



European Observatory on Femicide
EOF
Progress Report 2022



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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 Prof. Christiana Kouta (CUT) and Prof. Monika Schröttle (IFES). Both are experts in the field of femicide prevention and have been involved in the EOF from the start. The coordinators are supported by the members of the Core Committee. The members of the Core Committee comprised of the two coordinators mentioned above together with Prof. Marceline Naudi (University of Malta) and Prof. Maria José Magalhães (University of Porto, Portugal).

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 on establishing a European Observatory for the purpose of monitoring different types of femicide across the continent. During the [final conference](#) of the Action that took place between the 14th to 16th of March 2017 at the University of Malta Campus in Valletta, the members of the COST Action made the decision to establish the Observatory in Malta.

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. It 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

EOF Structure

From the start of 2020, the EOF was headed by Dr Christiana Kouta (CUT) and by Dr Monika Schröttele (IFES).

Christiana Kouta is 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 is professor at the University of Applied Sciences in Ravensburg-Weingarten



and leads research projects for the Institute for Empirical Sociological Research at the University of Erlangen-Nurnberg where 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.

The work and decision making of the EOF continues to be supported by an international Advisory Board (<http://eof.cut.ac.cy/advisory-board/>), and the data collection and research is 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 Professor within the Department of Gender and Sexualities, 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 a member of GREVIO, the Council of Europe monitoring body of the Istanbul Convention. She is currently Regional Editor for Europe of the Journal on Gender Based Violence, and has led EU funded research projects in Malta on the Bystanders Approach to Sexual Harassment, and on Barriers to Reporting for victims of Violence against Women, as well as having worked on both the FEM-UnitED and EIGE project (see below).

Currently, the Observatory is supported by Elina Kofou and Emmanouela Manoli from Cyprus who are research assistants and administrators of the Observatory.

Elina Kofou is a part time Research Assistant for the European Observatory of Femicide (EOF) and 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 scientific research associate at the Department of Nursing at the Cyprus University of Technology, in several projects that have to do with gender-based violence and gender equality. She 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 scientific research associate in an EU funded project on a knowledge platform on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). She is also participating in the new EU funded femicide project, FEM-UnitED. She was 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.

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/>. The Advisory Board Members of the European Observatory on Femicide are:

Christiana Kouta CYPRUS
Ksenia Meshkova GERMANY
Monika Schröttle GERMANY
Athena Peglidou GREECE
Marceline Naudi MALTA
Maria José Magalhães PORTUGAL
Santiago Boira Sarto SPAIN
Chaime Marcuello Servós SPAIN

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 José Magalhães.

In the year 2021, the thematic group coordinators completed the development of the quantitative and qualitative data collection tools.

Country groups

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

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

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

The tools developed by the thematic groups were sent to the country groups focal points for them to collect data for piloting. They were guided to use the data collection tools to collect data of femicide for their countries every year. The EOF is seeking funding sources to support their work.

The EOF has also worked towards establishing a framework for the sharing and analysing of data between the EOF country groups and the EOF coordination. This is to ensure compliance with relevant EU legislation such as the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and to promote ethics in violence against women research. The main aim is to improve information on femicide cases across Europe in order to prevent femicides. The new European projects funded in 2020, 2021 and 2022 have strengthened this process (see below).

Events and conferences

In 2022, 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:

- Prof. Monika Schröttle participated as a representative of the EOF, at the *Education, Gender and Prevention (EGP) conference* that took place on 24th and 25th of March, 2022, having as host institution the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of Porto University, in Portugal. At the conference she presented the results from the research of the FEM-UnitED project to prevent IPV/DV Femicide in Europe.
- Prof. Marceline Naudi attended as a representative of the EOF, the online side event “*One femicide watch in every country to end the shadow pandemic*” organized by UN Women and the Spanish Ministry of Equality within the framework of the 2022 UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development on the 7th of April 2022. Dr. Naudi joined the event and shed light on experiences and best practices in the establishment of femicide watches.
- Mrs. Elina Kofou, (on behalf of Prof. Christiana Kouta) attended as a representative of the EOF, a theatre play named “*The Lake Girls*” and participated in a follow-up panel discussion with the audience about femicide. The event was organized by Cyprus University of Technology on the 11th of May 2022. At the event, Mrs. Kofou had the opportunity to discuss and present to the audience the most important findings from the FEM-UNITED project report within the five European Countries.
- Prof. Maria José Magalhães, participated as representative of the EOF, at the 10th Edition of the discussion series of *A feminist exploration, Counteracting femicide*, organized by the European Feminist Platform that took place on the 16th of May 2022, in Brussels to discuss about femicide.
- Prof Marceline Naudi attended the EIGE Gender Equality Forum on 24 and 25 of October 2022 and acted as commentator on a session on ‘Crisis and gender-based violence’.

Publications

See below about publications and videos prepared, disseminated and published in the context of the FEM-UnitED project.

