



## **Improving Data Collection on Violence Against Women in South East Europe**

**Lori K. Sudderth, Ph.D.  
Quinnipiac University  
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## Executive summary

In this study, surveys were sent to 75 organizations that respond to violence against women in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Each organization was asked about their data collection practices regarding general violence against women, but most of the questions focused on intimate partner violence, that is, the data collected in each agency on victims, perpetrators, and the circumstances of the case. Agencies were also asked if they routinely shared the data.

The purpose of the study was to a) survey data collection practices on violence against women and more specifically domestic violence, among selected agencies in South East Europe and b) to develop a set of indicators that would be useful in providing not only accurate data as to the prevalence of violence against women, but mechanisms to monitor the changing response of institutions to the violent crimes against women.

The results suggest that although each country has a unique context in which data on violence against women are collected, some common regional patterns emerged:

1. More data are collected on victims than on perpetrators.
2. Agencies that collected data on domestic violence cases often did so inconsistently, often out of respect for the victim's wishes.
3. The extent of collaboration and data sharing between agencies responding to domestic violence was unclear.

These results led to recommendations specific to the region of South East Europe.

1. Dedicated surveys of the population in each country to assess the prevalence of domestic violence and the rate at which it is reported.
2. Centralize data collection on domestic violence within individual countries to the extent possible.
3. Systematic collection of data to monitor policy effectiveness, including the processing of cases through the criminal justice system, access to health services, social work centers, judicial agencies, employment, and welfare.
4. Strengthen networking and collaboration ties between agencies in each country.
5. Develop a regional definition of domestic violence.
6. Standardize regional data collection through population surveys to match international instruments to the extent possible.
7. UNIFEM should organize yearly regional meetings rotated between countries to discuss strategies for data collection and progress of policy initiatives.

8. Strengthen collaboration efforts between countries, particularly among NGOs serving victims of violence.
9. Develop a set of indicators for measuring the effectiveness of domestic violence policies based on the intended outcomes of the legislation in each country, as well as in the region.
10. Use standardized questions (Bloom, 2008) to assess the success in implementing legislative changes in relevant agencies and programs.

## **I. Background**

### ***A. Introduction***

Since the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the level of political, legislative, policy and even financial commitment to ending VAW has been growing steadily. The Council of Europe recommended that all countries establish systems for data collection on violence against women in order to document incidence, prevalence, and the response of relevant agencies to violent crimes against women under revised legislative initiatives (Hagemann-White, 2006). The UN Secretary General's In-Depth Study on All Forms of VAW (2006) also recommended the establishment of data collection systems, stressing the need to create a set of international indicators on violence against women using comparable methods to define and measure violence (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-sg-study.htm>).

Without consistent and systematically collected data on violence against women, it is difficult to know how often the violence occurs and what populations are most vulnerable and in need of services and preventive or awareness education. It is also difficult to gauge when change occurs in the rate of intimate partner violence without a baseline by which to measure it (See Saltzman et al. 1999). In addition, gathering objective data on the impact of legislation, prevention efforts, service delivery, treatment, or education on intimate partner violence can assist policy makers and advocates in monitoring anticipated changes, both in the level of violence and in the response of various agencies to the problem.

These efforts are especially needed in South East Europe, where there have been significant legislative changes in the last 10 years, but few mechanisms for monitoring progress or enforcement of policies on violence against women. The United Nations Development Fund for Women, Central and Eastern Europe (UNIFEM CEE) (2007) has recommended more networking and sharing of information in the region of South East Europe, improvement of data collection on violence against women (specifically domestic violence) in the region, and using those data for advocacy purposes (Popa, 2007).

The purpose of this paper, then, is to a) survey data collection practices on violence against women and more specifically domestic violence, among selected agencies in South East Europe and b) to develop a set of indicators that will be useful in providing not only accurate data as to the prevalence of violence against women, but mechanisms to monitor the changing response of

institutions to the violent crimes against women. Although it would be ideal to ask agencies about all the data they collect on all types of violence against women, the survey was limited to general indicators of gendered violence and more specific indicators of domestic violence. This limitation was based on concerns about time constraints for agency representatives responding to the questions, but also with the presumption that future research could focus on other types of violence.

It was also the intention of the research that these indicators would be relevant to each country and its unique context, but also provide, whenever possible, standardized indicators to measure intimate partner violence in the region of South East Europe and the world. The standardization of indicators of gendered violence is consistent with a recent proposal by the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 January – 30 June 2010), which included the creation of a European Observatory on Gender-based Violence (Secretaria de Estado para la Union Europea, 2010). In cooperation with the European Gender Institute, the plan is to design common indicators on violence against women. Thus, the use of standardized indicators of intimate partner violence in South East Europe is as important as indicators specific to each cultural context.

## ***B. International Indicators of Violence Against Women***

Several international organizations have already created standardized lists of data indicators of violence against women, and these lists provide models for creating regional data collection practices (See for example, UNECE, 2009). The United Nations, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Council of Europe, and the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control all provide model instruments with indicators of violence against women that cross cultural boundaries.

Their recommendations for which data to include often depend on the purpose of gathering the information. Walby (2007), for example, recommends that indicators on violence against women include “all types of violence” as well as specific indicators of the most common types of violence internationally, while paying attention to any indicators of violence specific to one country (p. 22). She suggests including both lifetime and annual prevalence rates, the frequency and seriousness of injury, demographic factors such as age and marital or relationship status. Bloom (2008) suggests that in addition to prevalence rates, it is important to understand how well policies on domestic violence are implemented in relevant programs, such as the educational system, the criminal justice system, or social welfare. This type of research includes asking about the availability of services for victims of domestic violence, the training of frontline workers, and the proportion of cases resulting in an investigation, a prosecution, or a conviction.

Similarly, Saltzman et al (1999) recommended 50 elements for accurate data collection on intimate partner violence as a way of standardizing the measurement of this type of violence rather than relying on data from different agencies. Selected elements of these data are provided in Appendix A as one example of standardization of data collection on violence against women from a public health perspective. Additionally, note that the World Health Organization published research on domestic violence from a public health perspective after conducting

population-based surveys in 10 countries (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005). Saltzman et al (1999) recognized that it may not be possible to collect all the elements; thus they distinguish between *desirable* and *possible* elements for data collection, depending on the capacity of the system doing the collection. In addition, other studies recommend keeping track of patterns of extreme jealousy, blaming others for one's problems, obsessiveness, substance abuse problems, threats of suicide or homicide, destruction of property, and prior violations of protective orders (Carcedo & Sagot, 2000; Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005).

Other reports suggest collecting data on violence against women specifically to aid policy planners, advocates, and civil servants to respond effectively to the problems. For example, Hagemann-White (2006) links accurate recording of data on violence against women to effective investigation and prosecution of criminal cases as well as the documentation of the low reporting rate for this crime. Similarly, the UNECE Statistical Commission Friends of the Chair Report (2009) recommended collecting information on the relationship between victim and perpetrator as well as lifetime and annual prevalence rates for these types of violence, including specific measures of physical violence (e.g., hitting, biting, shoving, pushing, grabbing, etc.) and measures of the level of severity of the violence, completed and attempted sexual violence, the severity of the violence and its impact. However, the Council of Europe also cautioned that the data collected should be relevant to the efforts to prevent and sanction violence against women in addition to providing mechanisms for international comparison.

### ***C. Regional Definitions of Violence Against Women***

Regional data are used at times when country-specific data are not available or to highlight trends in violence against women in countries that share cultural characteristics (e.g., Zaman, 2003). Regional data indicators, especially those that are consistent with international surveys on violence against women, offer valuable evidence not only for gender advocates in individual countries, but for international organizations to advocate for change within those countries (See Popa, 2007). The UN, for example, defines violence against women as “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” (United Nations, 1993: Article 1). Particularly in countries where there is resistance to changing policies on the response to domestic violence, regional data can provide a set of shared definitions and indicators that provide a basis for comparison, a context in which data collection can be systematized and the violence objectively documented.

The region of South East Europe includes several NGOs and government agencies that keep data on violence against women, however, there is a need for more systematic collection of data to document prevalence of domestic violence (as well as other types of gendered violence). In addition, many agencies may be unaware of what data are kept by other institutions or how those data could be used to monitor progress or advocate for change (Popa, 2007). This research project was undertaken with the intention to clarify what data are collected in South East Europe and to suggest improvements for the future, keeping in mind the unique context of each country and the utility of international instruments to systematize data appropriately for the region.

## **II. Methodology**

### ***A. Data Collection on Violence against Women in South East Europe***

In order to understand more clearly what data on violence against women are collected in South East Europe, surveys were sent to 75 organizations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. The organizations were chosen because of their role in responding to violence against women, particularly those that provide services to victims. Each organization was asked about their data collection practices regarding general violence against women. If the organization kept data on domestic violence, additional questions were asked about data collection on incidents of intimate partner violence, victims, perpetrators, including judicial processing, and whether or not they routinely shared these data with other agencies.

Just under one third of the organizations returned a questionnaire. Therefore, the following results should be viewed as preliminary. For each country, except Montenegro,<sup>1</sup> there is a definition of domestic violence, a brief discussion of laws on domestic violence in that country, a summary of the data collection practices, and implications for future data collection. Results are then summarized regionally, but individual country results are available in Appendix B along with a “snapshot” of data collection practices.

## **III. Results: Data Collection Practices in South East Europe**

### ***A. Albania***

#### **1. Definition of domestic violence**

Domestic violence is not specifically included in the Criminal Code of Albania. Article 3 of Albanian law “On measures against domestic violence” (2007) No. 9669 defines domestic violence as “any act or omission of one person against another, resulting in violation of the physical, moral, psychological, sexual, social and economic integrity.” This law defines the relevant relationships: “any act of violence pursuant to point one of this article committed between persons who are or used to be in a family relationship.”

#### **2. Laws on domestic violence**

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<sup>1</sup> No questionnaires sent to Montenegro were returned.

Law No. 9669 of 18 December 2006 (Domestic Violence Law) a) defined domestic violence; b) delineated who is protected under the law; c) outlined the responsibilities of administrative and legal authorities as well as the documents to be issued; and d) allowed victims of domestic violence to apply for civil protection orders and emergency protection orders if there was an “immediate threat.” The law on domestic violence made the application process inexpensive, easy, and sensitive to victims’ need for a fast response to the violence.

The law includes violence between people who are married or cohabiting, including ex-partners, siblings, children, parents, family members living together, and the children of partners, whether married or not (On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations, 2006).

### 3. Data collection practices

Out of 23 requests for participation, seven (30%) agencies sent back a questionnaire on violence against women data collection practices. The responding agencies are the Civic Legal Initiatives Center, the Gender Alliance for Development Center in Albania, Light Steps, the Ministry of Interior, Refleksione Association, Shelter for Women and Girls in Tirana, and Women Forum of Elbasan. (See Table 1.)

None of the responding agencies collect information on forced sterilization, but all of them collect data on domestic violence. Most of the agencies collect information about the incident and victims, but fewer collect information on perpetrators. The most complete set of indicators on perpetrators is kept by the Civic Legal Initiatives Center, but this does not include any information on prison sentences. In addition, some agencies keep data only if the victim shares it or only if there is a court decision. All of the responding agencies, with the exception of the Gender Alliance for Development Center said they share data, either with specific agencies or upon request.

