



**European Observatory on Femicide**  
EOF  
Progress Report 2021



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## **History of the European Observatory on Femicide**

The EOF was established in January 2018. 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 current coordinators are Dr Christiana Kouta (CUT) and Dr Monika Schröttle (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 held on establishing a European Observatory for the purpose of monitoring different types of femicide across the continent. During the [final conference](#) of the Action that took place between the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 at the University of Malta Campus in Valletta, the members of the COST Action made the decision to establish the Observatory in Malta.

## **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 recognizes 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 recognizes 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 contributing in its work to the Femicide Watch Platform. The EOF also supports the efforts of the European Union to eradicate violence against women, and works closely with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in its data collection on violence against women and femicide. The EOF seeks to represent all women victims regardless of their background or status. It recognizes 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

## EOF Structure

From the start of 2020, the EOF was headed by Dr Christiana Kouta (CUT) and by 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 also participates in the new EU funded femicide project- FEM-UnitED. 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 within the COST Action on Femicide across Europe, Coordination Action on Human Rights Violations - CAHRV). In her recent projects, Monika Schrötle developed a Measurement Framework on Violence against Women to be integrated in the Gender Equality Index of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Furthermore, she coordinates the quantitative data collection on Femicide within the European Observatory on Femicide.

**The work and decision making of the EOF continues to be supported by an international Advisory Board (<http://eof.cut.ac.cy/advisory-board/>), and the data collection and research is taking place through a network of country research groups throughout Europe. More information on the EOF structure is given in the text below.**

From its existence until December 2019, the EOF was headed by Dr Marceline Naudi, who was the scientific coordinator for the Observatory.



**Marceline Naudi** (B.A., M.A.(Bradford), PhD (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 and Sexualities, 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 a member of GREVIO, the Council of Europe monitoring body of the Istanbul Convention. She is currently Regional Editor for Europe of the Journal on Gender Based Violence, and has led EU funded research projects in Malta on the Bystanders Approach to Sexual Harassment, and on Barriers to Reporting for victims of Violence against Women, as well as currently working on both the FEM-UnitED and EIGE project (see below).

Currently, the Observatory is supported by Elina Kofou and Emmanouela Manoli from Cyprus who are research assistants and administrators of the Observatory.

**Elina Kofou** is a part time Research Assistant for the European Observatory of Femicide (EOF) and member of the Cyprus team at the EOF. She has a Master degree in Educational Psychology and Business Administration. She is working as a tutor at the Medical School of St George University at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus and as a research associate at the Department of Nursing at the Cyprus University of Technology, in several projects that have to do with gender-based violence and gender equality. She recently worked as a Social Worker within the Social Welfare Services in Cyprus at the Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance and as an Educational Psychologist at the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth. She also worked at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies that promotes women's rights and gender equality through a combination of research, lobbying and advocacy, education and training, awareness-raising. Recently, she worked as a research assistant in an EU funded project on a knowledge platform on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). She is also participating in the new EU funded femicide project, FEM-UnitED. She was a board member of the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family in Cyprus.

**Emmanouela Manoli** is a part time Research Assistant for the European Observatory of Femicide and member of the Cyprus team at EOF. In 2020, she became a PhD candidate at the Department of Nursing, Faculty for Health Science at the Cyprus University of Technology, focusing her research on intimate partner violence during pregnancy.

### **Advisory board**

The advisory board is composed of former COST Action on Femicide across Europe members, and helps to support direction and decision-making <http://eof.cut.ac.cy/advisory-board/>. The Advisory Board Members of the European Observatory on Femicide are:

Christiana Kouta CYPRUS  
Ksenia Meshkova GERMANY  
Monika Schröttle GERMANY  
Athena Peglidou GREECE  
Marceline Naudi MALTA  
Maria José Magalhães PORTUGAL

Santiago Boira Sarto SPAIN  
Chaime Marcuello Servós SPAIN

### **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 Ivana Paust, and the prevention group by Maria Jose Magalhaes.

In the year 2021, the thematic group coordinators completed the development of the quantitative and qualitative data collection tools. The tools were sent to country groups to collect data for piloting.

### **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.

Currently, the European Observatory on Femicide (EOF) has 23 research focal points in the following countries:

- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Estonia
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Lithuania
- Macedonia
- Malta
- Moldova
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Turkey
- United Kingdom

The EOF has also worked towards establishing a framework for the sharing and analysing 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. The main aim is to improve information on femicide cases across Europe in order to prevent femicides. The new European projects funded in 2020 and 2021 have strengthened this process (see below).

## Events and conferences

In 2021, the 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:

- The Crime, Justice and Society Seminar Series presents Femicide: pathways for research and mobilization across the world, by Edinburgh Law School, University of Edinburgh, 25 March 2021.

Prof Consuelo Corradi gave a presentation on Femicide: pathways for research and mobilization across the world

- Dr Christiana Kouta, had a discussion on Femicide that was broadcast via the radio of Cyprus Univeristy of Technology ([www.cut-radio.org](http://www.cut-radio.org)), at the 15th of October 2021.

