

# The EU Mutual Learning Programme in Gender Equality

# Support services for victims of violence in asylum and migration Greece, 20-21 February 2018

## **Comments Paper – Portugal**



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Justice

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## Victims of violence in asylum and migration: from an ecological public health approach to networking

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### 1. Relevant country context

# 1.1. Brief presentation and assessment of the situation in Portugal

Portugal has been investing in public policies in the field of citizenship and promotion of equality between women and men, in particular by promoting actions aimed at the civic awareness regarding the identification of discriminatory situations and of ways to eliminate them. The Government has the fundamental task of promoting equality between women and men as an integral part of the promotion of human rights. Portugal is firmly committed to implementing the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. In fact, Portugal was the first European Union country to ratify this Convention. At the UN, Portugal has been a firm supporter of integrating the issue of women's rights in the post-2015 development agenda and advocating for the establishment of a stand-alone goal on preventing and eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls. In this context, mainstreaming gender equality at all levels of the Public Administration is a political commitment and a strategy for achieving equality between women and men, girls and boys<sup>i</sup>.

#### 1.1.1 Gender based violence at national level<sup>ii</sup>

- Portugal has made a long solid legal evolution<sup>iii</sup>, reinforced by the implementation of several National Plans in the areas of Gender Equality, Citizenship and Non-Discrimination, Domestic and Gender Violence, Trafficking in Human Beings, Female Genital Mutilation, Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).
- Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG)<sup>iv</sup> is the public Portuguese body that ensures the implementation of public policies in the field of citizenship and the promotion of equality between women and men. CIG is legally under the responsibility of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
- The National Programme for Mental Health (Directorate-General of Health, Ministry of Health) has developed trainings for health professionals (mental) and professionals from other sectors. Such trainings represent potential response to the "problem", aiming at the prevention / early detection of intimate partner violence, and the promotion of networking.

# 1.1.2 Gender based violence at regional level. The experience of Coimbra (Centre of Portugal)

- Supporting the guidelines of the National Programme for Mental Health (Directorate-General of Health, Ministry of Health) and the initiatives proposed by the National Plans proposed by the CIG, and on the continuity of the work carried out by the Family Violence Unit (UVF, 2005) and by Center for Prevention and Treatment of Psychological Trauma (CPTTP, 2013)<sup>v,vi</sup>, UVF and CPTTP are investing since 2005 in the implementation of responses to victims of (potentially) traumatic situations, intentional (eq, violence) and unintentional situations (e.g., natural disasters, road accidents). In the case of family / intimate partner violence, along with the response to victims, there is also a programme for perpetrators. UVF/CPTTP have the support of the "Violence: Information, Research, Intervention"vii (2002) and "School Against Violence" (2007)<sup>viii</sup> networks. Along with the clinical activities, it develops activities in the areas of training<sup>ix,x</sup>/supervision<sup>xi</sup> and research. UVF/CPTTP support a social-ecological<sup>xii</sup> systemic public health approach. UVF/CPTTP are also investing in networking, a fundamental strategy to respond more effectively and efficiently to the multiple needs of those requesting help, but also important for a more accurate assessment of the risk / danger associated with situations of violence.
- In order to broaden the network and promote even more investment in research / training, UVF / CPTTP are co-founders of the Agency for the Prevention of Trauma and Human Rights Violation<sup>xiii</sup>, CHUC (2014).

# 1.1.3 Gender based violence and how it is tackled in the context of asylum and migration

- At national level:
  - Organisation of seminars, workshops, awareness-raising, etc., by all sectors, including security forces, education, justice, social security, health, municipalities, NGO's, etc. (CIG);
  - Training of professionals dealing directly with migrants through special courses
- At regional level: experience in Coimbra
  - Family Violence Unit (UVF) / Centre for Prevention and Treatment of Psychological Trauma (CPTTP) provide care to refugees who are referred to us. Along with the response to psychiatric symptomatology that motivates the request for help (more often PTSD, depression), UVF seeks a better (re)integration through networking.
  - At the regional level, efforts are made to raise awareness of the population and professionals on reality and needs of refugees, including the issue of gender-based violence, such as the national meeting organised in 2016<sup>xiv</sup>, and the discussion / day to day reflection on this theme in the networks.
  - A telehealth project targeting the migrant victims of intimate partner violence of Portuguese nationality. It is a pilot experience that will be undertaken in Portugal, when implemented by UVF and "Violence: Information, Research, Intervention" network. Given the multiplicity of services involved in supporting

migrants (and also the aiming to extend networking) such strategy could be useful for national / international communication between services / professionals.