<b>Table 1: Albania</b>	<b>Civic Legal Initiatives Center</b>	<b>GADC</b>	<b>Light Steps</b>	<b>Ministry of Interior</b>	<b>Refleksione</b>	<b>Shelter for Women &amp; Girls</b>	<b>Women Forum of Elbasan</b>
<b>Variable</b>							
<b>General Violence</b>							
Harmful practices	●	●	●	●		●	●
Forced sterilization							
Sexual harassment	●	●		●			●
Marital rape	●	●		●		●	●
Rape by known perpetrator (other than spouse)	●	●		●		●	●
Rape by perpetrator unknown to the victim	●	●		●		+ <sup>2</sup>	●

<sup>2</sup> Sporadically recorded; usually recorded as trafficking

<b>Table 1: Albania</b>	<b>Civic Legal Initiatives Center</b>	<b>GADC</b>	<b>Light Steps</b>	<b>Ministry of Interior</b>	<b>Refleksione</b>	<b>Shelter for Women &amp; Girls</b>	<b>Women Forum of Elbasan</b>
Other sexual violence	•	•		•			
Trafficking	•	•				•	•
Domestic violence	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Incident</b>							
Time of incident	•		•	•	•	•	•
Location of incident	•		•	•	•	•	•
Case reported to police or judicial authorities	•		•		•	•	•
Who reported the incident	•		•	•	•	•	•
Information about witnesses	•		•	•	•	•	•
Agency where reported	•		•	•	•	•	•
Date received by agency	•		•		•	•	•
Case investigated by police	•		•	•	•	•	•
Victim wanted to pursue case	•				•	•	•
<b>Victim</b>							
Victim's Name	•		•	•	•		•
Identification/passport number of victim	•		•				
Victim's date of birth	•		•	•	•	•	•
Victim's age	•		•	•	•	•	•
Victim's sex	•		•	•	•	•	•
Victim's nationality	•		•	•	•	•	•
Residence /locality of victim	•		•	•	•	•	•
Job of victim	•		•	•	•	•	•
Relationship to offender	•		•	•	•	•	•
Victim and perpetrator cohabiting	•				•	•	•
Victim's marital status	•		•	•	•	•	•
Length of relationship with perpetrator	•		•		•	•	•
Number of children in victim's home	•		•		•	•	•
Physical violence by partner in lifetime	•				•	•	•
Physical violence by partner in last year	•				•	•	•
Sexual violence in lifetime	•					•	•
Sexual violence in last year	•					•	•
Psychological violence/abuse in lifetime	•				•	•	•
Psychological violence in the last year	•				•	•	•
Threat of violence, physical or sexual in last year	•					•	•
Description of incident	•		•		•	•	•
Physical injuries to victim	•		•	•	•	+	•
Severity of injuries to victim	•				•	•	•

<b>Table 1: Albania</b>	<b>Civic Legal Initiatives Center</b>	<b>GADC</b>	<b>Light Steps</b>	<b>Ministry of Interior</b>	<b>Refleksione</b>	<b>Shelter for Women &amp; Girls</b>	<b>Women Forum of Elbasan</b>
Psychological consequences to victim	●		●	●	●	●	●
Deaths related to episode					●	+	●
Level of social support victim has access to	●				●	●	●
Medical care received by victim	●		●		●	●	
Mental health care received by victim	●		●		●	●	
Socio-educational sessions attended by victim	●				●	●	
Psychological evaluation of victim	●				●	●	
Substance abuse treatment received by victim	●				●		
Housing assistance received by victim	●				●	●	
Legal advice received by victim	●		●		●	●	●
Legal representation of victim provided in court	●		●		●	●	●
Legal documents written on behalf of the victim	●				●	●	●
Employment assistance received by victim	●		●		●	●	
Welfare assistance received by victim	●		●		●		
<b>Perpetrator</b>							
Perpetrator's name	●		●	●	●	●	●
Identification/passport number of perpetrator			●				
Perpetrator's birthdate	●		●	●	●	●	
Perpetrator's age	●		●	●	●	●	●
Sex of perpetrator	●		●	●	●	●	●
Nationality of perpetrator	●			●	●	●	●
Residence of perpetrator	●		● <sup>2</sup>	●	●	●	●
Description of perpetrator	●			●	●		●
Perpetrator arrested	●		●	●			●
Are these arrests designated as DV-related?	●		●				●
Perpetrator has a gun license?	●			●			
When perpetrator arrested	●			●			
Perpetrator's weapons confiscated	●			●			
Perpetrator removed from home	●		●	●	●	●	●
Protective order issued	●		●	●	●	●	●
Conditions of protective order	●		●		●	●	●
Charges issued (or not)	●				●	●	●
Perpetrator charged with	●					●	●

<sup>2</sup> Specified in court decision only.

<b>Table 1: Albania</b>	<b>Civic Legal Initiatives Center</b>	<b>GADC</b>	<b>Light Steps</b>	<b>Ministry of Interior</b>	<b>Refleksione</b>	<b>Shelter for Women &amp; Girls</b>	<b>Women Forum of Elbasan</b>
misdemeanor/felony							
Date perpetrator notified of protective order	•		•	•	•	•	•
Perpetrator violated protective order	•		•	•	•	•	•
Alcohol/drug use by perpetrator	•		•		•	•	•
Mental health problems of perpetrator	•		•		•	•	•
Perpetrator shows signs of extreme jealousy	•		•		•	•	•
Perpetrator destroyed property/pets in most recent episode	•					•	
Weapons used by perpetrator in most recent episode	•		•			•	
Suicidal/ homicidal threats by perpetrator	•					•	
Level of dangerousness of perpetrator	•			•		•	
Perpetrators' arrest record	•		+ <sup>2</sup>	•			•
Perpetrator's arrest record for violent crimes			•				
Previous violations of protective orders	•		•	•			
Court where case was prosecuted	•		•			•	•
Date of first court appearance	•		+ <sup>3</sup>			•	•
Date case concluded	•		+ <sup>3</sup>			•	•
Interdisciplinary team worked on case	•						•
Case pending or closed	•					•	•
Perpetrator's gun license suspended <sup>3</sup>	•		+ <sup>3</sup>	•			
Sentence given	•		+ <sup>3</sup>				•
Date entered prison			+ <sup>3</sup>				
Prison where time served			+ <sup>3</sup>				
Length of sentence			+ <sup>3</sup>				
Date of departure from prison			+ <sup>3</sup>				
Sentence completed			+ <sup>3</sup>				
Perpetrator received group treatment for DV	•		+ <sup>3</sup>				•
Substance abuse treatment received by perpetrator	•		+ <sup>3</sup>		•	•	
Perpetrator's arrest record after sentence completed			+ <sup>3</sup>				
<b>Other</b>							
Other information on VAW						•	

<sup>3</sup> As a result of the arrest

<sup>2</sup> Data are sometimes collected.

<sup>3</sup>Data are contained in court decisions only.

<b>Table 1: Albania</b>	<b>Civic Legal Initiatives Center</b>	<b>GADC</b>	<b>Light Steps</b>	<b>Ministry of Interior</b>	<b>Refleksione</b>	<b>Shelter for Women &amp; Girls</b>	<b>Women Forum of Elbasan</b>
Agency routinely shares information with other agencies	•		•	•	•	•	•

#### 4. Implications for data collection

The objective of measures against domestic violence is to reduce the incidence of the crime, thus there is a clear need to document not only arrests for domestic violence, but to assess domestic violence incidents that are not reported to the police. Unreported domestic violence data can be collected in population surveys in which participants are asked about intimate violence they have experienced in the last year and in their lifetime, and whether or not they reported it to an official agency. (See Appendices B and C: Albania.) These types of surveys can be administered by any organization that does general social surveys, including government agencies that routinely survey the population or research organizations and universities. It would also be important for the police or an agency monitoring the police to keep track of domestic violence arrests and to designate them as such. Since domestic violence is not in the Criminal Code, it is doubtful that a policing agency would be required to keep track of domestic violence arrests. However, it is important to have this type of data as a baseline of comparison, should the Criminal Code be amended. In other words, arrests of perpetrators for violent offenses against their spouses, partners, or family members should be designated as “domestic violence offenses” in police reports, so that researchers could compare domestic violence arrests before and after a change in legislation. Similarly, responses to population surveys that ask about experiences of intimate partner violence and reporting behavior could be compared before and after legislative changes. This analysis would show the impact of legislation on violent behavior, but also on the rate of reporting to official agencies.

Since another goal of the law is to use protection orders to keep all victims of domestic violence safe, it is essential to collect information on the impact of protection orders—are victims safer than they were without protection orders? This should be measured not only by reported incidents, subsequent injuries to the victims, and arrests, but victim satisfaction surveys and domestic violence-related murders. (See Appendices B and C: Albania.) In order to most effectively analyze the impact of protective measures, all of these data should be kept in one centralized dataset.

Given the definition of domestic violence in Albania, data measures should include the injuries inflicted by perpetrators, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic injuries<sup>4</sup>. The questionnaire asked agencies if they collected information on three types of violence: sexual violence, physical violence, and psychological violence; but “moral” violence and economic

<sup>4</sup> Economic injuries include “denying a woman access to and control over basic resources” (United Nations General Assembly, 2006). Economic violence is often measured as a part of controlling behaviors (e.g., Economic and Social Council, 2009)

violence measures were not requested or defined. Since the first three types of violence are more common in surveys on violence against women, they should be the minimum indicators requested for data collection. The other two aspects of violent relationships should be operationalized to reflect the specific context in Albania (i.e., what would economic or moral violence mean to women in Albania?).

In addition, many agencies are collecting the same data, either on paper or in computerized form. Some agencies already routinely share data with other organizations. However, each institution in Albania has its own data collection practices, complicating the integration of data across agencies (Gadeshi, 2009), but there is clearly overlap in the kind of information that is gathered. In the last two years, there has been an effort to improve data collection in the country by creating a dataset on domestic violence which is kept by the state police (Gjurgji, 2009) and by standardizing instruments of data collection across agencies, mindful of international standards of indicators (Arab, 2009; Gadeshi, 2009). Perhaps it would be beneficial to discuss the centralization of a dataset that could be strategically shared to reduce the number of times victims have to repeat their stories, or more closely monitor repeat offenders, or to enhance collaboration between agencies with common goals. In fact, the Network against Gender-based Violence and Trafficking in Albania, with the support of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, has recently initiated an effort to obtain agreement among shelters on common standards for tracking domestic violence cases (UNIFEM, 2009).

## ***B. Bosnia and Herzegovina***

### **1. Definition of domestic violence**

The definition of domestic violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina is specified separately in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srsпка. There is no national definition of domestic violence, although the definitions in the two entities are very similar. The main differences in the two definitions are that the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina specifically includes “sexual harassment and harassment of a family member,” and the Republic of Srsпка includes “isolation and limitation in freedom of movement and communication” as well as “lack of care and resolution of the basic problems.”

Domestic violence is defined in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Article 6 of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, passed in May, 2005. Domestic violence is defined as “any act of inflicting physical, psychological, sexual or economic harm or suffering, as well as threats as regards the aforementioned, and lack of due care and attention which may seriously impede family members from enjoying their rights and freedoms in all areas of public and private life which are based on equality.” Included in this definition are the following acts:

- 1) The use of physical force or psychological coercion to the physical or psychological integrity of a family member;
- 2) The behavior of a family member which may result in the physical, psychological, or financial damage;
- 3) Intimidation, threats or the violation of the dignity of a family member by blackmail or another form of coercion;
- 4) Physical attack of a family member by another family member, irrespective of the fact of where there was physical injury or not;
- 5) Verbal attack, insult, profanity, name calling and other violent harassment of one family member by another;
- 6) Sexual harassment and harassment of a family member as defined in the Gender Equality Act of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina no. 16/03);
- 7) Stalking and other related forms of harassment of a family member;
- 8) Damaging and destroying joint property and possessions of attempts thereof;
- 9) Lack of due care for a family member or failure to assist and protect a family member when bound to do so by law and morality and when such inaction may result in the physical, psychological or socioeconomic endangerment of that family member (Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, 2005a, Article 6<sup>5</sup>).

Domestic violence is defined in Republika Srpska by the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, which was passed in December of 2005. Article 6 of the law defines domestic violence as “any act of inflicting physical, psychological and sexual harm or economic damage, as well as threats as regards the aforementioned, and lack of due care and attention which may seriously impede family members from enjoying their rights and freedoms in all areas of public and private life which are based on gender equality principle.” Included in this definition is the following:

- 1) Physical attack of a family member by another family member, irrespective of the fact of whether there was physical injury or not
- 2) Each use of physical force which does not result with direct attack or use of physical coercion on integrity of the family member ;
- 3) The behavior of a family member which may cause or result in the physical, psychological ,or financial damage;
- 4) Intimidation, threats or the violation of the dignity by blackmail, verbal threat or another form of coercion;
- 5) Serious verbal attacks, insult, profanity, calling with insulting names and other violent harassment of one family member ;
- 6) Spying and other related forms of harassment of other family member;
- 7) Damaging or destroying joint property and possessions or attempts thereof;
- 8) Lack of due care and supervision or failure to assist and protect when bound to do so by law and customs and when such inaction may result in the physical, psychological or socioeconomic endangerment.
- 9) Isolation and limitation in freedom of movement and communication with third persons;

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<sup>5</sup> Unofficial translation.

