

## NETWORKING TO PREVENT AND COMBAT MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Francesca Proia, Maria Dentale, Pietro Demurtas, Alice Mauri



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - REYKJAVÍK 11-13 SEPT 2023

### VIVA PROJECT

**VIVA - Analysis and Evaluation of Measures to Prevent and Combat Violence Against Women** is the result of the Collaboration Agreement signed on June 19, 2017 between the Department of Equal Opportunity of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (DPO) and the Institute for Research on Population and Social Policy of the National Research Council (CNR-IRPPS).

Thanks to an additional Collaboration Agreement signed in April 2022, ViVa project is now in its second phase.

### OUTCOMES OF THE RESEARCH

ViVa has described the anti-violence system as a complex, diversified and heterogeneous universe, inhabited by actors working in different capacities to prevent and combat male violence, to support women in situations of violence, their daughters and sons.

In this context, the project studied the role of AVCs in the territorial anti-violence networks mapped in 2017, which have emerged as a place of symbolic and political challenge in the construction of integrated interventions based on a holistic and intersectional approach.

### METHODOLOGY FOR ANALYSING NETWORKS

**Focus on** - formal and operational context

**Survey strategies** - reconstruction of AVCs' views on the topic through the use of mix methods and in particular by administering a questionnaire, designed following a participative approach, and conducting in-depth interviews and focus groups.

AVCs involved:

- 334 AVCs in survey
- 35 AVCs in in-depth interviews
- 5 in focus groups

**Total mapped networks: 192**

### THE ROLE OF NETWORK AS INSTRUMENT

➤ **The Urban Project:** Anti-violence network among the cities (1998), which aimed to stimulate the activation and strengthening of local anti-violence networks in the 25 cities involved, was the first nationwide action-research on networking as well as a stimulus in recognising networking as a necessary tool of anti-violence policies.

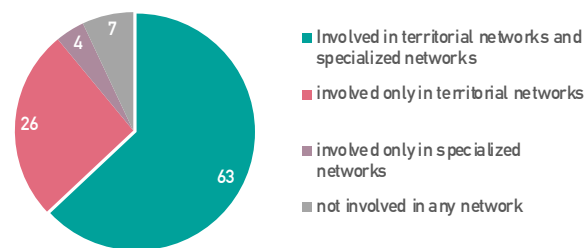
#### Governmental instruments

Laws of the Regions and Autonomous Provinces	Since early 1990s
Law No. 77/2013 - Ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Istanbul, 11 May 2011	2013
Law No. 119/2013 - Urgent provisions on public security and to combat gender-based violence, as well as on civil protection and the commissioning of provinces	2013
National minimum standards for women's centres and shelters	2014
National Extraordinary Action Plan on sexual and gender-based violence 2015-2017	2015
National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2017-2020	2017
National Guidelines for Health Authorities and Hospital Authorities	2017

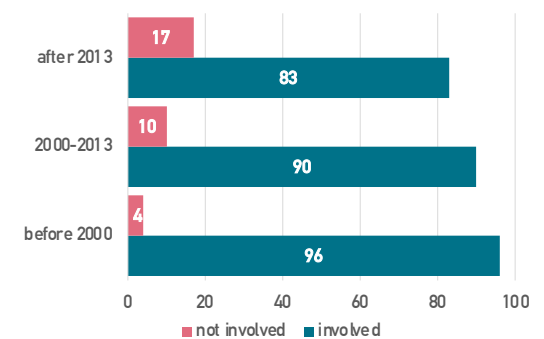
➤ **Goals:** strengthening the network of inter-institutional territorial services and the integration of specialist and non-specialist services in order to enhance assistance and support to women victims of violence and their children.

➤ **Actors:** AVCs, Shelters, Public Authorities and Institutions, Social and Health Services, Public Enforcement System, Social Welfare Services, Justice Services, Others.

