



European
Commission

The EU Mutual Learning Programme in Gender Equality

Combating domestic violence

Romania, 26-27 April 2023

Comments paper – Italy



Ein Unternehmen der ÖSB Gruppe.

The information and views set out in this paper are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.



This publication is supported by the European Union Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (2021-2027).

This programme is implemented by the European Commission and shall contribute to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons, as enshrined in the Treaty, the Charter and international human rights conventions, are promoted and protected.

For more information see: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/cerv>

Combating gender-based violence in Italy

Valentina Andreozzi

Department for Equal opportunities
of the Italian Government

Summary

- In Italy, preventing and combating male violence against women is central to the Government's action. On November 18, 2021, the Italian Government adopted a new **National Strategic Plan on Male Violence Against Women 2021-2023**, in continuity with the previous Plan 2017-2020.
- The Italian legislative framework is advanced on this issue. Its current implementation can rely today on stable and long-term resources, further increased with the last budget law.
- The Budget Law 2022 has made the National Strategic Plan structural through an assignment of resources of 5 million euros every year. According to the **Budget Law 2023**, the resources supporting the Plan were further increased from 5 to 15 million euros a year. Within the Plan, a specific focus is devoted to economic violence. In addition, planned actions are aimed to promote empowerment, financial autonomy, and a gender approach in labour policies in favour of all women, as a means of preventing and countering male economic violence and harassment in the workplace.
- The objective set by the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family through the '**National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2021-2023**' is to continue redoubling government efforts to address very specific needs relating to multiple aspects tied to conditions of violence: prevention; protection of victims; punishment of men who inflict violence; training and education of operators and population; information and awareness raising; action taken on abusive men; protection of migrant women and victims of various types of discrimination; employment, economic and housing autonomy; and the creation of more places dedicated to women.
- Women's empowerment is a fundamental goal to strengthen women's confidence in their abilities. For this reason, it is crucial to develop tools to prevent violence against women through:
 - financial education, awareness, and information policies to manage their economic autonomy, develop greater participation in decisions concerning their private and public lives;

- communication and awareness campaigns on the concept of economic violence; mentoring and coaching interventions to promote new positive role models.
- Italy has introduced two measures to combat economic violence. These measures are directly provided to women.
 - **Micro-credit of freedom:** The micro-credit of freedom is either a business-related credit (for aspiring entrepreneurs); or a social credit, linked to support 'personal' expenses (rents, books for children, and more). Business microcredit is an aid to lowering the APR (gross annual percentage rate) for loans directed to new businesses. Women victims of violence can use the social microcredit to deal mainly with personal issues.
 - **Income of freedom** which does not stipulate any specific destination for its use. The National Social Security Institute (INPS) finances the income of freedom. Anti-violence centres 'certify' their direction to women who can apply to obtain financial aid, that adds up to about 400 euros per month for a year. So far, Italy has financed 12 million euros and, in the coming months, will fund 1,850 million euros.
- In Italy, a **network of anti-violence centres** have been set up across the country to provide support to women victims of violence.

The agreement on the requirements of the CAV, CR and CUAV

In September 2022, the State-Regions Conference adopted an agreement which established the minimum requirements for the CR (refuge houses), CAV (anti-violence centres) and CUAV (Centres for Men who are authors of the violences). **CUAV** are structures whose staff implement programmes aimed at perpetrators of domestic and sexual and gender-based violence, to encourage them to adopt non-violent behaviours in interpersonal relationships, in order to modify violent behaviour patterns and to prevent recidivism. There are also programmes that can be implemented inside prisons.

Interventions dedicated to the recovery of the perpetrators of violence

The art. 26-bis of the decree-law n. 104/2020 has foreseen resources of 1 million euros starting from 2020, further increased by subsequent budget laws for a total of 9 million euros 2021-2022 dedicated to implement and setting up CUAV. Surveys were carried out in the months of May-September 2021. The response rate of the **anti-violence centres is 75.1% (263 CAV out of 350 active)**, that of the shelters is 66.1% (**242 houses out of 366**).

- **The help line 1522**

The 1522 was activated in 2006 by the Department for Equal Opportunities with the aim of developing a broad system action for the emergence and contrast of violence against women. In 2009 it started a support action also towards the victims of stalking. This number 1522 is active 24 hours a day, every day of the

year, and can be dialled free of charge from landline and mobile phones. The 1522 operators provide an initial response to the needs of victims of gender-based violence and stalking, by offering useful information and guidance towards the public and private social-health services in the territory and they guarantee anonymity to women. The official mapping of anti-violence centres has published on Equal Opportunities Department site.

How we learned about 1522

The best-known canals are the internet (42.2%), television (19.4%), relative/friend/acquaintance (14.1%), services and public offices (10.4%) and the press (5.8%).

- **The institutional communication campaign “1522. You are not alone”**

Each year, the Department for Equal Opportunities carries out an institutional communication campaign “1522. with the objective to disseminate on of knowledge of the number of public utility 1522.

- **Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into femicide**

On February 1, 2023, the Parliamentary Bicameral Commission of Inquiry into femicide was established, in continuity with the former one.

Further information

<https://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/it/politiche-e-attivita/violenza-di-genere/in-breve/>

<https://www.1522.eu/>

<https://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/it/news-e-media/media-e-campagne/campagna-di-comunicazione-contro-la-violenza-sulle-donne-1522-non-sei-sola/>