

FLYING TEAM AGAINST VIOLENCE

Combating Honor Related Violence, Forced Marriage and Abandonment

**Policy, good practices and success factors in
Cyprus, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and Turkey**

Summary

COLOFON

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1. Harmful Traditional Practices

Many women and men and boys and girls in Europe are victims of harmful traditional practices such as honor related violence and forced marriage, or are at risk of becoming victims. They often - but not exclusively – belong to migrant and refugee groups like for example Turkish, Moroccan, Iraqi, Iranian, Afghan or Somali communities. This particular group is also at risk of being abandoned in their (or their parents') country of origin where they are forced into marriage, or in other cases because their parents feel they should be getting a more strict and traditional education in their country of origin.

Violence against and suppression of women, girls and boys, lesbians, gays, bisexuals or transgenders, often starts within the victim's own family and community and is based on conservative traditions and patriarchal opinions about the roles of men, women and sexuality. Within this moral framework, individuals have little autonomy to choose their own partner or decide how they want to live, as they run a risk of being exposed to violence or expelled from the family. In addition, sometimes family members feel forced to use violence because of the social pressure from the community; they themselves face social exclusion if they fail to control and guarantee the 'honorable' behaviour of individual family members.

To combat honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment, professionals must have receive adequate training, and sufficient shelter and social services for victims and an effective prosecution are crucial. However, it is equally important to realize a change in mentality and behaviour within the family system and the community, to achieve that suppressing norms are discussed and rejected, and to make sure that traditions and behaviour that make girls and women (and boys and men) victims of violence and suppression and violate their human rights, are abolished. There is a need for tools for empowerment and resilience, both for individuals to stand up to their families and for parents to withstand community pressure.

Finally, the problems of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment often have an international component, as many migrant families live in diasporas and still have strong relationships with relatives and communities in the home countries. Thus, these issues require an international effort.

1.2. Role of grass roots organizations and NGO's

Real and sustainable change comes forth from interaction between official help systems and communities, but the fundamental change of mentality and conduct of the family system has to come from within affected communities. And it does! Many grass root, women's and non-governmental organizations are successfully working to prevent and combat honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. They aim to empower and support their peers to protect them from violence and pressure, and enable them to protect themselves. They also play an important role in providing support to the victims. Many victims are reluctant to call upon social services or other institutes because they often feel misunderstood or inadequately supported. To them the volunteers of grass root organizations seem much more understanding and easier to talk to. The volunteers (together with persons with migrant backgrounds and intercultural mediators) can also play an important role as intermediaries between social services and others.

In many European countries numerous grass root organizations and (women's) non-governmental organizations (NGO's) are organizing a range of activities in the fight against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Grass roots organizations and NGO's primarily work with volunteers, and receive little and often temporary funding. This leaves them little opportunity to organize long term and structural approaches; to educate and support their (new) volunteers; to describe and publish their findings, their tools and good practices; to exchange results, experiences and questions with colleague organizations, especially on a European level. Thus, much of their knowledge and practical experience is lost along the way. Consequently, new organizations are left to re-invent the wheel, which means a continuous loss of expertise, energy, time and money.

1.3. European project 'Flying Team against Violence'

In January 2011, MOVISIE and the foundations Kezban and Welsaen from the Netherlands launched the European project 'Flying Team against Violence, combating Honor Related Violence, Forced Marriage and Abandonment'. The following partners joined them: ALMAeuropa (Sweden), Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (Cyprus) and Papatya/Türkisch-Deutscher Frauenverein (Germany). Next to the European partners, the project attracted an associate partner in Turkey, as homeland of one of the largest groups of immigrants in Europe. Up to 2012, the Turkish partner was Kalkınma Atoyese (Development Workshop). Our new Turkish partner, Bağımsız Kadın Derneği (Autonomous Women's Association) officially joined in February 2012.

The project is financed by Daphne funding of the European Commission.

The 'Flying Team against Violence' promotes the activities of grass root organizations and NGO's that aim to abolish harmful traditional practices such as honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Main goal is to increase attention and support for the work of these organizations. Their work is infinitely valuable and mostly unappreciated. Next to this, the project aims to unite relevant organizations in an international network to learn from each other, develop work methods and strengthen their position by joining forces. An additional project aim is to inform stakeholders, politicians and policymakers about the work of grass root organizations and NGO's. At the end of the project, recommendations from grass roots organizations and NGO's for a successful and sustainable approach against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment are presented to regional, national and European politics and policymakers.

The 'Flying Team against Violence' brings together good practices from grass root organizations and NGO's. Emphasis is on working 'bottom up', on the changes that are made within migrant and refugee communities; on the work of grass roots organizations and NGO's to achieve those changes; and on the collaboration between grass root organizations and official help systems.

For the project, each Flying Team-partner was asked to write a 'national report' on the situation in their respective countries. The reports include descriptions of several good practices from the project countries, as well as an inventory of success factors. The main focus is on awareness raising activities and activities challenging harmful traditional practices in the communities, or aiming to increase empowerment and tenability against (group) pressure and violence. In the reports the partners also formulate an impression of the national discourse and policy on honor related violence, forced marriage, abandonment and migration, including the political climate in their countries.

The findings in the reports are based on (work-related) experiences of the project partners, interviews with grass roots organizations and desk research. All the national reports are written in the respective languages of the project countries (the report from Cyprus is in English) and published on the websites of the partners.

The 'European Report' here before you is a summary of the reports of the five countries.

To widely share the findings of the project, a toolkit is constructed with five good practices, one from each country, as well as a list of success factors. The 'Flying Team' will present the toolkit at the national meetings that will be held medio 2012 in every participating country (except Turkey). The 'Flying Team' consists of representatives of grass roots organizations and NGO's, one person from each country. Grass root organizations, NGO's and stakeholders, policy makers and politicians will be invited to attend.

1.4. Report structure

In chapter two, the definitions of the terms ‘honor related violence’; ‘forced marriage’ and ‘abandonment’ are discussed, as well as the importance of having clear definitions. The project partners found that the participating countries all use different terms and definitions.

Chapter 3 summarizes the national discourse and policy on honor related violence, forced marriage, abandonment and migration, including the political climate in the participating countries.

In chapter 4 conditions and success factors are described. The conditions and success factors are based on interviews with respondents working in grass roots organizations and NGO’s. Despite differences between social and political context in the various countries, the answers were very similar.

Chapter 5 offers a description of five good practices, one from each participating country. Three of the good practices describe projects that focus on awareness and education; two describe projects that aim especially at young people who are in danger because their families disapprove of their live style. One is directed towards girls and young women, the other at LGBT’s (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender).

Finally, in the last chapter the conclusions and recommendations are presented. The recommendations are particularly formulated for grass roots organizations and NGO’s, national policymakers and other stakeholders, and European policymakers.

Chapter 2

Definitions

Honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment are alarming topics in the participating countries. But do the terms have the same meaning in these countries; in these different languages and within the different political and social context of each country? Reality shows that definitions and perspectives differ, and that in some countries there are no specific definitions at all. However, this doesn't automatically mean they have no policy against this type of violence.

Furthermore, some governments appear to use different definitions than the grass roots organisations and NGO's in their country.

2.1. The importance of definitions

In many respects, it is important to work with clear definitions. Clarity of terms is crucial, both in the identification and recognition of different forms of violence.

An important barrier in combatting honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment is the denial or downplaying of specific elements of the violence. Firstly, there is the negative impact (and danger) of not just one person, but of the whole social environment around this person. On top of this there is the background of the problem: the conviction to stick to conservative gender roles and the wish to control the group members' sexuality. All have to abide by strict stereotypical and gendered sexual norms.

Denial and trivialization are preventing governments from (seeing the need to) develop an effective policy. It also disables victims, perpetrators or bystanders to open a discussion or debate about the violence, and develop (collective) solutions and strategies.

In short, clear definitions are necessary to be able to investigate the nature and extent of the violence, to be able to develop a policy and subsequently to monitor, evaluate and adjust this policy.

2.2. Differences and similarities

Gender and human rights perspective

The approach and discourse in a country and within governments often differs from the perspective of women's and grass root organizations. Many of the governments of the participating countries (except Sweden) haven't adopted a clear gender or human rights perspective and fail to consider the roots of the violence, patriarchal structures, gender inequality and the intolerance for sexual diversity in their analyses. However, for most grass

roots organizations and NGO's the only way to achieve successful and sustainable solutions is through starting from these same gender and human rights perspectives (the rights of individuals).

Honor related violence

In Cyprus the term 'honor related violence' is not recorded as such. Crimes that are committed in the name of 'honor' are not classified and the players dealing with these issues do not use the term honor related violence. Most honor related violence cases are treated like domestic violence. The countries use the following working terms: domestic violence, violence against women, child abuse, sexual abuse, rape, and sometimes even trafficking in human beings. This situation probably constitutes the main reason behind the lack of data on specific forms of harmful traditional practices. In Turkey the term 'honor related violence' is rejected by most feminist women's organizations because they observe that the word 'honor' is regularly used by society and by judges alike as a 'licence' or an 'excuse' for violence and murder. The Turkish government uses the terms tort 'or' custom killings, but often only in the case of violence within Kurdish communities. In Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands, the use of the term honor related violence is quite common. Organizations choose the term they prefer strategically, either for political purposes or to better reach their intended target group. For example, in the field of prevention the most used term is 'domestic violence', but in the political realm the going term is 'honor related violence'. The Swedish partner in the Flying Team strongly prefer the term 'honor related violence' over 'domestic violence' as gender equality does not automatically lead to acceptance of sexual diversity (the acceptance of LGBT's).