- 10) Lack of care and taking care of basic needs (Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, 2005b<sup>6</sup>)

## **2. Laws on domestic violence**

Bosnia and Herzegovina have ratified 16 international conventions and other human rights instruments, including CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action (Brankovic, 2009). In 2008, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina passed the “Resolution for ending violence against women in family,” which linked violence against women to violations of human rights. Since 2003, the Criminal Codes in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska have included provisions against domestic violence. In 2005, BiH passed the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, which obligates the police along with other civil servants to protect victims of domestic violence (Article 3), and mandates that family members, social workers, healthcare professionals, educators, and “nongovernmental organizations” report incidents of domestic violence to the police (Article 7). In addition, protective measures at the misdemeanor level may be used to remove the perpetrator from the residence, mandate treatment for the perpetrator, or otherwise protect the victim as necessary (Article 8; also see Articles 10-18). A protective measure can include temporary shelter and financial support for the victim.

Similarly, Republika Srpska passed the same law later in 2005. The law describes the responsibility of civil servants to respond to reports of domestic violence in a timely manner, and it mandates citizens, family members, and employees in education and health to report domestic violence to the police, prosecutors, or welfare authorities (Articles 3 and 7). Domestic violence is considered a misdemeanor (Article 8) as well as a crime, in contrast to the criminal code in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>7</sup> (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 2006). The courts may take any one of several actions against perpetrators of domestic violence, including removal from the home, protective orders, psycho-social and/or addiction treatment, or community service and fines (Article 9; also see Articles 14-22). In addition, victims of domestic violence should be provided with temporary shelter and financial support as necessary (Article 13).

## **3. Data collection practices**

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19 organizations were sent questionnaires, and 8 (42%) returned them. Three agencies, the State Statistics Agency, the Institute of Statistics for the Republika Srpska, and VESTA do not currently collect data on violence against women. These results,

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<sup>6</sup> Unofficial translation.

<sup>7</sup> “The Committee is concerned that the legal texts adopted in both entities may allow for differing judicial interpretations and inconsistent application of penalties due to the fact that in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina domestic violence is defined as a crime while in the Republika Srpska it is defined both as a crime and a misdemeanor.” (Concluding Comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, 2006: 4).

then, are based on the other five organizations: Foundation of Local Democracy (FLD), Medica, Zene Sa Une, Gender Center of Republika Srsпка, and United Women Banja Luka. (See Table 2.)

General indicators of violence against women (sexual harassment, sexual violence, etc.) are all recorded by at least one of the agencies, but domestic violence is the only general indicator recorded by all of the responding agencies. Information about domestic violence incidents and the victims are recorded by most of the agencies, although Zene Sa Une, Medica<sup>8</sup>, and United Women Banja Luka have the most complete lists. The Gender Center of the Republika Srsпка records this information only when a gender-based violence case is investigated due to a violation of the Gender Equality Law. Medica keeps the most data on perpetrators, including demographic information, actions taken against him, indicators of dangerousness, court appearances, and some sentencing information. The Foundation of Local Democracy also keeps some data on perpetrators, including behavioral indicators of dangerousness and whether the offender received treatment for domestic violence. The other organizations record very little information regularly on offenders, but they do under certain circumstances. None of the responding agencies regularly collect information on suspension of gun license, prison where served time, dates entered and exited prison, whether or not sentence was completed, or recidivism. This may reflect the fact that the agencies that responded to the survey were victim-oriented, or it may reflect limited prosecution in domestic violence cases. All of the responding agencies, with the exception of Zene Sa Une reported that they share data, usually with specific agencies.

<b>Table 2: Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<b>Foundation of Local Democracy</b>	<b>Medica</b>	<b>Zene Sa Une</b>	<b>Gender Center of the Republika Srsпка</b>	<b>United Women Banja Luka</b>	<b>State Statistics Agency</b>	<b>Statistics Bureau—RS</b>	<b>VESTA</b>
<b>Variable</b>								
<b>General Violence</b>								
Harmful practices		•	•					
Forced sterilization			•					
Sexual harassment	•	•	•	•				
Marital rape	•	•	•	•				
Rape by known perpetrator (other than spouse)	•	•	•	•				
Rape by perpetrator unknown to the victim	•	•	•	•				
Other sexual violence	•	•	•	•				
Trafficking	•	•	•		+			
Domestic violence	•	•	•	•	•			

<sup>8</sup> Medica is an NGO providing psychological and social support to women and children who are victims of violence, and the recorded data are from client admissions and follow-up interviews (Heremic, 2009).

<b>Table 2: Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<b>Foundation of Local Democracy</b>	<b>Medica</b>	<b>Zene Sa Une</b>	<b>Gender Center of the Republika Srpska</b>	<b>United Women Banja Luka</b>	<b>State Statistics Agency</b>	<b>Statistics Bureau—RS</b>	<b>VESTA</b>
<b>Incident</b>								
Time of incident	•	•	•	+ <sup>9</sup>	•			
Location of incident	•	•	•	+	•			
Case reported to police or judicial authorities	•	•	•	+	•			
Who reported the incident	•	•	•	+	•			
Information about witnesses		•	•	+	•			
Agency where reported	•	•	•	+	•			
Date received by agency	•	•	•	+	•			
Case investigated by police		•	•	+	•			
Victim wanted to pursue case	•	•	•	+	•			
<b>Victim</b>								
Victim's Name	•	•	•	+	•			
Identification/passport number of victim	•	•	+ <sup>10</sup>	?	•			
Victim's date of birth	•	•	•	?	•			
Victim's age	•	•	•	+	•			
Victim's sex	•	•	•	+	•			
Victim's nationality		•	•	+	•			
Residence /locality of victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Job of victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Relationship to offender	•	•	•	+	•			
Victim and perpetrator cohabiting	•	•	•	+	•			
Victim's marital status	•	•	•	+	•			
Length of relationship with perpetrator	•	•	•	+	•			
Number of children in victim's home	•	•	•	+	•			
Physical violence by partner in lifetime	•	•	•	+	•			
Physical violence by partner in last year	•	•	•	+	•			
Sexual violence in lifetime	•	•	•	+	•			
Sexual violence in last year	•	•	•	+	•			
Psychological violence/abuse in lifetime	•	•	•	+	•			

<sup>9</sup> Data are recorded sometimes, when a case is investigated due to a violation of the Gender Equality Law, this information may be recorded in GBV cases.

<sup>10</sup> + indicates that data are collected sometimes.

<b>Table 2: Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<b>Foundation of Local Democracy</b>	<b>Medica</b>	<b>Zene Sa Une</b>	<b>Gender Center of the Republika Srpska</b>	<b>United Women Banja Luka</b>	<b>State Statistics Agency</b>	<b>Statistics Bureau—RS</b>	<b>VESTA</b>
Psychological violence in the last year	•	•	•	+	•			
Threat of violence, physical or sexual in last year	•	•	•	+	•			
Description of incident	•	•	•	+	•			
Physical injuries to victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Severity of injuries to victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Psychological consequences to victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Deaths related to episode			•	+	•			
Level of social support victim has access to	•	•	•	+	•			
Medical care received by victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Mental health care received by victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Socio-educational sessions attended by victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Psychological evaluation of victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Substance abuse treatment received by victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Housing assistance received by victim		•	•	+	•			
Legal advice received by victim	•	•	•	+	•			
Legal representation of victim provided in court		•	•	+				
Legal documents written on behalf of the victim		•	•	+	•			
Employment assistance received by victim		•	•	+	•			
Welfare assistance received by victim		•	•	+	•			
<b>Perpetrator</b>								
Perpetrator's name	•	•	•	+	•			
Identification/passport number of perpetrator		•	+					
Perpetrator's birthdate	•	•	+					
Perpetrator's age	•	•	+	+				
Sex of perpetrator	•	•		+	•			
Nationality of perpetrator		•		+				
Residence of perpetrator	•	•	+	+	•			
Description of perpetrator		•	+	+				
Perpetrator arrested	•	•	+	+	•			
Are these arrests designated as DV-related?	•	•	+	+	•			

<b>Table 2: Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<b>Foundation of Local Democracy</b>	<b>Medica</b>	<b>Zene Sa Une</b>	<b>Gender Center of the Republika Srpska</b>	<b>United Women Banja Luka</b>	<b>State Statistics Agency</b>	<b>Statistics Bureau—RS</b>	<b>VESTA</b>
Perpetrator has a gun license?		•	+	+	+			
When perpetrator arrested		•	+	+	•			
Perpetrator's weapons confiscated		•	+	+	+			
Perpetrator removed from home		•	+	+	+			
Protective order issued	•	•	+	+	+			
Conditions of protective order		•	+	+	+			
Charges issued (or not)	•	•	+	+	+			
Perpetrator charged with misdemeanor/felony	•	•	+	+	+			
Date perpetrator notified of protective order		•	+	?	+			
Perpetrator violated protective order		•	+	+	+			
Alcohol/drug use by perpetrator	•	•	•	+	+			
Mental health problems of perpetrator	•	•	•	+	+			
Perpetrator shows signs of extreme jealousy	•	•	•	+	•			
Perpetrator destroyed property/pets in most recent episode	•	•	•	?	•			
Weapons used by perpetrator in most recent episode	•	•	+	+	+			
Suicidal/ homicidal threats by perpetrator	•	•	•	+	•			
Level of dangerousness of perpetrator	•	•	+	?	•			
Perpetrators' arrest record		•	+	+	•			
Perpetrator's arrest record for violent crimes		•	+	+	+			
Previous violations of protective orders		•		+	+			
Court where case was prosecuted		•		+	•			
Date of first court appearance		•		?	+			
Date case concluded		•		+	+			
Interdisciplinary team worked on case		•		+	+			
Case pending or closed		•		+	+			
Perpetrator's gun license suspended <sup>11</sup>				+	+			
Sentence given		•	+	+	+			
Date entered prison				?	+			

<sup>11</sup> As a result of the arrest

<b>Table 2: Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<b>Foundation of Local Democracy</b>	<b>Medica</b>	<b>Zene Sa Une</b>	<b>Gender Center of the Republika Srsпка</b>	<b>United Women Banja Luka</b>	<b>State Statistics Agency</b>	<b>Statistics Bureau—RS</b>	<b>VESTA</b>
Prison where time served				?	+			
Length of sentence		•		?	+			
Date of departure from prison				?	+			
Sentence completed				?	+			
Perpetrator received group treatment for DV	•			?	+			
Substance abuse treatment received by perpetrator		•		?	+			
Perpetrator’s arrest record after sentence completed				?	+			
<b>Other</b>								
Other information on VAW	•			+				
Agency routinely shares information with other agencies	•	•	X	•	•			•

#### 4. Implications for data collection

The two entities, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srsпка, collect data on domestic violence in different ways (email correspondence, State Statistical Agency, 12/3/09), and this complicates any kinds of comparisons of data between Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries. Data collection would either have to be summarized and compared separately, or it would have to be centralized in order to make comparisons on rates of domestic violence, arrests, protective orders, etc. A regional definition of domestic violence could simplify this process by providing both entities a shared meaning for the purpose of data collection and analysis.

For both entities, evaluating the effectiveness of the Laws on Protection from Domestic Violence would entail collecting data on physical violence (with and without injury), psychological and financial abuse, threats of violence, evidence of stalking, property destruction, neglect or lack of care, as well as the response of relevant agencies to domestic violence. Arrests, protective orders, mandating treatment, fines, and other sentencing alternatives should be monitored. (See Appendices B and C: Bosnia and Herzegovina.) For example, the effectiveness of domestic violence legislation in either entity could be measured by comparing a) the number of domestic violence incidents reported to the police, b) the number of domestic violence-related arrests, c) the number of protective measures requested, and d) recidivism rates of domestic violence offenders before and after the passage of the legislation. Since mandatory treatment is one sentencing option, it would be important to compare domestic violence offenders who receive treatment to those who do not in terms of recidivism. It is also important to examine the number of victims referred to shelters and provided financial assistance in the wake of the violence, and in light of supportive legislation.

In this context, it may also be helpful to use standardized questions on the proportion of police officers trained to respond supportively to victims of domestic violence, the number of domestic violence cases reported and investigated, and the cases reaching prosecution and sentencing phases of the criminal justice system (Bloom, 2008).

