can be seen in the small numbers of women's shelters in "new" EU countries (see chapter 2). Nevertheless, spirited women everywhere in Eastern Europe were organizing and setting up women's support services often in extremely difficult environments with little more than a telephone and not

even a working space. These women's organizations were often planning to open women's shelters, but many failed to succeed due to lack of government support. Some women's shelters, which did open, for example, in Russia and in the Ukraine had to be closed again. During the WAVE 2008 annual conference in Košice, Slovakia a local long standing WAVE Member organization, Fenestra, identified the establishment of a women's shelter as one of its main goals. Eight years later, despite all their efforts, they have not managed to achieve this goal.

Establishing women's centres in Eastern Europe has sometimes proven to be easier than establishing women's shelters, and women in the east of Europe are currently continuing their important work of fighting for women's rights and combating gender-based violence.

The courage of individual women to speak out about experiences of violence and the efforts of the women's movement to create safe spaces for women to do this has developed into an ever-expanding provision of specialist services for women, girls and boys. The efforts have also highlighted the problem of violence against the LGBT community which also challenges patriarchal stereotypes. This section hopes to make visible the branch of these support services which relate to women and girls.

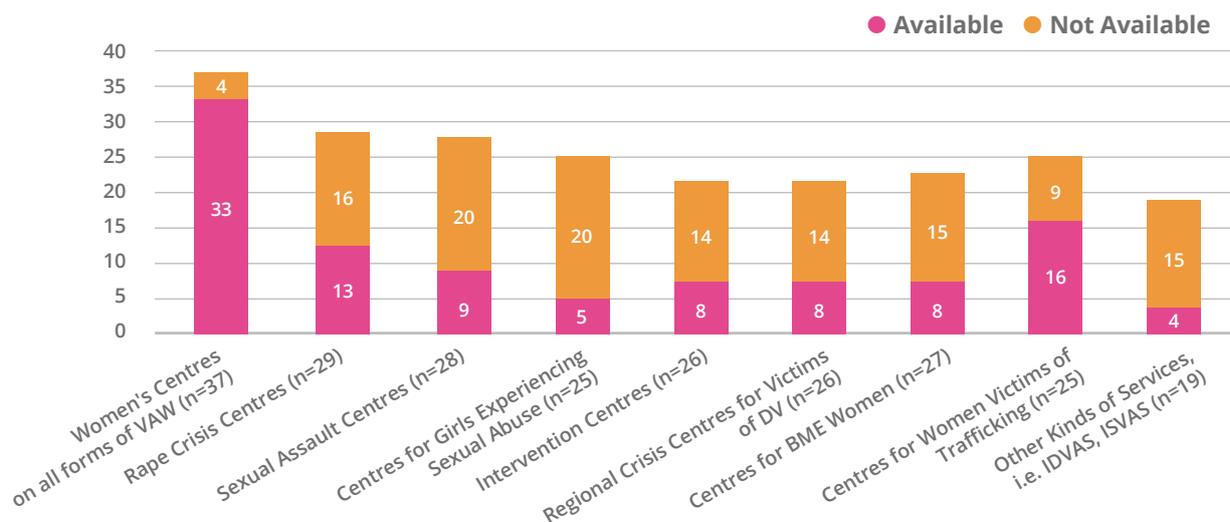
## Aims of this Section

The intention of the questions in this section was to get an impression of the range and scope of non-residential services offered to women and girls affected by gender-based violence in all 46 countries.

In categorising different women's support services, the authors could draw on more than twenty years of experience of WAVE networking in Europe, following developments and pushing for change. Nevertheless, the attempt to find a common categorisation of specialist services is a challenge as different traditions of social support, particularly for women as mothers, and their children, has resulted in different structures of provision. How specialist services may or may not have developed in response to the growing demands of the women's movement for a gender specific analysis of the problem and a human rights approach to gender-based violence depends on a variety of social, economic and political factors specific to each country, which are beyond the scope of this report. In this section, however, this report does attempt to offer an account of how women's non-governmental organisations have grown up within, outside and between such structures to develop a gender-specific and empowering human rights based support for women.

