



PROJECT OUTLINE

Title: Stop viOleNce Against women with disAbilities (SONATA)

Call reference: [Call for proposals to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children](#) (CERV-2022-DAPHNE)

Duration: 24 months

Rationale:

Gender-based violence is violence directed against individuals because of their gender, with women and girls making up the vast majority of victims among which women and girls with disability are a significant group. Data available show that women with disabilities are 2 to 5 times more likely to face violence than other women and that 34% of women with a health problem or a disability have experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner in their lifetime. Gender-based violence remains one of our societies' biggest challenges and is deeply rooted in gender inequality. It is both a cause and consequence of gender inequalities. It is a violation of human rights and the most brutal form of discrimination on the basis of gender, and results from unequal power relations between women and men.

Violence affects women and girls with disabilities in a profound manner, having a direct impact on their already limited ability to participate fully in all aspects of society. They can also become victims of **disability specific violence** that are often not addressed in current policies on gender equality and combatting gender based and domestic violence. Examples of disability specific violence are restraint, sexual abuse during daily hygiene routines, removal or control of communication aids, violence in the course of treatment, overmedication or withholding medication. Perpetrators often take advantage of the barriers and discrimination



faced by women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind women and girls, and women and girls with high support needs.

The first pillar of the Gender Equality Strategy “Being free from violence and stereotypes” sets ambitious policy objectives and actions to tackle gender-based violence, including funding to support civil society and public services in preventing and combating gender-based violence. In addition, the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities and the Strategy on victims rights both recognise the higher risks faced by women with disabilities and needs for targeted measures to protect their rights. The Disability Strategy announced that “the Commission will ensure mainstreaming of disability-related aspects of violence and abuse into relevant future EU policies.”

Specific actions to combat violence against women and girls with disabilities are also required by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by the European Union and all its Member States. In 2015 the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that the EU “Take the necessary measures to mainstream disability in all legislation, policies and strategies for combating violence, abuse and exploitation, and provide effective protection from violence, abuse and exploitation to all persons with all types of disabilities inside and outside of the home environment.”

Aims & objectives :

- To mainstream the rights and needs of women and girls with disabilities in European and national initiatives to combat gender-based and domestic violence, including in legislation, policies and services for victims
- To build the capacity of organisations of persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, self-advocates and victims’ rights organisations to promote and protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities to be free from violence and to access justice may they become victims of violence



- To increase quality of service provision for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence

Target groups :

- Women and girls with disabilities, including those at higher risk of violence such as women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, Deafblind women and women with higher support needs
- Families of women and girls with disabilities
- Organisations of persons with disabilities, including organisations of women with disabilities
- Women organisations
- Victims support services
- Service providers for persons with disabilities
- National human rights institutions

Commenté [MU1]: They sometimes do monitoring work in institutions so we could try to involve them. We have a good working relationship with the CRPD Network of ENNHRI (European network)

Proposed activities & Deliverables:

WP1.State of art and report and networking M1-9

- Consultation across Europe and hearings with women with disabilities from different countries
- Overview of violence against women and girls with disabilities across Europe
- Mapping of organisations combatting violence against women and girls with disabilities, including self-led organisations of women with disabilities, and other organisations including the disability perspective



WP2. Creations of the trainings M3-12

Different trainings addressing different target groups- some trainings will be delivered jointly to different target groups. Here is the list of proposed trainings:

1. Disability specific violence and the rights of victims with disabilities, in particular women and girls (for victims support services)
2. Accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the work of victims' support services (for victims support services)
3. Identifying violence and the rights of women and girls under the CRPD and national legislation (for women with disabilities)
4. Violence and the rights of victims with disabilities (for DPOs and women's organisations)
5. Reporting violence and their rights as victims - practical trainings given by victim support organisations that we have trained (for women with disabilities)
6. Train the trainers: self-advocates for advocacy – the selected self-advocates will be involved in the training for womens' rights organisations and for family and service providers (for women with disabilities)
7. Train the trainers: how to train professionals about violence against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities (for DPOs and selected self-advocates)
8. How to advocate against violence against women and girls with disabilities: mainstreaming disability rights in national initiatives (for DPOs and women's organisations)
9. Disability specific violence and the rights of victims with disabilities, in particular women and girls (for family and service providers)
10. How to prevent violence in the family and during the provision of services (including the notion of consent) (for family and service providers)