 CPTTP and UVF contribute to the project the "Healthy Night of the Cities of the Centre of Portugal" carried out in partnership with the European Institute of Studies on Prevention (IREFREA<sup>xv</sup>), Portugal. The project aims to contribute to the prevention of problems associated with recreational contexts and night recreation, from a public health and networking perspective (project application in progress under the Portugal 2020 programme). It focuses on preventing interpersonal violence (including violence in intimate relationships), alcohol and drugs consumption and road accidents; it covers 21 municipalities in the central region of Portugal.

### 2. Related good practice initiatives

# 2.1. Good practices supporting victims of gender-based violence<sup>xvi</sup>

Portugal has made significant efforts not only to inform and raise awareness of potential victims of violence and the community in general, including men and boys, but also to develop concrete measures and policies to prevent and combat violence against women and girls.

## 2.1.1 Good practices supporting victims of gender based violence, which could be applied to asylum seekers and migrants.

- Strategies established through the National Plans against Domestic and Gender based Violence, such as: (1) Annual information campaigns<sup>xvii</sup> (video clips, radio spots, press, posters and inter) for specific target groups to spread information and awareness raising programmes on domestic and gender-based violence. (2) Development and dissemination of informative and educational materials addressed to educational community; (3) The fifth National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Domestic and Gender-based Violence (2014-2017) which establishes preventive measures, including strengthening of the municipalities, the development of programmes to eliminate gender stereotypes and to empower women and girls, particularly directed at the educational community and especially addressing the issues of bullying, violence through information and communication technologies and teen dating violence. This Plan includes the III Action Programme to Prevent and Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation (2014-2017); (4) The new asylum law covers applicants with special needs, inter alia, persons who have been subjected to acts of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual treatment, such as victims of domestic violence and victims of female genital mutilation (read more<sup>xviii</sup>).
- In Coimbra, CPTTP, along with the activities of the UVF (programmes for victims and perpetrators in the context of family/intimate partner violence), provides care to victims of human trafficking, war victims and other interpersonal violence, refugees in need of mental health / psychiatric care and it invests in prevention/intervention actions on moral / sexual harassment in the workplace<sup>xix</sup> (CHUC) and in victims of unintentional traumatic events.

- In terms of prevention, the Violence: Information, Research and Intervention Group and the Family Violence Unit (UVF), together with a theatre group of Coimbra (Bonifrates), created a play<sup>xx</sup> about violence in the family context with the aim of sensitising the population about the subject.
- In order to invest in prevention actions with children and young people, the UVF, "Violence: Information, Research, Intervention" and "School Against Violence" networks, together with the Academy of the Professional Soccer Club of the city (Académica<sup>xxi</sup>) have invested in a project directed to that population which included training of team coaches.
- "School Against Violence" network develops throughout the school year several activities associated with gender equality and violence (e.g., bullying, dating violence, violence in the family context)

## 3. Policy debate

# 3.1. Relevant issues currently being raised and debated in Portugal

- The Portuguese High Commission for Migration is strengthening its commitment to develop measures and actions concerning migrant women, including refugees. At present, it is carrying out an assessment on how to improve the responses to the needs of these women. This is being done in networking involving relevant stakeholders, namely public authorities and NGOs. Since October 2007, the Intersectorial Working Group for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation, coordinated by the CIG, is responsible for coordinating the Programme of Action for the Prevention and Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation, currently in its third edition<sup>xxii</sup>.
- Within the scope of the National Programme for Mental Health (PNSM), CPTTP and UVF are collaborating in the organisation and implementation of a national training course addressed to professionals who provide support to migrants/refugees under the *Cooperation Protocol Support addressed to Applicants and Beneficiaries under International Protection<sup>xxiii</sup>* (in progress).
- Aiming at a more accurate evaluation and registration of information on a caseby-case basis (e.g. risk, childhood adversity, psychological trauma / psychopathology, resilience,...), the PNSM has scheduled the creation of a working group to standardise / (re)define evaluation instruments to be adopted as well as the strategy to be implemented.
- Portugal is now preparing the National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination 2018-2030 "Portugal + Equal". This new approach is based on three main pillars: (1) The first pillar is entitled "Plan of Action for Equality between Women and Men", and it is divided into 77 proposed actions, "among them the fight against school drop-out by Roma girls. (2) The second pillar is entitled "Plan to Combat Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence" and includes, among other measures, training for magistrates, with the aim of avoiding situations of discrimination based on gender in the justice sector. (3) The third pillar is innovative, titled "Plan to Combat Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics".