For ease of understanding, the centres have been categorised and figures are provided on each of the categorised services, but it should be remembered that this can only give a partial impression of the service provision landscape in each country.

**FIGURE 9 – Different Types of Women’s Centres Available in Europe**



This table gives information on the existence of different non-residential support services for women who have experienced violence in Europe. As can be seen, the most common form of support is women’s centres on all forms of violence against women, 33 countries said that they had such centres, four said that such centres did not exist in their country and nine countries gave no information on this question. The second most common kind of support were centres for women who had been trafficked, 16 out of the 25 countries who responded said they had such centres. Rape crisis centres were the third most widely spread service.

### Range Provided by Women's Centres

The first remark that needs to be made in this section, is that in providing the numbers of centres in each country the great differences in size of countries, geographically and in population terms, are not reflected and must be borne in mind when interpreting the data. As can be seen in Table 13 at the end of this report, in order to take account of these discrepancies we have divided the total number of centres by population for each country. This gives only a rough guide as it does not take into consideration the different needs of women who have experienced gender violence and their access to the services they require, but it does acknowledge, for example that although both Croatia and Russia have a total of 20 non-residential specialist support services for women, Russia is 35 times larger than Croatia and so the service provision for women is very different in the two countries.

Only one country provided no information under this section. Of the remaining 45 countries surveyed, Lithuania alone does not have a women’s shelter; they do, however, have 15 intervention centres supporting women who have experienced domestic violence. Azerbaijan, Belarus and Estonia have shelters but reported having no further women’s centres. Four countries reported having only one women’s centre in addition to the women’s shelters – these were Cyprus, Hungary, Malta and Poland. Out of the countries reporting more than one type of service for women affected by gender-based violence, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria Georgia, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine provided one other service in addition to shelters. In Bulgaria, for example, these were regional centres for women who had experienced domestic violence. Bulgaria did not report any services for women who have experienced sexual violence, although from the Council of Europe Report 2014 it is clear that they do have staff specifically trained to deal with sexual violence presumably within their regional centres for women who had experienced domestic violence. Women who have experi-

enced sexual violence outwith a relationship are helped by regional domestic violence centres. Russia, with a population of over 142 million people, has 19 regional centres for women who have experienced violence and one sexual assault centre.

All other countries had a broader range of services, as will be seen later.

## Minimum Standards of Service Provision

As can be seen in the appendix on WAVE Standards, WAVE has adopted the recommendation of the Final Activity Report of the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, that, as a minimum level of service provision, one women's counselling centre for every 50,000 women should be available to intervene in a crisis and provide long-term support to women victims of all forms of violence (Council of Europe, 2008 p. 51). The following table employs this 1:50,000 indicator and aims to provide some information on the geographical spread of services in each country and on the gap between the size of population relying on services and this minimum standard. Caution must, however, be exercised in using these tables and they provide only an indication of base line data, on which WAVE aims to improve in future.

**TABLE 5 – Level of Provision of Women’s Centres and Geographical Distribution**

	No. of Women's Centres	Total Population	Indicator (Population/Womens Centres)
<b>Women's Centres in all provinces</b>			
Luxembourg	13	549,680	42,283
Spain	869	46,439,864	53,441
United Kingdom	862	64,308,261	74,517
Moldova	26	3,559,497	136,904
Kosovo	10	1,794,180	179,418
Lithuania	16	2,943,472	183,967
Norway	23	5,107,970	222,086
Armenia	13	3,010,598	231,584
Serbia	28	7,146,759	255,241
Switzerland	27	8,139,631	301,468
Netherlands	44	16,829,289	382,484
Belgium	25	11,203,992	448,160
Czech Republic	23	10,538,300	458,187
Bosnia & Herzegovina	8	3,791,662	473,958
Portugal	7	10,347,822	1,478,260
Hungary	1	9,877,365	9,877,365
<b>Women's Centres in most provinces</b>			
Germany	420	80,767,463	192,303
Italy	140	60,782,668	434,162
<b>Women's Centres in major cities</b>			
Latvia	21	2,001,468	95,308
Greece	57	10,816,286	189,759
Austria	32	8,506,889	265,840
Slovenia	7	2,061,085	294,441
Albania	6	2,895,947	482,658
Bulgaria	14	7,245,677	517,548
Georgia	6	4,497,617	749,602
Cyprus	1	858,000	858,000
Turkey	59	76,667,864	1,299,455
<b>Women's Centres in capital city only</b>			
Liechtenstein	5	37,129	7,426
Iceland	6	329,100	54,850
Montenegro	3	621,521	207,174
Malta	1	425,284	425,284
Macedonia	3	2,022,547	674,182
Poland <sup>5</sup>	35	38,017,856	1,086,224
Ukraine	3	42,701,791	14,233,930
<b>No information on distribution of centres</b>			
Ireland <sup>6</sup>	23	4,605,501	200,239
Croatia	20	4,246,809	212,340
Finland	20	5,451,270	272,563
Denmark	10	5,627,235	562,723
Romania	26	19,947,311	767,204
Slovakia	5	5,415,949	1,083,190
Russia	20	142,856,536	7,142,827
Azerbaijan	0	9,356,483	0
Belarus	0	9,463,840	0
Estonia	0	1,315,819	0