11. Identifying and reporting violence (for family and service providers)

WP3. Implementation of Trainings: M13-24

1. Training for women with disabilities and their families
 - Identifying violence and the rights of women and girls under the CRPD and national legislation
 - Reporting violence and their rights as victims - practical trainings given by victim support organisations that we have trained
 - Train the trainers: self-advocates for advocacy – the selected self-advocate will be involved in the training for women's rights organisations and for family and service providers
2. Training for organisations of persons with disabilities
 - Violence and the rights of victims with disabilities
 - Train the trainers: how to train professionals about violence against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities
 - How to advocate against violence against women and girls with disabilities: mainstreaming disability rights in national initiatives
3. Training for women's rights organisations
 - Violence and the rights of victims with disabilities
 - How to advocate against violence against women and girls with disabilities: mainstreaming disability rights in national initiatives
4. Training for families of women and girls with disabilities and service providers

Commenté [MU2]: If it is not too much, we could also have a training for MEN with disabilities, like "Speak up against violence"
-Disability specific violence
-The notion of consent
-Identifying and reporting violence (against yourself or others)

Commenté [MU3]: Optional



- Disability specific violence and the rights of victims with disabilities, in particular women and girls
- How to prevent violence in the family and during the provision of services (including the notion of consent)
- Identifying and reporting violence

5. Trainings for victims support organisations and service providers for persons with disabilities

- Disability specific violence and the rights of victims with disabilities, in particular women and girls
- Accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the work of victims' support services

WP4. Dissemination: M1-M36

- EU Campaign STOP violence against women and girls with disabilities M24-36: this campaign will have two objectives: (1) raise awareness about violence against women and girls with disabilities, including disability specific violence; (2) increase the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in EU and national legislation and policies on combatting gender-based violence (including upcoming directive on the topic, and efforts to ratify the Istanbul Convention)
- Conference on violence against women and girls with disabilities M16, M30: one presenting the overview of the situation as researched in WP1 and the second presenting the outcome of the project and next steps for the EU and MS (with high level representatives) (one online and one face to face? Or only one?)
- Project communication



- Networking activities and events empowering women and girls with disabilities M16-M36: joint trainings and the 2 conferences will give the opportunity to participants to meet various partners and build relationship for lasting actions on combating gender-based violence
- Report on violence against women and girls with disabilities in Europe

WP5. Project Management and Quality Assurance

Expected results:

- Systemic changes through e.g. structural reforms, explicit commitments among key stakeholders, and improved work processes, enhanced protocols, policies and practices inclusive of the rights and needs of women and girls with disabilities
- Changed attitudes and behaviours concerning violence against women and girls with disabilities among the general population and particular groups, e.g. persons with disabilities (including men), families, representative organisations, service providers for persons with disabilities, women organisations, victims support services
- Increased dialogue, mutual learning, exchange of good practices and empowerment of self led organisations of women with disabilities
- Increased capacity of DPOs, women's organisations, victims rights organisations and service providers for persons with disabilities to address issues related to violence towards women and girls with disabilities
- Reduced risk of gender-based violence among women and girls with disabilities

Commenté [MU4]: Especially if we had a dedicated training "Men with disabilities speak up against violence", which I think would be good



- Increased availability of quality services for women and girls with disabilities as victims of gender-based violence.

Partnership:

- Full partners:
 - EDF
 - Inclusion Europe
 - EASPD
 - European Deafblind Union
 - 6 national EDF members
- Associated Partners and AB
 - European Women Lobby
 - Victims Support Europe
 - European Network of National Human Rights Institutions
 - Garance

Commenté [MU5]: It would be good to have them, and that could build on a former project they had called "life after violence"

Commenté [MU6]: Ideas: Croatian member, CERMI Mujeres Fundacion, Italian Disability Forum, Lithuanian, Greek?, Polish?

Commenté [MU7]: Or some of their members who may be interested

Commenté [MU8]: It's a Belgian organisation. They had a big project on violence against women with disabilities focusing more on self advocates, it ended last year- we could use their expertise, contacts, and they could build on their last project