[https://open.spotify.com/episode/725tJlp17iLgYZ7OUCCOAm?si=ib0YyPkWTQauVfEjtkTv6w&utm\\_source=copy-link&fbclid=IwAR2ysT5b7otR5TnzBORyFffw9HB4Kqrano1nM\\_LUekJqetcDXzgmPSCUxTw&nd=1](https://open.spotify.com/episode/725tJlp17iLgYZ7OUCCOAm?si=ib0YyPkWTQauVfEjtkTv6w&utm_source=copy-link&fbclid=IwAR2ysT5b7otR5TnzBORyFffw9HB4Kqrano1nM_LUekJqetcDXzgmPSCUxTw&nd=1)

- Presentation on the Prevention of Femicide by Cyprus University of Technology and Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies - FEM-UNITED for the Prevention of Femicides in Europe, 3 September 2021.

Dr Christiana Kouta presented preliminary results of a study on Femicide in Cyprus.

- Erasmus Days - FeSTEM Social Café – Woman Empowerment - 15th October 2021

Dr Christiana Kouta presented – Femicide in Europe

- Editorial team at the Journal of Gender-Based Violence (JGBV) - online training, Tuesday 19 October 2021.

The Editorial team at the Journal of Gender-Based Violence (JGBV) are running online training for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers who are interested in reviewing for the Journal.

## **Publications**

Femicide in the Mediterranean Region

<http://eof.cut.ac.cy/wp-content/uploads/sites/106/2021/04/EOF-flyerMWF-final.pdf>

## **Projects and Funding**

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 specific 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. It is important to note that two EOF focal point-countries (Cyprus, Germany) participated and coordinated the work and analyses without receiving funding. The project started on March 2020 and ended on February 2021. You can find more information in the following leaflet **Femicide in the Mediterranean Region**: <http://eof.cut.ac.cy/wp-content/uploads/sites/106/2021/04/EOF-flyerMWF-final.pdf>

Furthermore, EOF members are participating in a two-year European funded project which started officially in November 2020. It is supported by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union. The **FEM-United** partnership spans five EU countries and includes the University of Malta; the Cyprus University of Technology; the Institute for Empirical Sociological Research at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; the University of Zaragoza; and the University of Porto. The project team is also comprised of advocacy NGOs and women's specialist services including the Women's Rights Foundation (Malta), and the UMAR - União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta (Portugal). The FEM-United team includes advisory board members and five country focal points of the European Observatory of Femicide (EOF). The FEM-United project aims to improve responses to IPV and domestic violence (DV) in order to reduce harm to women and children and prevent femicide. The project also aims for improved systems-

wide responses to IPV/DV by creating an evidence base for raised public awareness and the fostering of multi-disciplinary cooperation and capacity building, adopting a gender-specific victim-centred approach. FEM-UnitED is about creating evidence for collaborative policy change to prevent femicide. FEM-UnitED will reinforce and contribute to international efforts by:

A) developing quantitative and qualitative tools that measure the prevalence of femicide and related risk factors,

B) identifying gaps in system responses to IPV/DV across the partner countries,

C) enacting change through systematic stakeholder engagement that will result in specific commitments for action, and (including journalists, policy makers and supporting institutions)

D) an EU-wide awareness raising campaign on the gendered dynamics of IPV/DV related femicide.

EOF advisory board members have also formed part of both the core research group and the national researchers of an EIGE funded project on the Legal Responses to Femicide. Portugal, Germany and Malta formed part of the core group, and Spain, Romania, Germany and Portugal EOF members and focal points were responsible for the data collection. This study included looking at legal processes and compensation and reparation across five EU member states.

### **EOF and other EU Observatories' websites**

Cyprus University of Technology hosts the EOF website <http://eof.cut.ac.cy/>. The website is continuously updated with information on the latest news of femicide in Europe. Also, you can see the history of EOF, EOF country groups resources and events. The EOF country groups have the opportunity to post new information on the website (local or EU or international info, articles, actions etc.).

In November 2020, the **Israel Observatory on Femicide** was established by Prof. Shalva Weil under the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The purpose of the Observatory is to collect and monitor data and narratives about the murder of women, both quantitative and qualitative, and provide means for building an ongoing knowledge base to eradicate the phenomenon. More information for Israel Observatory on Femicide you can find on the following website: <https://en.israelfemicide.org/>

In November 2021 the Greek country focal point launched the **Greek Observatory on Femicide** in order to record and populate the quantitative and qualitative data in Greece and to post news/announcements around the issue of femicide, with the lead of Dr Athena Peglidou. More information can be found on the following link: <https://femicide.gr/>

In December 2021 the **Malta Observatory on Femicide** was launched by the Women's Rights Foundation in collaboration with the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, and the contribution of Dr Marceline Naudi. It seeks to raise awareness, collect data on femicide in Malta and provide key information on issues related to it, with the aim of informing and strengthening policy development and implementation. It will also act as a repository for research and studies, including the creation of domestic homicide reviews whilst bringing together academics and stakeholders working in the field.

**A Thank you Note** to Dr Corradi and Dr Shalva who have stepped down from the Advisory Committee.

The EOF Advisory Board would like to express their gratitude to them both for the constant support and valuable contribution they have provided to the EOF over the years. Their willingness to always share their knowledge and experience has been greatly appreciated. The EOF looks forward to further collaboration with them in the future.