Data reflecting the unique aspects of domestic violence laws in the two sections of Bosnia and Herzegovina could be added to questionnaires in those areas. In the Republic of Srpska, it would also be of interest to track evidence of isolation or restrictions of the victim's movements or activities as an indicator of the larger pattern of domestic abuse. Resolution of "the basic problems" could also be monitored if that is more specifically defined elsewhere. In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the tracking of sexual harassment should be added to the list of data collected for the purpose of evaluation.

### ***C. FYR of Macedonia***

#### **1. Definition of domestic violence**

Domestic violence is defined in the Criminal Code of the Republic of FYR of Macedonia as "maltreatment, rough insult, threatening of safety, bodily injury, sexual or any other psychological or physical violence aimed to cause a feeling of insecurity, threat or fear by a spouse, parents or children or other individuals living in a marital or extramarital union or common household, or by a former spouse or persons that have a common child or are in close personal relations" (Criminal Code of the Republic of FYR of Macedonia, Article 122, paragraph 19, 2004). Included in the criminal code are prohibitions against physical violence ("criminal offenses against life and body sanction the deprivation of life, the harming or impairing bodily integrity or causing bodily or mental disease..." (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2007: 13). The definition also includes psychological and sexual violence.

Domestic violence is also defined in Family Law in FYR of Macedonia as "conduct of a family member who inflicts injuries by force, intimidation and threats, emotionally or sexually abuses, and materially, sexually or labor-wise takes advantage of another member of the family" (Family Law, Article 99). This definition of domestic violence is a recent amendment to the Family Code, providing harmonization with the Penal Code (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2007).

#### **2. Laws on domestic violence**

Article 122(19) of the Criminal Code (2004) delineated who could be considered a victim in family violence cases, and increased the penalty for violence in these situations. In November of 2006, FYR of Macedonia a) passed a Declaration Against Violence Against Women, b) a rulebook was developed for the courts to monitor protective measures, and c) the Family Law

was amended to match Criminal Code definitions of domestic violence (Advocates for Human Rights, 2008; Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2007). In 2007, FYR of Macedonia adopted a National Action Plan for Gender Equality, which included a section on violence against women, the “National Strategy for Protection Against Domestic Violence, 2008-2011” (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2007).

Family Law allows for temporary protection measures to provide “immediate and urgent protection to the victim” (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2007: 14). In addition, FYR of Macedonian Family Law allows not only the Center for Social Work, but victims themselves to request a temporary protection measure (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2007).

### **3. Data collection practices**

Out of 11 questionnaires sent, six were returned (55%) from the following institutions: the Institute for Public Health, the FYR of Macedonian Women's Rights Center - Shelter Center, the Equal Opportunities Unit and the Social Inclusion Unit of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Shelter Center, and the National SOS Line. (See Table 3.)

The Institute for Public Health keeps data on general indicators of violence against women, such as sexual violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, and domestic violence. All except one of the responding agencies recorded domestic violence information.

In terms of specific data on domestic violence incidents, no one agency recorded complete information. The MWRC keeps record of who reported the incident, witness information, agency where the incident was reported, and whether or not the victim wanted to pursue the case. The National SOS Line also keeps data on whether the case was reported to police or judicial authorities and whether or not the case was investigated by the police. Although the Ministry of Interior did not respond to the survey, they do record information about a the incident, including all calls to the police, the circumstances of the crime and relationship to perpetrator, as well as evidence of alcohol or drug use and mental health problems (Calovska, 2009).

Four of the responding agencies (the Institute for Social Affairs, MWRC, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs—Unit for Social Inclusion, and the National SOS Line) all record information on victims of domestic violence, but MWRC has the most complete list. None of the agencies record substance abuse treatment received by the victim, and only one agency (Institute for Social Affairs) keeps track of deaths associated with the incident. The Institute of Public Health also records information about injuries and deaths through hospital data, but data collection specific to domestic violence is still in the beginning stages of development (Tozija, 2009).

Much less information is recorded on perpetrators of domestic violence. Three organizations (Institute for Social Affairs, MWRC, and National SOS Line) all keep track of some demographic information about the offenders, and MWRC has data on protective measures, charges, offender’s mental health problems, and some sentencing information. Other agencies have some information on the perpetrator’s behavior, such as alcohol problems and suicidal or homicidal threats. None of the responding agencies recorded arrest or re-arrest, confiscation of

weapons, removal from home, protective measure violation, criminal history of perpetrator, or property/pet destruction. While some sentencing information was available through MWRC, there are no data recorded on interdisciplinary teamwork on cases, dates entering and leaving prison, sentence completion, or offender treatment (either domestic violence or substance abuse).

Three agencies (Institute for Social Affairs, MWRC, and the Institute for Public Health) reported that they routinely share information, either in the form of published reports, with specific agencies, or with permission of the victim.

<b>Table 3: FYR of Macedonia</b>	<b>Institute for Public Health<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Institute for Social Affairs/--Skopje</b>	<b>FYR of Macedonia Women's Rights Center<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>Ministry of Labor &amp; Social Affairs- Equal Opportunities</b>	<b>Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs- Unit for Social Inclusion</b>	<b>National SOS Line</b>
<b>Variable</b>						
<b>General Violence</b>						
Harmful practices	•					
Forced sterilization	•					
Sexual harassment	•				•	
Marital rape	•	•				•
Rape by known perpetrator (other than spouse)	•					
Rape by perpetrator unknown to the victim	•					
Other sexual violence	•		•			•
Trafficking	•	•		•	•	•
Domestic violence	•	•	•		•	•
<b>Incident</b>						
Time of incident			•			•
Location of incident		•	•		•	•
Case reported to police or judicial authorities		•			•	•
Who reported the incident		•	•			
Information about witnesses		•	•			
Agency where reported		•	•		•	
Date received by agency			•			•
Case investigated by police		•				•
Victim wanted to pursue case			•			

<sup>12</sup> From inpatient records: injuries, violence, disease.

<sup>13</sup> Information is collected on a case-by-case basis, depending on what services the victim is requesting.

<b>Table 3: FYR of Macedonia</b>	<b>Institute for Public Health<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Institute for Social Affairs/--Skopje</b>	<b>FYR of Macedonia Women's Rights Center<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>Ministry of Labor &amp; Social Affairs- Equal Opportunities</b>	<b>Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs- Unit for Social Inclusion</b>	<b>National SOS Line</b>
<b>Victim</b>						
Victim's Name		•	•			•
Identification/passport number of victim		•	+ <sup>14</sup>			•
Victim's date of birth		•	•		•	•
Victim's age		•	•		•	•
Victim's sex		•	•		•	•
Victim's nationality		•	•		•	•
Residence /locality of victim		•	•		•	•
Job of victim		•	•		•	•
Relationship to offender		•	•			
Victim and perpetrator cohabiting		•	•			
Victim's marital status		•	•			•
Length of relationship with perpetrator			•			
Number of children in victim's home		•	•		•	•
Physical violence by partner in lifetime		•	•			•
Physical violence by partner in last year			•		•	•
Sexual violence in lifetime		•	•		•	•
Sexual violence in last year			•			•
Psychological violence/abuse in lifetime		•	•		•	•
Psychological violence in the last year			•		•	•
Threat of violence, physical or sexual in last year			•		•	•
Description of incident		•	•			•
Physical injuries to victim		•	•			
Severity of injuries to victim		•	•			
Psychological consequences to victim			•			
Deaths related to episode		•				
Level of social support victim has access to		•	•			•
Medical care received by victim			•			•
Mental health care received by victim			•			•
Socio-educational sessions attended by victim			•		•	•

<sup>14</sup> Information collected sometimes, in this case when the victim needs shelter.

<b>Table 3: FYR of Macedonia</b>	<b>Institute for Public Health<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Institute for Social Affairs/--Skopje</b>	<b>FYR of Macedonia Women's Rights Center<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>Ministry of Labor &amp; Social Affairs- Equal Opportunities</b>	<b>Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs- Unit for Social Inclusion</b>	<b>National SOS Line</b>
Psychological evaluation of victim			•		•	•
Substance abuse treatment received by victim						
Housing assistance received by victim			•		•	
Legal advice received by victim			•		•	•
Legal representation of victim provided in court			•		•	
Legal documents written on behalf of the victim			•			•
Employment assistance received by victim			•			
Welfare assistance received by victim			•		•	
<b>Perpetrator</b>						
Perpetrator's name		•	•			•
Identification/passport number of perpetrator		•				
Perpetrator's birthdate		•	•			•
Perpetrator's age		•	•			•
Sex of perpetrator		•	•			•
Nationality of perpetrator		•	•			•
Residence of perpetrator		•	•		•	•
Description of perpetrator		•				
Perpetrator arrested						
Are these arrests designated as DV-related?			•			
Perpetrator has a gun license?						
When perpetrator arrested						
Perpetrator's weapons confiscated						
Perpetrator removed from home						
Protective order issued			•			
Conditions of protective order			•			
Charges issued (or not)			•			
Perpetrator charged with misdemeanor/felony			•			
Date perpetrator notified of protective order			•			
Perpetrator violated protective order						
Alcohol/drug use by perpetrator		•			•	•
Mental health problems of perpetrator		•	•		•	•

<b>Table 3: FYR of Macedonia</b>	<b>Institute for Public Health<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Institute for Social Affairs/--Skopje</b>	<b>FYR of Macedonia Women's Rights Center<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>Ministry of Labor &amp; Social Affairs- Equal Opportunities</b>	<b>Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs- Unit for Social Inclusion</b>	<b>National SOS Line</b>
Perpetrator shows signs of extreme jealousy		•				
Perpetrator destroyed property/pets in most recent episode						
Weapons used by perpetrator in most recent episode						
Suicidal/ homicidal threats by perpetrator		•				
Level of dangerousness of perpetrator						•
Perpetrators' arrest record						
Perpetrator's arrest record for violent crimes						
Previous violations of protective orders						
Court where case was prosecuted			•		•	
Date of first court appearance			•			
Date case concluded			•			
Interdisciplinary team worked on case						
Case pending or closed			•			
Perpetrator's gun license suspended <sup>15</sup>			•			
Sentence given			•			
Date entered prison						
Prison where time served			•			
Length of sentence			•			
Date of departure from prison						
Sentence completed						
Perpetrator received group treatment for DV						
Substance abuse treatment received by perpetrator						
Perpetrator's arrest record after sentence completed						
<b>Other</b>						
Other information on VAW		•				
Agency routinely shares information with other agencies	•	•	•		X	

<sup>15</sup> As a result of the arrest

## **4. Implications for data collection**

Part of the National Strategy for Protection Against Domestic Violence, 2008-2011 is to create a National Coordinative body that includes a collaboration between various government and non-government agencies to, among other things, “establish the quantity and quality indicators that will serve as the foundation for monitoring the influence of the implementation of the National Strategy for protection against domestic violence” (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2007: 37). That list of indicators may be very similar to the recommended list based on this project.

Among the indicators should be measures of physical, sexual, and psychological violence within the context of intimate partnerships and family relationships, and these data are best gathered through population surveys or face-to-face interviews, rather than through client admission records<sup>16</sup>. A regional definition of domestic violence that included these three elements would be useful for providing comparison to other countries. Some aspects of the definition of domestic violence in FYR of Macedonia may need more specific operationalization, and that would determine if they could be included as part of the regional indicators or should be attached as separate questions. For example, “rough insult” and “maltreatment” can be broadly interpreted, so some clarification would be necessary.

It is also not clear how much collaboration there is between victim-oriented agencies and those organizations dealing with perpetrators (i.e., police, prosecutors, judges, treatment providers, etc.). If a collaborative approach is, indeed, part of the strategy, that collaboration should be documented. Similarly, changes in the ways in which courts process domestic violence cases can be followed by tracking court appearances, protective measure violations, and sentencing. (See Appendices B and C: FYR of Macedonia.)

The fact that little data are kept on perpetrators could be an indicator that victim-oriented agencies were more likely to respond to the questionnaire, or that agencies dealing with perpetrators were not included in the collection. Given the fact that the Criminal Code includes increased penalties for family violence, it is important to track recidivism of offenders in order to understand if those penalties actually do reduce the likelihood of subsequent violence. It is equally important to monitor the number of incidents of domestic violence reported to the police as well as impact of protective measures on victim safety; the latter can be measured by additional reported incidents, subsequent injuries to victims, arrests, victim satisfaction surveys and domestic violence-related murders. (See Appendices B and C: FYR of Macedonia.) A centralized dataset would streamline the process for conducting evaluations of policy changes.