## 4. Learning

### 4.1. Sharing experiences and knowledge

The current mutual learning seminar involving professionals from various countries represents a useful tool for sharing experiences and knowledge, and contributs to the improvement of services to migrants. The policies presented by Greece provide a good example.

## 4.1.1 Protecting and supporting victims of gender based violence. And what about the perpetrator?

- In Greece victims of gender based violence (GBV) are particularly vulnerable and require a special approach by professionals addressing their needs. In the case of refugee victims, new legislation and adequate physical and human resources for victims of gender-based violence (usually women and children) are required. There is no doubt that the history of each of our countries determines the steps that have been taken in this matter.
- Multiple strategies to protect the victims can be adopted depending on the transcultural context factors. Many questions can be raised: How to deal with the ambivalence of the victims, sometimes associated with the history of exposure to traumatic situations intra and extra familiar, possibly starting in childhood? What's the best strategy to intervene with the perpetrator in the context of family violence? What if there is a need for intervention by mental health services? How to stimulate acceptance of the intervention?

#### 4.1.2 Thinking about prevention

• What to share taking into account the campaigns aimed at the prevention of gender based violence and the information produced (for the general population and for professionals)? Which strategies we can disseminate? Which ones are the best for children and young people? And for victims? And for perpetrators? What role does the school play in its dissemination? And health services? And social security? Which documents should be translated into the various languages for migrant population?

#### 4.1.3 Networking

- At regional/national level, networking (multidisciplinary / multisectoral) represents a key strategy for working towards the integration of refugees. How to implement networking? By spontaneous initiative? Through the initiative of a civil society organisation or of the public power? How to overcome an hierarchical culture? How to evaluate the work done by the network?
- At the international level, it is important to empower the involved professionals, by breaking down "frontiers" and bringing them closer together. At this level, along with other strategies adopted in each country of the EU, it might help in the prevention of burnout. An interesting question is': Who protects the professionals who work in this area from the risk factors associated with their work (exhaustion, demotivation, detachment)?

### 5. Conclusions and recommendations

### 5.1. Final note

"Violence is not inevitable. We can do much to address and prevent it. The individuals, families and communities whose lives each year are shattered by it can be safeguarded, and the root causes of violence tackled to produce a healthier society for all" (WHO, 2002)<sup>xxiv</sup>.

#### 5.1.1 Additional considerations

- Violence is the result of the complex interplay of individual, relationship, social, cultural and environmental factors (ecological model), with a serious impact on health, including death, and human well-being. If we can understand how these factors are related to violence (public health approach) and from this knowledge we act to assume strategies (universal, selected, indicated) at the level of primary, secondary, tertiary prevention, based on a multilevel approach, from micro to macrosystem, we are taking important steps towards violence prevention. As WHO (2002) states a multilevel approach involves: (1) Identifying individual and personal relationships risk factors, and at these levels: taking steps to modify individual risk behaviors, working to create healthy "family" environments, and providing professional help when necessary. (2) Invest in monitoring public places and taking steps to address problems that might lead to violence. (3) Addressing gender inequality, adverse cultural attitudes and practices. (4) Addressing cultural, social and economic factors that contribute to violence, and taking steps to change them. Networking represents an important approach for a multilevel strategy.
- In this framework to stimulate violence prevention activities on a regional and global scale and to promote migrants health and well-being it is important to **invest even more in research, transcending national boundaries**.
- Some key terms to consider in the areas to be investigated: refugees, childhood adverse events, epigenetic, family / intimate partner violence, war and human rights, psychological trauma / mental health symptoms, human trafficking, radicalisation, quality of life.
- It should be emphasised that although some risk factors may be unique to a particular type of violence, various types of violence share a number of common risk factors. As a result, it is not unusual to detect links between different types of violence. As WHO (2002) reports "research has shown that exposure to violence at home is associated with being a victim or perpetrator of violence in adolescence and adulthood. The experience of being rejected, neglected or suffering indifference at the hands of parents leaves children at greater risk for aggressive and antisocial behaviour, including abusive behaviour as adults". It should therefore be stressed that preventing gender-based violence.
- In order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of individual/family interventions and networking, it is essential to invest in training professionals<sup>xxv</sup> to prevent re-victimisation, increasing the risk of silencing violence, along with the isolation and greater vulnerability of their personal social network, placing the victim in the hands of her aggressor or other potential aggressors.