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.P.70.

<sup>6</sup> Information provided in the WAVE Report 2014, P.63, published in 2015.

This table demonstrates that only the very small countries of Liechtenstein and Luxembourg meet the minimum standard of 1 women's centre per 50,000 population and Iceland, another country with a small population, comes close. The table is provided here in order to give an impression of how much room for improvement there is in the provision of even a minimum level of service for women who have experienced gender based violence<sup>7</sup>.

Spain should be singled out here for a special mention. The existence of the 'Organic Law 1/2004 of 28 December on Integrated Protection Measures against Gender Violence', including the right to integrated social assistance (Article 19), has resulted in the very broad provision of women's centres throughout the country. Thus Spain comes closest of all the larger European countries to meeting the minimum standard of service provision.

A second minimum standard on provision of services for women who have experienced sexual violence, which WAVE has adopted (see appendix on WAVE Standards at the end of this report) is again from the Final Activity Report referred to above (Council of Europe, 2008 p. 51). This states that one rape crisis centre should be provided per 200,000 population. As referred to above, definition of terms is work in progress and in the following table data collected on rape crisis centres, sexual assault centres and centres for girls experiencing sexual abuse has been amalgamated. It should be noted that centres for girls experiencing sexual abuse also includes centres which counsel women who were sexually abused as girls. One problem which we note in the table is that some countries have included hospital based (and health service run) sexual assault referral teams and others (notably Malta) have not. This is a flaw in the data which we acknowledge and are committed to address in the future. Therefore, once again extreme caution is advised in interpreting the information in this table, which is presented in order to provide base line data indicating the level of service and scope for improvement in each country.

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<sup>7</sup> No data was available on this question from France and Sweden.

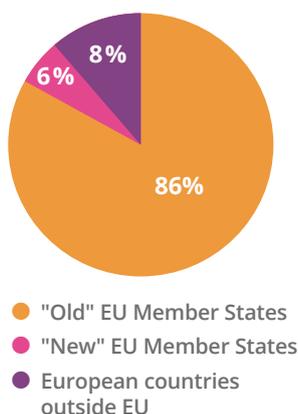
**TABLE 6 – Level of Provision of Sexual Assault Support Services**

Countries <sup>8</sup>	Total Population	Total number of specialist services for sexual assault	Indicator (population/sexual assault centre)
Iceland	329,100	5	65,820
Ireland <sup>9</sup>	4,605,501	23	200,239
Norway	5,107,970	22	232,180
Germany	80,767,463	250	323,070
United Kingdom	64,308,261	144	446,585
Denmark	5,627,235	7	803,891
Austria	8,506,889	9	945,210
Switzerland	8,139,631	6	1,356,605
Moldova	3,559,497	2	1,779,749
Spain	46,439,864	26	1,786,149
Netherlands	16,829,289	8	2,103,661
Croatia	4,246,809	2	2,123,405
Armenia	3,010,598	1	3,010,598
Romania	19,947,311	5	3,989,462
Finland	5,451,270	1	5,451,270
Serbia	7,146,759	1	7,146,759
Hungary	9,877,365	1	9,877,365
Belgium	11,203,992	1	11,203,992
Russia	142,856,536	1	142,856,536
Belarus	9,463,840	0	0
Bosnia & Herzegovina	3,791,662	0	0
Cyprus	858,000	0	0
Czech Republic	10,538,300	0	0
Greece	10,816,286	0	0
Italy	60,782,668	0	0
Kosovo	1,794,180	0	0
Latvia	2,001,468	0	0
Liechtenstein	37,129	0	0
Lithuania	2,943,472	0	0
Macedonia	2,022,547	0	0
Malta	425,284	0	0
Montenegro	621,521	0	0
Turkey	76,667,864	0	0
Ukraine	42,701,791	0	0
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>849,014,706</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>1,648,572</b>

