

European Observatory on Femicide

EOF

Progress Report 2019



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History of the European Observatory on Femicide

The EOF was established in January 2018 and officially launched in March of that year. 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 new 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 had 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

Until December 2019, the EOF was headed by Dr Marceline Naudi, who was the scientific coordinator for the Observatory, and supported by Barbara Stelmaszek, who was the research officer at the Observatory. The University of Malta continued its sponsorship of the position of the research officer through to the end of 2019. From the start of 2020, Dr Marceline Naudi will form part of the EOF Advisory Board.



Marceline Naudi (B.A., M.A.(Bradford), Ph.D.(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.

As aforementioned and beginning in 2020, the EOF coordinators are 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 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 professor at the University of Dortmund from 2014 to 2019 and now 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 the COST Action on Femicide across

Europe, Coordination Action on Human Rights Violations - CAHRV). In her recent projects, Monika developed a Measurement Framework on Violence against Women to be integrated in the Gender Equality Index of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

The work and decision making of the EOF continue to be supported by an international Advisory Board, and the data collection and research will take place through a network of country research groups throughout Europe. More information on the EOF structure is given in the text below.

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 recognises 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 recognises 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 the efforts of the European Union to eradicate violence against women, and contributing in its work to the [Femicide Watch Platform](#).

The EOF seeks to represent all women victims regardless of their background or status. The EOF recognises 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 Ksenia Meshkova, and the prevention group by Maria Jose Magalhaes.

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.

Events and conferences

In 2019, the staff and 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.

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) consultation meeting on femicide – 16-17 January 2019, in Vilnius, Lithuania

The EOF took part in [EIGE](#)'s consultation meeting on femicide, which took place on 16 January 2019 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The meeting brought together European experts in the field of data collection on femicide. The meeting utilised presentations and group discussions to

focus on the sharing of information, best practices, working methods, and strategies, including developing future steps for cooperation among the experts present at the meeting.



On the second day of the consultation meeting, the advisory board of the EOF, along with other experts met to review and discuss the work of the EOF's two thematic groups, where the participants provided support and feedback on the EOF's future data collection plans,

tools, and strategies. The EOF would like to thank the European Institute for Gender Equality for the sponsorship of this meeting.

Conference of the European Network on Gender and Violence – 17-19 July, 2019, in Freiburg, Germany

The [European Network on Gender and Violence](#) is a network of over 400 researchers from different disciplines and countries. It supports exchange and collaboration among scholars and professionals who address violence, gender, violence prevention and related issues.

In 2019, between 17-19 July, the annual conference took place in Freiburg, Germany and was hosted by the [Social Science Research Institute on Gender Issues](#) at the Protestant University of Applied Sciences.

The coordinators of the EOF's thematic groups on data collection and prevention, Monika Schröttle and Maria Jose Magalhães took the opportunity and presented the work on the EOF on developing quantitative and qualitative tools that will enable EOF's country groups to measure the extent and types of femicides across Europe and conduct femicide reviews in their countries.

We thank Monika Schröttle and Maria Jose Magalhães for representing the EOF at the ENGV conference.

Thematic groups

In the year 2019, the thematic group coordinators continued to develop and complete the quantitative and qualitative data collection tools.

The quantitative data collection group is headed by Monika Schröttle with the support of Ksenia Meshkova. The thematic group focuses on developing and utilising 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. The tool is planned to be piloted by several country groups in the year 2020, and will support the EOF and country researchers to estimate the scope and extent of femicide on both the national and European levels, and to collect background information on cases of femicide.

The quantitative data collection tool aims for comparative data collection on cases of femicide across Europe. This tool includes a set of indicators/variables that measure the prevalence of femicide; provide characteristics of the victims, perpetrators, the situation, and describe background details of the case that are relevant for further prevention and intervention. One of the indicators also measures the accountability for the femicide by including information on the judicial outcome, if any, in the case.

The prevention group (involving qualitative data collection) is led by Maria José Magalhães. In the year 2019, the aim of this thematic group was to complete the qualitative data collection tool that will serve as part of the methodology for the European-wide comparative femicide reviews. This tool includes a number of sections that are based on the socio-ecological model of prevention. The sections can be considered as levels and aim for data collection on the individuals, the immediate environment (community), and the institutions that had been involved in the case. The tool also includes a section for gathering data that can be representative of the state of patriarchy in any given society, such as the mode of production, paid work, governance institutions, male violence, sexuality, and culture. The tool enables the analysis of the information gathered on relevant individuals, communities and institutions against the overall macro social environment in which the femicide took place.