A recurrent discussion between the project partner organizations was the one about terminology. In the Northern European countries (Sweden, Netherlands and Germany) the term 'honor related violence' is common, as well as actively promoted by several grass roots organizations and NGO's. In the Netherlands and Germany, however, some groups disapprove of the term, because of the already negative stigmatization of migrants and refugees in European society, whereas the problems are simply not recognized and discussed in other closed or strict conservative communities (like orthodox Christians and Roma and Sinti). In Turkey, mainly feminist organizations are protesting the term. According to them, violence has nothing to do with 'honor', which therefore shouldn't be used as a – legal - legitimization to commit violence. They prefer terms like 'violence against women' or 'harmful traditional practices', to emphasize mainly the struggle against social, economical and political inequality of women. In Cyprus, the terms 'domestic violence' and 'violence against women' are must more commonly used by organizations than 'honor related violence'. However, the revolt against its use is much less, and one of the recommendations of the Cyprus Flying Team project partner is that the government develops a clear definition of honor related violence.

Forced marriages

The notion of the term 'forced marriage' is a different one in each participating country. Although the definition of the term is similar (coercion to marry), the understanding of and focus on the problem can differ. In Cyprus, forced marriages are mostly referred to as marriages of convenience (which can be voluntary or involuntary), and perceived as political or

fake marriages to acquire a residence permit. Sometimes, the issue of forced marriage is linked to human trafficking. In the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden the core characteristic of forced marriage is 'coercion'. In all the countries, there is an on-going discussion on how to objectively define or operationalize forced marriage in order to be able to differentiate between arranged marriages and forced marriages. In Turkey, forced marriages include mostly early or child marriages, and religious marriages (often with a considerable age difference between the spouses). Economical, social and traditional reasons (including honor) form the background of these common practices.

Abandonment

Apart from the Netherlands, not many countries use the term 'abandonment' as an official phenomenon. However, the participating countries of the Flying Team-project, the partners, do recognize the existence of the problem among migrant communities. In the Netherlands, abandonment is treated as a form of domestic violence, as are honor related violence and forced marriage. In Germany the term 'abduction' is commonly used and in the specific context that girls with migrant backgrounds are sent back or threatened by their parents to be sent back to their (or their parents') country of origin, in order to control the girls' behaviour. The term is linked to honor related violence and/or forced marriages. In the Turkish context the term 'abandonment' is new, but there is a poignant similarity with the situation of Turkish women who are left behind by their husbands when they move away (to another part of the country or abroad) to work, and after a while stop sending money to the family. The woman feels abandoned, as she depended on him economically. Due to social pressure, however, it is virtually impossible to get a divorce and marry another man.

The main difference between the European context and the Turkish experience is the legal position of women and children. In the European context the dependent residence status, which prevents women and children to return to Europe on their own, constitutes a large share of the problem, in the Turkish situation the problems are mostly in the economical dependency of women and the (social and legal) difficulties to divorce.

The similarity of the problem is in being forced to live in a certain situation against your will.

2.3. A selection of definitions

Below, we offer definitions on all the different terms, based on widely used definitions from the participating partner countries from the Flying Team against Violence-project. To cover as many of the above-mentioned differences, next to definitions on honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, we have included definitions of violence against women and domestic violence.

Violence against women

Violence against women includes any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of

such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life (*UN The Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW), 1979*)

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence includes any act, omission or behavior, which causes physical, sexual or mental injury to any member of the family by another member of the family. Members of the family are: (ex) partner, parents, children and/or other relatives or any person residing with the aforementioned persons. Examples of domestic violence are partner abuse, child abuse and neglect, elder abuse. Domestic violence is sometimes also referred to as “Family Violence”. It includes honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment.

Honor related violence

Honor related violence refers to mental or physical transgressions in the context of patriarchal family structures/communities/societies, that are carried out especially but not exclusively against women and girls, who are seen as the carriers of family honor. Boys and lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders are also known victims. The violence is rooted in the patriarchal desire to control women’s sexuality. Collective ideas and social pressure are important contributors to the problem. As women are held responsible for the education of the children, they are often the scapegoats when the family honor is jeopardized by rumors. As a result, other women in the family sometimes take part in the oppression and even the violence.

Honor has its origin in conservative cultural conceptions about gender, power and sexuality. There are strong beliefs about virginity and chastity and the family’s reputation and good name in the community largely depends on the actual or alleged behavior of the girls and women in the family. Discipline and control ranges from limitations in everyday life, like choice of clothes, social life and freedom of movement to influencing important choices in life, such as education, work, marriage or divorce. In its most extreme forms, rigid control can lead to threats of violence and actual violence, including murder.

Forced Marriage

Forced marriage is the act of forcing a girl/woman or boy/man into marriage. The core concept is 'coercion'. There is a sliding scale of soft coercion in the form of social and psychological pressure, to forcing a son or daughter to get married by threatening with physical and/or psychological violence. The persuaders are mostly parents or other relatives, from the victim’s family as well as the chosen partner’s family.

Child marriage

A child marriage is a marriage where one of the parties is under the age of 18 (in case of Germany 16). In the period before a child marriage, the child has often been subjected to serious pressure, including criminal coercion. In some countries criminal coercion is mentioned in the definition.

Abandonment

Abandonment refers to a situation where a husband or a family sends one or more family members back to their country of origin, without their consent, or leaves them there during a

longer period of time (mostly during holidays), while taking their passport and residence permit to prevent them from returning to their new homeland. There are several known reasons: the victim is at risk of violating the 'family honor' by his or her behavior, and by putting him or her under the care of the grandparents or other relatives, the family hopes they will be educated more traditionally and strictly. Sometimes husbands who abandon their wives (and/or their children) in their country of origin are in the process of marrying someone else.

Chapter 3

Government policy and implementation: experiences and challenges

All partner organizations in the project collected data through desk research and interviews with grass roots organizations and NGO's working in the fields of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Some partners questioned policy makers, as well.

The key question was: what is the nature of the political and social discourse on the respective subjects and what is done about the problems?

This chapter briefly describes the discourse in the various EU member states and their policies on honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. This includes: similarities and differences between the five participating countries, recent trends, policy versus practice, actions and comments of grass roots organizations and NGO's.

First, we describe the similarities and differences in political climate and approach, followed by a short description of the situations in the respective countries. The full descriptions of the situations in the participating countries are drawn up in the national reports, which are published on the websites of the partner organizations of the project Flying Team against Violence. At the end of 2012, the national reports will be online available in English.

3.1. Similarities and differences

Thanks to the persisting efforts of grass roots organizations and NGO's, the issue of honor related violence and forced marriage is on the public and political agenda in most of the partner countries. However, there are many international differences in terms of (amount of) attention, definitions of the problems and type of actions.

Stigmatizing

In most countries, stigmatizing has a decisive influence with regard to the acknowledgment of, and debate and policy on honor related violence, forced marriages and abandonment. In one way or another, all grass roots organizations and NGO's have been struggling with the question of how to address and keep addressing these issues in public and in politics without turning them into 'Muslim issues', and without stigmatizing the victims as difficult and/or pitiful and/or expensive residents and the perpetrators as backward citizens. For this, NGO's and governments from the different countries have different strategies. Some only speak of domestic violence to avoid negative stigmatization, while others find it important to explicitly define the specific aspects of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment to emphasize the need for a specific approach.

None of the countries has managed to prevent stigmatization altogether. In most of the European partner countries honor related violence, forced marriages and abandonment are only associated with migrants and refugees from non-western countries and ascribed to a supposed 'backward culture' or 'Islamic practices' or both. In this way, the issue is 'analyzed' only superficially and measures can stay ineffective. An analysis of these issues is never complete without considering the origins of the respective harmful traditions, which are rooted in conservative ideas on male/female roles, sexuality, relationships/marriage, children, and in the dependency and social pressure within small closed off communities. If these aspects are ignored, these issues won't be adequately understood and dealt with.

For victims of honor related violence, forced marriages or abandonment, stigmatization can lead to fear of sharing their problems with anyone, which will reduce the chance of possible individual or communal solutions.

In Sweden, the problem mainly lies with the operating shelter and care institutes. Only recently, these parties publicly argued that forced marriage as a concept was quite common among 'this target group' and that there was no reason to protest or reject it. This particular form of culture relativism strongly rebutted the Swedish government policy. In Cyprus and Turkey the concept of honor is very important, socially. It is not, as it is in Western Europe, something that is only important to specific groups of migrants or refugees. In Turkey, 'honor' as a motive for murder was reason for a mitigation of sentence, similar to a 'crime passionel' in the French jurisdiction, many years ago. Under EU pressure, legislation changed in Turkey. Now, honor related violence (defined as "tort", which means traditional violence) leads to stricter punishments. It is only determined if there is proof that the violence was decided and approved by the entire family. In Turkey, the stigmatization is very specific: honor related violence, they say, only exists in the Kurdish community; it is almost 'ethnicized', as if other groups of Turks never have this experience. This is one of the reasons for the feminist women's organizations in Turkey to replace the term 'honor related violence' with 'violence against women', and aim mainly at gender equality and (economical) independency of women.

In northern European countries the influence of grass roots organizations and NGO's on government policy has been reasonably successful, but over the past years the social and political debate on immigration, mostly in the media, has become 'tougher' and more 'stigmatizing' and 'Islamophobic'. The financial crisis in Europe has pushed back the debate on immigration and integration. The current public and political debate is much more focused on the economy, EU, euro, money and employment.

Approach

Some countries have a comprehensive and coherent approach of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, including prevention, care, shelter and penal law. Other countries have very little or no policy at all on the issues.

One of the main targets of grass roots organizations and NGO's in the field is that a specific policy is developed or enhanced. They also specifically aim to support organizations and NGO's

that are working to establish changes in their communities and who are counteracted by conservative migrant grass roots organizations.

Both Sweden and the Netherlands have a specific policy on honor related violence and forced marriage. The Dutch policy is part of the domestic violence program, but with specific goals and actions. The specific gender aspects of domestic and honor related violence are underexposed due to the choice of terminology. In the Netherlands, abandonment is a serious matter on the political agenda.

