



European Observatory on Femicide
EOF
Progress Report 2020



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History of the European Observatory on Femicide

The EOF was established in January 2018. From the time of establishment to December 2019, the EOF was hosted at and coordinated from the [University of Malta](#) within the [Department of Gender Studies](#) at the Faculty for Social Wellbeing. From January 2020, the hosting and coordination of the Observatory transferred to the [Cyprus University of Technology](#) (CUT) and the [Institute for Empirical Sociological Research](#) (IFES) at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany. The current coordinators are Dr Christiana Kouta (CUT) and Dr Monika Schrötle (IFES). Both are experts in the field of femicide prevention and have been involved in the EOF from the start.

The EOF itself 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, data collection methods and prevention.

During the duration of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe discussions were held 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 2020, the EOF is headed by Dr Christiana Kouta (CUT) and Dr Monika Schröttle (IFES).

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. Recently, she led an EU funded project on a knowledge platform on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). She also participates in the new EU funded femicide project- FEM-United. She is also involved in other EU projects related to culturally competent and compassionate healthcare. She was the co-coordinator of the working group on culture within the COST Action on Femicide across Europe and is the vice-president of the European Transcultural Nurses Association.



Monika Schröttle was a Professor at the University of Dortmund from 2014 to 2019 and now she



leads research projects for the Institute for Empirical Sociological Research at the University of Erlangen-Nurnberg. She is the Scientific Director of the research and monitoring body on gender, violence and human rights (FOBES). She is an expert on violence against women, quantitative and qualitative research on violence, sexual harassment, inclusion, disability studies, violence and ethnicity and empirical human rights research. She also coordinates participatory and inclusive projects for and with academics with disabilities. **Monika Schröttle** 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 during the last 20 years (such as within the COST Action on Femicide

across Europe, Coordination Action on Human Rights Violations- CAHRV). In her recent projects, Monika Schröttle developed a Measurement Framework on Violence against Women to be integrated in the Gender Equality Index of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Furthermore, she coordinates the quantitative data collection on Femicide within the European Observatory on Femicide. She is also involved as a researcher and consortium member in two new European studies on femicide: the project Fem-United, funded by the EU DG Justice and Consumers and the EIGE study: “Improving legal responses to counter Femicide” which both began in November 2020.

The work and decision making of the EOF continues to be supported by an international Advisory Board (<http://eof.cut.ac.cy/advisory-board/>). Data collection and research are taking place through a network of country research groups throughout Europe. More information on the EOF structure is given in the text below.

From its existence until December 2019, the EOF was headed by Dr Marceline Naudi, who was the scientific coordinator for the Observatory.



Marceline Naudi (B.A., M.A.(Bradford), PhD (Manchester)) was 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 is 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 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 was the (part-time) Research Officer for the European Observatory on Femicide (EOF). In 2019, she became a PhD candidate at the Department of Gender Studies, Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta, focusing her research on prevention of lethal intimate partner violence. She prepared proposals for EOF research projects in 2019 and set a basis for the successful aquirement of funds for two new European studies that started in November 2020. She left the EOF after an intense engagement of two years in February 2020.

Today, The Observatory is supported by **Elina Kofou** and **Emmanouela Manoli** from Cyprus.

Elina Kofou is a part time Research Assistant for the European Observatory of Femicide (EOF) and a member of the Cyprus team at the EOF. She has a Master degree in Educational Psychology and Business Administration. She is working as a tutor at the Medical School of St. George University at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus and as a Research Assistant at the Department of Nursing at the Cyprus University of Technology, in several projects related to gender-based violence and gender equality. She recently worked as a Social Worker within the Social Welfare Services in Cyprus at the Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance and as an Educational Psychologist at the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth. She also worked at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies that promotes women's rights and gender equality through a combination of research, lobbying and advocacy, education and training, awareness-raising. Recently, she worked as a Research Assistant in an EU funded project on a knowledge platform on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Further, she participates in the new EU funded femicide project, FEM-UnitED. She has been a board member of the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family in Cyprus.

Emmanouela Manoli is a part time Research Assistant for the European Observatory of Femicide and member of the Cyprus team at EOF. In 2020, she became a PhD candidate at the Department

of Nursing, Faculty for Health Science at the Cyprus University of Technology, focusing her research on intimate partner violence during pregnancy.

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 recognizes 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 recognizes 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 contributing in its work to the Femicide Watch Platform. The EOF also supports the efforts of the European Union to eradicate violence against women, and works closely with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in its data collection on violence against women and femicide.

