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Welcome to the first FOMEN Project Newsletter!



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What is FOMEN?

The world is currently facing many streams of migration and the **worst forced displacement since the Second World War**. The displacement and breakdown of social structures that are results of flight from war and conflict **challenge traditional gender relations, social norms and ties**. This makes refugees vulnerable to further violence and discrimination. Studies show that **displaced women and girls have faced multiple forms of violence as a result of conflict, persecution and displacement**. Additionally, **men and boys suffer violence in countries of crisis and asylum**, especially at the hands of men. With a strong focus on diverse masculinities, the FOMEN project therefore deals with the issue of how male migrant and refugee experiences collide with gender norms.

FOMEN is a **2 year project (2019-2021)** which focuses on **innovative approaches to gender sensitive and violence preventing work with men***. The project team, based in 6 European countries (*Austria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy & Spain*), will work to develop quality standards for violence prevention programmes.

FOMEN progress

At the first partner meeting, held in **Graz** between 30 September – 2 October 2019, representatives of all FOMEN partners met to get to know each other, to share an overview concerning gender sensitive and violence preventive work with male migrants and refugees overview on the status quo in the participating countries (AT, DE, ES, IT, GR, HR and experts from UK) and to start the project with a common understanding of the FOMEN objectives and the development of tools for the first work package - analysis.



FOMEN Project partners at the 1st meeting in Graz, Austria. Autumn 2019.

During the first partner meeting, a Mutual Learning Seminar took place in which projects (**MEN TALK, AT & DISPLACEMENT, UK**) were introduced and methods of working were shared.

After the first partner meeting, we started to prepare a project leaflet. Since then, the leaflets have been finalised and are available on our website [here](#).

During the last few months, project partners have been working on **needs assessments and resources analysis** concerning preventative work on gender-based violence of male migrants and refugees. This is included in work package 2, which aims to:

- *Gain an overview and analyse the needs and resources of male migrants and refugees, as well as professionals working with them concerning violence prevention work*
- *Identify best practice examples of violence prevention programmes in the partner countries*

We are using **two qualitative techniques** (expert workshops with focus group techniques and interviews of experts) and **one quantitative technique** (questionnaire). Each partner will organise one expert workshop with 20 – 35 professionals working with migrants and refugees and 3- 5 interviews with local experts. The main topics to be discussed at expert workshops are:

1. *The needs of male migrants and refugees*
2. *The needs of professionals who work / will work with migrants and refugees*
3. *Examples and opportunities for good practice in dealing with migrants and refugees*
4. *Presentation and collection of questions for quantitative research on the needs and resources of experts.*

FOMEN Workshops

As of February 2020, **9 workshops** have been held with a total of **122 professionals and field experts**.

Austria

The Austrian team at **VMG** carried out a qualitative inquiry consisting of two focus group interviews

(one with **6 professionals working with male refugee and migrants** in **Graz** and one with **11 men with international family histories** at a "men's café" in a rural part of **Styria**) and an **expert interview with a director of the Men's Health Center** in **Vienna**. It became clear that working in this field needs a critical approach towards issues such as migration and masculinities. But also information and knowledge is important: about legal frameworks surrounding violence prevention in Austria, about different forms and situations of violence in which men can be involved, about the contexts in which violence occurs and where/why violence is a strategy and/or a risk.