In Germany there is no clear distinction between domestic violence policy and honor related violence policy, but there is a specific policy on forced marriage with specialized programs and specific goals. In Cyprus and Turkey the honor related violence/forced marriage policy is part of the domestic violence policy, but in both countries the issues are mostly dealt with under family law and therefore referred to as family violence. In Cyprus, forced marriage is addressed under the Marriage Law, which specifies that the free consent of both parties can never be granted when and if any of the parties have been coerced/forced to the particular marriage through honor. Also in Cyprus, the Aliens and Migration Law includes a specific article related to marriages of convenience, which has been shown to be of relevance for the issue of forced marriage in the framework of human trafficking. Subsequently, the specific aspects of gender inequality fade and the policy basically serves to protect the family and the children as a whole. In Turkey and Cyprus the subject of 'violence against women' is a hard one to promote in politics.

A (solid) national policy does not automatically guarantee an adequate approach. Available care doesn't always meet the requirements (yet) to be 'adequate' or 'accessible' or there is no sufficient follow up support after intervention. This is actually more or less true for all partner countries. Also, all countries should offer more and better professional training.

In Sweden, the ideas and competences of the executors are less than compatible. Turkey has a national policy against domestic violence saying that shelter should be available in all provinces, but many local administrations are unwilling to comply with this policy.

Criminal law

In all partner countries a discussion is on about the criminalization of honor related violence/forced marriages/abandonment. It is agreed that criminalization will have a strong norm defining effect: 'this behavior is not acceptable'. However, executing a similar law is very difficult as the force and violence mostly take place within the family. Forced marriage is a criminal offence in all countries, but there has hardly been any prosecution. The discussion is about the operationalization of forced marriage, how to prove it and how to deal with the fact that a victim has to report her/his own parents with the police.

Legislation immigration and human trafficking

In all European countries, immigration has been lawfully limited. Governments often use policies against honor related violence and forced marriage to limit immigration. In Cyprus, also anti human trafficking laws are used. All grass roots organizations and NGO's are resisting

this particular use of the policy. They see it as wrongful use of legislation. In addition, it doesn't solve anything, violates the rights of victims and enhances the stigmatization of migrants.

New policy developments

In Sweden, attention for the position of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of migrant communities who are threatened within their communities because of their sexual preference is growing. In the government policy of the Netherlands, this group is becoming more and more visible, as it has been for some time with several interest groups. The other countries pay only limited or no attention to this group, both on a government and organizational level.

Thanks to a strong lobby of a few active grass roots organizations, the Netherlands is the only country with a specially developed specific policy on Abandonment. The phenomenon Abandonment is known throughout Europe but hasn't become a common policy theme. The project Flying Team against Violence is here to change this.

3.2. Politics and actions in the partner countries

Here are the brief descriptions of the policies of the partner countries. More information is available in the country reports¹.

Cyprus

Cyprus does not have any legislation specifically addressing honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. The Cyprus government takes domestic violence as a form of violence against women very seriously and they have a relatively comprehensive legal framework. However, this legal framework fails to incorporate other forms of violence, such as honor related violence (and/or forced marriage), and other harmful traditional practices and their links to gender (in)equality, social norms and stereotypes. In Cyprus, honor killings are not recorded as such, but usually treated as domestic violence or homicides. Honor is a way to justify gender inequality in patriarchal societies, which normalizes violence against women and girls inside and outside the family. 'Honor' is used to denounce socially 'unacceptable' sexual relationships, either a wife who has an affair, a daughter who has a boyfriend without her father's consent, or son or a daughter with a homosexual orientation.

Despite the lack of systematic data on the prevalence of all forms of gender based violence in the Greek or Turkish Cypriot communities, honor related violence, forced marriage, semi-forced or arranged marriages probably exist in different forms in Cyprus affecting women and men from all socio-economic backgrounds, with migrant women and LGBT people in a particularly vulnerable position.

¹ The country reports can be downloaded from the websites of the respective project partners. See appendices for addresses.

There is no specific law criminalizing forced marriage. However, there are a number of provisions in civil and criminal law that can serve to prevent and combat forced marriage or 'marriages of convenience' within the context of human trafficking (Art.154 of Criminal Code, the Marriage Law 104 (I) of 2003, Cyprus Aliens and Migration Law L. 29(I)/2009). In cases of family reunification, the age of 21 years is set as a strict limit for the entry of a spouse into Cyprus, in conformity with Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003. It has often been argued that setting strict age limitations for family reunification also offers a tool to prevent forced marriage.

Legislation in Cyprus, despite recent improvements, should be upgraded, renewed and closely monitored as current laws do not adequately cover other forms of gender based violence, including honor related violence and forced marriage. Next to this, they are poorly implemented. Policy and legislation on gender based violence must include a range of forms of violence: domestic violence, sexual assault including rape, sexual harassment, stalking, honor related violence, forced marriage and trafficking.

In the area administrated by the Turkish Cypriots, the legislative framework around violence against women is very limited. The law does not specifically prohibit honor related violence, forced marriage or abandonment. Domestic violence is a criminal offence under a general assault/violence/battery clause in the criminal code, and the Family law contains none of these issues. The reporting rate of violence against women is generally low. Despite several active NGO's in the field of women's rights, there is no specific official agency to address the subject, nor a shelter (private or governmental) to support victims of gender based violence.

There are significant gaps in the victim support system. Firstly, there are no specialized, accessible and gender and cultural sensitive services for migrant women. There are no specific services for victims of honor related violence and forced marriage. The victim support system in Cyprus is mainly designed to support victims of domestic violence and trafficking. There is no systematic training of professional staff of all services dealing with violence against women, in all sectors including police, welfare, legal services and justice and health.

Germany

In the controversial discussions about integration or its failure, the position of women in migrant communities is a prominent subject. Cases of honor-related violence and forced marriage are presented as indicators and proof of failed integration on the one hand – and on the other hand trivialized as marginal single events which could take place in almost any dysfunctional family – depending on the disposition of the speaker. Abandonment is problematized in the context of so-called vacation marriages or abduction to the country of origin as a last step of parents attempting to control their daughters or get them back on “the right track”.

Despite several known cases of honor killings, honor related violence is not a very prominent term in public or political discussions or in politics, while NGO's working in the field like Terre des Femmes, Papatya and others work hard to introduce and embed the term. Reasons for this could be that the term honor related violence is too abstract, but also the fear of being

'politically incorrect' or fuel racist stereotypes by adding one more category of violence. The public debate concentrates on honor murders on one hand and forced marriage on the other. An actual study on the authority of the government presented in autumn 2011 counted the incredibly high number of 3443 cases of forced marriages in one year. This result was surprisingly high even for professionals dealing with the issue in the field. The study only focused on known cases of forced marriage, the estimated number of unreported cases was not taken into account.

In March 2011, after a long debate, forced marriage became a specially defined offence (imprisonment for 6 months up to 5 years). Before this, forced marriage had been treated as aggravated coercion. The new legislation ensures that someone who is forced to marry abroad does not lose his/her German residence status. The attempt to bring someone to another country for a forced marriage (so-called vacation-marriages) is now punishable as the new legislation defines the offence at an early stage, that is, the attempt is penal even before a formal wedding has taken place.

Despite these improvements the new legislation was again used to limit migration to Germany.

Victim support is provided on a national level and several federal countries have their own programs on shelter, training, support chains, etc.

The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, after an honor related violence incident in 1999 among a Turkish-Kurdish family, the Minister of Integration invited several migrant umbrella organizations to share their ideas on possible solutions and to organize debates within their communities on this type of violence. After that, thanks to NGO's like TransAct, one particular secondary school and some grass roots organizations, the issue of honor related violence was put on the political and public agenda, in 2003. Some politicians and various media parties dismissed the problem of honor related violence as 'medieval practices' that didn't belong in Dutch society and culture and the easy conclusion would be that 'such' people 'therefore' did not 'deserve' to be in the Netherlands. As a result, many migrants were reluctant to openly acknowledge and/or discuss the problems around honor related violence. However, this was not the general attitude of politicians and policymakers.

In 2005, an interdepartmental program 'Honor Related Violence' presented a coherent policy and approach, with consultation from migrant organizations and NGO's. The program was coordinated by the Justice Department and involved the departments of Housing, Communities and Integration, and of Health, Welfare and Sports. Aim was to integrate honor related violence as much as possible in the overall approach of and discussion on domestic violence, using the term 'violence in dependency relationships'. With this the interdepartmental program aimed to prevent stigmatization of migrants.

The actions against honor related violence focused on legal measures, information and professional skills for policy and services, special shelters, inter-institutional collaboration and prevention. Especially in the field of prevention, migrant organizations had an important role in organizing activities, aimed at changing the mentality and attitude within their communities

with regard to honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Furthermore, provisions were made for victims of forced marriage and abandonment (information, proposal to include forced marriage in the criminal code, possibility for abandoned women and children to come back to the Netherlands and apply for a new residence permit).

The Interdepartmental Program Honor Related Violence ended December 2010. Since then, several changes can be identified in the approach of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment; it changed from national to local policy, from prevention towards repression, and from specific to generic policy.

Sweden

Due to incidents (murders), activities and campaigns of NGO's and grass roots organizations, honor related violence appeared on the public and political agenda. At the start, focus was solely on female victims. As of a few years (young) men and boys are also recognized victims of honor related violence (including those who are forced to commit honor related violence). In 2009, the National Board of Youth Affairs published an official document about honor related violence ("Gift mot sin vilja"). The contents of this report partly convinced the government to develop clearer policies and allocated more resources for the struggle against honor related violence. All authorities, the police, the judiciary system, the schools, the hospitals, the social services and even, for example, training courses for midwives, have included honor related violence as an important new element in their professional training programs. Honor related violence and forced marriage are now part of the regular curriculum of all public sector professionals in Sweden

In May 2012, the conclusion of a special investigation on forced marriage and the question whether or not it should be included in the Swedish Penal Code will be presented. In 2011, the Swedish government included information about forced marriage and how to act on the website of the Swedish Foreign Office. This development is fully in line with the developments in other authorities and their specific inclusion of honor related violence in all external communications.

An ongoing discussion in Sweden is whether honor related violence should be included in the legislation on hate crimes. There are indications that show that there might be a parliamentary majority in favor of an inclusion of at least forced marriage and connected activities in the Penal Code.

