

European Observatory on Femicide

EOF

Progress Report 2018



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History of the European Observatory on Femicide

The EOF was established in January 2018 at the [University of Malta](#). It is situated within the [Department of Gender Studies](#) at the Faculty for Social Wellbeing. The EOF is the first observatory in Europe aimed at femicide prevention through the collection and analysis of data.

The EOF is based on the results of the [COST Action on Femicide across Europe](#) (2013-2017) involving over 90 researchers from 29 European countries and Israel engaging with the topic of femicide in the areas of definitions, reporting, culture and prevention. The Action also uncovered opportunities and challenges with data availability on femicide in each participating country.

During the duration of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe discussions were had about establishing a European observatory for the purpose of monitoring different types of femicide across the continent. The [final conference](#) for the Action took place from the 14th to 16th of March 2017 at the University of Malta Campus in Valletta, where the members of the COST Action made the decision to establish the Observatory in Malta.

EOF Structure

Since January 2018 the EOF is headed by Dr Marceline Naudi, who is the scientific coordinator for the Observatory, and supported by Barbara Stelmaszek, who is the research officer at the Observatory. The work and decision making are supported by an international Advisory Board. Data collection and research take place through a network of country research groups throughout Europe. More information on the EOF structure is given in the text below.

The University of Malta has sponsored the position of the research officer for the Observatory.



Marceline Naudi (B.A., M.A.(Bradford), Ph.D.(Manchester)) is the Scientific Coordinator of the European Observatory on Femicide (EOF). Marceline is a social worker by profession and a Senior Lecturer within the Department of Gender Studies, at the University of Malta. She contributes to teaching and supervision of student research on gender issues, violence against women and other anti-oppressive issues at Diploma, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level. She continues to be active on the issues of gender equality and violence against women, LGBTIQ, as well as wider human rights issues, both locally in Malta and in Europe. She was also a board member of the Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) network, and vice president of GREVIO, the Council of Europe monitoring body of the Istanbul Convention. She is currently Regional Editor of the Journal on Gender Based Violence, and is co-editing a special issue, and has led the EU funded research projects in Malta on the Bystanders Approach to Sexual Harassment, and on Barriers to Reporting for victims of Violence against Women.



Barbara Stelmaszek is the (part-time) Research Officer for the European Observatory on Femicide (EOF). She is reading for a PhD with the Department of Gender Studies, Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta, focusing her research on prevention of lethal intimate partner violence. Alongside her work at the EOF, Barbara is supporting the implementation of a European project on bystander responses to sexual harassment in schools.

Mission statement

The mission of the European Observatory on Femicide (EOF) is first and foremost the prevention of femicide through data collection, data visibility, research and awareness raising. This mission will be kept at the forefront of all the EOF work. The EOF recognises its serious duty and obligation, as the first Observatory of its kind in Europe, to lead by setting an example of a high standard, innovative and collaborative research initiative.

The EOF recognises past and current efforts in Europe and around the world to prevent and combat violence against women and femicide, and fully commits to meaningful partnerships with stakeholders in the field, including women's NGOs, governmental bodies, agencies and institutions.

In its mission, the EOF aligns itself with the efforts of the international community to address violence against women and femicide, including in support of monitoring the implementation of the [Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence \(2011\)](#), and the efforts of the European Union to eradicate violence against women, and contributing in its work to the [Femicide Watch Platform](#).

The EOF seeks to represent all women victims regardless of their background or status. The EOF recognises that the accessibility and visibility of data is an indication of state accountability for the protection of women and the prevention of femicide.

Principles

- Accessibility and visibility of data – while promoting the release of official data on femicide, the EOF will make its data accessible to others working in the field of femicide prevention.
- Outreach and advocacy – the EOF will actively raise awareness about femicide as well as respond to opportunities and challenges in the field of femicide prevention as they arise.
- Collaboration – the EOF will actively engage with relevant stakeholders in the field through equal exchanges and empowering partnerships.
- Inclusiveness and diversity – the EOF seeks to engage all relevant sectors, including NGOs, academics, governments, and others. The EOF seeks to count all victims of femicide regardless of background or status.
- Innovation – the EOF's research and activities aim to be innovative for the sake of effectiveness and efficiency.
- Empowerment of women – the EOF acknowledges that violence against women is rooted in the imbalance of power between women and men and its work is guided by the need to create an equal society as part of effective preventive frameworks.