### ***D. Serbia***

#### **1. Definition of domestic violence**

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<sup>16</sup> Client admission records are dependent upon victims reporting to an agency, and since the reporting rate tends to be a fairly small percentage of actual incidents, these data tend to underestimate actual rates of violence.

Domestic violence is defined in the Serbian Criminal Code as someone who, “by use of violence, threat of attacks against life or body, insolent or ruthless behaviour endangers the tranquility, physical integrity or mental condition of a member of his family” (Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia, 2002, Chapter 19, Article 194).

Family Law (Republic of Serbia, 2005, Official Gazette of the RS, No. 18/05) defines domestic violence as “behaviour in which one family member violates the physical integrity, mental health and peace of mind of another family member” (Article 197).

## **2. Laws on domestic violence**

The penalties for the violation of the domestic violence law are specified in Article 194 of the Criminal Code (amended 2002, and 2006), and the penalties are increased when weapons are used, if the victim is seriously injured, or the victim is a minor, if the attack results in the death of a family member, or if the perpetrator violated a protective measure.

Family Law<sup>17</sup> (enacted in 2005) offers victims of domestic violence the option of protection measures that can remove the perpetrator from the residence (Article 198), and it mandates a timely response to the crime by the judicial system (Article 285 and Article 204). However, accused perpetrators may ask for the revocation of the protective measure (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2008).

## **3. Data collection practices**

Data on violence against women in Serbia are collected by various services catering to the needs of victims of violence, but there is no “integrated system of record keeping and documenting the cases of domestic violence and violence against women...” (Assembly of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, 2008: 8). In addition, data which are collected by individual agencies are not uniform or consistently recorded. When records are kept, they are not necessarily designated as domestic violence cases (email correspondence, Ms. Marina Iles, Provincial Secretariat for Labor, Employment, and Gender Equality, October 30, 2009).

Within this context, 17 agencies in Serbia were sent questionnaires, and four replies were received (24%). The responding agencies were the Gender Equality Directorate, the Provincial Ombudsman of Vojvodina (Deputy for Gender Equality), the Provincial Secretariat for Labor, Employment and Gender Equality of Vojvodina (PSLEGE), and the Victimology Society. Neither the PSLEGE of Vojvodina nor the Gender Equality Directorate collect primary information on violence against women, therefore the following is based on the organizational practices of the other two agencies. (See Table 4.)

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<sup>17</sup> Family Law in the Republic of Serbia is not available in English, so this information is based on a secondary source.

Both agencies record information on domestic violence, although the Victimology Society keeps other general indicators of violence against women as well (e.g., sexual harassment, sexual violence, etc.). Neither agency has data on forced sterilization.

Both agencies also keep data on domestic violence incidents and victims, but there are some gaps in the information. Incident data on whether the case is reported to the police or judicial authorities, who reported the incident, and the agency where the incident was reported are kept by both organizations. However, the Victimology Society collects information like the time and location of the incident and witness information, while the Provincial Ombudsman records if the case was investigated by the police and if the victim wanted to pursue the case. In addition, annual reports are published by the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman, but “[t]he reply is on a voluntary basis and in most cases not all institutions provide the requested information.” (email correspondence, Marina Illes, PSLEGE, 10/30/09). There are plans to rectify this situation in Vojvodina (For example, see Assembly of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. 2008), but this is still in the planning stages.

Similarly, both agencies collect some demographic information about victims, although identifying information is not recorded unless the victim chooses to do so<sup>18</sup>. The type of violence (in the last year) and information about the relationship with the perpetrator are also recorded by both organizations, but much of the data from the Victimology Society is recorded only if the victim chooses to disclose the information, including questions about lifetime experience of different types of violence. The Provincial Ombudsman’s Office tracks some types of assistance received by the victim (e.g., housing, legal advice, welfare, mental health treatment). Neither agency keeps data on other types of services received by the victim, such as medical care, psychological evaluation, substance abuse treatment, employment assistance, or socio-educational sessions. These data may be recorded somewhere else in non-responding agencies, for example, or they could be found only in the responding agencies. In addition, there is no information on how well services are meeting the needs of victims or the attitudes of service providers, or the public at large, about domestic violence (Assembly of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, 2008).

The two responding agencies also keep some data on perpetrators of domestic violence, including minimal demographic information (age and sex), information on the arrest and subsequent actions (removal from home, charges, issuance of protective measures), as well as any alcohol, drug, or mental health problems. The Victimology Society records more behavioral information about the offender (jealousy, destruction of property/pets, suicidal/homicidal threats). Very little information is recorded on the court process (sentencing, court appearances, time served in prison) or recidivism, although there may be some aggregate information available through the Provincial Ombudsman’s Office of Vojvodina (email correspondence, Ms. Danica Todorov, Provincial Ombudsman of Vojvodina, Deputy for Gender Equality, November 3, 2009). Neither agency keeps data identifying the perpetrator, criminal history, level of dangerousness, or treatment for domestic violence or substance abuse.

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<sup>18</sup> This is standard practice in many victim-oriented agencies, and it is considered empowering to the victim to honor her choices in disclosure.

A recurring theme, however, is the inconsistency of data collection. For example, in some cases, information is collected only if there is an investigation: *It is only once our clients complain to us about administrative mistreatment or a procedure which we are authorized to control, and if we start an official investigation that we collect information about the particular victim, her/his family situation, her/his relationship to the offender, the marital status, persistence and category of violence, etc. If the clients complain specifically about the problem of domestic violence, we just record that case without collecting other data and we inform and advise client to refer the problem to the relevant institutions* (email correspondence, Ms. Danica Todorov, Provincial Ombudsman of Vojvodina, Deputy for Gender Equality, November 3, 2009).

The Provincial Ombudsman shares data with other government bodies or the provincial administration, welfare/social care centers, police, and the courts. The Victimology Society also shares data based on population surveys upon request, and the most accurate estimates of domestic violence would come from these results. However, there is no centralized collection of information on domestic violence.

<b>Table 4: Serbia</b>	<b>Victimology Society</b>	<b>Provincial Ombudsman/Vojvodina: Deputy for Gender Equality<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>Gender Equality Directorate</b>	<b>Provincial Secretariat of Labor, Employment &amp; Gender Equality of Vojvodina</b>
<b>Variable</b>				
<b>General Violence</b>				
Harmful practices	•			
Forced sterilization				
Sexual harassment	•			
Marital rape	•			
Rape by known perpetrator (other than spouse)	•			
Rape by perpetrator unknown to the victim	•			
Other sexual violence	•			
Trafficking	•			
Domestic violence	•	•		
<b>Incident</b>				
Time of incident	•			
Location of incident	•			
Case reported to police or judicial authorities	•	•		

<sup>19</sup> Summary data, nothing on individual cases, unless there is an administrative complaint.

<b>Table 4: Serbia</b>	<b>Victimology Society</b>	<b>Provincial Ombudsman/Vojvodina: Deputy for Gender Equality<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>Gender Equality Directorate</b>	<b>Provincial Secretariat of Labor, Employment &amp; Gender Equality of Vojvodina</b>
Who reported the incident	•	•		
Information about witnesses	•			
Agency where reported	•	•		
Date received by agency	•			
Case investigated by police		•		
Victim wanted to pursue case		•		
<b>Victim</b>				
Victim's Name	+ <sup>20</sup>			
Identification/passport number of victim				
Victim's date of birth				
Victim's age	•	•		
Victim's sex	•	•		
Victim's nationality		•		
Residence /locality of victim	+	•		
Job of victim	+			
Relationship to offender	•	•		
Victim and perpetrator cohabiting	•	•		
Victim's marital status	•	•		
Length of relationship with perpetrator	+	•		
Number of children in victim's home	+	•		
Physical violence by partner in lifetime	+			
Physical violence by partner in last year	+	•		
Sexual violence in lifetime	+			
Sexual violence in last year	+	•		
Psychological violence/abuse in lifetime	+			
Psychological violence in the last year	•	•		
Threat of violence, physical or sexual in last year	•	•		
Description of incident	•			
Physical injuries to victim	•			
Severity of injuries to victim	•			

<sup>20</sup> +indicates that data are collected sometimes, in this case when the victim chooses to answer.

<b>Table 4: Serbia</b>	<b>Victimology Society</b>	<b>Provincial Ombudsman/Vojvodina: Deputy for Gender Equality<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>Gender Equality Directorate</b>	<b>Provincial Secretariat of Labor, Employment &amp; Gender Equality of Vojvodina</b>
Psychological consequences to victim	•			
Deaths related to episode	•			
Level of social support victim has access to	•			
Medical care received by victim				
Mental health care received by victim		•		
Socio-educational sessions attended by victim				
Psychological evaluation of victim				
Substance abuse treatment received by victim	?			
Housing assistance received by victim	•	•		
Legal advice received by victim	•	•		
Legal representation of victim provided in court		•		
Legal documents written on behalf of the victim				
Employment assistance received by victim				
Welfare assistance received by victim		•		
<b>Perpetrator</b>				
Perpetrator's name				
Identification/passport number of perpetrator				
Perpetrator's birthdate				
Perpetrator's age	•	•		
Sex of perpetrator	•	•		
Nationality of perpetrator		•		
Residence of perpetrator				
Description of perpetrator	•			
Perpetrator arrested	•	•		
Are these arrests designated as DV-related?	•	•		
Perpetrator has a gun license?	•			
When perpetrator arrested	•			
Perpetrator's weapons confiscated	+	•		
Perpetrator removed from home	•	•		
Protective order issued	•	•		

<b>Table 4: Serbia</b>	<b>Victimology Society</b>	<b>Provincial Ombudsman/Vojvodina: Deputy for Gender Equality<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>Gender Equality Directorate</b>	<b>Provincial Secretariat of Labor, Employment &amp; Gender Equality of Vojvodina</b>
Conditions of protective order	•	•		
Charges issued (or not)	•	•		
Perpetrator charged with misdemeanor/felony	•	•		
Date perpetrator notified of protective order	•			
Perpetrator violated protective order	•			
Alcohol/drug use by perpetrator	•	•		
Mental health problems of perpetrator	•	•		
Perpetrator shows signs of extreme jealousy	•			
Perpetrator destroyed property/pets in most recent episode	•			
Weapons used by perpetrator in most recent episode	•			
Suicidal/ homicidal threats by perpetrator	•			
Level of dangerousness of perpetrator				
Perpetrators' arrest record				
Perpetrator's arrest record for violent crimes				
Previous violations of protective orders				
Court where case was prosecuted		•		
Date of first court appearance				
Date case concluded				
Interdisciplinary team worked on case	•			
Case pending or closed		•		
Perpetrator's gun license suspended <sup>21</sup>	•			
Sentence given	•			
Date entered prison				
Prison where time served				
Length of sentence				
Date of departure from prison				
Sentence completed				
Perpetrator received group treatment for DV				

<sup>21</sup> As a result of the arrest.

<b>Table 4: Serbia</b>	<b>Victimology Society</b>	<b>Provincial Ombudsman/Vojvodina: Deputy for Gender Equality<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>Gender Equality Directorate</b>	<b>Provincial Secretariat of Labor, Employment &amp; Gender Equality of Vojvodina</b>
Substance abuse treatment received by perpetrator				
Perpetrator's arrest record after sentence completed				
<b>Other</b>				
Other information on VAW	•			
Agency routinely shares information with other agencies	On request	•	<b>X</b>	

#### 4. Implications for data collection

Since only four agencies responded to the questionnaire, and only two of those organizations actually collect data on violence against women, any generalizations from these data must be cautionary. Less data are collected on perpetrators, but this may be a reflection of victim-oriented agencies responding to the questionnaire, rather than a lack of data. The data on victims of domestic violence suggest that the agencies ask for more information on victims, but they collect data inconsistently at times (out of respect for the victim's choice not to share it). For the purpose of policy evaluation or following cases through the criminal justice system, however, it is crucial that data be collected systematically and consistently in order to be reliable. Regional networking may provide opportunities to discuss how organizations balance the need for victim confidentiality and standardization of data collection for advocacy.