The national government launches many projects and policies on honor related violence. However, not all agencies (like health agencies and Ungdomsstyrelsen) and political policies fully agree on a national level. Some local agencies disagree with the common approach and refuse to implement the measures that are proposed by the central government. Differences between the goals of politicians and of civil servants create a vacuum where policies are not fully implemented or even discarded.

On May 24th 2012, Göran Lambertz, member of the Swedish Supreme Court, presented his proposals regarding changes in the legislation on Forced Marriages.

The proposals are quite radical and apparently all political parties in Sweden are in favor.

The report states that it is impossible to render exact figures but in 2011 upon estimation at least 250-300 people in Sweden experienced a serious or reasonably serious risk to be married against their will. At least sixteen people were sent and held abroad during the same year with the intention of forcing them into marriage.

The report offers a number of suggestions on how to improve protection against child marriage, forced marriage and other involuntary marriages. Some of the recommendations are:

- The possibility to have a special exception for marrying under the age of 18 should be abolished.
- Child marriages are outlawed. It is a criminal offence to marry a child or initiate or organize early marriages. Also, several marriage-like relationships that are not legally valid (so-called informal marriage, usually in religious contexts) are included in the new law.
- A special penal provision on forced marriages is introduced, including ‘informal marriages’. The recommended maximal punishment is four years imprisonment.
- The establishment of a permanent national unit to monitor, coordinate and support efforts to combat forced marriages and child marriages as well as honor related violence. The unit should be based in Östergötland County Administrative Board, which has extensive practical experience in the field.
- The National Health Board is instructed to initiate a surveillance project on forced marriages and child marriages, carried out by municipal social services.
- Clear requirements are directed towards religious groups that perform marriages and to people who want to be authorized to marry persons in religious groups. The marriage license must include a clause for religious and marriage officials to prevent religious forced marriages or child marriages.
- The National Board for state support to religious communities should organize regular dialogues with religious communities about child marriage and forced marriage.
- A recommended method of family work in emergency situations will be developed.

Turkey

The fight against violence against women started in the 1980's with various activities and campaigns by women and their organizations. The struggle was institutionalized in the 1990's with legal arrangements and regulations. The Law No. 4320 on the protection of the Family; which was originally enacted in 1998 and amended in 2007 and 2011, represents an important milestone in terms of the protection of women victims of domestic violence including honor related violence. Women started to work with the state in different researches and projects. Shelters were established under the body of state, although not enough to deal with the numbers. A few shelters were realized through volunteer efforts of women organizations.

In 2006, a research was conducted about violence against women and children and honor killings. Proposals were formulated on the elimination of all violence against women as a state policy and inter-institutional collaboration for the implementation of possible solutions.

However, the enforcement of the proposals has not been imposed and stated commitments haven't been carried out yet.

In the past 5 to 6 years, it seems that violence against women has increased and is acknowledged more by government and public. However, NGO's and women organizations speak of murder, rather than honor related violence. There is no mention of honor related crime in comprehensive legal definitions.

Lately, there has been a significant increase of attention for forced and early marriages, especially due to ample media attention. Unfortunately, new government proposals do not focus on the strengthening of the position of women, but rather the opposite. Abandoning is not specifically addressed, but women's organizations have indicated that they are working on the negative results of abandonment.

Chapter 4

Success factors of good practices

‘What does it take to successfully combat honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment?’ This is the question the Flying Team project partners asked many different grass root organizations and NGO’s in Turkey, Cyprus, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands. Despite differences between the social and political context in these countries, the answers were quite similar.

This chapter starts with a description of the necessary conditions for grass roots organizations and NGO’s to be successful in their work. After this, we present a survey of the success factors of the good practices in combating honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment and how to create the best possible circumstances.

4.1. Basic conditions for good practices

The interviewed grass roots organizations stated that the following external conditions enable them to perform satisfactorily: continuity and financial security for their projects, a range of sensitized stakeholders to identify the problems, a help-system with specialized and accessible aid, and a legal framework to support the work.

1. Continuity and financial security

To be successful NGO’s and grass root organizations need to be financially stable. One of the biggest challenges (and frustrations) for organizations is the lack of money to execute their programs. A secure financial basis means that less time and energy needs to be spent on fundraising. It also means that experiences and expertise of the organization will not be lost and results of projects will not fade over time if further implementation stagnates due to poor financial means.

Furthermore, there is the tendency the only new (innovative) projects are financed, while good practices need ‘follow up financing’ for further implementation and dissemination.

2. Sensitized stakeholders

A key factor for successful work in this field is that all relevant stakeholders are sensitized to the existence and mechanisms of honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment. In addition, stakeholders must acquire adequate intercultural competences. Intercultural work implies an open culture, sensitive attitude and the ability to communicate with people of different social-cultural backgrounds, on norms and values and any other subject that is relevant in the work with the target group. This implicates that workers should also be aware of their own norms, values and prejudices.

Teachers, officers of youth agencies and other professionals who deal with risk groups must be

able to identify (possible) victims and intervene or refer to potential support opportunities before real danger occurs. If, for example, teachers are not sensitized to this issue, they may endanger affected pupils by speaking with their parents without consulting the pupils first. Also, well-intended direct interventions of untrained teachers towards the parents can turn out to have a complete opposite, thus negative, effect on the affected pupil.

In short, trained professionals should join forces in a comprehensive and integrated network. They should receive training on intercultural competences and improve their knowledge and understanding of different forms of violence.

3. Specialized and accessible help-system

An available, specialized and accessible help-system is another success factor in the fight against honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment.

- Knowledge about nationwide professional help is crucial. It is very important to thoroughly inform the affected groups about possible support services.
- The support system must be accessible and equipped for (potential) victims. The required institutions should form a 'support chain' and offer the whole range of different services (police, crisis centers, shelter, social services, youth agencies, legal aid etc.). The respective distinct roles, tasks and responsibilities must be clear for all parties involved. Transparency, unambiguous agreements and respect for each role and task are crucial.
- Shelters should have secret addresses, as this will guarantee safety for potential victims. Specialized shelters that work only with victims of honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment are very successful because they have the required expertise to deal with the particular problems of their high-risk target groups.

4. Legal Framework

For successful protection from and prevention of honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment, the legal framework has to be open and sensitive to the needs and situations of victims.

- A national government policy on combating honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment is a success factor, as it shows (potential) perpetrators that violence is not acceptable. Laws on these issues can protect (potential) victims, and further the work of grass root and non-governmental organizations in the field.
- One need that has been identified in order to find out about the extent of honor related violence is that law enforcement agencies need to have a specific code for this type of crime, much like the code for hate crimes.
- The acknowledgement of (long term) harmful effects of psychological violence on a legal level is a success factor with regard to victim care and protection from honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment.

- The legal protection of the rights of parents as caregivers is often in conflict with the protection of their children against violence. When youth agencies and family courts recognize the potential escalation in affected families and intervene in family conflicts at an early stage this is a success factor.
- Shelters that work with girls or women who feel threatened by their families reported specific methods to analyze the level of danger as success factors for their work. If public authorities act fast and take responsibility in cases of emergency, help is often successful.
- When victims leave their families to live in anonymity (for their own safety) they often get into trouble due to bureaucratic public authorities that fail to withhold the victim's personal information from their families. More alert and careful public authorities are a success factor for effective support and protection.

4.2. Success factors for good practices

The following success factors were identified in the projects of the grass root and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in the field of combating honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment. Information was collected from the interviews of the Flying Team-project with several of the organizations from the five countries.

The identified success factors are:

1. Bottom up strategies
2. A gender and human rights perspective
3. Confidence building and sensitivity
4. Professionalism and intercultural competence
5. A variety of strategies and methods
6. Cooperation
7. Continuity and sustainability

1. Bottom up strategies

For a project that aims to prevent and combat honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment, direct involvement and commitment of representatives (women and men) from the target communities and/or human right based grass root organizations or NGO's, is significant. The representatives are more likely to reach and appeal to their target groups. However, this does not mean that a top-down approach is never successful. Especially in the case of Sweden, initiatives for activities by local or national governments have shown to be very successful. Moreover, these initiatives show that the government does not tolerate violence against individuals, in any shape or form.

Professional institutions or NGO's should join forces with grass root organizations that are closely connected with and respected by certain communities. These organizations know how to reach their audience, how to get their interest and promote participation. Furthermore, because of their close relation with the affected groups, they can mediate and explain the needs of a group within the community, and towards professionals and policy makers. Thanks to their inside knowledge and practical experience, grass root organizations are able to identify relevant problems and develop new strategies and ideas. Involvement and commitment of the affected communities and their grass root organizations is also important for the sustainability of project results. It stimulates further actions to prevent and combat honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, also after the project has ended.

2. A gender and human rights perspective

For a project to be successful it is important to describe and analyze the problem that the project is addressing. The description should include a clear definition of the problem, its roots, its occurrence and a possible solution. The project team and its partners have to agree on this description.

A successful approach of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment is based on a gender and human rights perspective. This perspective has to include the reality that boys and men can also be victims of violence (particularly vulnerable are gays, bisexuals and transgenders). It also allows differentiation of the 'target' group, or group of participants in terms of gender, age and sexual orientation. This way, the needs and interests of each subgroup can be carefully specified, and different approaches can be developed. Methods and materials can be adjusted to fit the different participants, ranging from a single or multiple ethnic group, a cultural or a religious homogeneous group, a group of men, women, youth or a mixed group.

Problem analysis also means focusing on the effect of group pressure on the individual. The power of the collective influences the existence and the continuation of traditional harmful practices. Focusing on human rights in the fight against violence, could take the pressure of the often precarious discussion on cultural and religious habits and justifications.

3. Confidence building and sensitivity

Next to the need of access, and especially when it comes to awareness raising and educational programs, the success of a project also depends on whether it reaches its target group emotionally. 'Sensitivity' and 'confidence building' are key words. If a project aims to effectively implement measures against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, the team should never forget that these topics are taboo topics - especially with affected groups.