As can be seen from this table, only Iceland meets the minimum standard of service provision for women who have experienced sexual violence and Ireland and Norway, both countries with relatively small populations come close. Extreme caution should be exercised in interpreting the data in this table, due to unreliability of the data as a result of difficulties in the definition of terminology.

<sup>8</sup> No data was available on this question from Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Georgia, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden.

<sup>9</sup> Information provided in the WAVE Report 2014, P.63, published in 2015.



**FIGURE 10 – Women's Centres Providing Non-Residential Services**

The graphic on the left indicates the distribution of all women's centres within Europe. As can be seen, most of the services are concentrated in the 15 countries which were members of the EU before 2000 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK). Only 8% of services are in the 18 European countries outside the EU (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kosovo, Lichtenstein, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine) and of greatest concern is the fact that only 6% of services are available in the 13 European countries which joined the EU after 2000 (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia)

The centres reported in this section included a wide variety of services, for example, Finland has a network of 17 mother and child centres which provide support to women with children facing a variety of difficulties, including gender-based violence. Iceland reported two centres the Women's Counselling Centre, which provides legal and social work counselling for women and "Stigamot", which is more than just a service for sexual violence and includes support services for women affected by sexual harassment, molestation and pornography exploitation.

Spain has 717 centres throughout the country offering support and advice to women, all of these are funded by the State, some are run by the State and some by women's NGOs. Similarly, Italy has 140 centres, 113 of which are run by NGOs, 19 by the State and eight by the Church.

Greece and Turkey also have a large number of women's centres, 56 and 55 respectively, run by women's and other NGOs as well as the State, providing support to women throughout the country. It should be pointed out, however, that Turkey has a population seven times the size of Greece's population and, therefore, despite having the same number of centres, the service provided to women differs hugely. The Netherlands also has a network of 35 organisations providing support and advice to women affected by violence throughout the country. Belgium has a network of 15 counselling centres, which offer general support. They offer specialist support for survivors of domestic violence and can be accessed by women survivors, however, they do not provide gender specific services. France also has women's centres run by the State or women's and other NGOs but it was not possible to quantify the number.

Other countries which have women's centres run by women's NGOs are Albania (5 centres), Armenia (2), Austria (6), Bosnia & Herzegovina (8), Georgia (6), Kosovo (10), Liechtenstein (2), Macedonia (1), Moldova (16), Montenegro (1), Romania (5), Serbia (22), Slovakia (5), Switzerland (19) and UK (22).

Cyprus (1), Latvia (20), Luxembourg (13), Slovenia (6) and Ukraine (3) have women's centres run by the State or NGOs.

The following countries had women's centres but gave no information on who provided these services; Croatia (15 centres), Czech Republic (2), Denmark (3), Poland (1), Portugal (7) and Romania (21).

## Rape Crisis Centres

The countries without rape crisis centres were Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech, Estonia, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. In addition, Greece, Italy and Malta reported that although there are no centres dealing specifically with rape, support to victims of rape is provided by the Domestic Violence Unit in Malta and other women's centres in Greece and Italy.

Five countries (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Hungary and Norway) reported having one rape crisis centre, three of these were run by women's NGOs. In Norway, this service is part of the network of the Norwegian Foundation against Sexual Abuse.