Aims and objectives

- Monitor and supply data to policy makers and general public to promote prevention, social change and wellbeing of women
- Support the effective implementation of legislation and policy on all levels (international, European, national)
- Contribute to the advancement of research
- Improve data accessibility and quality
- Promote comparability across states
- Gain understanding of local contexts
- Work in solidarity with relevant stakeholders in the field

Thematic groups

There are currently two thematic groups within the EOF. Specific researchers from the EOF advisory board are responsible for organising the research methodology under the two thematic groups: data collection (mainly quantitative research) and prevention (mainly qualitative research). The data collection group is coordinated by Monika Schröttle with support from Ksenia Meshkova, and the prevention group by Anna Costanza Baldry and Maria Jose Magalhaes.

Country groups

The EOF conducts research through the setting up and supporting of Europe-wide country research groups that will act as focal points for the collection, joint analysis and dissemination of data. This will be coordinated through the work of the two thematic groups.

Advisory board

The advisory board is composed of former COST Action on Femicide across Europe members, and helps to support direction and decision making.

Events

In 2018, the staff and advisory board members of the EOF took part in two events in order to present the establishment of the EOF to local and international audiences.

EOF launch – Valletta, Malta on 1 March 2018

The EOF was launched on the 1st of March 2018 in Malta at the University's Valletta Campus.

The launch event was a gathering of experts in the area of preventing and combatting violence against women. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate the establishment of the Observatory, make the public aware of the new initiative, and to gather support for future work.

Dr Carmen Sammut, the Pro-Rector at the University of Malta welcomed the speakers and attendees of the event, and Her Excellency, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the [President of Malta](#), gave the opening address. After presenting the work of the Observatory, Dr Naudi and Barbara

Stelmaszek gave the floor to the evening's panellists: Blandine Mollard from the [European Institute for Gender Equality](#) and Karen Ingala Smith from the [UK Femicide Census](#). The panellists discussed their work in the area of femicide prevention and answered questions from the audience.

Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Member of the European Parliament from Sweden and Member from the [Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality \(FEMM\)](#), sent a video message for the occasion. Johanna Nelles, from the Council of Europe [Secretariat](#) of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, sent a written message which was read out. Mr Joseph Camilleri, Permanent Secretary at the [Ministry of European Affairs and Equality](#) gave Dr Helena Dalli's closing speech, since she was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. The event was followed by a small networking reception.

The EOF would like to thank University of Malta's [Faculty for Social Wellbeing](#) for helping to sponsor the event.



CCPCJ Side event – Vienna, Austria on 15 May 2018

The side event was entitled Saving Women's Lives through Data Collection took place on the 15th of May 2018 at the United Nations in Vienna. The event occurred during the 27th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The aim of the event was to present the European Observatory on Femicide and its goals to an international audience. The event was supported by Her Excellency, the President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, with a video message. Her Excellency lent her support to the establishment of the Observatory and called on European authorities to support the establishment of the Observatory within the European Union. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, [Dr Dubravka Simonovic](#) introduced the event with an address. Dr Simonovic voiced her support for the establishment of regional femicide monitoring bodies as is evidenced in her reports and publications. In a [2016 report](#) to the General Assembly, Dr Simonovic "elaborated modalities for establishment of femicide watch and/or observatory as an interdisciplinary panel of experts that collect and analyse data on femicides with the aims of prevention of such cases."

Presentations from members of the European Observatory on Femicide, Dr Marceline Naudi together with Barbara Stelmazek, and Ksenia Meshkova followed, who described the aims and goals of the Observatory as well as the methods for setting up a European system for data collection on femicide, respectively.

Additionally, for the occasion the EOF drafted an article in the [9th Edition of Femicide](#), published by the [Academic Council on the United Nations Systems \(ACUNS\)](#) Vienna Liaison Office. The article is entitled The European Observatory on Femicide and Other Initiatives in Europe. The article describes the contribution of various organisations in Europe towards data collection on violence against women, including femicide, as a way to align EOF's work within the broader European context. The article is available on the website of the EOF.

The EOF would like to thank The Ambassador and the Embassy of Malta in Vienna for organising and sponsoring the event.



CCPCJ Special event – Vienna, Austria on 16 May 2018

The event was a special event entitled Ending Impunity for Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls/Femicide - State Responsibility and Accountability.