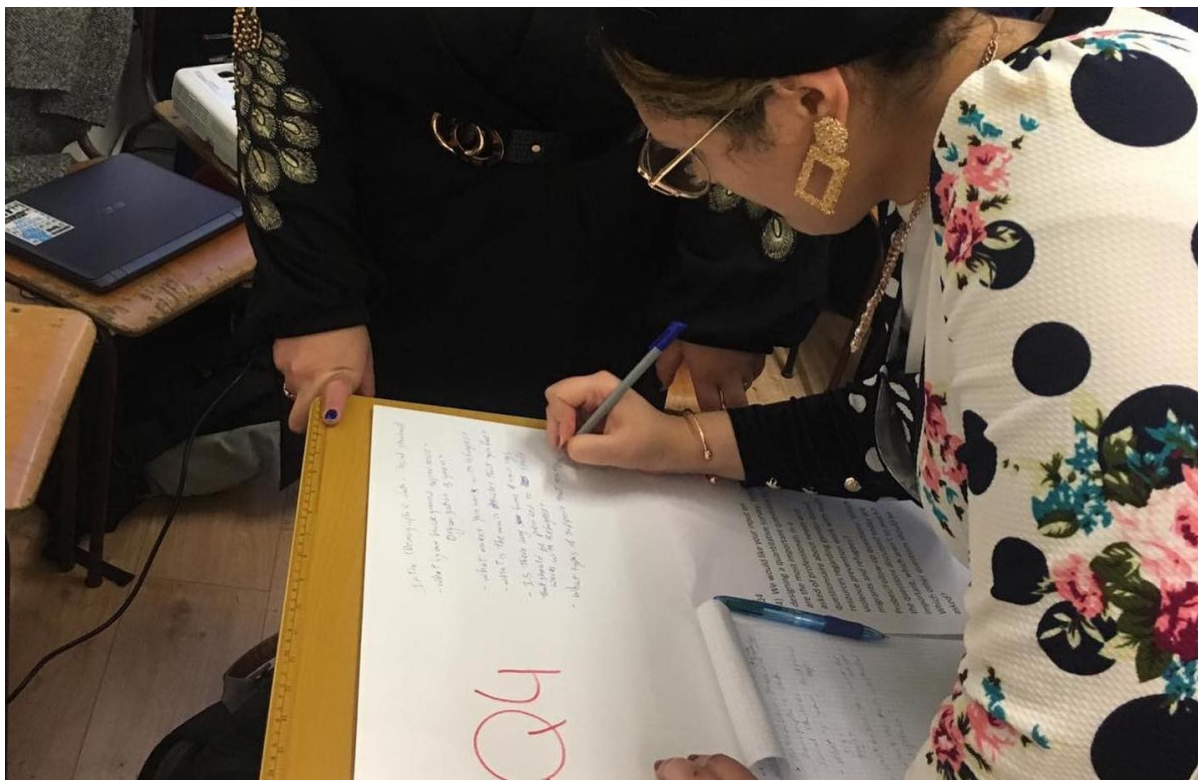
Croatia



The expert's workshop, organized by **SPA, Zagreb**, December 3, 2019. A total of **18 professionals (representing 13 organizations) together with 3 SPA facilitators**, divided in two groups, discussed the all main topics in a cooperative and comfortable atmosphere. The group participants showed great interest in the topics, participated very actively in the discussion and making suggestions, and expressed their readiness to continue cooperation in the next stages of the project.

Germany





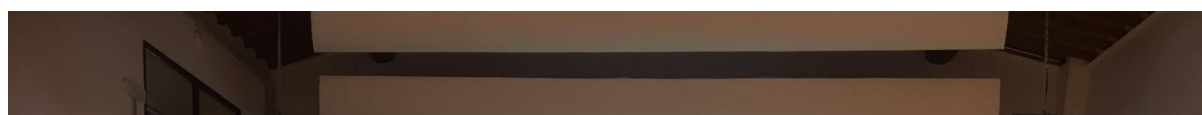
The expert-workshop in **Berlin** organised by **WWP EN**, with a total of **28 professionals**, was a multicultural, vibrant and highly motivated group of experts, who gave different and very valuable inputs on the needs and best practises. The interesting aspect of this group was, that some professionals were refugees who came to Germany in 2015, which gave us the opportunity to hear different perspectives. The group mainly consisted of psychologists, social workers, medical doctors and international teachers.

Greece



The experts' workshop organised by **Symbiosis - School of Political Studies in Greece** affiliated to the Council of Europe, was held in **Athens** on the 12th December 2019 and brought together about **20 participants** to discuss issues of gender and violence, to feature innovative approaches and critical attitudes that will foster constructive dialogue, producing concrete and viable suggestions.

Italy





The Italian association **CAM** held one workshop on 14th December 2019, in **Florence**, with a total of **19 professionals and four facilitators** who shared knowledge and competences learned from another experiences in gender based violence prevention and gender sensitive work with male migrants and refugees. The workshop was a such important opportunity to discuss around needs of both migrants and professionals working with them as well as the opportunity to start new collaborations among national and local associations and services.

Spain



In **Spain**, **Conexus** organised three expert workshops on 29/11/2019, 04/12/2019 and 18/12/2019, with a total of **19 professionals and two facilitators** who actively discussed lessons learned from previous experiences in gender sensitive and/or violence prevention work with male refugees and migrants, as well as the needs of both this target population and professionals working with them. The group was highly participative in sharing their knowledge and views and showed an interest in continuing the collaboration with the project.

Social Media

We're pleased to announce that you can follow the FOMEN project updates on social media. We can be found on **Instagram** and **Facebook**!



Next Steps

Between February and March 2020, an online questionnaire survey for professionals working with migrants and refugees will be conducted. The questionnaire will seek to complement the qualitative information on needs, challenges and gaps of gender sensitive and violence preventive approaches in work with male refugees and migrants. The results of the questionnaire, as well as the focus groups and interviews, will be summarised in a national analysis report and in a comparative transnational report.

The **second project meeting** of FOMEN partners will take place in **Zagreb, Croatia** between **March 25 – 27** (host **SPA**). In addition to the regular partner meeting, part of the meeting time will be devoted to the second Mutual learning seminar. The main topic of the seminar is the challenges of using interpreters/cultural mediators in working with migrants and refugees.

The next activity is also awareness raising seminars aimed at policy makers, relevant stakeholders and local professionals working with refugees and migrants. During the project, each partner will organise 4 national awareness raising seminars. The first seminars will take place in the spring.

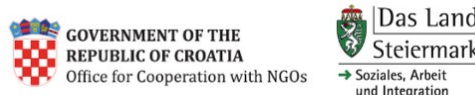


FOMEN Partners

- **Verein für Männer- und Geschlechterthemen Steiermark (VMG), Austria, Lead Partner**
- **Society for Psychological Assistance (SPA), Croatia**
- **Associació Conexus: atenció, formació i investigació psicosocials (CONEXUS), Spain**
- **Symbiosis Astikis mi Kerdoskopiki Etaireia (SYMBIOSIS), Greece**
- **Centro di Ascolto Uomini Maltrattanti (CAM), Italy**
- **European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP EN), Germany**



Co-financers



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