

Femicide in the Mediterranean Region



Femicide is the intentional killing of women and girls because of their gender. Femicides are usually perpetrated by intimate partners (for example, husbands or boyfriends) or family members (for example, fathers, brothers, or cousins), who are usually familiar males; on rare occasions the perpetrators are women, either same - sex partners or kin. ⁽¹⁾



HISTORY AND MISSION OF THE EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON FEMICIDE (EOF)

The European Observatory on Femicide (EOF) originated from the COST Action on Femicide across Europe (2013-2016) which involved researchers from Europe and Israel engaging with the topic of femicide in the areas of definitions, reporting, culture, and prevention. The Action also uncovered opportunities and challenges in the relation to data availability on femicide in each participating country. In 2018, the EOF was launched and was led by the University of Malta (Dr Marceline Naudi and Barbara Stelmaszek). Since, January 2020, the EOF is coordinated by the Cyprus University of Technology (Dr Christiana Kouta) and the Institute for Empirical Sociological Research (Dr Monika Schröttle).

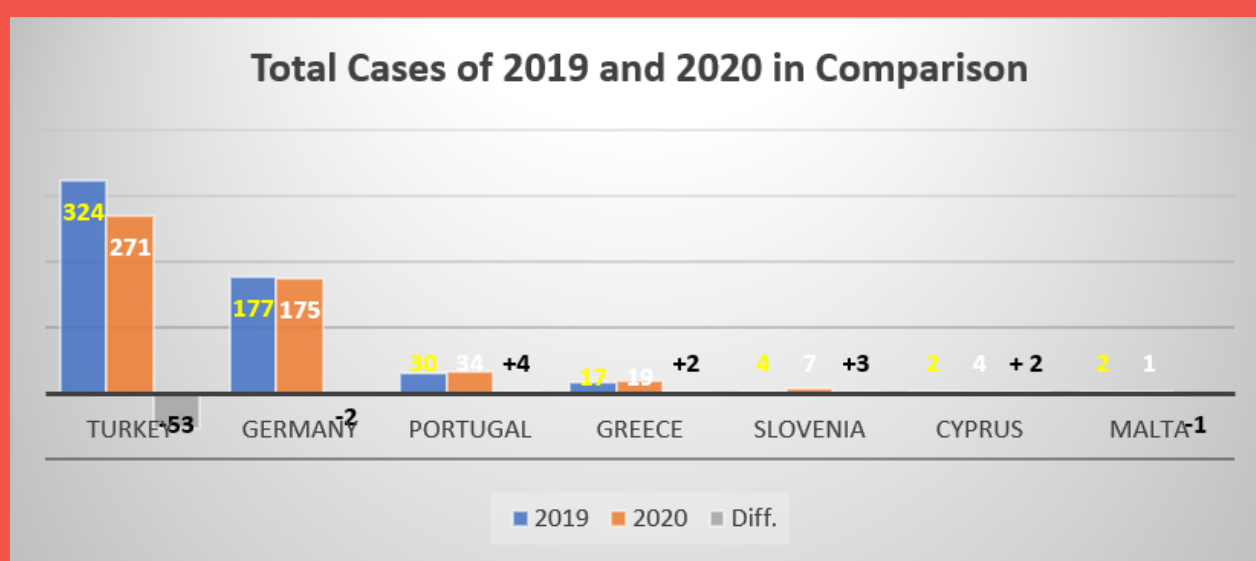
The mission of the European Observatory on Femicide (EOF) is the prevention of femicide through data collection, visibility of the problem/cases, research and awareness raising.

The Mediterranean Women's Fund awarded a grant to the EOF for the collection of national data of Mediterranean countries with the newly developed quantitative and qualitative data collection tools for femicide.