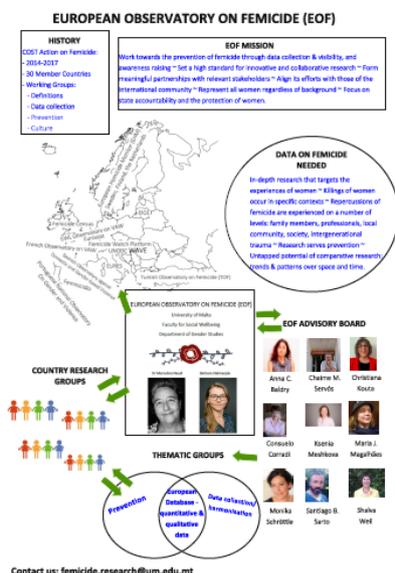
According to the event's [flyer](#), the event was held in order to "encourage Member States to strengthen their crime and criminal justice responses, when prosecuting cases of gender motivated killings of women." Additionally, the event served to "promote the role of international law and available international instruments in holding individual states accountable for failing to prosecute cases of such kind. It should remind Member States, UN agencies, academia, victims' representatives, civil society and other relevant bodies to have greater cooperation with each other, in order to exchange good practices and effective strategies."

The event's panellists included Dr Simonovic (United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences), Tiziana Zannini (Executive at the Department for Family Policies, Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers), Angela Me (Chief Research and Trend Analysis Branch, UNODC), Lillian Hofmeister (Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and a former judge), Henrike Landre (Co-Chair, UN Studies Association and Manager of the Femicide Knowledge Hub). Marceline Naudi (First Vice-President of GREVIO and Scientific Director at the European Observatory on Femicide) was among the panellists presenting on the Observatory and its aims as well as on the Istanbul Convention and its provision related to prosecution of perpetrators. Furthermore, Dr Naudi presented on the connection between the Istanbul Convention and femicide, mainly that the Convention requires states to take action to prevent femicide through various means, including prompt and appropriate response by law enforcement agencies, emergency barring orders and protection orders, and risk assessment, among others.

The EOF would like to thank GREVIO for sponsoring the travel to the event.

Conferences

European Network on Gender and Violence – Bristol, United Kingdom in June 2018



The [European Network on Gender and Violence](#) is a network of over 400 researchers from different disciplines and countries. It supports exchange and collaboration among scholars and professionals who address violence, gender, violence prevention and related issues.

The EOF participated in the conference and presented a poster on the Observatory. A separate side meeting was also held by advisory board member Monika Schrötle on data collection in Europe. The meeting was used to further networking in the area of femicide prevention. During the meeting discussions were held about the development of a data collection system for the EOF.

Feminist Research Conference – Göttingen, Germany in September 2018

This conference takes place once every three years and provides an opportunity for feminist scholars and activists to come together and exchange information, research and experiences.

The EOF took part in the conference and presented its establishment and work during an open forum session entitled the European Observatory on Femicide.

The EOF would like to thank the [European Association for Gender Research, Education and Documentation \(AT Gender\)](#) for funding EOF's participation at the conference.

Women against Violence Europe – Valletta, Malta in October 2018

[Women against Violence Europe](#) is a European network of women's organisations working in the field of preventing and combating violence against women. Each year, the network holds a conference together with one of its member organisations. In 2018, the conference was hosted by the members in Malta.

The EOF utilised the opportunity to present its establishment and work to an audience of European women's NGOs and feminist activists. Dr Marceline Naudi presented on the EOF during a workshop session entitled European Efforts on Tackling Femicide. Barbara Stelmaszek presented on the need to address gendered attitudes, norms and stereotypes in order to combat femicide during a workshop session entitled the Importance of Data Collection in Effectively Fighting Violence against Women and Girls.

The EOF would like to thank the Women against Violence Europe network for funding EOF's participation at the conference.

Thematic groups

During 2018, the EOF took steps to develop the work of the two main thematic groups of the Observatory, which are the data collection and prevention groups.

The data collection group is headed by Monika Schröttle with the support of Ksenia Meshkova. The thematic group focuses on utilising existing methods of comparative data collection on femicide and homicide in order to create a harmonised tool that is specialised for the needs of the EOF and its country groups. The tool is planned to be finalised and piloted in 2019, and will support the EOF and country researchers to estimate the scope and extent of femicide on both the national and European levels.