• Stimulate the ability to (re)define strategies and to (re)evaluate the impact of international laws and treaties designed to reduce violence, in order to disseminate or to change them when we realise that they are ineffective.

- Some major landmarks: 1982 The Criminal Code typifies the crime of ill-treatment to a spouse or equivalent; 1999 - First National Plan against Domestic Violence (1999-2002); 2000 - The Crime of ill-treatment to spouse or equivalent becomes a public crime. The crime of domestic violence is expressly established and punished under the Penal Code and is considered a public crime (prosecutable ex officio irrespective of victim's complaint). Further legal amendments were introduced to extend the concept of domestic violence to dating and other intimate relationships without cohabitation; 2007 - Penal Reform implements the domestic violence crime autonomously through article 152 of the Penal Code; 2009 - Law no. 112/2009, of 09/16, amended and republished by Law no. 129/2015 of 3 September, which establishes the legal framework applicable to the prevention, protection and assistance of domestic violence victims and creates The National Support Network for Domestic Violence Victims; 2012 - Portugal introduced at the Immigration Law (Act 23/07, 4<sup>th</sup> July) the issuing of a resident permit to foreign national women victims of domestic violence; 2013 - Council of Europe Convention for the Prevention and Fight against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) adopted by the Republic Assembly Resolution No. 4/2013 and ratified by the Republic President's Decree no. 13/2013. Portugal amended the Penal Code with the publication of law 83/2015, 5th august (thirty-eighth amendment to the Penal Code) autonomizing the crime of female genital mutilation, creating crimes of persecution and forced marriage and altering the crimes of rape, sexual coercion and sexual harassment, in compliance with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention; 2014 - The V National Plan to Prevent and Combat Domestic and Gender-based Violence (2014-2017) that includes the III Programme of Action for the Prevention and Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation 2014-2017; 2015 – Portugal has transposed the Victim's Directive to its National Legal System.
- <sup>IV</sup> CIG (<u>https://www.cig.gov.pt/</u>) coordinates the four national plans: (1) V National Plan for gender equality, citizenship and non discrimination (V PNI 2014-2017); (2) V National Plan for preventing and combating domestic and gender violence (V PNPCVDG 2014-2017), that contains the III action programme for the prevention and elimination of FGM (2014-2017). It is supported by a working group composed of representatives from the ministries that are responsible for the largest number of measures, as well as representatives from non-governmental organisations which integrate CIG's advisory council; (3) 3rd national plan against trafficking in human beings (2014-2017) and the (4) II National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2014-2018).
- <sup>v</sup> This Centre, along with the activities of the UVF (which is now part of the CPTTP), provides care to victims of human trafficking, war and other interpersonal violence victims, refugees in need of mental health care/psychiatry, invests in prevention/intervention in relation to moral/sexual harassment in the workplace (CHUC) and victims of unintentional traumatic events (Note: in the wake of the catastrophe associated with the fires that recently devastated the central region of Portugal, the CPTTP collaborated with the Central Regional Health Administration in the organization of the responses and assumed the organization/provision of mental health/psychiatry in one of the Municipalities).
- <sup>vi</sup> UVF e CPTTP integrate the Department of Mental Health and Psychiatry Coimbra Hospital and University Centre.
- <sup>viii</sup> The network "Violence: Information, Research, Intervention" (Grupo V!!!) was formally established in Coimbra in 2002. The following institutions belong to this network: Regional Health Administration of the Centre Region (ARSC); District Centre of Solidarity and Social Security of the District of Coimbra; Coimbra Hospital and University Centre - CHUC (the Family Violence Unit and the Centre for Prevention and Treatment of Psychological Trauma - Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health; Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Service; Emergency Room); Centre Delegation of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> Portugal is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective in all government activities, including in all policies implemented at the Central and Local levels of Public Administration, which translates into the adoption of Plans for Gender Equality in all ministries and municipalities, and the nomination of ministerial and municipal Gender Equality Advisers. Also, the cooperation between the government and other relevant stakeholders, such as private sector, civil society organisations, including women's rights NGO's, academia, etc., is of utmost importance to achieve equality between women and men.