The EOF looks forward to implementing its qualitative and quantitative data collection tools and research in its first pilot study to be carried out in the year 2020.

Country groups

In the year 2019, the EOF collected information on persons and organisations working nationally in the field of femicide prevention and elaborated on the methodology for effectively organizing the country groups. Due to existing challenges in the availability and quality of data on femicide, the EOF aims to promote the inclusion of a diverse group of professionals in each country group. This includes academics, NGO practitioners, journalists and government agencies, among others. As of 2019, the EOF composes of 25 focal points. The EOF focal points currently exist in the following countries: Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and in England and Scotland as part of the United Kingdom.

In order to facilitate the EOF's first European-wide study in the year 2020, the EOF has also worked towards creating a framework for the sharing 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.

Advisory board

On the 9 March 2019, the EOF and its advisory board, as well as feminist scholars and practitioners in Italy and throughout Europe experienced the tragic loss of our beloved colleague Anna Costanza Baldry. Anna's involvement in the EOF started when she was an Italian member of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe and co-led the working group on prevention. Following the completion of the COST Action on Femicide, Anna joined the EOF as one of the advisory board members from the EOF. Following her death, the EOF shared a tribute to her life and achievements:



Anna Costanza Baldry (1970-2019)

Anna was a relentless activist, an original scholar, a European citizen and a great woman: with Anna's passing, we lose a remarkable human being and a great colleague. Anna passed away on 9 March 2019 in Rome (Italy). She was born in London and, as she defined herself in a TV programme in 2017, very early in her childhood she was a nonconformist and against-the-system young girl. Her interest in psychology and criminology developed very soon in her academic life, when in 1993 she spent her Erasmus mobility in London. After earning a degree in criminology from the University of Cambridge in 1996, and a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Rome-La Sapienza in 1999, she undertook a successful academic career. She was full-time professor of social psychology at Università Luigi Vanvitelli and affiliated as part-time professor at Lumsa University. In 2003 she was the recipient of a Marie-Curie fellowship at the Free University of Amsterdam to study methods of prevention for violence against women.

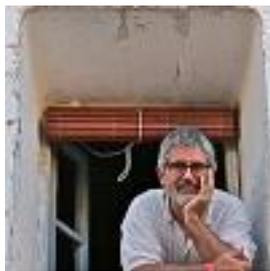
During her academic career, Anna was the recipient of numerous grants, prizes and fellowships, as well as the author of important publications on gender violence and police

response. Considering her actions and research regarding violence against women, in 2015 the President of Italy bestowed the title of Officer of the order of merit of the Italian Republic, as one of the "everyday life heroes" of that year. From 2013 to 2017 she was actively involved in the Cost Action "Femicide across Europe", and subsequently she was one of the international board members of the European Observatory on Femicide, a research and advocacy initiative situated within the University of Malta.

Anna loved life. She loved swimming, jogging and horse-back riding. She urged us never to forget that life was out there, beyond classrooms and meetings. We are losing you now, Anna, but shall not forget your legacy.

Consuelo Corradi with Barbara Stelmaszek, Chaime Marcuello, Christiana Kouta, Ksenia Meshkova, Marceline Naudi, Maria Jose Magalhaes, Monika Schröttle, Santiago Boira, Shalva Weil.

In the year 2019, the advisory board continued to consist of members who took part in the COST Action on Femicide across Europe (2013-2016) and/or co-chaired the working groups of the COST Action. They come from Cyprus, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, and Spain.



Chaime Marcuello Servós is a lecturer in Social Work and Social Services in the Department of Psychology and Sociology at the University of Zaragoza. He is also a professor on the Inter-Doctoral Programme in Science and Humanities for Interdisciplinary Development at the CEICH of the UNAM and the UAdeC (Mexico). In addition, Chaime is the coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Teaching Innovation Group (GIDID) and a co-founder of the Third Sector Social and Economic Studies Group (GESES). He is the president of the RC51 on Sociocybernetics (2014-2018) of ISA. Additionally, Chaime is the editor of Current Sociology Monographs and SISS Books (2016-2019) and co-director of the Iberoamerican Journal of Development Studies.