The prevention group is led by Anna Costanza Baldry with the support of Maria José Magalhães. In the first year, the focus was on narrowing down the issues to focus on within the theme of femicide prevention. The decision was made to utilise the EOF and its country network to conduct femicide reviews. The methodology for the European-wide comparative femicide reviews will be finalised and piloted in 2019.

Country groups

During 2018, contacts were made with former COST Action on Femicide across Europe members and other researchers in the field of femicide prevention in order to inquire about their willingness and ability to set up national level research groups that would form part of the EOF research network. At the end of the year, 25 focal points were established through agreement to form country research groups connected to the EOF, many of which have already gathered all necessary researchers to finalise the composition of the group. The EOF focal points currently exist in the following countries: Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and in England and Scotland as part of the United Kingdom.

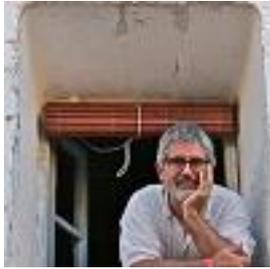
Advisory board

The advisory board currently consists of members who chaired the working groups of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe (2013-2016). They come from Cyprus, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, and Spain.



Anna Costanza Baldry is a full professor at the Department of Psychology of the Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli. Over the last 20 years, Anna's work in the area of femicide includes risk assessment and orphans of femicide, along with collaboration with women's NGOs. She has published over 100 articles in prestigious national and international scientific journals, book chapters and monographs, and has presented her work at various national and international conferences. She has coordinated several prestigious projects with

special emphasis on women victims of violence, and was an active member of the COST Action IS1206 on Femicide across Europe. She is also a visiting scholar at the Institute of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge.



Chaime Marcuello Servós is a lecturer in Social Work and Social Services in the Department of Psychology and Sociology at the University of Zaragoza. He is also a professor on the Inter-Doctoral Programme in Science and Humanities for Interdisciplinary Development at the CEICH of the UNAM and the UAdeC (Mexico). In addition, Chaime is the coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Teaching Innovation Group (GIDID) and a co-founder of the Third Sector Social and Economic Studies Group (GESES). He is the president of the RC51 on Sociocybernetics (2014-2018) of ISA. Additionally, Chaime is the editor of Current Sociology Monographs and SISS Books (2016-2019) and co-director of the Iberoamerican Journal of Development Studies.



Christiana Kouta is an Associate Professor at the Department of Nursing at the Cyprus University of Technology. She heads the Master in Advanced Nursing and Community Healthcare. Christiana's teaching includes Community Nursing, Health Promotion, Transcultural Nursing, and Family Nursing. Christiana's research combines community and transcultural health related to culture and gender. Currently, she is leading an EU funded project on a knowledge platform on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). She is also involved in other EU projects related to culturally competent and compassionate healthcare. She was the scientific coordinator within the COST Action on Femicide across Europe and is the secretary of the European Transcultural Nurses Association.



Consuelo Corradi is a professor of Sociology and vice-chair for research and international relations at Lumsa University. She served as a co-chair of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe. Her research interests include violence against women, femicide, and more recently the cross-national comparison of gender policy regimes across Europe. Her most recent book is entitled *The Concept and Measurement of Violence against Women and Men* (2017) from the Policy Press. The book was co-authored by S. Walby, J. Towers, S. Balderston, and others. Consuelo was also a vice-president of European Sociological Association from 2007 to 2009.



Ksenia Meshkova comes from St. Petersburg, Russia and lives in Germany since 2007. She is a graduate of St. Petersburg State University, Tartu University, and Erfurt University. She is currently writing her PhD thesis entitled *Intimate Partner Violence in Modern Russia*, at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Ksenia's

studies have been sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service and Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Ksenia is an active member and a Young Scholars' Day organiser of the European Network on Gender Violence (ENGV), which holds an annual conference. In 2018, Ksenia coordinated the 10th European Feminist Research Conference in Gottingen. Currently, Ksenia is teaching at the Protestant University of Applied Sciences in Berlin.



Maria José Magalhães is a full professor at the FPCEUP, research member of CIEG and CIIE. She is the recipient of the award Carolina Michaelis de Vasconcelos - Research on Women's Studies (1990). Maria José main field of research involves gender based violence and femicide. She is a coordinator and member of several research projects related to these topics. The projects include: EU funded Bystanders Project on developing bystander responses to sexual harassment among young people, CEINAV project (Cultural Encounters in Interventions against Violence). Maria José was also a member of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe and a scientific coordinator of the Observatory of Murdered Women (OMA-UMAR).



