



FRA Gender-based violence against women survey: **Project update – March 2013**

This project update presents the steps taken concerning the survey from November 2012 until now, as well as planned activities in 2013 and 2014. For an overview of earlier stages in the development of the survey please see the survey description at the [FRA website](#) as well as the section 'The survey in brief' at the end of this document.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) is now analysing the results of its [survey](#) on gender-based violence against women. The survey provides for the first time comparable data on women's experiences of violence in the 27 EU Member States and Croatia, and is the largest multi-country study of its kind. The FRA factsheet '[Gender-based violence against women – an EU-wide survey](#)' (available in 22 EU languages) provides a concise description of the project's background, the aims, and the content of the survey.

FRA statement on International Women's Day – first glance at some of the survey results

On the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March 2013, FRA published the following statement:

To mark the International Women's Day on 8 March, FRA announces that in early 2014 it will launch the main results report from its EU-wide survey on violence against women.

The survey interviewed 42,000 women from the 27 EU Member States and Croatia, and is the first survey of its kind to systematically interview women about their experiences across 28 countries. It captured women's experiences of gender-based violence – which are a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women. The incidents captured included experiences of sexual, physical and psychological abuse – ranging from 'domestic violence' to sexual harassment at work, and violence perpetrated by strangers. The survey also covered women's experiences of stalking and cybercrime, and asked adult women about their childhood experiences of violence.

At present, FRA is working on the survey results. Initial data analysis illustrates the extent of some of the problems that will be revealed in the full survey findings:

- *Four in five women victims of gender based violence did not turn to any service, such as healthcare, social services, or victim support, following the most serious incidents of violence by people other than their partners. This underlines how the true extent of violence remains hidden.*
- *Women who sought help were most likely to turn to medical services, highlighting the need to ensure that healthcare professionals can address the needs of victims of violence.*
- *Two in five women were unaware of laws or political initiatives to protect them in cases of domestic violence; half were unaware of any preventative laws or initiatives.*
- *Over three in four women think violence against women is common in their country.*
- *About half of the women indicated that they had avoided public or private situations because they were afraid that they might be physically or sexually assaulted.*
- *Emerging forms of sexual harassment, through new technologies and media, concern young women in particular. Such forms of cyber harassment include receiving offensive and sexually explicit emails, SMS messages or social media posts.*



On 17 May 2013, FRA will also release the results from a survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people's experiences of discrimination and hate-motivated crime. Full information will be made available on the Agency's website.

Launch of the main results report

FRA has updated its plans concerning the launch of the survey's main results report – the launch is scheduled to take place at the beginning of 2014. The results will be made available both in the form of a comprehensive results report as well as on the FRA website. In due course, selected results will be made available online on the FRA website through an interactive data visualisation tool, which will allow users to browse survey results and display them as maps, tables and graphs. At a later stage when the FRA has completed its own reporting on the results, the Agency is planning to make the survey microdata available for researchers (for example – working for government administrations, civil society, practitioners and academia) who are interested in carrying out their own analysis. More details concerning the availability of data will be made available in future project updates.

If you are aware of conferences and events where the FRA's survey results could be communicated towards the end 2013 and in 2014, please contact the FRA gender-based violence against women survey team to discuss what results and materials might be available at the time of the meeting (please see the contact address below).

Survey mailbox

The FRA team working on the gender-based violence against women survey can be contacted by sending a message to violence-against-women@fra.europa.eu. Please feel free to contact the FRA survey team if you have questions concerning the survey, or if you know other people who would like to be included on our mailing list to receive project status updates and information related to the launch of the results in 2014.

The survey in brief

FRA planned the project following requests by the Council of the EU and the European Parliament and developed the survey in consultation with violence against women survey experts at national and international level. In 2011, FRA conducted a pre-test study in six Member States to prepare and test the questionnaire and other fieldwork material for the full-scale survey.

In 2012, experienced survey interviewers under the supervision of FRA's survey contractor IPSOS MORI interviewed 42,000 women (aged 18-74) in the 27 EU Member States and Croatia. The respondents were selected using random sampling, ensuring that the results of the survey are representative at the EU level as well as for each Member State. All interviews were carried out face-to-face by professional interviewers who received additional training. The purpose of the interviewer training was to ensure that the interviewers are prepared for encountering women who may have experienced violence, and to advise the interviewers on measures to be taken to guarantee the confidentiality and the anonymity of the interviews.

The survey asked women about their personal experiences of various types of violence by all different perpetrators such as current or former partners, but also colleagues, supervisors, clients,



teachers, other family members, friends or strangers. The types of violence covered in the survey include:

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Psychological violence
- Stalking
- Sexual harassment
- Worry about victimisation
- Experiences of violence in childhood (before the age of 15)
- Opinions on violence against women and awareness of victim support services and legislation

The survey also collected details about incidents of violence and the consequences of violence; including: details about the perpetrator; injuries and psychological responses; use of support services (e.g. health care, social services, victim support) and reporting to the police (including reasons for not contacting any type of service or the police). Furthermore, women were asked about their unmet needs (what type of assistance would have been useful) and how they coped with the experiences of violence.