Germany reported having 183 rape crisis centres, UK 61, Spain 26, Ireland 16 Switzerland and Austria 6 each and Iceland had two which are based in hospitals. In Austria, Germany, and UK rape crisis centres were run by women's NGOs. In Switzerland, two of the centres are run by women's NGOs and two by hospitals. In Iceland and Spain the service is run by the State.

Only six countries provided information on sources of funding for rape crisis centres. In Spain the centres are funded by the State and in Norway the State contributed too as did the municipality. In Hungary the service is a helpline funded by foreign donors. Germany, UK and Switzerland rely on a mixture of funding from State, private donations and provincial support.

Only three countries were able to provide information on how many women were supported by rape crisis in their country. Scotland with 14 rape crisis centres offered support to 2,402 women in 2015. The only other countries which provided statistics on the number of women assisted were Norway and Hungary. Norway reported supporting 300 women in 2015 and Hungary approximately 150 callers which were not all female.

## Sexual Assault Centres

Armenia and Russia reported having one sexual assault centre each, both are run by women's NGOs and in Armenia this is funded by foreign donors. The Netherlands has eight sexual assault centres which covered most provinces, Croatia has two centres, Denmark and Ireland six each, while no further information was provided on these services.

Iceland has two sexual assault centres which are all run by women's NGOs. The UK reported 173 different sexual assault centres which were run by various organisations, some by women's NGOs. This number of 173 included, for example, 30 SARCs (sexual assault referral centres) in England and an undisclosed number of independent sexual violence advisors (ISVAs). In addition, the Survivors Trust operates as an umbrella agency with 135 specialist services for survivors of sexual violence in the UK and Ireland, but these services are not exclusively for women. The Athena Service, for example, provides support to women and girls over 13 and men over 16 who have experienced gender-based violence and has a particular focus on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. In Scotland there are four sexual violence services and Archway, a sexual assault referral centre which provides 24/7 forensic examinations, testing for infections, support and counselling to anyone over 12 years of age. In Northern Ireland, Nexus has a network of services providing counselling and support for survivors of sexual abuse across the country and the Rowan sexual assault referral centre is a State-run service working closely with the police, open 24/7 with a helpline providing information, counselling and advice, medical and forensic aid and follow up support to women, men and young people. The five sexual assault services in Romania are all run by NGOs, part of the network Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence, providing information, psychological counseling and legal assistance.

## Centres for Women Victims of Trafficking

Of the 18 countries with services for women victims of trafficking, Spain reported having 126 centres for trafficked women run by the State in large cities, Moldova has seven run by the State and Germany reported having 40 run by women's NGOs. The following countries have centres for trafficked women run by women's NGOs; Austria (1), Macedonia (1), Montenegro (1), Serbia (2) and Turkey (3). Seven countries reported having centres run by other NGOs; Armenia (2), Belgium (2), Czech Republic (3), Greece (1), Latvia (1), Liechtenstein (1), Slovenia (1). Croatia has (3) centres and Italy has about 70 centres run by

NGOs, however, not all are gender sensitive or women only and, therefore, not included in our statistics. Neither provided information on who ran these centres. The UK provided information on the Gaia Centre operating in England, which provides services for all victims of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, stalking, prostitution, trafficking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and so called honour-based violence and additionally supports clients who are transgender. The UK provided no further information on services for trafficked women.

## Centres Specifically for Girls who have Experienced Sexual Violence

Of the five countries which reported having centres specifically for girls, Germany reported having a large network of 67 centres, which also support women who were sexually abused as girls and are run by women's NGOs. Their funding comes from the State and private donations. In Norway, a network of 21 centres also provide support to girls who have experienced incest and sexual abuse within a service geared to children which does not promote a gendered analysis of sexual violence. Austria has three centres providing support specifically for girls, run by women's NGOs and financed by the State and private donations. Moldova and Serbia each have one centre providing services to girls, in Serbia this is run by a women's NGO. Italy and Malta both indicated that this need was served by their other services.

## Women's Centres for Black, Migrant or Ethnic Minority Women

Austria has seven such centres run by NGOs, Serbia three and the UK two, Turkey, Switzerland and Liechtenstein each had one centre and Italy had an unknown number run by women's NGOs. In Armenia, the one centre was run by the State, and in Finland there was no information provided on who ran the one centre available.