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 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.



Consuelo Corradi is a professor of Sociology and vice-chair for research and international relations at Lumsa University. She served as a co-chair of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe. Her research interests include violence against women, femicide, and more recently the cross-national comparison of gender policy regimes across Europe. Her most recent book is entitled *The Concept and Measurement of Violence against Women and Men* (2017) from the Policy Press. The book was co-authored by S. Walby, J. Towers, S. Balderston, and others. Consuelo was also a vice-president of European Sociological Association from 2007 to 2009.



Ksenia Meshkova comes from St. Petersburg, Russia and lives in Germany since 2007. She is a graduate of St. Petersburg State University, Tartu University, and Erfurt University. She is currently writing her PhD thesis entitled *Intimate Partner Violence in Modern Russia*, at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Ksenia's studies have been sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service and Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Ksenia is an active member and a Young Scholars' Day organiser of the European Network on Gender Violence (ENGV), which holds an annual conference. In 2018, Ksenia coordinated the 10th European Feminist Research Conference in Gottingen. Currently, Ksenia is teaching at the Protestant University of Applied Sciences in Berlin.



Maria José Magalhães is a full professor at the FPCEUP, research member of CIEG and CIIE. She is the recipient of the award Carolina Michaelis de Vasconcelos - Research on Women's Studies (1990). Maria José main field of research involves gender based violence and femicide. She is a coordinator and member of several research projects related to these topics. The projects include: EU funded Bystanders Project on developing bystander responses to sexual harassment among young people, CEINAV project (Cultural Encounters in Interventions against Violence). Maria José was also a member of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe and a scientific coordinator of the Observatory of Murdered Women (OMA-UMAR).



Monika Schröttle was professor at the University of Dortmund from 2014 to 2019 and now 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 the COST Action on Femicide across Europe, Coordination Action on Human Rights Violations - CAHRV). In her recent projects, Monika developed a Measurement Framework on Violence against Women to be integrated in the Gender Equality Index of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).



Santiago Boira Sarto graduated in Psychology from the University of Salamanca and received his PhD from the University of Zaragoza. He is a Lecturer in the Department of Psychology and Sociology, and a coordinator of the Master's degree in gender relations at the University of Zaragoza. Santiago's research interests focus on gender issues, intimate partner violence, especially in men perpetrators/abusers. He is also a researcher in the Group of Social and Economic Studies of the Third Sector (GESES). Santiago was a member of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe.

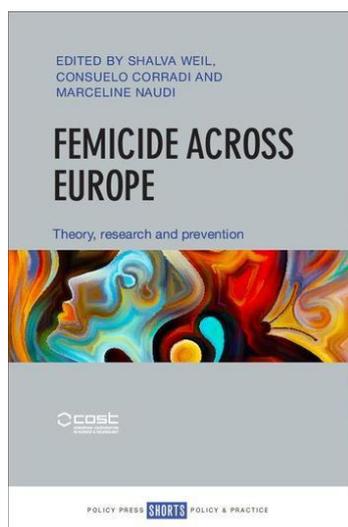


Shalva Weil is a senior researcher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. From 2013-2017, Shalva served as chair of the COST Action on Femicide across Europe, heading a management committee of 80 people representing 30 countries. She has addressed the Parliaments of Portugal, Aragon (Spain), and Rome, and spoken at three UN meetings on femicide in Bangkok, New York, and Vienna. She has published over 100 journal articles, including 11 in scientific journals on femicide, and edited special issues on femicide, and several books on Indian Jews, Ethiopian Jews, and other topics. In 2016, Shalva published an article in the *Qualitative Sociology Review* entitled *Failed Femicides among Migrant Survivors*. She has contributed to the ACUNS volumes on femicide 3, 4, 6 and 8, where she wrote about the COST Network, femicide of girls in India, and femicide of elderly women in Israel. She is co-editor (with Chaime Marcuello, Consuelo Corradi, and Santiago Boira) of a special issue on *Femicide: A Social Challenge* in journal *Current Sociology* (2016), where she also published a single-authored article entitled *Making Femicide Visible*. Shalva is also co-editor (with Christiana Kouta) of a special issue on *Researching Femicide from a Qualitative Perspective* in a journal *Qualitative Sociology Review* (2017). She has also edited (together with Marceline Naudi and Consuelo Corradi) the first book on *Femicide in Europe* (Policy Press). In the applied field, she runs an empowerment programme for slum migrant women of Caucasian origin in Israel. She has worked among Ethiopian immigrants and researched intimate partner femicide among them in Israel.