It would also be beneficial to use (at the very least) a regional definition of domestic violence to conduct a survey or face-to-face interviews in order to assess prevalence and incidence of domestic violence in the country, as well as what percentage of domestic violence cases are reported to the police. The results may also facilitate increased networking in the region, given the context of domestic violence in South East Europe.

However, it is just as important to include policy evaluation that reflects the unique legal, criminal justice, and cultural context of Serbia. For example, since the Criminal Code includes increased penalties for domestic violence cases in which weapons were used, victims suffer serious injuries, the victim is a minor, the perpetrator violates a protective measure, or the incident leads to death of a family member, it is important to monitor the court system to ensure that this happens. The number of investigations, prosecutions, and convictions in cases of domestic violence should be assessed before and after the passage of relevant legislation (Bloom, 2008). This may require a specific dataset in which the circumstances of the domestic violence

incident are delineated for the purpose of following up on the case in court. (See Appendices B and C: Serbia.)

In addition, as in the other countries, protective measures are an option for victims of intimate partner violence, and the impact of these measures can be seen in additional reported incidents, subsequent injuries to the victims, arrests, victim satisfaction surveys and domestic violence-related murders. (See Appendices B and C: Serbia.) In addition, studies of attrition of victims in the criminal justice process between reporting and sentencing would clarify areas for training, collaboration, or improvement in victim services (Brankovic, 2009b).

## ***E. Regional Patterns***

Although each country has a unique context in which data on violence against women are collected, some common patterns emerged in this research. These results should be noted with the caveat that approximately one third of the agencies contacted responded to the questionnaire. Although this is a reasonable response rate, it is certainly possible that other organizations collect VAW data that would impact these findings.

The first pattern that emerged in the agency responses was that ***more data are collected on victims than on perpetrators***. As noted earlier, this may reflect the victim orientation of the agencies that responded to the survey. The inclusion of more organizations that focus on intervention in offender behavior (e.g., police, courts, treatment providers) may suggest a different pattern of data collection. However, it is also possible that domestic violence cases rarely end in prosecution or conviction, and consequently, there is little information recorded about offenders in comparison to victims. In addition, unless criminal justice agencies specifically designate arrest and prosecution as *domestic violence* cases, information about offenders may be subsumed under other crime categories.

The second pattern of interest in the results was the ***inconsistency of data collection on domestic violence cases***. This inconsistency was manifested in two ways: gaps in information and the recording of data contingent upon the circumstances. Although each country has at least one organization that maintains an impressive database on domestic violence cases, some crucial information was either missing (i.e., not recorded) or available at different institutions or agencies. In order to follow a case through the criminal justice system, it would be necessary to use the database of several different agencies to get a complete picture of one case. Moreover, in many victim service agencies, data are recorded only if the victim chooses to share the information or if the case is processed through the court system. Given that most of the participants in the study cater to the needs of victims of violence, it is not surprising that some information would only be available if the case is pursued. Respecting the victim's choices is standard procedure in many agencies that offer services to victims of gendered violence, however, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of a policy or to monitor the response of organizations to domestic violence, data must be reliable and consistently recorded.

The third pattern of note was that ***it was not clear how much organizations collaborated with each other*** in terms of sharing data or processing cases of domestic violence. According to the

surveys, most organizations do share their data, however, clarification is needed to understand the nature of that collaboration. For example, in order to monitor attrition of victims as they pursue or drop a case, it would be necessary to follow one case through the criminal justice system. This would require access to data in two or more agencies and sharing identifying information on victims. It was not clear from the survey results how easily this could be accomplished for the sake of policy evaluation. In addition, since there was considerable overlap in the collection of other data, it was not clear if that information was shared or if each organization collected it independently. This could represent victims reporting to multiple agencies or one or two agencies sharing information in the aggregate. Regardless of the circumstances, more clarification is needed on the collaborative relationship between agencies in order to monitor the responsiveness to victims of domestic violence as well as intervention efforts directed at the perpetrators.

## ***F. Implications for Regional Data Collection***

Although each country in the region has some unique requirements for data collection, there are several evaluative questions common to all. (See Appendices B and C.) While it is certainly possible for each country to conduct its own evaluation research separately, the results are not comparable unless the relevant indicators are defined in exactly the same way. If all the countries in the region conducted population surveys or interviews<sup>22</sup>, for example, it would be important that the questions about lifetime and 12-month experiences of intimate partner violence be identical. Similarly, there are several indicators of interest that could be standardized for population surveys in the region: reporting to the police, arrest of perpetrator, seeking medical assistance, and disclosing to family members and friends. Certainly more specific questions relative to the unique context of each country could be added (e.g., the names of specific agencies at which victims can report intimate partner violence), but these general questions are easily standardized through existing instrument models (See Bloom, 2008).

Although each country has unique legislative mandates in terms of domestic violence, there are common concerns about the impact of legislation on the behavior of offenders, victims, and the agencies responding to the crime. Certainly the questions and evaluation design must be specific to the measures that are unique to the law in each country. However, the effectiveness of legislation may be measured by its impact on offenders: is there less intimate partner violence (as measured by population surveys) after passage of the relevant laws? Are offenders of intimate partner violence less likely to repeat their offense since the penalty has been increased? Are they less likely to attack a woman with a protective measure in place than a woman without one? Has there been an increase in successful prosecution of domestic violence cases? Is there a reduction in domestic violence homicides and suicides (by offenders)? Are offenders who receive treatment for intimate partner violence less likely to recidivate than offenders who do not receive treatment? As long as criminal justice agencies designate offenses as “domestic violence-related,” official data can be used (in addition to population survey results) to examine the impact of legislation on offender behavior.

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<sup>22</sup> Interviews (as opposed to surveys) may provide more safety for victims responding to questions about intimate partner violence (e.g., Bloom, 2008).

The impact of legislation can also be seen in the behavior of victims of intimate partner violence. An increase in the rate at which intimate partner violence is reported to the police, for example, may indicate greater comfort and more trust of law enforcement to respond appropriately to the crime. Documenting who victims disclose to about their experiences can provide valuable guidance for targeting intervention efforts. Furthermore, if victims are more satisfied with the judicial process, they may be more likely to report subsequent incidents of gendered violence. Satisfaction can be measured through surveys, but there must be an appropriate research design that includes a group of victims who are involved in the courts and a group of victims who drop the case before reaching the court system.

In addition to outcome measurements of the impact of legislation, process evaluations measure “how well the program has been implemented as planned” (Bloom, 2008: 22). The legislation in each country is only as effective as the personnel and agencies enacting it, therefore, it is necessary to examine training and protocol of all relevant agencies responding to domestic violence. Although some measures would have to be specific to the agencies in each country, Bloom (2008) provides standardized questions to evaluate how well agencies are implementing legislated changes. These measures include the number of law enforcement and medical personnel who have received domestic violence training, the number of hotlines available within a specified geographic area, the proportion of hospitals prepared to deliver services to victims of gender violence, etc. On a regional level, only proportions and rates would be comparable across countries, but that information would provide a context for requesting changes in protocol and training of frontline workers.

Regionally, the questions all countries have in common are a) what is the prevalence of intimate partner violence and how often is it reported? b) are victims safer under this legislation than under previous legal provisions? c) are offenders more likely to be held accountable under this legislation than in the past? d) are frontline workers sufficiently trained to treat victims in a way that would lead to more reporting and greater satisfaction with the response of the legal system, or the medical system, or the welfare system?

## **IV. Conclusions and Recommendations**

**1. Dedicated surveys of the population in each country to assess the prevalence of domestic violence and the rate at which it is reported.** Ideally, such surveys would include questions on all types of violence against women; but if a comprehensive study is not feasible because of cost or time, a dedicated survey to document the prevalence of domestic violence is a reasonable beginning. Models for these types of surveys and training for distribution are available (e.g., UNECE, 2009). If an independent survey is not feasible, standardized questions on domestic violence could be attached to social surveys as long protocols on confidentiality and safety of victims of violence could be guaranteed. Samples should be based on random selection, however, it is important that minority populations be fairly represented in the results. Therefore, an oversampling of minority populations in each country is advisable.

**2. Centralize data collection on domestic violence within individual countries to the extent possible.** Centralization of data allows for more systematic collection of information and the

standardization of data elements. It is important to respect the confidentiality of victims who report domestic violence incidents. There are methods, however, for tracing a case through the criminal justice or health care system without using identifying information. Relevant agencies should have access to a central dataset or at least to the results of analysis for the sake of collaboration to provide better services to victims and hold offenders accountable.

**3. Systematic collection of data to monitor policy effectiveness, including the processing of cases through the criminal justice system, access to health services, social work centers, judicial agencies, employment, and welfare.** Within the unique context of each country, it is important to monitor how easily victims access services and how well agencies respond to reports of domestic violence. Questions on access to services could be added to standardized questionnaires, but the items should reflect the specific options that victims have within that setting. For example, to get an idea of unreported or unofficial rates of violence, it is important to ask who the victim disclosed to, listing both official and unofficial targets. For official targets, list all of the possible places where a victim could officially report the violence. Then provide a list of family members, friends, coworkers, teachers, religious leaders, etc. to get an idea of who victims disclose to for more informal (and unofficial) sources of support.

**4. Strengthen networking and collaboration ties between agencies in each country.** Collaboration between agencies includes sharing data but also creating a shared dataset that would streamline evaluation efforts and minimize the number of times victims have to tell their story to officials. Centralized datasets also allow multiple agencies to more closely monitor the behavior of perpetrators, making it more likely that they will be held accountable for their actions.

**5. Develop a regional definition of domestic violence.** A regional definition of domestic violence should be consistent with international definitions that are linked to standardized instruments for measuring the prevalence and incidence of intimate partner violence. Currently, all four countries define domestic violence as including physical and psychological abuse, however, three countries include sexual violence, two include economic damage, and one includes injury to social and moral integrity. Therefore, studies that use the definition of domestic violence specific to each country are not comparable to each other.

A regional definition of intimate partner violence that is consistent with the operational definitions used by international agencies (e.g., UN, Council of Europe) allows for wider comparison of rates of gendered violence. For example, the Council of Europe defines domestic abuse as “a pattern of repeated physical, emotional and sexual abuse that risks or causes fear, distress, and very often health damage” (Hageman-White, 2006). In this way, local NGOs and organizations trying to address violence against women in individual countries would be able to use regional information to bolster requests for funding, legislative changes, etc. In order to accomplish that, however, there must be agreement between countries on what constitutes intimate partner violence.

**6. Standardize regional data collection through population surveys to match international instruments to the extent possible.** In order to standardize data collection for the region, all the relevant countries would have to agree to a set of common questions that would be useful to

everyone. The purpose of regional data collection would be to monitor the rate of violence against women, not only between countries and in the region, but within the context of the results of international surveys on violence against women.

Some countries may already have access to the results of population surveys (e.g., the Victimology Society in Serbia), or there may be plans to conduct population surveys in each country (see Recommendation #1); however, it would be useful to have the same data collected in each country for the sake of comparison. Among the data that should be collected for this purpose are sex, age (aged 15 and above), the number who have been in an intimate partner relationship, and the number who have experienced violence in those relationships. In terms of actual behaviors, collection of data on physical violence, sexual violence (as suggested by UNECE, 2009), emotional abuse and controlling behaviors as well as economic control/abuse by current partner would allow for international comparisons; it would also offer a fuller, more accurate picture of the pattern of intimate partner violence in each country. Questions on physical violence should be followed by questions on the extent of injuries, how frequently the victim is afraid of her current partner, and whether or not the woman sought help at a hospital or doctor.

In addition, data on the length of the current relationship, cohabitation, and marital status. Collecting information on past relationships and the violence experienced in them would offer comparability to an international dataset like UNECE (2009). However, it would not offer much reflection on policy impact unless specific dates in which the violence took place were recorded, whether or not it was reported, and the official reaction or outcome.

**7. UNIFEM should organize yearly regional meetings rotated between countries to discuss strategies for data collection and progress of policy initiatives.** Yearly meetings would allow representatives from different countries to share strategies for improving data collection and using data analysis for policy evaluation and advocacy. UNIFEM has the skills and support to organize meetings on the regional level, as well as access to expertise that could be useful for participants, therefore, it is advisable that UNIFEM be the agency to call the meetings. Meetings could also include workshops on specific topics, such as guaranteeing victim confidentiality while collecting reliable data for evaluation, or methods for minimizing the number of times victims tell their stories to official representatives.