## Intervention Centres with a Pro-active Approach

Intervention centres serve as a model of proactive assistance to women who have called the police due to domestic violence and are well established in Austria (9 centres), Czech Republic (18 centres), Germany (130 centres) and Lithuania (16 centres). These are all run by women's NGOs. Intervention centres in Lithuania supported over 8,000 women in 2015. Finland, Liechtenstein, Macedonia and Moldova each have one centre, in Macedonia and Moldova these are run by a women's NGO and in Moldova 180 women were supported in 2014. In Austria, Lithuania and Macedonia these centres are supported by the State. In Germany State support is supplemented by private donations.

## Regional Crisis Centres for Victims of Domestic Violence serving predominantly Women with a Gender-specific Approach

This model was common in Poland (34 centres), Russia (19), Bulgaria (14), Armenia and Belgium (each with seven centres), Slovakia with five centres and Albania and Montenegro with one centre each. With the exception of Albania, these centres were run by women's NGOs, although in Belgium some centres were run by the State. In most countries these centres were based in major cities, in Belgium however, the centres served a rural population. In Bulgaria this work was partly financed by the State, in Armenia and Slovakia they relied on foreign donors.

## Types of Services

Of the 37 countries which responded to this section, all the non-residential services reported provided information and advice, counselling, advocacy and legal advice and empowering support. All provided practical support with the exception of Bosnia & Herzegovina. Only Greece and Iceland did not provide risk assessment and safety planning for women contacting them for support.

All but four countries (Denmark, Greece, Macedonia and Portugal) provide specialist support for children at their non-residential centres. Similarly, all but four countries (Albania, Macedonia, Portugal and Russia) provide multi-lingual support. 29 countries provide specialist support for black, minority ethnic, asylum-seeking women (exceptions were Albania, Macedonia, Portugal, Russia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic and Lithuania).

If women pressed charges against their abuser, almost all countries provide the service of accompanying women to court (except Croatia, Denmark, Greece and Spain). In Iceland the State provides legal representation if victims reported the crime. Where this was not available, support services provided this with the exception of Turkey, Spain, Slovenia, Portugal, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Germany, Finland and Croatia.

Denmark, Greece, Latvia and Liechtenstein do not conduct outreach. Floating/mobile support is reportedly not provided by Albania, Austria, Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Montenegro and Switzerland.

Social support, such as support in the areas of income, work, housing, childcare, healthcare or residency permits, is provided by all countries except Iceland where this was provided by State run social services. Most countries did provide this kind of support with the following specific exceptions: Russia and the Ukraine did not provide income support; Ukraine also did not provide work support; Macedonia and Serbia did not provide housing support; Greece, Macedonia and Ukraine did not provide childcare support; Turkey and Macedonia did not provide healthcare support; Greece, Macedonia and Serbia did not provide help with residency permits.

All but two countries (Latvia and Slovakia) co-ordinate multi-agency support for survivors. Survivors were supported to organise themselves in most countries with the exception of Albania, Croatia, Greece, Russia, and Ukraine. These countries also do not support participation of survivors in policy development and evaluation and are joined by Latvia, Macedonia, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey.

Iceland provided the additional information, describing that in the organization Stigamot, there are about 10– 15 self-help groups for women working in prostitution to deal with consequences, develop feminist work, conduct outreach, pressure authorities for legal improvement and policy development and make priority lists.

## Recommendations for Women's Centres

- ▶ Women's centres are, together with women's helplines and women's shelters, core agencies for the support of women victims of violence and their children, if any. They include services such as rape crises and sexual assault centres and they should exist in every region/province of a country to provide gender-sensitive, human rights based and empowering services to survivors (see WAVE standards for specialised women's support services annexed to this report).
- ▶ There is a need for continuing development of specialist women's support services addressing the issue of violence against particular groups of women, e.g. women with disabilities or women in particular circumstances e.g. female asylum seekers. Additionally, women in rural areas should also be assured access to such services.
- ▶ Existing services should have secure funding for their work, be well networked and advertised to provide a safety net for victims of gender based violence.
- ▶ Having established a better idea of which services exist in which countries more detailed research is required to establish reliable information on the scale and range of services available. In addition further research needs to be carried out on definitions of different types of women's centres in order to provide more reliable data.