In awareness raising and information activities the concepts used in the program, have to concur with the experiences of the participants, otherwise they will not show up. If, for example, an NGO wants to carry out a workshop on forced marriages with young students, it should always be aware of the fact that these issues could be taboo and (young) people may be afraid of stigmatization. In addition, young people (especially girls) run a serious risk if they speak up about certain things in public. Project teams should always create a safe atmosphere for participants to share their stories.

Sometimes it is better to not address issues directly, but to use indirect terminology, like for instance, words like 'family matters' instead of 'honor related violence'.

Finally, the key question always is: to what extent is the problem of violence that we are addressing recognized and/or acknowledged by the participants?

4. A selection of strategies and methods

Important success factors are the strategies, methods and materials that are used to reach and involve participants, to present a project, and to achieve goals. It is recommended to use different strategies and methods in a project, and to be open to change when a method or strategy does not work out properly. Sometimes participants are limited in their options. For example, some girls and women are unable to visit a shelter or other support agencies because they are not allowed to go out alone, or they are forbidden to make private phone calls. For these girls and women, the shelter can organize anonymous online counseling.

Also, different target groups have different needs and demands. Professionals need other information materials about forced marriage than young people do. Layout, language (formal, informal, language of country of origins or of residence) should always be adapted to the needs of the different participants.

5. Professionalism and intercultural competence

Better results are achieved if project team members are experts on the issues of honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment. Both paid and volunteer employees have to be sensitized to the existence and mechanism of these problems. They need to have a good understanding and ample experience in how to address and discuss the issues in a safe and open atmosphere. Professionalism is imperative (also in volunteers).

A certain degree of personal engagement can work out well. Engaged employees may add to the success of a project as the struggle against violence and its connected mechanisms of oppression, requires both personal engagement and professionalism. Both aspects are necessary ingredients. However, too much personal engagement in a project may lead to inadequate decisions and a risk of 'burn out' amongst employees. On the other hand, being too professional and rigid could lead to a lack of empathy and commitment. It is virtually impossible to feel nothing in this line of work.

In the recruitment of the counselors, advisors and educators, the organization has to carefully consider whether they should be of the same ethnicity as the participants. In any case, impartiality and independence of the trainers and the counselors is essential. Knowledge must be the main argument, not a person's ethnic background. Every volunteer or employee needs to be trained on intercultural competences.

6. Cooperation

An integrated, comprehensive approach in the prevention and combat of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment is a factor of success. Cooperation between all stakeholders along the whole range of activities, from awareness raising, interventions and support to the prosecuting of perpetrators, leads to better results. Grass roots organizations and NGO's collaborate with professionals in social services, schools, police and the judicial

system, including immigration officers, and policymakers. By joining forces they strengthen their position, bring forward their issues and further the development of better strategies and standards for their work.

Collaborating institutes and policymakers must be encouraged to realize and acknowledge that grass roots organizations and NGO's, working directly with the affected groups, hold valuable knowledge and insights into the problems. Grass roots organizations and NGO's can transfer and exchange 'inside' knowledge and practice based expertise to the different stakeholders and politicians. Because of their close relation with the affected groups they can play a mediating role and transfer the needs of their peers to policy-makers. Because of their helicopter view and practical standpoint they are also able to identify relevant problems and develop new strategies and ideas.

Nationwide and European networks, instead of only local, are an important success factor in the fight against violence.

7. Continuity and sustainability

Successful programs can be repeated or adapted for further implementation in different and/or broader (regular) settings, in other organizations, with other groups of participants, or for other useful purposes. Often, after a project has finished there is no funding for further implementation of the results. Continuation can't be guaranteed by money alone. Experiences and expertise of successful (prevention) projects are best spread by participants; word to mouth.

Chapter 5

Five good practices

During the first phase of the project Flying Team against Violence each project partner collected information on good practices in the field of combating honor related violence, forced marriages and/or abandonment, from their respective countries. The practices were selected based on criteria the project partners had formulated before (see chapter 4). The most important criteria were: sufficient knowledge and experience of the team; working from a gender perspective; aiming at awareness and dissemination on a grass root level; (intended) continuity; implementation of the results and finally, existing collaborations with relevant institutions.

Each Flying Team-partner described the projects from their countries in a National Report on the situation in their respective countries. (All National Reports are published on the websites of the respective project partners.)

Five of the projects (one from each country) were chosen to be included in the Toolkit of the project, to be presented by the Flying Team on the national meetings in the participating countries. To select the five practices, the project partners nominated two projects from their country. The ten selected practices were rated and compared by the complete project team. The final decision for the five example projects was based on three criteria:

- The three topics of the Flying Team project (honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment) should be equally represented.
- The project had to be relevant for many other European countries.
- The project had to be transferable to other countries.

5.1. The final five

Below are short abstracts of the five good practices. The short abstracts are followed by more detailed descriptions of the good practices, including contact details of the organizations for further information.

Three of the projects focus on awareness and education. The Cypriot project addresses young people and promotes the use of peer educators; the Turkish partner targets women and the Dutch project focuses on migrant girls/women and boys/men. The other two projects offer online help to young people. A shelter facilitates the German online help. The Swedish one specifically targets lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trans genders that are in danger because their sexual preference is seen as a loss of family honor.

1. Cyprus - Perspective - Peer Education Roots for School Pupils to Enhance Consciousness on Violence Against Women

The specific aim of this project of Cyprus is to raise young people's awareness on gender violence. It proposes emotional and relationship models based on mutual respect between the genders. The main aim is to prevent violence in (future) relations. The project team

trained young people as ‘peer educators’ to transfer knowledge and awareness to members of their own age group.

2. Turkey - Domestic Violence Training Program - Raising Women Awareness of Domestic Violence and their Rights

Through ‘home based meetings’ with women in disadvantaged neighborhoods in Turkey, the project team is raising awareness on "violence". The moderators teach the women that much of the behavior, which is considered ‘normal’, is in fact not acceptable or tolerable. Also discussed are suppression and violence in the name of ‘honor’. During the meetings the participating women also receive information on women’s legal rights and existing services for victims.

3. The Netherlands - Know your Rights’ - Public information campaign Rights and Abandonment for Moroccan and Turkish women, men and young people

The project informs migrant women on the Dutch, Moroccan or Turkish legal system, legal issues and procedures in the fields of family law and right of residence. The project creates awareness and empowers migrant women in the Netherlands and thus aims to prevent abandonment. The project also provides knowledge to institutions and organizations and aims to build a solid network of expertise and collaboration.

4. Germany - Papatya - Anonymous Shelter and Counseling

Papatya provides anonymous shelter, safety and psychosocial and concrete support to girls and young women in Germany. It has a secret address and a qualified staff. Papatya also provides easy to reach counseling services for the target group. Papatya aims to prevent (further) violence, honor crimes, forced marriages and kidnapping to the home country

5. Sweden - LGBT AND HONOR (www.hbtheder.se)

This project offers specialized on-line support and advice to lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans-gender young people in Sweden who are (possible) victims of honor related violence. The experts are trained mentors who have professional and/or personal experience with being lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans-gender. Through the website help-seekers can stay anonymous at first and move on at their own pace.

5.2. Five good practices

1. Cyprus - Perspective: Peer Education Roots for School Pupils to Enhance Consciousness on Violence Against Women

Young people are generally unaware of gender stereotypes and gender-based violence (GBV). In Cyprus, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) initiated the project ‘Perspective’. The overall project aim was the reduction and prevention of violence against women. The specific objective of the project was to raise young people’s awareness on gender violence and to promote emotional and relationship models based on mutual respect between the sexes.

The project team developed a 'peer education' method to spread their message to young people. In this method, a group of trained 'peer educators' is mobilized to educate members of their own age group. The program began with initial awareness raising sessions with large groups, followed by specific training activities for volunteer peer educators. During their training they acquired the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to moderate sessions with other young people in their schools.

Target group

Primary: Adolescents between the ages of 15 to 17

Secondary: Teachers on secondary education institutes

The approach

After the selection of a number of suitable secondary schools, the training program was ready to start. MIGS provided trainings on gender-based violence in different levels and identified and selected potential candidates among the students to become volunteer peer educators.

Phase 1

Four general two-hour classes on gender issues, relationships between genders, gender roles, gender stereotypes and the relation between these issues and gender based violence.

The last training session was devoted to 'training the trainers'. Here, a selection of (preferably 8) students was trained to be group trainers and assume their role as peer educators. Two more peer education-training sessions of 1.5 hours each followed. As the students were inexperienced and new to the concept of peer educators, it was important that they understood the key principles of the method. During the training they were encouraged to share their concerns and fears about becoming peer educators and to explore the skills and qualities they needed to be successful in their role.

An important part of the training was spent on competencies and qualities aimed at participatory and interactive learning among peer groups. After studying the key principles of group facilitation (like good communication skills, impartiality, inclusion, flexibility, creativity, etc.) the acquired theories were applied and experimented with during practice sessions.

Phase 2

The group of peer educators conducted trainings for their peers. The trainings focused on awareness raising on gender roles and social expectations and gender, and they explored the occurrence of gender based violence in adolescent romantic relationships, and its impact. The project facilitators were present during the peer education trainings. This way, the peer educators felt safe and were able to address them in case of uncertainties or complicated questions. Finally, peer educators made use of handouts, manuals, the Internet, etc.

Phase 3

After the trainings the project team launched a media campaign. This campaign included the key messages on the impact of GBV, which were formulated by the participants of the trainings. The campaign was aired on TV and radio and secondary schools provided written information.

Results

The project aimed to actively engage students in the prevention of gender-based violence and make a difference in their student community. Fifty adolescents were trained to become peer educators. Altogether they trained about 150-200 peers.

The peer educators were worried that their friends and classmates would not listen to them or criticize them. They were afraid that students of their own age would not take them seriously. However, the peer educators were pleasantly surprised to find that this wasn't the case at all; their classmates fully accepted them as trainers.

Peer educators are in no way expected to be experts nor do they carry too much in-depth knowledge about the subject they are training on. They appeared to have gained just the right level of knowledge necessary to entertain effective discussions on GBV with their peers.