Advisory board meetings

In the first year after the establishment of the EOF, various decisions related to the organisational structure and methodology had to be made. These were made together with the advisory board members who met in person (when possible) and virtually. In total, 7 advisory board meetings were held during 2019: on 17 January, 20 February, 5 May, 11 July, 15 October, 11 November, and 4 December.

Publications

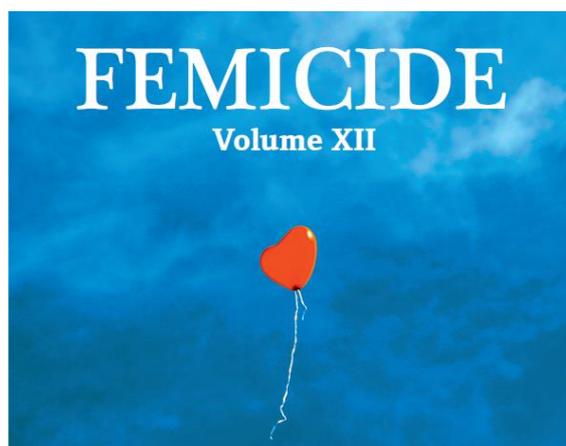


In the year 2019, the EOF promoted the previous year's publication (October 2018) of the book *Femicide across Europe – Theory, Research and Prevention*. The book was one of the final results of the COST Action on Femicide and written and edited by former members of the COST Action as well as current members of the EOF Advisory Board. Access to the publication is available [online](#), in various formats, through the Bristol University Press. Among the topics covered in the book are definitions, data collection on femicide, tackling prevention from the perspective of culture and social interaction/processes, as well as a discussion on the current state of data on femicide.

Additionally, the EOF supported and contributed to the publication of the Femicide Volume XII entitled *Living Victims of Femicide*. The volume was published by the United Nations Studies Association and was dedicated to Anna Costanza Baldry, who was a passionate activist for the rights of orphans who were victimised by femicide. The volume is available for [download](#) on the website of the Femicide Watch.

In addition to articles on the living victims of femicide, the volume also includes two additional sections dealing with the murder of women activists and data collection on femicide.

The EOF coordinated the submission of several articles and two members of the EOF Advisory Board wrote their own articles for this issue. These were *Femicide Orphans in Israel* by Shalva Weil, and *The Need for National and International Data Collection Systems on Femicide* by Monika Schröttle.



Funding

In 2019, the EOF continued to explore information on existing funding sources that are relevant to the work of the Observatory and developed a fundraising outreach strategy. During the year, several inquiries were made to funding sources, and a grant application was submitted under the [European Commission Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020](#). Unfortunately, the application for EU funds was not successful. The EOF would like to thank University of Malta's Research Support Services for supporting the application process.

Additionally, the EOF submitted funding applications to the Emerald Publishing Interdisciplinary Research Fund as well as the Mediterranean Women's Fund at the end of 2019.

EOF website

The EOF set up its own website within the research section of the University of Malta's website, where information about the Observatory, country research groups, its events, and news can be found. In the year 2019, the EOF continued to update its website with new information. The site is available under the link: <https://www.um.edu.mt/research/researchprojects/femicide>

Due to the upcoming transfer of coordination to the CUT and IFES, the decision was made to also create an EOF website within the CUT domain. This was completed and the website is now available under the link: <http://eof.cut.ac.cy>

From the start of the year 2020, updates to the website will only be done on the website hosted by the CUT.

Transfer of the EOF coordination

As had been agreed at the start of the EOF, the University of Malta was honoured to host the Observatory for its first two years, from January 2018, within the Department of Gender Studies. This arrangement now came to an end on 31 December 2019. Several months prior to this, activities to transfer the work and planning to CUT and IFES were started. The transfer will be mostly completed in mid-January 2020, when the former and new coordinators meet in person in order to work out the final details.