**TABLE 19 – National Women's Networks in 46 European Countries**

Countries	National Women's Networks	Number of Members	Legal Entity	Existence of a National Office	State Funding
Albania	3	18	Yes	Yes	No
Armenia	1	7	/	/	/
Austria	6	141	Yes	Yes	Yes
Azerbaijan	/	/	/	/	/
Belarus	0	/	/	/	/
Belgium	2	33	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2	69	No	No	No
Bulgaria	1	11	Yes	Yes	Yes
Croatia	1	30	Yes	Yes	No
Cyprus	1	9	No	/	/
Czech Republic	2	25	Yes	Yes	No
Denmark	11	42	/	Yes	/
Estonia	2	14	Yes	Yes	No
Finland	4	98	Yes	Yes	No
France	1	64	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	1	14	Yes	Yes	No
Germany	5	278	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greece	1	61	Yes	Yes	No
Hungary	2	27	Yes	Yes	No
Iceland	0	/	/	/	/
Ireland	2	35	/	Yes	Yes
Italy	1	73	Yes	Yes	No
Kosovo	2	101	Yes	/	/
Latvia	0	/	/	/	/
Liechtenstein	1	16	No	Yes	Yes
Lithuania	1	10	No	Yes	Yes
Luxembourg	0	/	/	/	/
Macedonia	1	20	Yes	Yes	No
Malta	0	/	/	/	/
Moldova	1	18	/	/	No
Montenegro	1	6	No	No	No
Netherlands	1	70	/	/	/
Norway	2	86	/	Yes	Yes
Poland	1	7	/	/	/
Portugal	2	/	Yes	Yes	/
Romania	4	39	No	Yes	No
Russia	3	At least 150	No	No	No
Serbia	1	27	No	Yes	No
Slovakia	1	8	No	No	No
Slovenia	1	19	No	No	No
Spain	0	/	/	/	/
Sweden <sup>37</sup>	2	230	/	/	/
Switzerland	4	1,092 <sup>38</sup>	Yes	Yes	No
Turkey	1	21	No	No	No
Ukraine	4	60	Yes	No	/
United Kingdom	19	571	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>3,520</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>

<sup>37</sup> Information provided on the websites of the organisations Roks – <http://www.roks.se/about-roks-1>, and Unizon - <http://unizon.se/>

<sup>38</sup> The data is an aggregated number of organisation and individual memberships.

**TABLE 20 – Women's Centres in 46 European Countries**

Countries	Total Population	Number of Women's Centres	Indicator (Population/ Women's Centres)	Geographical Coverage
Albania	2,895,947	6	482,658	Major cities
Armenia	3,010,598	13	231,584	All provinces
Austria	8,506,889	32	265,840	Major cities
Azerbaijan	9,356,483	0	/	/
Belarus	9,463,840	0	/	/
Belgium	11,203,992	25	448,160	All provinces
Bosnia & Herzegovina	3,791,662	8	473,958	All provinces
Bulgaria	7,245,677	14	517,548	Major cities
Croatia	4,246,809	20	212,340	/
Cyprus	858,000	1	858,000	Major cities
Czech Republic	10,538,300	23	458,187	All provinces
Denmark	5,627,235	10	562,723	/
Estonia	1,315,819	0	/	/
Finland	5,451,270	20	272,563	/
France	66,320,000	/	/	/
Georgia	4,497,617	6	749,602	Major cities
Germany	80,767,463	420	192,303	Most provinces
Greece	10,816,286	57	189,759	Just major cities
Hungary	9,877,365	1	9,877,365	All provinces
Iceland	329,100	6	54,850	Capital city
Ireland <sup>39</sup>	4,605,501	23	200,239	/
Italy	60,782,668	140	434,162	Most provinces
Kosovo	1,794,180	10	179,418	All provinces
Latvia	2,001,468	21	95,308	Just major cities
Liechtenstein	37,129	5	7,426	Capital city
Lithuania	2,943,472	16	183,967	All provinces
Luxembourg	549,680	13	42,283	All provinces
Macedonia	2,022,547	3	674,182	Capital city
Malta	425,284	1	425,284	Capital city
Moldova	3,559,497	26	136,904	All provinces
Montenegro	621,521	3	207,174	Capital city
Netherlands	16,829,289	44	382,484	All provinces
Norway	5,107,970	23	222,086	All provinces
Poland <sup>40</sup>	38,017,856	35	1,086,224	Capital city
Portugal	10,347,822	7	1,478,260	All provinces
Romania	19,947,311	26	767,204	/
Russia	142,856,536	20	7,142,827	/
Serbia	7,146,759	28	255,241	All provinces
Slovakia	5,415,949	5	1,083,190	/
Slovenia	2,061,085	7	294,441	Just major cities
Spain	46,439,864	869	53,441	All provinces
Sweden	9,644,864	/	/	/
Switzerland	8,139,631	27	301,468	All provinces
Turkey	76,667,864	59	1,299,455	Just major cities
Ukraine	42,701,791	3	14,233,930	Capital city
United Kingdom	64,308,261	863	74,517	All provinces
<b>Total</b>	<b>831,096,151</b>	<b>2,937</b>	<b>282,975</b>	