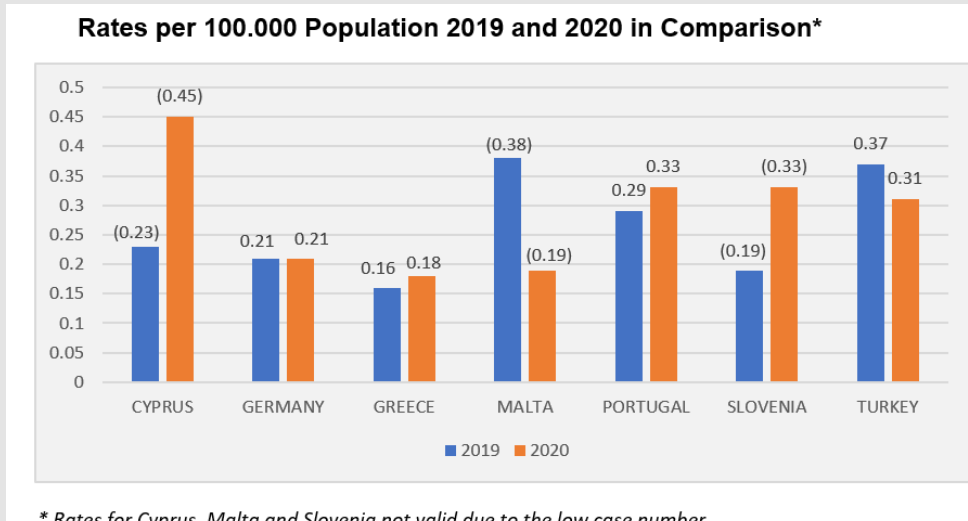
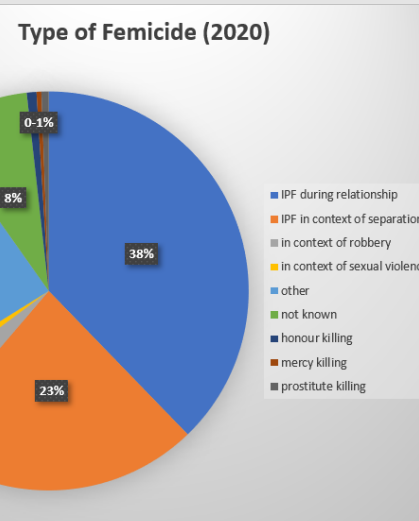
The current project acted as a pilot study to improve data collection tools for future EOF data collection and research of femicide.

The seven countries that participated in the collection of data were: **Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey.**

The following tables present the total results of femicides between the 7 countries that participated in the study for the years 2019 and 2020, the national rates related to the overall population and the different types of femicide for 2020.



Note: In 2019, another 7 femicide cases (5 women and 2 female children) conducted by a serial killer in the years before had been investigated by the police in Cyprus. Those women and children had gone missing between the years 2016 and 2018 and their corpses were found in 2019. For this study, these cases have been excluded from the analysis as their death was estimated to have occurred before 2019.



WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS TO PREVENT FEMICIDE?

Prevention starts from:

- Early education
- Sociocultural norms minimize or even justify violence against women, which enable violence to grow and expand

The best strategy to address prevention of femicide is to carry out **detailed analysis of the cases of femicide** to understand at all possible levels what led to the killing and get information on how they could have been prevented.

The EOF recommends that each country should implement both: data collection on the cases on a regular basis and qualitative fatality reviews for in-depth research on possible prevention. Furthermore, each state should develop a holistic and effective prevention strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acknowledge the need for specialised culture-sensitive and gender-specific services to support the complex range of immediate and long-term needs of women survivors of violence and their children.
- Guarantee sustainable funding for specialised services, such as women's shelters, help lines and counselling services, NGOs delivering support services for women victims of violence.
- Public services should be proactive in reinforcing and supporting victims as this applies to international conventions for prevention.
- Establish a systematic way of regular data collection – based on valid definitions and criteria – in order to have correct/comparable data, that are available to researchers, the media and the public.
- Mandate systematic and continuous training of professionals on violence against women and secure funding for it, actively involving members of the different communities to which women belong to (ethnic groups, immigrants, religions, disabled women, and women of different social and ethnic backgrounds etc).
- Ensure that services are accessible to women facing multiple discrimination, including migrant, young, older, ethnic minority, disabled women, and women from diverse communities (e.g. LGBT+).
- Monitor and evaluate regularly the coordination of the police and support system, perpetrator work as well as the justice system and prosecution.
- Develop national definitions and classifications to be used for surveys, research and administrative statistics; to ensure their use at the national, regional, European and international levels and guarantee regular data collection.
- Develop women youth and family policies that promote women's independence/rights. Each country should learn from good practices and other countries to better protect women from violence and femicide.
- State/government must establish legal aspects independently from their legal status. Each woman should be able to have access and apply for help (e.g. develop a specific housing policy for survivors in order to ensure decent accommodation or shelter for them and any accompanying children, without having to wait for it too long).

Femicide prevention saves lives, but also involves addressing other forms of discrimination and violence against women.

For this reason, it improves the overall wellbeing of women and girls, and society as a whole by tackling harmful gendered norms and expectations.



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Slovenia: Jasna Podreka

Turkey: Sümeyra Buran and Sadik Toprak

References

1. Weil, S., Corradi, C. and Naudi, M. (2018) Femicide across Europe, Policy Press. doi: 10.1332/9781447347163.