The EOF seeks to represent all women victims regardless of their background or status. The EOF recognizes 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 **Ivana Paust**, and the prevention group by **Maria Jose Magalhaes**, previously in articulation with **Anna Constanza Baldry** who unfortunately has passed away.

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 and information. 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 <http://eof.cut.ac.cy/advisory-board/>.

Events and conferences

In 2020, the advisory board members of the EOF took part in events and conferences in order to increase cooperation among international stakeholders in the field of violence against women and femicide prevention. Due to the latest situation in Europe with COVID-19 it was not possible to attend a conference with physical presence so almost all participations were online. Furthermore, a power point presentation for international events was prepared that can be used by EOF members for their information work.

- ***Working Group of French activists, lawyers, doctors and victims' Webinar, 12 June 2020***

Dr Monika Schröttle spoke at a webinar of Working Group of French activists, lawyers, doctors and victims created by the French Minister of Gender equality Marlène Schiappa to elaborate concrete proposals to tackle violence against women (with a focus on domestic violence and harassment) in the after COVID era.

She gave a European perspective to the work by explaining to them about best practices in other EU countries which France could get inspired from and about the EOF.

- ***Homicide and Genocide interdisciplinary perspectives on lethal violence- International Conference, 23-29 July 2020***

This was organized by the Romanian Observatory on Homicide Studies and Prevention, EOF invited speakers:

Dr Marcelina Naudi – Istanbul Convention and Femicide.

Dr Monika Schröttle, European Observatory on Femicide, Institut für empirische Soziologie an der Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen Nürnberg

Dr Shalva Weil, *Femicide: A Pandemic during a Pandemic*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

- ***Gender Summit in South Korea, 19-21 August 2020***

Dr Shalva Weil - Senior Researcher, School of Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, has spoken on femicide at the gender summit in South Korea. She presented the theme “Ensuring safe societies by femicide prevention. A global perspective.”

- ***4th Experts’ Meeting of Gender Statistics Database, EIGE, 22-23 September 2020***

Dr Marceline Naudi and Dr Christiana Kouta participated in this meeting. The event was divided in 4 sessions:

- Overview of the most recent Database developments, including exchange of practices and opinions on the production process of high-quality gender statistics.

- EIGE’s new statistics on Women and Men in decision-making, most recent updates and additional data collection within IPA countries.

- EIGE’s unique data collection and recently published statistics on Intimate Partner Violence.

- Proposal of a new entry point collecting the statistics developed.

under EIGE’s Gender Mainstreaming studies.

- ***Lecture on “Femicide in Israel: A Pandemic during a Pandemic”, 14 September 2020***

Dr. Shalva Weil, gave above lecture on zoom at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis University.

- ***Lecture on Femicide Prevention for the City Council of Munich, Germany in Munich’s Town Hall, 25 September 2020***

Dr Monika Schröttle held a lecture: Stop Femicide! Contributions from European research and networking.

- ***International Conference of the German migrant women network DaMigra: “Stop Femicide-Effective against women murder in the European Union”, 6 November 20***

Dr Monika Schröttle held a lecture: Stop Femicide! Contributions from European research and networking

- **Conference Herford, Germany: “Femicide and how to treat high-risk-cases in the practice work”, 25 November 2020**

Dr Monika Schröttle held a lecture: Stop Femicide! Through knowledge and cooperation.

- **EIGE online expert conference “Violence against Women and Covid-19: How do we tackle two pandemics at once?” 18 November 2020**

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) brought together experts in the field of violence against women and discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying lockdown measures on victims of intimate partner violence.

- **Lecture for the Round Table on VWA Prevention in Munich, Germany, 2 December 2020**

Dr Monika Schröttle held a lecture: Stop Femicide! Through knowledge and cooperation.

Thematic groups

In the year 2020, the thematic group coordinators completed the development of the quantitative and qualitative data collection tools. The tools were sent to country groups to populate for piloting.

- Quantitative collection of data

The quantitative data collection group is headed by Monika Schröttle. The thematic group focuses on developing and utilizing methods of comparative data collection on femicide and homicide in order to create case-based national and international data files that provide more in-depth-information and comparable knowledge on femicide across Europe. In 2020, EOF focal points tested the datafiles and sent their 2019 national femicide case files to the coordinator. Data for 2020 cases will be sent in early 2021. Results will be documented and discussed in February 2021.