Monika Schrötle is a professor at the Technical University of Dortmund and is leading research projects for the Institute for Empirical Sociological Research at the University of Erlangen-Nurnberg. She is an expert on violence against women, quantitative prevalence research on violence, disability studies, violence and ethnicity, and empirical human rights research. She is also a coordinator of the European Network on Gender Violence (ENGV), which is a network of more than 400 researchers. Furthermore, she has been coordinating several international working groups on data collection and monitoring of gender based violence in European research networks (in COST Action on Femicide across Europe, Coordination Action on Human Rights Violations - CAHRV). In her last project, Monika developed a Measurement Framework on Violence against Women to be integrated in the Gender Equality Index of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Monika is also a country expert of the Academic Network of European Disability Experts (ANED) and prepares national reports on the state of disability policies and the situation of disabled people.



Santiago Boira Sarto graduated in Psychology from the University of Salamanca and received his PhD from the University of Zaragoza. He is a Lecturer in the Department of Psychology and Sociology, and a coordinator of the Master's degree in gender relations at the University of Zaragoza. Santiago's research interests focus on gender issues, intimate partner violence, especially in men perpetrators/abusers. He is also a researcher in the Group of Social and Economic Studies of the Third Sector (GESES). Santiago was a member of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe.



Shalva Weil is a senior researcher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. From 2013-2017, Shalva served as chair of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe, heading a management committee of 80 people representing 30 countries. She has addressed the Parliaments of Portugal, Aragon (Spain), and Rome, and spoken at three UN meetings on femicide in Bangkok, New York, and Vienna. She has published over 100 journal articles, including 11 in scientific journals on femicide, and edited special issues on femicide, and several books on Indian Jews, Ethiopian Jews, and other topics. In 2016, Shalva published an article in the *Qualitative Sociology Review* entitled *Failed Femicides among Migrant Survivors*. She has contributed to the ACUNS volumes on femicide 3, 4, 6 and 8, where she wrote about the COST Network, femicide of girls in India, and femicide of elderly women in Israel. She is co-editor (with Chaime Marcuello, Consuelo Corradi, and Santiago Boira) of a special issue on *Femicide: A Social Challenge* in journal *Current Sociology* (2016), where she also published a single-authored article entitled *Making Femicide Visible*. Shalva is also co-editor (with Christiana Kouta) of a special issue on *Researching Femicide from a Qualitative Perspective* in a journal *Qualitative Sociology Review* (2017). She has also edited (together with Marceline Naudi and Consuelo Corradi) the first book on *Femicide in Europe* (Policy Press). In the applied field, she runs an empowerment programme for slum migrant women of Caucasian origin in Israel. She has worked among Ethiopian immigrants and researched intimate partner femicide among them in Israel.

Advisory board meetings

In the first year after the establishment of the EOF, various decision related to the organizational structure and methodology had to be made. These were made together with the advisory board members who met in person (when possible) and virtually. In total, 7 advisory board meetings were held during 2018: on 29 January, 2 March, 16 April, 31 May, 13 July, 1 November, and 21 November.

Cooperation

The EOF utilised the former partnerships that had been formed during the COST Action on Femicide for future cooperation. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is one of the key partners for the EOF due to its existing work in the area of data collection on violence against women, including on femicide, and EIGE's development of the Gender Equality Index. In 2018, the EOF together with EIGE planned an EU stakeholder meeting on the topic of femicide and data collection. The meeting has been organised and will take place on 16-17 of January 2019 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Funding

In 2018, the EOF explored information on existing funding sources that are relevant to the work of the Observatory. During the year, several inquiries were made to funding sources, and a grant application was submitted under the [European Commission Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020](#). The EOF would like to thank University of Malta's Research Support Services for supporting the application process.

EOF website

The EOF set up its own website within the research section of the University of Malta's section, where information about the Observatory, country research groups, its events, and news can be found. Additionally, the most important results and products of the now completed COST Action on Femicide across Europe have been uploaded to the new Observatory website to allow continued access to the information. The EOF website can be viewed on: <https://www.um.edu.mt/research/researchprojects/femicide>