The participating pupils enjoyed the trainings by the peer educators, which can be concluded from their positive and enthusiastic evaluations. The students stated that they found it easier to learn from peers as they 'speak the same language', and 'relate to you', 'they can understand you better' and use 'language and examples that are relevant to your reality'. Peer education is reasonably informal and they were not 'subjected to any authority' or 'forced' to listen. Within the school environment they were able to express their thoughts and opinions in front of their peers, which was highly appreciated. Finally, the 'all inclusive' approach of the trainings was also well received.

Basic conditions

Cooperation

Recommended is a close collaboration with and the support of a teacher, or a youth worker in a youth center, who is sensitive to gender equality and GBV. They can introduce you to school boards (or youth centers), and promote this type of training to their young audience.

Professionals should also propose that the subject of GBV is integrated in the curricula of their school or youth center.

Budget

A budget to cover a project coordinator, a trainer and one facilitator. And a budget to launch a media campaign for radio and TV.

Additional information

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/news/perspective-peer-education-roots-for-school-pupils-to-enhance-consciousness-of-tackling-and-impeding-women-violence-in-europe/

Report on GBV among young people in EU countries (in English):

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Report-on-Peer-Education-Trainings-on-Gender-Violence.pdf

The project folder (in Greek and English): logos and messages are available to other organizations.

Contact information

Mediterranean Institute on Gender Studies (MIGS)

Georgina Christou

46 Makedonitissas Avenue,

Box 24005, Nicosia 1703,

Cyprus

2. Turkey - Domestic Violence Training Program: Raising Women Awareness of Domestic Violence and their Rights

Violent behavior is often seen as 'normal', not only by men but also by women and society in general. Women are often unaware of the rights and regulations that exist to protect them from violence. The Autonomous Women's Association in Mersin organized "home based meetings" with women from disadvantaged neighborhoods. They aimed to show these women that what goes on in their homes is not normal family behavior but 'violence', and therefore unacceptable and intolerable. Many women experience suppression and violence in the name of honor. However, the perception of 'honor' must change, honor is in no way positive. During the sessions the participating women also received information on women's legal rights and available services for victims of domestic violence.

Target group

Women living in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The approach

Prior to the 'home-based meetings', contact persons of the project visit the selected neighborhood to recruit volunteer hostesses among the target group. Together with the hostess, they fix the dates of the meetings and instruct the hostess to invite 15-20 women, relatives and/or neighbors, to attend the meetings in her home.

Trained moderators conduct the home-based meetings with 15-20 women. The group starts with a video with short clips showing different types of violence in everyday life and information about counseling centers. The moderators then open the discussion. They invite the participants to rethink and reflect upon the kind of domestic violence shown in the video. They then ask them to share their own experiences with violence during their lives: how they were treated in their extended and nuclear families during childhood, how they got married, their lives with their husbands and family in law. The moderators teach them to understand that their experiences, like what is shown in the film, are not 'normal' but should be addressed as violence. By sharing their stories the women define domestic violence, which includes physical, psychological, economical, and sexual violence.

The violent experiences are often related to honor, and many women were forced into marriage. Issues like parenting, different attitudes towards teenage girls and boys, decisions on marrying, dealing with the family in law, etc., are also discussed under the heading of 'domestic violence'. It teaches women that these practices are forms of violence, rather than acceptable and tolerable normal life behavior.

After the discussion the moderator offers information in oral, written and visual forms, on women's legal rights, how to exercise legal rights, legal procedures, and provides names of women's organizations for information about legal counseling, medical aid, psychological counseling and shelter services.

The sessions are evaluated by means of an evaluation/observation sheet.

Research Activities

In the Turkish project the meetings were tape-recorded, but only after all the participants gave their consent. This was a part of the research and monitoring. The project team reviewed the discussions and evaluated them to reveal the violence perception of the women, their attitudes towards violence and formulate recommendations for the women to cope.

At the end of the home-based sessions the project staff interviewed all participants using both the questionnaire and the Abuse-Index sheet. The questionnaire was developed and prepared as part of the research component of the project. It serves to collect data about the socio-economic status of targeted women; their perception of violence; forms and strengths of violence experienced by the target group, and to identify their needs and demands. Finally, it specifies mechanisms that are activated to cope with domestic violence.

The Abuse Index, as a tool to gather data, measures the type and density of the violence experienced by the targeted women. The Index is a supplement with the questionnaire.

Results

The home based meetings were quite successful as the women felt comfortable in their friend's/relative's house instead of in an unfamiliar location. After the meetings they had a greater awareness of violence against women in society, although they tended to focus on physical violence only. It is not fully possible to measure the impact of this project on the participating women. However, the public information and advocacy activities did significantly increase the number of women visiting the counseling centers.

Basic conditions

Well-prepared professionals and volunteers

- The (professional and volunteer) moderators must be trained to make sure they start out with the same information about and principles of home-based training programs to create awareness and raise consciousness among women groups. Prospective moderators always participate in home-based meetings moderated by a professional trainer as part of their training.
- Before starting the home-based meetings, local organizations for counseling and support and crisis intervention, should be warned. This can be done by informing and/or involving local organizations in the project, or even providing in-company trainings on (domestic) violence.
- Home-based meetings are an interactive training-learning method where both sides (trainers and the trainees or organizations and targeted women) train each other and/or learn from each other. Here, success is heavily based on active participation from everyone in the group.
- Necessary materials for moderators: the video and a handbook about violence, legal rights, and women's organizations. For participants: a brochure on domestic violence and addresses for counseling and support. Also, small stickers, 2x4 cm size, with telephone numbers of relevant call centers, police station and women counseling centers to call in emergency situations.

Media

To reach as many women as possible, to inform them about the meetings and about the counseling services, the project team appears on local radio and TV channels, joins panels and conferences. Also, by increasing the visibility of domestic violence, public interest and sensitivity will grow.

Money for costs of hostesses

The project will pay for any food and drinks (such as tea, coffee and cakes) that are served during home-based meetings. In addition, the hostess will receive a small fee for the use of her home.

Contact information

Autonomous Women's Association (Bağımsız Kadın Derneği)
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3. The Netherlands - Know your Rights': Public information campaign Rights and Abandonment for Moroccan and Turkish women, men and young people

Migrant women who get involved in the Dutch, Moroccan or Turkish legal system are often confronted with complicated legal issues and procedures with regard to family law and right of residence. Each year, dozens of women, children and young people are abandoned in Morocco, Turkey, and other countries (their parents' motherland), during holidays or family visits. They are often dealing with family/marital and/or parenting problems or have a history of an arranged or forced marriage. Abandonment in itself is a traumatic event and should be treated as abuse and a form of violence.

National working group 'Mudawwanah' initiated the project "Know your Rights" to educate and inform migrant women on their rights and to empower them and thus prevent problems. The project also aims to enhance and increase knowledge in institutional and organizational programs and create a solid network of expertise and collaboration. Finally, 'Mudawwanah' aims to improve the legal status of migrant women, children and young people

Target group

Primary target group: Moroccan and Turkish migrant women and young people (and men).

Activities for other nationalities are in progress.

Second: Professionals and volunteers active in health care and welfare, care and legal services

Third: policy makers and politicians on a national and international level.

The approach

The project adheres an integral approach consisting of:

- Training for information officers with an Arabic/Berber and Turkish/Kurdish background.
About 100 women and men from five regions in the country are trained to speak at

meetings for migrants. Work has started on training programs for other nationalities like Afghan, Somali, Iraqi, Iranian, Egyptian, etc.

- Information meetings for migrants at a local level; in neighborhoods, schools, community houses and organizations. The meetings are organized by local or regional partners and moderated by the information officers.
- A support point and phone line for abandoned women, offering support from the first call to the return to the Netherlands, as well as organizing care and shelter, in close collaboration with the Dutch Support group Returning Emigrants, SSR.
- Information meetings for professionals, like social workers and solicitors, in the shape of a national conference, linked to regional working conferences. Information, tips and consultation on identification, referral and support, also to strengthen collaboration and optimize (joint) care and support.
- Collaboration agreements with organizations of relevant chain partners to secure continuity of activities in organizations throughout the Netherlands. Building a network of expert solicitors and social workers, with main focus on identification, referral and support.
- Lobby among policy makers and politicians to improve the policy on human rights and the legal status of migrants.
- Working groups in Morocco and the Netherlands with Dutch and Moroccan experts, politicians, policy makers and relevant institutes and women's organizations. Working Group Mudawwanah joins forces with the Dutch Support group Returning Emigrants (SSR). The latter works on the expansion and strengthening of networks and collaboration with other countries.

Basic conditions

Togetherness and mutual support between the participating migrant organizations is crucial, including at least one 'instigator' in each organization who is supported by and represents the grass roots. One (local or regional) organization must apply for funding to finance at least the local activities, travel fees and a small reward for the information officers, as well as (part of) their continuous training.

Exchange groups, expert meetings and seminars throughout the year are important for the project team in order to keep up with the information officers, professionals and participating organizations. Commitment and collaboration with all partners on a local, regional and national level are prerequisites to reach the intended goals. It is crucial to develop a structural approach and a broad supportive political and ministerial base.

To guard both the project contents and the logistics the project team must have a central coordination point.

Results

Migrant women and men participating in the information meetings became more aware of their rights and felt stronger in the end. Aspects like the influence of social environment, the lack of communication, traditional patterns and parenting between two cultures were discussed. Personal experiences were shared and a lot of questions arose on procedures, applications, regulations, marital problems, partner choice, children and divorce. Other subjects were nationality or double nationality, abandonment of women and children, naturalization, right of residence and (returning or) emigration. Education and sharing empowers women and enables them to be independent and claim their rights and their children's rights.

The working conferences for policy makers, professionals and volunteers in the regions are well received and the contents provide the participants with better insight in various situations, effective identification and referral and practical support. It offers them a platform for discussion, to learn, exchange and be informed of the latest developments as well as meet experts in the field.

Nowadays, abandonment regularly appears on the political agenda and is listed and treated as a serious form of violence. All women have the right to return to the Netherlands to deal with the necessary legal procedures. Finally, there is more emphasis on preventive measures to avoid abandonment. It is also important that the expertise gained in the Netherlands and Morocco can be transferred to other countries.