Read more in "Report submitted by Portugal pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Baseline Report)" (<u>https://rm.coe.int/portugal-state-report/168074173e</u>)

the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences; Department for Investigation and Penal Action (DIAP), Coimbra; Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Coimbra; Bissaya Barreto Foundation (FBB); Office of Victim Support Coimbra, APAV; National Guard (GNR), Coimbra; National Institute of Medical Emergency (INEM); Public Security Police (PSP) of Coimbra. (www.violencia.online.pt/)

- <sup>viii</sup> The network "School Against Violence" includes the following organizations: Coimbra Group of Schools Central; Coimbra Group of Schools West; Coimbra Group of Schools South; Avelar Brotero Secondary School; D. Dinis Secondary School (3rd Cycle); Coimbra Hospital and University Centre - CHUC (the Family Violence Unit and the Centre for Prevention and Treatment of Psychological Trauma – Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health; Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Service); Commission for Protection of Children and Youth of Coimbra (CPCJ Coimbra); Bissaya Barreto Foundation (FBB); Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra – Coimbra College of Education (ESEC). (http://grupoviolenciaeescola.blogspot.pt/)
- <sup>ix</sup> It is important to register an investment, in 2009-2012, in the reinforcement of multidisciplinary / multisectoral networking at national level in the area of gender violence prevention, a national project led by CIG, supported by several regional Health and Education partnerships, from north to south of the Portugal. The Network Violence: Information, Research, Intervention, Coimbra (centre of the country) and the Family Violence Unit collaborated in the training activities developed. This initiative allowed us, in the centre region of Portugal, where we work day by day, to implement several multidisciplinary / multisectoral networks with the "gateway" in Primary Health Care (PIR 2009-2012).
- <sup>x</sup> Aiming to disseminate our practices and the underlying thinking model we published in 2012: (1) The book "Without domestic violence". Defends an ecological public health approach, and report the multidisciplinary and multisectoral strategies we developed (USF team and our networks), in the area of family/intimate partner violence prevention / intervention. It includes our history, our programmes for victims and perpetrators, and the perspective of other sectors / professionals about networking at the level of prevention / intervention, consultancy / supervision, training, and research. (2) The Manual "SARAR", addresses the issue of family / intimate partner violence, embodying some of the knowledge and experience we acquired over the last decade in the Family Violence Unit (USF), under our work (clinic/networking). Among various topics: reinforce the importance of health services as a privileged space for early diagnose of family/intimate partner violence and risk/danger assessment and management (networking); describes the strategies to be adopted and how to implement them (plan, processes and examples); define indicators for evaluation / research in these matters. (Portuguese version <u>www.violencia.online.pt</u>).
- <sup>xi</sup> UVF supervises a support network for victims of domestic violence in Figueira da Foz and the team of a shelter house. We also supervises the team of the Commission for the Protection of Children and Youth at risk of Coimbra
- <sup>xii</sup> "The ecological framework highlights the multiple causes of violence and the interaction of risk factors operating within the family and broader community, social, cultural and economic contexts. Placed within a developmental context, the ecological model also shows how violence may be caused by different factors at different stages of life" (WHO, 2002).
- xiii Based on national and international guidelines and recommendations, as well as the experience of networking in the region of Coimbra, it upholds the importance of creating, implementing and monitoring a regional plan for the prevention of violence and other traumatic unintentional situations, based on a perspective of public health and networking, multidisciplinary/multisectoral. The Institutions that integrate the Agency's scientific board are: Group of Schools of Central Coimbra; Central Regional Health Administration; Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV); Portuguese Family Planning Association; National Civil Protection Authority; Diocesan Caritas of Coimbra; Coimbra Town Hall; District Centre of Solidarity and Social Security of Coimbra; Coimbra's Territorial Command of the National Republican Guard (GNR); Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG); Commission for the Protection of Children and Youth at Risk (CPCJ) of Coimbra; Coimbra's District Council of the Portuguese Bar Association; Portuguese Red Cross; Directorate-General of Educational Establishments; "ERGUE-TE" - Social Intervention Team; Secondary School Jaime Cortesão; Faculty of Medicine of the University of Coimbra; Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Coimbra; Bissaya Barreto Foundation; National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences; Amnesty International - Portugal; Order of Portuguese Psychologists; National Programme for Mental Health - Directorate-General of Health; Public Security Police; Saúde em Português - Non-Governmental Organization; Centre Regional Chamber of the Portuguese Order of Physicians; Immigration and Borders Service (SEF); Centre Regional Chamber of the Portuguese Order of Nurses; Portuguese Society for the Study of Mental Health. Currently there are five research projects in progress in the area of violence against