**8. Strengthen collaboration efforts between countries, particularly among NGOs serving victims of violence.** In addition to yearly meetings, agencies with similar missions (e.g., offering social support to victims of gendered violence) in different countries could improve data collection efforts by communicating and sharing their struggles to provide the necessary services to victims while maintaining a database that serves agency and advocacy needs. This will strengthen the role of NGOs as users of data for advocacy and monitoring.

**9. Develop a standard set of indicators for measuring the effectiveness of domestic violence policies** based on the intended outcomes of the legislation in each country, as well as in the region. There are certainly unique aspects of legislation in each country that warrant questions specific to provisions of the law, but it would be to the benefit of each country individually, as well as to the region, to develop a standard set of outcome measures that would indicate the

effectiveness of legislation in preventing or intervening in offender behavior and encouraging victims to seek assistance.

**10. Use standardized questions (Bloom, 2008) to measure the effective implementation of legislative changes in relevant agencies and programs.** Although the agencies and organizations that respond to violence against women are uniquely structured in each country, all countries in the region have an investment in effectively implementing legislation to encourage reporting and intervene in intimate violence. Bloom's (2008) suggestions for standardized indicators should be used to the extent possible to examine the proportion of personnel who are trained to respond appropriately as well as the proportion of agencies with existing protocols for dealing with intimate partner violence as well as other types of gendered violence. Certainly more specific indicators could be added to reflect the unique context of each country, but standardized measures would provide a larger context for understanding the impact of the relevant legislation.

Finally, the importance of accurate, systematic data collection on violence against women can not be overemphasized. While some data may be collected on a regional level, other data are more specific to the unique policies in each country. Suggestions for data collection and research in regards to policy evaluation are incorporated into a rubric in Appendix B and Appendix C. The questions posed are relevant to the region of South East Europe and speculate on how to answer those questions. The rubric also contains questions specific to each country based on some of the general questions and available data. Also included are questions based on the unique context of each country, i.e., laws on domestic violence or issues raised by the strategic plan. Reliable data collection is essential for the evaluation of policies designed to improve the lives of victims of violence by recording their stories and holding the perpetrators accountable for their actions.

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## VI. Appendices

### ***Appendix A: Recommended Data Elements for Tracking Domestic Violence***

(Salzman et al., 1999)

<b>Data element</b>	<b>Description</b>
Case ID	This could be a unique identifier that provides a link between systems.
Data source	Agency where the information is collected.
Date of First Agency Documentation	Date when the incident was reported to the agency
Birth date of victim	
Sex of victim	
Race of victim	
Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity of victim	This is nationality or ethnic identification of the victim.
City, State, & County of Victim's residence	Location of victim's residence
Marital status of victim	<p>Current spouses (including common-law spouses)</p> <p>Current non-marital partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dating partners, including first date (heterosexual or same-sex)</li> <li>▪ Boyfriends/girlfriends (heterosexual or same-sex)</li> </ul> <p>Former marital partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Divorced spouses</li> <li>▪ Former common-law spouses</li> <li>▪ Separated spouses</li> </ul> <p>Former non-marital partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Former dates (heterosexual or same-sex)</li> <li>▪ Former boyfriends/girlfriends (heterosexual or same-sex)</li> </ul>
Physical violence by an intimate partner ever	Occurrence, ever in the victim's life, of physical violence by any intimate partner
Number of Episodes Involving Physical Violence in the Past 12 months by perpetrator of most recent violent episode	Number of episodes involving physical violence by the perpetrator of the most recent violent episode that occurred in the 12 months prior to the date of the most recent violent episode.
Number of Episodes Involving sexual violence in the Past 12	Number of episodes involving sexual violence by the perpetrator of the most recent violent episode that occurred in the last 12 months prior to the date of the most recent violent episode. This is an

months by perpetrator of most recent violent episode	indicator of the level and frequency of violence.
Number of episodes involving threat of physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months by perpetrator of most recent violent episode	Number of episodes involving threat of physical or sexual violence by the perpetrator of the most recent violent episode that occurred in the 12 months prior to the date of the most recent violent episode.
Proportion of time victim felt psychologically or emotionally abused in the past 12 months by perpetrator of most recent violent episode <sup>23</sup>	Proportion of time the victim felt psychologically/emotionally abused by the perpetrator of the most recent violent episode in the 12 months prior to the date of the most recent violent episode.
Types of violence in most recent episode	The type(s) of violence used in the most recent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner.
Date of most recent violent episode	Date when the most recent violent episode by any intimate partner ended.
City, State, and County of occurrence	Location of occurrence of the most recent violent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner
Cohabitation of victim and perpetrator	The victim and the perpetrator's cohabitation status at the time of the most recent violent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner
Length of intimate relationship	The time between the most recent violent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner and the time when the victim and perpetrator first became intimate partners, specified in months.
Pattern of violence in the past 12 months	Pattern of violence with the perpetrator of the most recent violent episode in the 12 months prior to the date of the most recent violent episode, such as frequency, severity, and type of violence. (This element may be redundant.)
Number of children in victim's home	The number of children under age 18 who were living in the victim's home at the time of the most recent violent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner.
Physical consequences to victim	The physical consequences to the victim attributed to the most recent violent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner, by the agency providing data to the IP surveillance system.
Psychological consequences to victim	The psychological consequences to the victim attributed to the most recent violent episode, perpetrated by any intimate partner, by the agency providing data to the IPV surveillance system.
Medical care received	The medical health care received by the victim following the most

<sup>23</sup> Salzman et al. (1999) distinguished between psychological/emotional abuse and psychological/emotional violence, with the latter referring to emotional abuse when there is a prior incident of sexual or physical violence or the threat of sexual or physical violence.

by victim	recent violent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner.
Mental health care received by victim	The mental health care (excluding substance abuse treatment) received by the victim following the most recent violent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner.
Substance abuse treatment received by victim	The substance abuse treatment received by the victim following the most recent violent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner.
Deaths related to episode	All deaths associated with the most recent violent episode perpetrated by any intimate partner.
Birth date of perpetrator of most recent episode of violence	
Sex of perpetrator of most recent episode of violence	
Race of perpetrator of most recent episode of violence	
Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity of perpetrator of most recent episode of violence	
City, State, and County of residence of perpetrator of most recent violent episode	Location of residence of perpetrator at the time of the event.
Alcohol use by perpetrator of most recent violent episode	Proportion of time the perpetrator of the most recent violent episode uses alcohol in conjunction with violence or abuse.
Drug use by perpetrator of most recent violent episode	Proportion of time the perpetrator of the most recent violent episode uses drugs (other than alcohol) in conjunction with violence or abuse.
Weapons used by perpetrator in most recent violent episode	Weapons (including bodily force) used by the perpetrator in the most recent violent episode.

<sup>1</sup> The report is available online through the Center for Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)).

**Appendix B: Policy Evaluation—Linking questions to current and potential databases**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Current datasets</b>	<b>Alternative directions for research</b>
<b>Regional/General Questions</b>		
What is the actual rate of intimate partner violence?		Population-based survey, using questions from UNECE-recommended module (UNECE, 2009). This should include emotional abuse, sexual, and economic violence for women 15 and older. Include questions on relationship status, severity of injuries, and level of fear of the perpetrator.
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police? And under what circumstances?	There are multiple agencies in each country that record intimate partner violence reported to the police or judicial authorities, but typically this is a very small percentage of actual incidents.	Population-based survey, using questions from UNECE-recommended module (UNECE, 2009) that include disclosure to police and/or judicial authorities. Ask about level of social support after violence took place.
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence seek medical assistance?	All countries had data on injuries, but it was not always clear if the information came from the victim or from a health care report. This would only be data from victims who disclosed to an agency representative.	These data are typically collected through emergency room data or by asking victims in population surveys who they disclosed to after the violence took place,
Of those incidents of intimate partner	These data may be	This could also be a

violence reported to an agency, what percentage end in an arrest?	available, but it is not clear if all data are collected systematically. Less data are collected on perpetrators.	question in a population survey. If the purpose of data collection here is to monitor the behavior of the police, then it may be important to include police records if possible.
Are victims who are granted protective measures (civil or emergency) better off than those who are not?	All countries have at least one agency that records the issuance of the protection measures and their conditions.	Ideally, examine the cases where a protective measure is issued and compare sub-subsequent reports of violence (also measured through injuries, domestic violence-related deaths) to similar cases in which no protective measure is granted. Also, poll victims with and without protective measures to examine satisfaction with the legal process.
Is there an increase in successful prosecution of domestic violence cases?	Each country has at least one agency with data on court cases.	In order to show change in prosecution, data would have to be available before and after legislative changes.
Are there tougher sanctions for conviction on domestic violence charges?	This would only apply in those countries where there have been increases in penalties for intimate partner violence.	This would require data from the judicial branch, including sentences given before and after legislation.
Are offenders who receive treatment for domestic violence (or some other type of treatment) less likely to be re-arrested than those who do not receive treatment?		
Have murder/suicides by domestic violence offenders decreased?	In each country, there is at least one agency that records this information.	
Are victims of more satisfied with the	No known, available data.	Best administered by an

judicial process under this law?		outside agency to avoid bias; surveys or interviews of victims after they have been through the judicial process.
<b>Albania</b>		
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police? And under what circumstances?	Civic Legal Initiatives Center, Light Steps, Refleksione, the Shelter for Women & Girls, and the Women Forum of Elbasan all record incidents reported to the police; however, patterns based on these numbers would only reflect a small percentage of all cases of intimate partner violence.	Population-based survey, using questions from UNECE-recommended module (UNECE, 2009)
Are victims who are granted protective measures (civil, emergency) better off than those who are not?	Civic Legal Initiatives Center, Light Steps, Refleksione, the Shelter for Women & Girls, and the Women Forum of Elbasan all record the issuance of protective orders, and all except the Ministry of Interior record the conditions of those orders. This question could be answered if data on individual cases can be linked to the protective measure, the date it was issued, and any subsequent violence experienced by the victim.	Ideally, examine the cases where a protective measure is issued and compare subsequent reports of violence (also measured through injuries, domestic violence-related deaths) to similar cases in which no protective measure is granted. Also, poll victims with and without protective measures to examine satisfaction with the legal process.
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>24</sup></b>		
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police?	The Foundation of Local Democracy, Medica, and Zene Sa Une all record cases of intimate partner	Population-based survey, using questions from UNECE-recommended module

<sup>24</sup> Since the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska record data in different ways, these questions should be answered separately when using agency data. The population-based survey, however, should be representative, and thus generalizable to the whole population.