Material

- Bilingual brochures on family and alien law and abandonment for the Turkish and Arabic community and for care workers:
 - Turk Medeni Kanunu' 'Mudawwanah – *'Marokkaans familierecht'* ('Moroccan family law') on Turkish and Dutch family law, immigration law and abandonment.
 - *'Achtergebleven of achtergelaten?'* (Remaining or Abandoned? In Dutch)
- A (emergency) booklet in three languages – with tips and addresses for Morocco, Turkey and the Netherlands.
- Bilingual educational films, in Arabic and Turkish, to use in trainings, at information meetings and to stimulate a discussion on the themes.
- Foundations Kezban and Steun Remigranten provide information on their websites: www.steunremigranten.nl and www.st-kezban.nl

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4. Germany - Papatya - Anonymous Shelter and Counseling

Girls and young women from migrant backgrounds suffering from family violence and oppression like honor related violence and forced marriage cannot turn to the regular youth support system for help as it offers public, open institutions and they are in serious danger if they leave their families. Some of them live very restricted lives and have little freedom of movement. In extreme cases they are highly isolated, aren't allowed to have friends of their own or keep a mobile phone and are under constant supervision. Even professionals that are looking after the girls run a risk of being threatened by the families and have to take precautions for their own protection.

To prevent (further) violence, honor crimes, forced marriages and kidnapping to the home country, Papatya provides anonymous, accessible counseling for girls and young women and a shelter with a secret address and qualified staff. Papatya offers safety as well as psychosocial and concrete support.

Target group

Shelter: Girls and young women with migrant backgrounds aged 13-21 years, who are afraid of sanctions, abduction or even to be murdered if they reject their families' prohibitions and future plans.

Counseling: All people who are confronted with honor related violence and forced marriage with all its consequences –the victims themselves, friends or partners of victims, and professionals.

The approach

The shelter

The shelter is located in a nice house with enough space for staff and girls, in a neighborhood where it is likely to remain unnoticed. The shelter focuses on care around the clock by a professional all-women-team with members from different ethnic backgrounds. A professional staff member is available at all times. At least two staff members are present during the busiest hours on weekdays. The team members speak several languages among them and have an intercultural approach. Human rights form the basis of everything else. The individuality of each girl and young woman is maximally encouraged and respected.

The shelter has room for no more than nine girls/women because one of the shelter's main aims is to create a family-like atmosphere. Girls and young women who flee from family violence often show a high level of ambivalence and are often incapable of dealing with their newly gained freedom. To help them regain some stability and protect them from running into danger, life in the shelter is structured and a strict set of rules applies. Anyone who reveals the address is dismissed and transferred to an alternative youth care institution.

The girls and young women are not primarily treated as victims but also as individuals with incredible courage and an abundance of individual resources. Papatya works to empower girls and young women and develop a perspective in terms of education and work. The workers are there to support the girls, no matter what, as well as listen to and respect their wishes. Ground rule is to focus on talents and resources of every girl, more than on possible problems.

Every girl will be assigned one or two workers who will keep a close eye on her development and future possibilities. They keep track of all contact moments with social services and family members. Contrary to impartial mediation, the staff openly takes the side of the girl and aims to further her situation, needs and rights in confrontations with the family and sometimes social services. Relatives are confronted with their behavior towards the girl and are given a chance to reflect and change; positive contacts with family members are identified and nurtured. Family contacts are escorted closely by staff members and reflected upon with each girl individually. To minimize risks and danger face to face confrontations are only arranged at social youth services; further contact takes place by mail or by phone, or at an institution. The stay should be as long as necessary and as short as possible. Ideally, a stay should never last longer than 8 weeks. If a girl decides to return home, clear appointments are made on structural monitoring by the authorities.

Anonymous online counseling

The expert team offers counseling in German, Turkish, French and English. The counselors use a secured Internet platform to ensure the anonymity and safety of the visitors of the site. To introduce the service it was promoted at schools and counseling centers as well as in the local press. Several federal states of Germany financed the project.

Results

Papatya has been active for over 25 years. Key activities have always been locating and tackling gaps of the support system through lobbying, networking and raising problem awareness with authorities and politicians. Currently, Papatya focuses on the situation and problems of young adults and their special needs. New technologies like the Internet are included in the strategies and new safety rules are being developed.

For many girls moving to a special shelter is the only way to escape violence. It can be a major relief to have some distance between you and your home town; or to know that you are safe and that your anonymity is guaranteed. The majority is very positive about the intercultural team and project setting. It is easy to feel accepted and at home, and at the same time it stimulates the girls to participate and collaborate. Some girls find it too hard to be away from home and stay only for a couple of days. Most girls have no problems accepting the rules as they guarantee their safety, but some show risky behavior. Dominant boyfriends are a tough test for the girls and may ask them to bend the rules a little 'in the name of love'. The balance between "backing" and "binding" is a precarious one, especially if girls stay longer than two months. The girls who do not return to their families often keep in touch for years.

Basic conditions

A professional team

Required is a team of trained professionals (in social education or psychology) with excellent intercultural competencies. They have to have explicit expert knowledge in the field of anti-violence work, especially with regard to trauma and post-traumatic situations, and the special implications of honor related violence and forced marriages. In addition, affinity towards women's and children's rights, stress resistance and flexibility are prerequisites. Finally, the team members must be reasonably informed about the legal aspects of the youth care system and migrant legislation.

Sufficient financial support

The program needs a financial structure that allows a non-bureaucratic intake system and does not link intake and individual claims to social services money, which have to be proven first. Funding is necessary for a minimum of 260 staff hours/week (=6,5 fulltime posts) (168 hours in a week) and a spacious flat. The shelter must be located in a larger city, to increase chances of anonymity.

Collaboration

Twofold:

- A close collaboration -partner, operating as an outstation (for telephone and postal address).
- Participation in a network of other organizations from the field, and collaboration with youth social services and local police.

Tools

The website provides information for girls in different languages. A flyer and a mini-flyer (the size of a business card) and a poster are distributed at schools and other relevant organizations frequented by the target group. Additional information is available for professionals.

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5. Sweden - LGBT AND HONOR (www.hbtheder.se)

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gender (lgbt)-youth should be recognized as possible victims of honor related violence, both girls and boys. They are vulnerable because of their sexual identity and often forced to go into hiding. Lgbt-youth also run a heightened risk of abandonment, forced marriage and domestic violence. Many methods and programs on these particular issues fail to consider this specific group. ALMAeuropa and RFSL Ungdom, the national organization for the rights of Lgbt-youth, initiated the project "LGBT and Honor". The project offers special support and advice by mentors who are professional experts on the subject of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people and honor related violence, and often come from the target group themselves. They are trained to work through email and chat. Through the website, help-seekers can remain anonymous and build up contact at their own pace.

Target group

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gender-youth (16-25 years) that are victims of or at risk of honor related violence, abandonment, forced marriage and/or domestic violence.
- Professionals working with the primary target group
- General public

The approach

The website www.hbtheder.se (in Swedish so far) has a direct and simple outlook with pictures of some of the mentors. This creates a sense of openness and warmth that appeals to young people.

On the website you can either choose to email and receive a response within 24 hours, or chat with the mentors. The role of the mentor is to be supportive and guide the youth towards help and resources; it is not their role to be professional counselors/therapists and build up long term relationships with the help seekers. As the schedule rotates, the youths who contact the website will have contact with multiple mentors. It is not possible to request a specific mentor to keep the role of the mentors and the kind of help the website is offering clear. Often, youths use the website to speak about their experience for the very first time; it is supportive and open, a place to share your story without being judged.

Seven mentors have been selected because of their professional or personal background with honor related violence and lgbt. The mix has proven to be effective, because the mentors can help each other and have different areas of strength. The mentors discuss the help seekers and difficult cases among themselves and with the supervisor and project manager. This is mostly done through email or telephone since they are all stationed in different parts of Sweden.

Next to this, the website offers information on recommended safe houses and other organizations working actively with honor related violence and lgbt. The website does not recommend women's shelters in general, because not all of them offer help for lgbt-youth,

many are not open to men or couples. The project team only recommends organizations that, in their opinion, adequately support young people regardless of their gender, sexual identity or orientation; this is their trademark.

For publicity, the website is promoted on other websites aimed at lgbt-youth and at organizations working with honor related violence. Information material has been sent to all secondary schools, youth clubs, youth health centers and school counselors in Sweden.

The mentors

The team of mentors gets together three times a year for a two-day training session and internal evaluations. A professional psychologist is connected to the project as supervisor and joins in the team trainings to work on group processes. Throughout the year, the project manager and the supervisor can be consulted by email or telephone.

The project manager has access to all that is written in the chat-room or the email, which means that he or she is also ultimately responsible for all the website work. Next to this, the manager is responsible for the training and supervision of the mentors, evaluations, etc. The mentors are educated on the work methods of institutes like social services, the police, and shelters; how to work with the internet; how to separate personal experiences from those of the youths; useful strategies for youths; risk assessment and lgbt, honor related violence and forced marriages.

All mentors receive a small economic compensation for their work, which is mainly performed on a voluntary basis (about € 1300 per year)

The website, www.hbtheder.se, is part of a larger project which includes a research report on the situation of lgbt-youth suffering honor related violence, published in 2011 in Sweden. The project also includes awareness raising, training programs for professionals, conferences open to the general public, media exposure, etc.

Basic conditions

Privacy and secrecy

It is crucial that the website has highly secured email and chat functions as the visitors are sharing their innermost feelings and problems. The mentors did not take a legal oath to secrecy but they all took one voluntarily. That means that the information is only shared within the team and with the supervisor. This is clearly stated on the webpage.

Sufficient funding

Sufficient funding is necessary for the 6 days of training per year: travel, accommodation, food and a small economic compensation to mentors. In addition, there has to be full funding for the project manager and money to hire a professional supervisor. The mentors must be prepared to work at odd hours, at night and during the weekend whenever the chat is open.