- Qualitative data collection

The qualitative data collection is led by Maria José Magalhães. Up to now data has been received from Turkey, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Cyprus and Greece. Maria José

Magalhães is working on the interpretation and analysis of the data and conclusions about qualitative research and will present them in 2021.

Country groups

Currently, the European Observatory on Femicide (EOF) has 23 research focal points in the following countries:

- Croatia
- Cyprus
- England/Scotland
- Estonia
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- United Kingdom
- Italy
- Lithuania
- Macedonia
- Malta
- Moldova
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Turkey

To date, national data files on femicides for 2019 have been sent to the EOF from 13 countries focal points. The rest of EOF focal points have not sent the 2019 files, but will be activated to send the 2020 case files in 2021. The further plan is gain data from all EU Member-States for 2020 in 2021 (including Israel and UK) and from all European Member States (including Israel and UK) for 2021 in 2022. Further, in 2021 the EOF will try to get funds for the European database on femicide and further in-depth analyses in collaboration with the country focal points. Now, the work done by the researchers is unpaid and on voluntary base.

The EOF will further work towards establishing a framework for the sharing and analysing of data between the EOF country groups and the EOF coordination. This will ensure compliance with relevant EU legislation such as the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and promote ethics in violence against women research. The main aim is to improve information on femicide

cases across Europe in order to better prevent femicides. The new European projects funded from 2020 on will strengthen this process (see below).

Advisory board

The Advisory Board Members of the **European Observatory on Femicide** are:

Christiana Kouta, CYPRUS

Monika Schröttle, GERMANY

Ksenia Meshkova, GERMANY

Consuelo Corradi, ITALY

Shalva Weil, ISRAEL

Marceline Naudi, MALTA

Maria José Magalhães, PORTUGAL

Chaime Marcuello Servós, SPAIN

Santiago Boira Sarto, SPAIN

Publications

Dr. Shalva Weil published an article together with Noam Keshet in the *Journal of Gender Studies* on female geronticide, using Israel as a case-study. The article presents findings of the first longitudinal study on female geronticide in Israel, which demonstrates that over a period of a decade (2006–2015) female geronticide was perpetrated solely by intimate male partners. It further shows that while the murder of women is perpetrated in disproportionate numbers in Israel by members of particular ethnic categories, female geronticide could be identified as being perpetrated in specifically different groups.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09589236.2020.1809361>

A posthumous article by Dr. Anna Costaza Baldry, written together with Vincenza Cinquegrana, was published by the *Journal of Violence against Women* on the Decision to Leave the Abusive Partner by Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence.

<http://eof.cut.ac.cy/wp-content/uploads/sites/106/2020/09/anna-costaza-obit-7.20.pdf>

Funding

Mrs Elina Kofou took over the search for funding and sent letters in August 2020 to the following organizations:

1. Global Fund for Women: open call to apply for a project - decided that since we already have other projects at the moment it would be difficult to apply for another one.
2. Feminist Review: no response
3. Zonta: cannot fund any project, but ready to build a connection with the EOF to possibly receive small grants for workshops or seminars.
4. Commonwealth Foundation grants programme: is not funding organizations only through projects after applying for an open call.

In 2020, the EOF received a small grant of €2500 from the **Mediterranean Women's Fund**. This allowed the EOF to collect quantitative and qualitative national data on femicide through the focal points in Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey and Greece.

Further, members of EOF successfully won two European research and practise projects:

The first is the project **“United to prevent IPV/DV Femicide in Europe-FEM-UnitED”**. EOF members are participating in this two-year European funded project which started officially in November 2020. It is supported by the **Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Program of the European Union**. The FEM-UnitED partnership spans five EU countries and includes the: University of Malta, Cyprus University of Technology, Institute for Empirical Sociological Research at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, University of Zaragoza and the University of Porto. The project team is also comprised of advocacy NGOs and women's specialist services including the Women's Rights Foundation (Malta) and the UMAR–União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta (Portugal). The project is led by the NGO- Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus.

The FEM-UnitED team comprises of Advisory Board members and five country focal points of the European Observatory of Femicide (EOF). The FEM-UnitED project aims to improve responses to IPV and domestic violence (DV) in order to reduce harm to women and children and prevent femicide. The project also aims for improved systems-wide responses to IPV/DV by creating an evidence base for raised public awareness and the fostering of multi-disciplinary

cooperation and capacity building, adopting a gender-specific victim-centred approach. FEM-UnitED is about creating evidence for collaborative policy change to prevent femicide. FEM-UnitED will reinforce and contribute to international efforts by:

- A) developing quantitative and qualitative tools that measure the prevalence of femicide and related risk factors,
- B) identifying gaps in system responses to IPV/DV across the partner countries,
- c) enacting change through systematic stakeholder engagement that will result in specific commitments for action, and (including journalists, policy makers and supporting institutions)
- d) an EU-wide awareness raising campaign on the gendered dynamics of IPV/DV related femicide.

