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**Research Partners**

CESIS – Centre for Studies for Social Intervention  
(Portugal)

DHPol –German Police University (Germany)

SAFE Ireland (Ireland)

UwB – University of Bialystok (Poland)

ZOOM – Society for Prospective Developments  
(Germany)

**SNaP**

**Special Needs and  
Protection Orders**



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## Protective Measures in cases of domestic violence – the situation of women with special needs.

The Daphne III-Project SNaP (Special needs and protection orders) focuses on the protection needs of those victims of domestic violence with special needs. Research says that the presence of certain factors in the life of a victim can have adverse effects on the usefulness of legal mechanisms, and may actually decrease the effectiveness of these protections. Factors which have been identified as being barriers to the full effectiveness of protection measures include certain cultural norms which would prevent victims from even attempting to access or enforce domestic violence orders, dependency issues where victims may have no other social supports outside of the violent relationship, and difficulties with accessibility, this could be language or mobility barriers, both of which could affect a victim's prospects of being granted or enforcing a domestic violence order. SNaP will look at the effectiveness and appropriateness of the the measures and tools currently in place for different victims with special needs in the five countries involved (Ireland, Austria, Portugal, Germany, Poland). Furthermore it will explore if there are alternatives, ranging from adapting existing measures, to developing other kinds of interventions which better meets the needs of

### **Key Objectives**

The project examines how protective measures are working in the partner countries in protecting domestic violence victims with a particular focus on victims in circumstances and situations which may lead to further risk of harm.

The main protection mechanisms available to victims of domestic violence in Ireland are domestic violence orders which are based on the premise that the person to be protected can live independently and make decisions autonomously. This idea has been disputed as the specific support needs of some victims of domestic violence are not adequately considered. Therefore we intend to:

- ❖ Examine the legal provisions already in place to protect domestic violence and identify the main problems in implementing the provisions already in place.
- ❖ We will then identify the factors which result in the failing of these mechanisms for women – such as cultural norms, lack of social support, limited access to services both in terms of mobility and economically.
- ❖ Explore the limits and possibilities of the current legal mechanisms and their implementation as regards meeting the needs of various groups of domestic violence victims
- ❖ Make recommendations for the improvement and adaptation of current legal mechanisms to meet the varying needs of domestic violence victims

### **Main Activities and Expected Results**

The project has three main phases: the first being the examination of the current legal mechanisms in place to protect individuals from violence in close family relationships in Ireland and the other partner countries. Within this stage current data and statistics, where available, on these protective measures will be presented.

During the second stage of the project, interviews will be carried out with a host of relevant stakeholders (NGO's, Gardaí, Prosecutors, Court Services) to gain an insight into their experience of the effectiveness of current domestic violence protection measures. Case files will also be analysed at this stage.

The third and final phase of the project will involve preparing a strategy paper which will lay out recommendations based on the input of the experts in the area and the findings of the national and EU research.

These recommendations will lead to a process of agenda setting and will be started by disseminating the results of the study (website, international conference) and discussing our recommendations with relevant stakeholders from policy fields and administration, lobbying organisations, professionals (especially service providers) and scholars in Ireland, the partner countries and on the European level.