elderly, violence in the context of deprivation of liberty, violence in health services, teen dating violence, and violence in the school context.

- <sup>xiv</sup> <u>https://www.cig.gov.pt/2015/11/seminario-comemorando-os-direitos-humanos-refugiados-</u> <u>migrantes-desafios-atuais-9-dez-coimbra/</u>
- <sup>xv</sup> <u>http://irefrea.org/international-forum-on-healthy-nightlife-coimbra-2016/</u> (event organized to start publicizing the idea behind the project)
- <sup>xvi</sup> Read more in "Report submitted by Portugal pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Baseline Report)" (<u>https://rm.coe.int/portugal-state-report/168074173e</u>)
- <sup>xvii</sup> The survey on Violence against Women carried out by Fundamental Rights Agency (published in March 2017) found that, in Portugal, 70 % of the women asked have recently seen or heard awareness-raising campaigns (EU average is 50 %).
- xviii More strategies established through the National Plans against Domestic and Gender based Violence, which could be applied to asylum seekers and migrants: (5) The protection and assistance to victims and the prevention of re-occurrence of domestic violence are also core concerns and they include free-of-charge and easy to use tele assistance to victims as well as remote surveillance of perpetrators; legal, medical, social and labour support to victims; or the development of a public network of 39 shelters for women victims of domestic violence and their children, with a total of 669 vacancies (679 places, counting with 10 places for male victims). (6) Between 2012 and 2015, 3.75% (4.75% since 2016) of the revenue from social games (e.g. lotteries) allocated to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers have been used in fighting genderbased violence, including domestic violence, and in promoting gender equality. This mechanism improved the funding of transportation of victims, emergency accommodation and shelters, health care, victim-support centres, the use of electronic devices in surveillance and assistance activities, empowerment of victims, training, information and NGO support. (7) In March 2016, the Parliament approved a proposal to amend the State Budget to exempt victims of domestic violence from paying court fees, which implies that any victim of domestic violence intervening as an assistant in legal proceedings of this type are exempt of any payment. This measure aims to eliminate the financial constraints that may affect the decision of victims of domestic violence to seek redress. (8) Since 2016, each ministry must include in its budget the funds related to domestic violence prevention, protection and assistance of its victims, informing the member of the Government responsible for Gender Equality area. (9) Since 2016, a new decentralisation strategy to prevent and combat domestic and gender-based violence was launched, based on a joint effort and networking involving the central public administration and the local public administration.
- xix The Office for the Prevention of Moral / Sexual Harassment (CPTTP), supported by Labor Medicine and the Legal Office of CHUC, has been a positive experience, as evidenced by the demand for it.
- xx http://www.bonifrates.com/historial/estilhaços
- xxi http://www.academica-oaf.pt/briosatv/
- <sup>XXII</sup> More concretely, the Portuguese High Commission for Migration prioritizes collaborative work in this area, integrates the Jury of the Prize "Against FGM To Change the Future Now", promoted by the Portuguese Commission for Equality and Citizenship, and participates in the organization of the Regional Meeting on FGM, which was already held twice (February 2016 and February 2017).
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Protocol involving a group of Portuguese institutions with the aim of improving their efficiency and effectiveness in responding to the needs of beneficiaries under international protection and applicants for international protection of temporary resident permit holders.
- xxiv Krug EG et al., eds. World report on violence and health. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002
- <sup>XXV</sup> In order to promote the "networking effect" it may help to invest in training groups integrating professionals from various disciplines / sectors, possibly from various countries / cultures, aiming to contribute to better deal with transculturality.