<sup>39</sup> Information provided in the WAVE Report 2014, P.63, published in 2015.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.P.70.

**TABLE 21 – Categories of Women's Centres in 46 European Countries**

Countries	Women's Centres (non-residential services)	Rape Crisis Centres	Sexual Assault Centres	Centres for Girls experiencing Sexual Abuse	Intervention Centres	Regional Crisis Centres for Victims of Domestic Violence	Centres for Black, and Minority Ethnic (BME) Women	Centres for Women Victims of Trafficking	Other kinds of Women's Services, i.e. IDVAs, ISVAs	Number of Women's Centres (All Categories)
Albania	5	/	/	/	/	1	/	/	/	6
Armenia	2	/	1	/	/	7	1	2	0	13
Austria	6	6	/	3	9	/	7	1	/	32
Azerbaijan	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0
Belarus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belgium	15	1	0	0	0	7	0	2	/	25
Bosnia & Herzegovina	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Bulgaria	/	/	/	/	/	14	/	/	/	14
Croatia	15	/	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	20
Cyprus	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Czech Republic	2	0	0	0	18	0	0	3	0	23
Denmark	3	1	6	/	/	/	/	/	IDVAs	10
Estonia	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0
Finland	17	1	/	/	1	/	1	/	/	20
France	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Georgia	6	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	6
Germany	0	183	/	67	130	/	/	40	/	420
Greece	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	57
Hungary	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Iceland	1	2	3	/	/	/	/	/	/	6
Ireland <sup>41</sup>	/	16	7	/	/	/	/	/	/	23
Italy	140	0	0	0	0	0	/	/	/	140
Kosovo	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Latvia	20	0	0	0	0	/	/	1	/	21
Liechtenstein	2	0	0	0	1	/	1	1	0	5
Lithuania	/	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	/	16
Luxembourg	13	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
Macedonia	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Malta	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Moldova	16	1	/	1	1	/	0	7	/	26
Montenegro	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Netherlands	35	/	8	/	/	/	/	/	1	44
Norway	/	1	/	21	/	/	/	/	/	22
Poland <sup>42</sup>	1	/	/	/	/	34	/	/	/	35
Portugal	7	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	7
Romania	21	/	5	/	/	/	/	/	/	26
Russia	/	/	1	/	/	19	/	/	/	20
Serbia	22	0	0	1	/	/	3	2	/	28
Slovakia	/	/	/	/	/	5	/	/	/	5
Slovenia	6	/	/	/	/	/	/	1	/	7
Spain	717	26	0	0	/	/	/	126	/	869
Sweden	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Switzerland	19	6	0	0	/	/	1	0	1	27
Turkey	55	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	/	59
Ukraine	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
United Kingdom	16	108	36	/	/	/	2	/	700 <sup>43</sup>	862
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>2,937</b>

<sup>41</sup> Information provided in the WAVE Report 2014, P.63, published in 2015.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.P.70.

<sup>43</sup> These are only two examples of a range of similar services in England.