

# Preventing violence against women and children

## The Daphne action of the CERV programme

### What is it?

The **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values** (CERV) programme aims to encourage citizen's engagement towards the promotion of equality for all and the implementation of EU rights and values by providing them fundings.

Its purpose is to support and develop open, democratic, egalitarian, inclusive and rights-based societies, and the rule of law.

CERV is based on 4 pillars, and the fourth one is called **Daphne**.

The ambition of Daphne is to **prevent and combat at all levels all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, as well as domestic violence**.

### Why?

#### The context of violence against women, children and young people in Europe

Half of children worldwide are victims of violence each year. 33 % of women in the EU have experienced physical and/or sexual violence. 22% of women in the EU have experienced violence by an intimate partner, and 55% of women in the EU have already been sexually harassed. Gender-based violence and violence against children remains pervasive throughout the EU. The COVID-19 crisis exacerbated this situation.

Recently, the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has added a new dimension to such violence in situations of conflict. International organizations and previous research stress that women and girls fleeing armed conflict as well as unaccompanied children and children from institutional care, are particularly vulnerable to all forms of gender-based violence and human trafficking, both in their home country, in countries of transit and where they seek shelter, and require particular support.

With the increased use of the internet and social media, cyber violence relevance is increasing affecting in particular girls as well as women active in public life, such as politicians, journalists, activists and human rights defenders. It has the effect of forcing them to silence them, hindering their societal participation.

Another form of gender-based violence are harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, forced sterilisation and forced abortion and child marriage and honour-related violence, which affect a considerable number of victims living in the EU.

### The objectives and organisation of the program

Based on these alarming observations, Daphne has set 3 specific objectives under CERV:

- prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and domestic violence, in line with the Istanbul Convention
- prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people, and other groups at risk, such as LGBTQI+ people or people with disabilities
- support and protect all direct and indirect victims of the forms of violence mentioned above.



The overall aim of the action is to support, empower and build the capacity of independent civil society organizations active at local, regional, national and transnational level in combating gender-based violence and/or violence against children and championing EU values, thereby contributing to women and children's full enjoyment of rights, the equal empowerment of women and men and the empowerment of children, in all their diversity.

**Funding is awarded annually via an annual call for proposals** under a work programme.

The first priority is the large-scale and long-term transnational actions to tackle gender-based violence. Different aspects of gender-based violence can be covered (domestic violence, harmful practices, cyber violence, harassment at work and gender stereotypes).

The second and third priority are:

- the harmful practices: it is about combating, raising awareness and preventing violence linked to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, forced or early aged marriage or forced sexual relationships, so called "honour crimes" committed against women, young people and children.
- the primary prevention: it changes social norms and behaviours, to end tolerance of all gender-based violence.

At the moment, an estimated 600.000 women and girls have been subjected to female genital mutilation, and 180.000 girls are at risk.

The fourth and fifth priorities are:

- the national data collection on violence against children: it aims to foster efforts toward more sustainable and comprehensive data collection at local and/or national level.
- the prevention and support of children who are victims of violence by reinforcing child protection systems, for a more effective prevention and protection of victims can imply contributing to systematic changes at national level, and ultimately create integrated child protection systems, for a more effective prevention and protection of victims.

### **The activities that can be funded**

For the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th priorities: awareness rising, capacity-building and training for professionals, development and implementation of protocols, working methods and tools, coordination of platforms and groups, design and access victim support services, exchange of good practices, or mutual learning.

For the 4th priority: mapping, creation and implementation of data collection systems, evaluation of violence trends, analysis of the impact of prevention policies and responses (based on collected data).

For the 5th priority: communication and promotion of activities aimed at coordination responses to violence against children.

**The criteria to apply:** All projects must be non-profit making, but can also involve profit-oriented organizations, provided that public entities or non-profit organizations are involved in the same project. Projects can be either national or transnational (except for Priority 1 - only transnational) and their duration should range between 12 and 24 months (36 months for Priority 1)

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### **More information:**

You can refer to the CERV section of our website [www.youthspeaces.eu](http://www.youthspeaces.eu) or contact the National CERV point in your country.

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