In summary, Portugal, Malta, Spain, Cyprus and Germany have commissioned the Fem-UnitED project, which will develop, among other things, multi-professional training for practitioners and journalists, campaigns and recommendations for policy makers. In this respect, EOF aims to remain in close contact and exchange information and data with all EOF Focal Points that can be used for national work and activities as well.

EIGE tender- “Improving Legal Responses to Counter Femicide”

In 2020, some members of the EOF have submitted an application to a tender of EIGE and it was successfully selected. The Project is led by Maria José Magalhães with the support of Cátia Pontedeira and Camila Iglesias (UMAR).

The Project “**Improving legal responses to counter femicide**” is commissioned to a consortium of four institutions: UMAR - Alternative and Response Women’s Association (lead partner) (Portugal); Institute for Empirical Sociological Research at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany); Women’s Rights Foundation (Malta) and Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, at the Institute of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lisbon.

The overall objective of the study is to improve the institutional response, by identifying the gaps within and between law and in practice when providing justice to victims of femicide.

The specific objectives of this study are to:

- improve investigation and prosecution in cases of femicide;
- strengthen the role and rights of victims in criminal proceedings and ensure their access to reparation.

The study will apply a gender-sensitive and victim-centred approach and will also examine the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on institutional responses to femicide. The Project will end in October 2021.

All three projects will be very useful for the EOF country focal points work and for European countries activists, practitioners and policy makers. They will raise awareness, activate and connect the practise and contribute to the prevention of femicides.

EOF website

Cyprus University of Technology took over the hosting and updating of the site from the University of Malta for this year. The website can be found at the link <http://eof.cut.ac.cy/>. The website is updated with information on the latest news, events and resources on femicide in Europe and worldwide. Also, there is information on th history of EOF, country groups and so on. The EOF country groups have the opportunity to post new information on the website (local or EU or international info, articles, actions etc.).

Tribute to Diana E.H. Russel

Diana E. H. Russell (1938-2020), world-renowned feminist activist, scholar, and author died on July 28th, 2020 in Oakland, California. She was 81 years old. The cause of her death was



respiratory failure. Diana Russell devoted her life to the remediation of crimes against women. She authored numerous books and articles on marital rape, femicide, incest, misogynist murders of women, and pornography. In addition to her scholarship, Diana was a grass roots organizer. In the mid-1970s, she started lobbying feminists around the world. Her organizing efforts resulted in the first International Tribunal on Crimes against Women in Brussels, Belgium. Two thousand women from 40 countries heard first-hand accounts of the gender-related violence and oppression tribunal speakers had experienced. Simone de Beauvoir in her introductory speech to the Tribunal said: "I salute the International Tribunal as the

beginning of the radical decolonization of women." Later, Belgian feminist Nicole Van de Ven

documented the event in a book, *Crimes Against Women: The Proceedings of the International Tribunal*.

Perhaps Diana's most significant theoretical contribution to the field of women's studies was a single word. In 1976 Russell redefined 'femicide' as "the killing of females by males because they are female." Russell's intention was to politicize the term. She wanted to bring attention to the misogyny driving lethal crimes against women, which she said gender-neutral terms like murder failed to do. In order to deal with these extreme crimes against women, Diana insisted, it was necessary to recognize that, like race-based hate crimes, "Femicides are [also] lethal hate crimes." Feminist movements in many countries in Latin America, as in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Chile, and El Salvador among others, have adopted the use of Russell's politicized 'femicide' and have successfully used it socially, politically and legally to address lethal violence against women in their respective countries. In 1992, she coedited an anthology, *Femicide: The Politics of Woman Killing*. In addition to her publications, Diana always found time for boots-on-the ground activism. She was often on the front lines of feminist protests in the USA, South Africa, Europe, and the U.K. In concert with other feminists, she demonstrated outside courthouses and theaters; she staged sit-ins in various government offices; she spraypainted feminist slogans on misogynist businesses; and destroyed magazines in porn stores. For many months, she was the solo picketer outside a Berkeley restaurant owned by a trafficker in underage girls. Her acts of civil disobedience often satirized her targets (eof.cut.ac.cy/2020/09/02/diana-e-h-russell/).