Results

The website was launched in October 2011, so far there have been seven visitors seeking help each week. The target group is hard to reach because of the double taboo; it will take a lot of effort to find ways to reach them. Some mentors are currently experimenting with new ways to reach the target group.

The reactions of the target group are positive; many youths are really looking for a place to go or just happy to know that someone is there for them. The mentors can help to start processes

of change. They have to be able to respond fast, and be friendly and professional in the chat. This is a skill that takes some time to develop.

Material

A report (in Swedish) about lgbt-youth who are victims of honor related violence, posters in different sizes and cards. All these items are free of charge to order from ALMAeuropa. The website and its functions are easily transferred, the recommendations must be adapted to fit each specific country and their respective legal frameworks.

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Chapter 6

Conclusions and recommendations

This chapter contains a number of conclusions by the 'Flying Team against Violence' project partners, as well as some collective recommendations. Recommendations for the respective national situations are published in the project partners' national reports. These reports can be downloaded from the partners' websites.

The following recommendations are the result of interviews with grass roots organizations and NGO's, the success factors of the good practices, the national researches of the respective partners and the debates from the 'Flying Team against Violence'. The recommendations can be divided into three categories: for grass roots organizations and NGO's, for national policy makers and for policy makers at a European level.

An important theme at the national meetings that will be organized from June to October for grass roots organizations, NGO's, other stakeholders and policy makers, will be (a debate on) the best ways to implement the recommendations.

Finally in the last paragraph, the Flying Team against Violence formulates several tips for grass roots organizations and NGO's concerning the development of projects aiming at combating one or more forms of harmful traditional practices, now and in the future.

6.1. Conclusions

The project 'Flying Team against Violence' aims at the prevention and action against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. These three forms of harmful traditional practices, which greatly affect the lives of individuals and deny them the right to live their lives the way they want to, because they oppose the rigid conservative and patriarchal values and regulations of their families, communities and/or environment.

Most victims of violence are women and girls, but not exclusively. Men and boys are known victims, too, especially if they are gay, bisexual or transgender, and some cases of (young) male family members refusing to use violence to save the 'family honor'.

In most of the project partners' countries, honor related violence, forced marriage or abandonment, are acknowledged and combated as relevant social problems and a lot of action is taking place. Nevertheless, further improvement and development are crucial. True change must be achieved through an actual change in mentality and behavior of all parties involved; the existing norms and behavioral patterns must be discarded.

Important players in the combating of violence are (human right based) grass roots organizations and NGO's. They are close to the heart of the problem and in direct contact with victims, bystanders (and perpetrators); and they are able to share their knowledge and

experiences with organizations and governments, as well as enter policy proposals for effective and coherent actions. This is an essential role, which is often underrated and underexposed, especially by governments and institutes.

All this has been the immediate cause for the project 'Flying Team against Violence': fully exposing the experiences and activities of the grass roots organizations and NGO's. Good practices from the respective partner countries (Cyprus, Germany, Netherlands, Turkey and Sweden) were identified and described and criteria for basic conditions and success factors were formulated and reviewed with the grass roots organizations and NGO's. In addition, a desk research was conducted on the political and social discourse and the activities against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment in the respective countries. Aim of the project: learning from each other, exchanging knowhow and experiences and building an international network (Europe and Turkey) to enhance future collaboration and the influence on the political sphere.

The project has shown that there are many similarities between the participating countries, especially with regard to success factors for solid, effective projects, and the basic conditions for organizations to be able to perform optimally and achieve more. This comes as no surprise. Many of the factors are related to proper project management. Some of the similarities that were mentioned are: performing sensitive activities and projects on taboo subjects, and – partly – working with target groups that are very difficult to reach, the mentioned success factors and basic conditions are often also similar. Most mentioned aspects: the bottom up approach, collaboration on all levels, and more possibilities for continuation and sustainability (read among other things, financial stability). To break the spiral of violence, violence that is passed on from generation to generation, a substantial change of mentality and behavior is necessary. Projects that meet these conditions have a much better basis for long-term success.

However, there are differences between the participating countries. Abandonment, for example, initially appeared to be an unknown concept for most partner organizations, except the Dutch. All countries, however, recognized the actual problem. For the European countries, it mostly refers to the forced remigration of women and children to their countries of origin (or that of their parents). They are forced to remigrate by their husbands or parents, who abandon them, often after a holiday, without a passport or European residence permit, which makes it impossible for them to independently return to Europe. In Germany the term 'abduction' is commonly used and in the specific context that girls with migrant backgrounds are sent back or threatened by their parents to be sent back to their (or their parents) country of origin, in order to control the girls' behaviour. In Turkey, the phenomenon is mostly associated with internal migration problems; husbands who move to other parts of the countries for economic purposes, and stop sending home money.

The biggest difference between the participating countries, however, was found in the use of the concept of honor related violence. One of the most important debates, which kept recurring, was the terminology of the respective countries, compared to the preferred terms of the partner organizations. In the Northern European countries (Sweden, Netherlands and Germany) the term honor related violence has been in common use for some time now;

something that was actively encouraged by the grass roots organizations and NGO's. In the Netherlands and Germany some groups have openly disapproved. The most important reason being that as long as honor related violence and forced marriage are not recognized and discussed in other closed or strict conservative communities (like orthodox Christians and Roma and Sinti), it merely underlines the already extant negative stigmatization of migrants and refugees,

In Turkey, it was mainly the feminist organizations, which protested the term. According to them, the violence has nothing to do with 'honor', and therefore shouldn't be used as a (legal) legitimization to commit violence. They prefer terms like violence against women or harmful traditional practices, and to emphasize mainly the struggle against social, economical and political inequality of women.

In Cyprus, finally, the terms domestic violence and violence against women are also much more commonly used than honor related violence. However, there is much less resistance against its use is much less, and one of the organizations of Cyprus even recommends that the government develops a clear definition of honor related violence.

6.2. Recommendations

The following recommendations are divided into three categories: for grass roots organizations and NGO's, for national policy makers, and for policy makers at a European level.

1. For grass roots organizations and NGO's

- Develop and implement awareness raising campaigns, join forces with other democratic groups in society on harmful traditional practices such as honor related violence, forced marriage, abandonment and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexuals and transgenders. Engage communities in the implementation of the campaigns.
- Organize educational projects to more effectively inform affected groups about their rights. Knowledge leads to empowerment.
- Join forces. Exchange experiences and information with other organizations working in the field of harmful traditional practices. Together, lobby with the government for more funding and resources for research and programs to be carried out by organizations and NGO's that address the issue of harmful traditional practices.

2. For national policy makers

- Conduct systematic research and data collection on the prevalence of all forms of harmful traditional practices, to better understand the real dimensions of the problems and to better inform policy, support and prevention campaigns.
- One need that has been identified in order to find out about the extent of honor related

violence is that law enforcement agencies need a specific code of this type of crime, much like the code for hate crimes.

- Establish a systematic and long-term national plan of action for the prevention and combat of all forms of harmful traditional practices, which will be monitored on implementation, regularity, target group and evaluation.

The plan of action includes:

- Clear definitions of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, from a gender and human rights perspective.
 - An elaborate prevention plan, including the participation of schools, parents and youth.
 - Legal regulations and laws to protect victims of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, and prosecute the perpetrators
 - The creation and/or strengthening of an integrated network approach that includes all relevant stakeholders (police and criminal law, care and relief, health care, youth care, education). Clearly define the collaboration between the stakeholders, in terms of roles, responsibilities and duties. Make sure that the stakeholders own the necessary expertise, knowledge and experience, and are willing to share it.
 - An increase of the numbers of (anonymous) shelters and crisis intervention programs, all over the country. Make sure that victims can't be traced by family members via bureaucratic channels or in any other way.
 - Systematic and specialized trainings about the different forms of harmful traditional practices and their specifics for all parties, with a gender and human rights sensitive approach, including intercultural communication skills and sensitivity for the position of different groups (gender, age, sexual orientation). Experts with ample practical experience should moderate the trainings.
 - Support for the victim after (crisis) intervention (housing, education, work, childcare, psychosocial support).
- Make sure that local authorities adequately implement plans of action. Monitor and evaluate progress, regularly.
 - Do not use immigration policies or anti-trafficking laws as an instrument of protection of (potential) victims. This will not protect them, but put them in an even more vulnerable (legal) position, and thus will not contribute to the combat of harmful traditional practices.
 - Strengthen the social and economic position of women and migrants in the participating countries.
 - Launch awareness-raising campaigns:
 - Create campaigns to promote gender equality and respect for all individuals, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.
 - Introduce subjects like gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights in schools and universities (as part of the regular curriculum);
 - Use (social) media and other sources
 - Recognize the value of (volunteer) work of grass roots organizations and NGO's working on

the prevention and action against harmful traditional practices.

- In the development of a national plan and in the awareness-raising campaigns, include the suggestions and experiences from grass roots organizations and NGO's addressing one or more forms of harmful traditional practices.
 - Organize regular consultations with grass root organizations and NGO's about the implementation of policies and measures to combat honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment.
 - Establish sustainable funding and resources for the organizations. Offer support to find alternative funding. Avoid a 'project culture' with a competitive climate, which counteracts fruitful collaboration.
- Sign and/or ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Combating all Forms of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which defines and criminalizes various forms of violence against women, including all forms of harmful traditional practices. This treaty is the first legally binding instrument in Europe, creating a comprehensive legal framework to protect women against all forms of violence. Cyprus and the Netherlands did not sign/ratify the treaty, yet.

3. For European Policy makers

- Set up a working group to conduct a European study on the prevalence of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Pursue data collection, research and policy development on honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment at a European level
- Develop a European approach for the prevention and combat of honor related violence, forced marriages and abandonment for a European policy
- Prepare a protocol for reporting, collecting and (legal) assistance after abandonment, applicable in all European countries.
- Request member states to develop national action plans on all forms of harmful traditional practices.
- Ensure that access to effective protection is available to all women regardless of their legal status and provide legal residence status to all third-country nationals that are victims of harmful traditional practices.
- Sign and/or ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Combating all Forms of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which defines and criminalizes various forms of violence against women, including all forms of harmful traditional practices.

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