	<p>violence reported to the police or a judicial agency. Victims who report to these agencies also are asked about physical, sexual, and psychological violence in the last 12 months and in lifetime.</p>	<p>(UNECE, 2009). Questions should include physical, psychological, and sexual violence, economic control, property destruction, neglect, stalking, and threats of violence.</p>
<p>Who is most likely to report intimate partner violence to the police since the passage of the Gender Equality Law in 2003 (amended 2005) or the Laws on Protection from Domestic Violence in 2005?</p>	<p>The Foundation of Local Democracy, Medica, and Zene Sa Une all record who reported the incident to the police.</p>	
<p>Are victims who are granted protective measures better off than those who are not?</p>	<p>The Foundation of Local Democracy and Medica all record the issuance of protective orders, and Medica records the conditions of those orders. This question could be answered if data on individual cases can be linked to the protective measure, the date it was issued, and any subsequent violence experienced by the victim.</p>	<p>Ideally, examine the cases where a protective measure is issued and compare subsequent reports of violence (also measured through injuries, domestic violence-related deaths) to similar cases in which no protective measure is granted. Also, poll victims with and without protective measures to examine satisfaction with the legal process.</p>
<p>Are offenders who receive treatment for domestic violence (or some other type of treatment) less likely to be re-arrested than those who do not receive treatment?</p>	<p>The Foundation of Local Democracy records DV treatment for offenders and Medica records substance abuse treatment for offenders, but neither keep track of recidivism after completion of sentence.</p>	<p>Comparison of domestic violence offenders' recidivism rates under conditions of treatment vs. no treatment.</p>
<p><b>FYR of Macedonia</b></p>		
<p>How quickly are domestic violence cases processed through the courts as compared to before the passage of the relevant legislation?</p>	<p>These data are available through the FYR of Macedonian Women's Rights Center – Shelter</p>	<p>If MWRC has been collecting this information for at least 5-6 years, a comparison</p>

	Center, although questions about how long they have been collecting data was not asked in the survey.	of before and after the passage of Declaration Against Violence Against Women would be possible.
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police?	The Institute for Social Affairs in Skopje, the Unit for Social Inclusion in the Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs, and the National SOS Line all record intimate partner violence cases reported to the police.	Population-based survey, using questions from UNECE-recommended module (UNECE, 2009)
Are victims who are granted protective measures better off than those who are not?	The FYR of Macedonian Women's Rights Center – Shelter Center records the issuance of protective orders as well as the conditions of those orders. This question could be answered if data on individual cases can be linked to the protective measure, the date it was issued, and any subsequent violence experienced by the victim.	Ideally, examine the cases where a protective measure is issued and compare subsequent reports of violence (also measured through injuries, domestic violence-related deaths) to similar cases in which no protective measure is granted. Also, poll victims with and without protective measures to examine satisfaction with the legal process.
Are victims of more satisfied with the judicial process under this law?	No available data.	Best administered by an outside agency to avoid bias; surveys or interviews of victims after they have been through the judicial process.
<b>Serbia</b>		
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police?	The Provincial Ombudsman in Vojvodina (Deputy for Gender Equality) and the Victimology Society both record cases of intimate partner violence reported	Population-based survey, using questions from UNECE-recommended module (UNECE, 2009)

	to the police.	
Are offenders more likely to be arrested under the new law? Or what percentage of reports of domestic violence end in arrest of the offender before and after relevant legislation?	Both the Provincial Ombudsman in Vojvodina (Deputy for Gender Equality) and the Victimology Society record if an arrest was designated “domestic violence,” but the survey did not ask how long they have been collecting these data. One may be able to look at their data on reports and arrests to answer this question.	
Is there an increase in successful prosecutions of domestic violence cases?	This question can only be answered if cases were labeled as domestic violence cases before the passage of the new law. Both the Provincial Ombudsman in Vojvodina (Deputy for Gender Equality) and the Victimology Society record if an arrest was designated “domestic violence,” but the survey did not ask how long they have been collecting these data.	
How quickly are domestic violence cases processed through the courts as compared to before the passage of the relevant legislation?	Date of court appearances (first and last) are not recorded by any of the responding agencies.	This would require the dates of first and last court appearance before and after passage of legislation.
Are victims of more satisfied with the judicial process under this law?	No known, available data.	Best administered by an outside agency to avoid bias; surveys or interviews of victims after they have been through the judicial process.
Are offenders who receive treatment for domestic violence less likely to be re-arrested than those who do not	No responding agency kept data on treatment of offenders.	Comparison of domestic violence offenders’ recidivism

receive treatment?		rates under conditions of treatment vs. no treatment.
Are domestic violence offenders now more likely to be incarcerated, particularly in cases where a) weapons were used or b) victims were seriously injured or c) killed or d) if the perpetrator violated a protective order?	The Victimology Society keeps record of the sentence given, the severity of injuries to the victim, and domestic violence-related deaths; the Provincial Ombudsman records the confiscation of weapons, but no responding agencies had data on whether or not a prison sentence was completed.	A larger study might compare incarceration rates for domestic violence over a time period of several years.
Have murder/suicides by domestic violence offenders decreased?	The Victimology Society keeps these records, but it is not clear how far back they go.	Domestic violence murders and suicides (i.e., suicide by the perpetrator) can be monitored through official records (e.g., police records), but the incidents must be designated as “domestic violence-related.”

## Appendix C: Policy Evaluation—Indicators<sup>25</sup>

Questions	Indicators
<b>General</b>	
What is the actual rate of intimate partner violence?	Lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence
	Annual prevalence of intimate partner violence
	Annual incidence of physical violence by an intimate partner among victims of IPV.
	Lifetime prevalence of sexual violence by an intimate partner
	Annual prevalence of sexual violence by an intimate partner
	Annual rate of sexual violence by an intimate partner violence per 1,000 women
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police? And under what circumstances?	Proportion of victims of intimate partner violence who report to the police
	Severity of injuries from physical violence by an intimate partner
	Severity of injuries from sexual violence by an intimate partner
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence seek medical assistance?	Intimate partner violence-related deaths
	Medical assistance received by victims of physical violence by an intimate partner
Of those incidents of intimate partner violence reported to an agency, what percentage end in an arrest?	Medical assistance received by victims of sexual violence by an intimate partner
	Arrest of perpetrator of domestic violence
Are victims who are granted protective measures (civil or emergency) better off than those who are not?	Arrest of perpetrator of intimate partner violence
	Protective measures issued for domestic violence
	Protective measures issued for intimate partner violence
	Violations of protective measures by perpetrators of intimate partner violence
	Violations of protective measures by perpetrators of domestic violence
	Recidivism of perpetrators of domestic violence
	Recidivism of perpetrators of intimate partner violence
	Deaths related to domestic violence
Deaths related to intimate partner violence	
Is there an increase in successful	Prosecutions of cases of intimate partner violence

<sup>25</sup> The indicators suggested here are preliminary variables. Further operationalization is needed to directly use these indicators in initiatives that aim to assess effectiveness of policies against violence against women.

prosecution of domestic violence cases?	Prosecutions of cases of domestic violence cases
	Convictions for intimate partner violence cases
	Convictions for domestic violence cases
Are there tougher sanctions for conviction on domestic violence charges?	Sanctions for intimate partner violence
	Sanctions for domestic violence
	Severity of prison sentences for intimate partner violence convictions
	Severity of prison sentences for domestic violence convictions
Are offenders who receive treatment for domestic violence (or some other type of treatment) less likely to be re-arrested than those who do not receive treatment?	Treatment for intimate partner violence offenders
	Recidivism of intimate partner violence offenders
	Domestic violence recidivism of intimate partner violence offenders
	Substance abuse treatment for intimate partner violence offenders
	Recidivism of perpetrators of intimate partner violence receiving substance abuse treatment
	Domestic violence recidivism of intimate partner violence offenders
Have murder/suicides by domestic violence offenders decreased?	Domestic violence-related deaths
	Intimate partner violence-related deaths
	Domestic violence-related suicides
	Intimate partner violence-related suicides
Are victims of intimate partner violence more satisfied with the judicial process under this law?	Satisfaction with judicial process among victims of intimate partner violence
	Satisfaction among victims of intimate partner violence with court services provided
	Willingness to report again
<b>Albania</b>	
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police? And under what circumstances?	Proportion of victims of intimate partner violence who report to the police
	Severity of injuries from physical violence by an intimate partner
	Severity of injuries from sexual violence by an intimate partner
	Intimate partner violence-related deaths
Are victims who are granted protective measures (civil, emergency) better off than those who are not?	Protective measures issued for domestic violence
	Protective measures issued for intimate partner violence
	Violations of protective measures by perpetrators of intimate partner violence
	Violations of protective measures by perpetrators of domestic violence
	Recidivism of perpetrators of domestic violence
	Recidivism of perpetrators of intimate partner violence
	Deaths related to domestic violence

	Deaths related to intimate partner violence
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police?	Proportion of victims of intimate partner violence who report to the police
	Severity of injuries from physical violence by an intimate partner
	Severity of injuries from sexual violence by an intimate partner
	Intimate partner violence-related deaths
Who is most likely to report intimate partner violence to the police since the passage of the Gender Equality Law in 2003 (amended 2005) or the Laws on Protection from Domestic Violence in 2005?	Person/agency reporting domestic violence
	Person/agency reporting intimate partner violence
Are victims who are granted protective measures better off than those who are not?	Protective measures issued for domestic violence
	Protective measures issued for intimate partner violence
	Violations of protective measures by perpetrators of intimate partner violence
	Violations of protective measures by perpetrators of domestic violence
	Recidivism of perpetrators of domestic violence
	Recidivism of perpetrators of intimate partner violence
	Deaths related to domestic violence
	Deaths related to intimate partner violence
Are offenders who receive treatment for domestic violence (or some other type of treatment) less likely to be re-arrested than those who do not receive treatment?	Treatment for intimate partner violence offenders
	Recidivism of intimate partner violence offenders
	Domestic violence recidivism of intimate partner violence offenders
	Substance abuse treatment for intimate partner violence offenders
	Recidivism of perpetrators of intimate partner violence receiving substance abuse treatment
	Domestic violence recidivism of intimate partner violence offenders
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	
How quickly are domestic violence cases processed through the courts as compared to before the passage of the relevant legislation?	Date of request for protective measure
	Date of arrest of perpetrator
	Date of first court appearance
	Date of sentencing
	Date perpetrator began sentence
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police? And under what	Proportion of victims of intimate partner violence who report to the police
	Severity of injuries from physical violence by an intimate

circumstances?	partner
	Severity of injuries from sexual violence by an intimate partner
	Intimate partner violence-related deaths
Are victims who are granted protective measures better off than those who are not?	Protective measures issued for domestic violence
	Protective measures issued for intimate partner violence
	Violations of protective measures by perpetrators of intimate partner violence
	Violations of protective measures by perpetrators of domestic violence
	Recidivism of perpetrators of domestic violence
	Recidivism of perpetrators of intimate partner violence
	Deaths related to domestic violence
	Deaths related to intimate partner violence
Are victims of more satisfied with the judicial process under this law?	Satisfaction with judicial process among victims of intimate partner violence
	Satisfaction among victims of intimate partner violence with court services provided
	Willingness to report again
<b>Serbia</b>	
What percentage of victims of intimate partner violence report to the police? And under what circumstances?	Proportion of victims of intimate partner violence who report to the police
	Severity of injuries from physical violence by an intimate partner
	Severity of injuries from sexual violence by an intimate partner
	Intimate partner violence-related deaths
Are offenders more likely to be arrested under the new law? Or what percentage of reports of domestic violence end in arrest of the offender before and after relevant legislation?	Domestic violence incident reported to police
	Arrest of perpetrator of domestic violence
	Date of arrest of perpetrator of domestic violence
	Intimate partner violence incident reported to police
	Arrest of perpetrator of intimate partner violence
	Date of arrest of perpetrator of intimate partner violence
Is there an increase in successful prosecutions of domestic violence cases?	Prosecutions of cases of intimate partner violence
	Prosecutions of cases of domestic violence cases
	Convictions for intimate partner violence cases
	Convictions for domestic violence cases
How quickly are domestic violence cases processed through the courts as compared to before the passage of the relevant legislation?	Date of request for protective measure
	Date of arrest of perpetrator
	Date of first court appearance
	Date of sentencing
	Date perpetrator began sentence
Are victims of intimate partner violence more satisfied with the judicial process under this law?	Satisfaction with judicial process among victims of intimate partner violence
	Satisfaction among victims of intimate partner violence

	with court services provided
	Willingness to report again
Are offenders who receive treatment for domestic violence less likely to be re-arrested than those who do not receive treatment?	Treatment for intimate partner violence offenders
	Recidivism of intimate partner violence offenders
	Domestic violence recidivism of intimate partner violence offenders
	Substance abuse treatment for intimate partner violence offenders
	Recidivism of perpetrators of intimate partner violence receiving substance abuse treatment
	Domestic violence recidivism of intimate partner violence offenders
Are domestic violence offenders now more likely to be incarcerated, particularly in cases where a) weapons were used or b) victims were seriously injured or c) killed or d) if the perpetrator violated a protective order?	Incarceration of domestic violence offender
	Incarceration of intimate partner violence offender
	Weapons used during domestic violence incident
	Weapons used during intimate partner violence incident
	Severity of injuries from physical violence by a family member
	Severity of injuries from physical violence by an intimate partner
	Severity of injuries from sexual violence by a family member
	Severity of injuries from sexual violence by an intimate partner
	Domestic violence-related deaths
	Intimate partner violence-related deaths
	Violation of protective measure by domestic violence offender (family member)
	Violation of protective measure by intimate partner
Have murder/suicides by domestic violence offenders decreased?	Domestic violence-related deaths
	Intimate partner violence-related deaths
	Domestic violence-related suicides
	Intimate partner violence-related suicides