

Comparing Sexual Assault Interventions (COSAI): Fostering good practice in services for women in Europe

Comparing Sexual Assault Interventions (COSAI) project ended its activity under the European Grant agreement on April 19, 2013. The objective of this project was to improve the effectiveness, appropriateness and humanity of sexual assault interventions for women aged 16 and over across Europe.

During the two years of collaboration, the project explored the evidence, engaged with experts working on service provision and design, and heard from victims on their experiences with services. COSAI found the way European countries deal with sexual assault varies significantly. Some countries have made considerable progress in reviewing the legal definitions of sexual violence and rape to ensure they are protective of victims, in providing comprehensive and victim-focused care, and in contending myths, prejudices and public perceptions which blame victims. In contrast, there are other countries with little development in terms of understanding all the dimensions of sexual violence, not only in terms of differentiating forms of violence, but also how to adequately address the legal, medical and practical needs of victims. To contribute towards improving the standards of good practice and policy, the COSAI project partners have worked to produce a set of documents, tools and guidance to assist both Member States and services working with victims of sexual violence. We invite you to visit the [Products page](#) to learn about the results from the project and access the different resources.

A final dissemination event was held in Brussels on April 4th, 2013 to provide a platform for leading European experts from multi-disciplinary backgrounds to learn from the experience of other stakeholders, and contribute to foster good practice in sexual assault interventions across Europe. The [Summary Report](#) and [PowerPoint presentations](#) from this event are available on the project website.

If you require more information on the work overall or in the partner countries, please [contact us](#).

COSAI Resources on Sexual Assault Interventions

Literature Review on models of intervention for sexual assault and existing evidence of service effectiveness.

Benchmark & Evaluation Tool with standards of good practice to assess the effectiveness, appropriateness and humanity of interventions for victims of sexual assault.

Policy briefing summarising the evidence and presenting a series of recommendations that build on identified good practice and address common challenges in European countries.

Training Programme aimed at promoting best and appropriate practice for a multisectoral audience of practitioners and service providers.

Country Case Studies and Recommendations for service providers to better meet the needs of victims in the COSAI partner countries: *Czech Republic, Latvia, Malta, Romania and United Kingdom*

European and Member State Level Guidance with key actions which can contribute to improving the sexual assault service provision.

Mapping survey with current policy and programming of services for sexual assault in European countries.

Report of interviews with service providers in 7 European countries on sexual assault service availability, effectiveness and appropriateness.