Projects and Funding

EOF members participated in a two-year European funded project which started officially in November 2020 and ended in November 2022. The project was supported by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union. The **FEM-UnitED** partnership spans five EU countries and includes the University of Malta; the Cyprus University of Technology; the Institute for Empirical Sociological Research at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; the University of Zaragoza; and the University of Porto. The project team also comprised of advocacy NGOs and women's specialist services including the MIGS-Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (Cyprus), Women's Rights Foundation (Malta), and the UMAR-União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta (Portugal). The FEM-UnitED team included advisory board members and five country focal points of the European Observatory of Femicide (EOF). The FEM-United project highlighted the urgent need to develop and implement effective strategies for preventing femicide. The project specifically focused on the prevention of intimate partner femicide, the killings of women and girls in the context of intimate partner violence and/or domestic violence. The FEM-United project has contributed to the prevention of femicide with the development of an evidence base, through the collection of data on femicide across five European countries. Overall the project included the Fem United Research, the "Connect the Dots" video clips campaign to increase awareness, capacity building of frontline and other relevant professionals and stakeholders engagement.

Specifically, based on the EOF research tools, FEM-UnitED developed and applied translational research tools for data collection of quantitative indicators to measure femicide prevalence and identify related risk factors and gaps in the policy responses to IPV/DV in the project countries, as well as qualitative categories to gather data on specific femicide cases. Based on the quantitative and qualitative data collected, five national reports and one comparative report were developed on the prevalence and characteristics of femicide among the five participating countries. National reports are available [here](#) and the comparative report [here](#). Additionally, through the media

campaign named “Connect the dots” five short videos were developed that aim to raise awareness on causes, risk factors, myths, and misconceptions about femicide. The videos are available [here](#) . Furthermore, within the five participating countries, 20 training workshops were carried out with 356 professionals targeting law enforcement professionals, education professionals and social workers, health professionals, NGO professionals, and professionals working in a multi-agency context. In each country, the FEM-United teams prepared [workshop recommendations](#) highlighting the challenges faced by frontline professionals and other relevant professionals in their everyday work, and recommendations for institutional action to strengthen early and effective responses to IPV/DV and prevention of femicide. Also, each participating country organized up to three national meetings with policymakers and key stakeholders and these resulted in specific [action plans](#) for femicide prevention based on the project’s findings and results. Finally, [five national policy briefs and an EU policy brief](#) were developed on femicide prevention based on the main results and outcomes of the research, capacity-building workshops, and stakeholder meetings.

EOF and other EU Observatories’ websites

Cyprus University of Technology hosts the EOF website <http://eof.cut.ac.cy/>. The website is continuously updated with information on the latest news of femicide in Europe. It also includes the history of EOF, EOF country groups resources and events and the projects that the EOF participated in. The EOF country groups have the opportunity to post new information on the website (local or EU or international info, articles, actions etc.).

Georgian Observatory on Femicide. This platform was established in July 2020 by the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs in cooperation with the NGOs and journalists within the project “Tracking Violent Crime against Women”, implemented in 2016-2019 and supported by the EU NEARBY. Within the framework of the project, a database was created, in which the crime trends are described with accuracy. The website allows citizens to publicly or anonymously leave a message about the crime. Articles about the crime committed across the Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan are published every year by the students of GIPA during the advances reporting and writing classes conducted by Professor Tina Tsomaia. More information can be found on the following link: <http://www.femicide.ge/eng>

In November 2020, the **Israel Observatory on Femicide** was established by Prof. Shalva Weil under the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The purpose of the Observatory is to collect and monitor data and narratives about the murder of women, both quantitative and qualitative, and provide means for building an ongoing knowledge base to eradicate the phenomenon. More information on the Israel Observatory on Femicide can be found on the following website: <https://en.israelfemicide.org/>

In November 2021 the Greek country focal point launched the **Greek Observatory on Femicide** in order to record and populate the quantitative and qualitative data in Greece and to post news/announcements around the issue of femicide, under the leadership of Dr Athena Peglidou. More information can be found at the following link: <https://femicide.gr/>

In December 2021 the **Malta Observatory on Femicide** was launched by the Women's Rights Foundation in collaboration with the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, and the contribution of Prof Marceline Naudi. It seeks to raise awareness, collect data on femicide in Malta and provide key information on issues related to it, with the aim of informing and strengthening policy development and implementation. It will also act as a repository for research and studies, including the creation of domestic homicide reviews whilst bringing together academics and stakeholders working in the field. More information can be found here: <https://mof.wrf.org.mt/> .

Conclusion

The EOF has now been in existence for five years. Much has been achieved in this time, but much more needs to be done. The widespread of political debate on femicide has been useful for pressing for more political, social and cultural changes paving the way for more effective prevention measures. However, there is a long way to go, for which, the most pressing and challenging issue remains accessing sustainable funding so as to enable more consistent and wide collection of data.