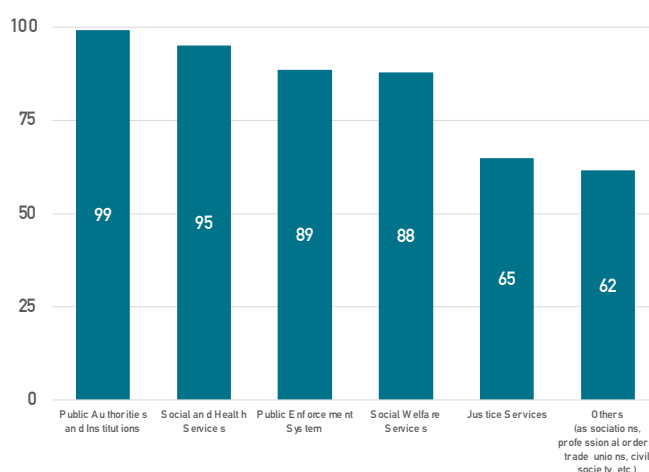
### AVCs involved in territorial networks and specialized networks\* (values in %) \* AVCs and shelters



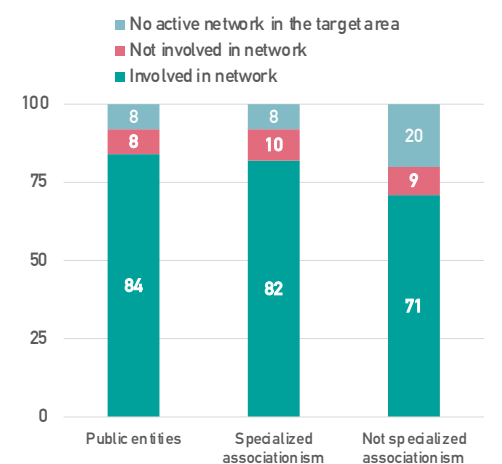
### AVCs in the networks per year of opening (values in %)



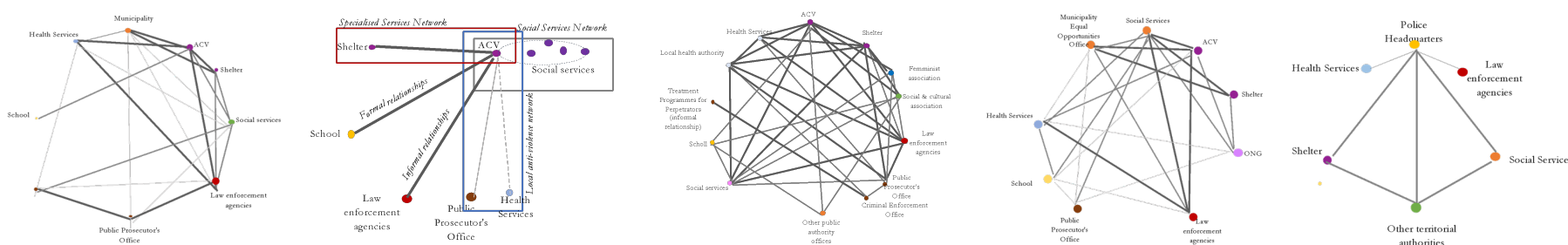
### Actors involved in territorial anti-violence networks beyond AVCs (values in %)



### Managing entities of networked AVCs (values in %)



### THE COMPLEXITY OF NETWORKS



### LESSONS LEARNED

**How to look at networks** - formalization (formalized/informal); establishment (bottom-up push/institutional initiative); composition (actors involved and role of AVCs); goals (single-purpose/multi-purpose); spatial distribution (equilibria/asymmetries).

**How to read networks** - Networks are places of "symbolic challenge" in which AVCs try to contaminate and empower other actors in the construction of shared practices and methodologies, but they are also exposed to a risk of bureaucratization that can depower their role and transformative character.

### LESSONS TO LEARN

**How to look at networks** - What makes a local anti-violence network virtuous in building empowerment pathways? Can a virtuous model be replicated outside the specific territorial context in which it was born? How to evaluate a network? Do new institutional measures promote greater territorial homogeneity?

**How to read networks** - What are the transformational effects of networks? How do the actors in them change? What strategies are deployed to meet the symbolic challenge?

### NOW WHAT? THE CURRENT FORMAL AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The second phase of Viva is aimed at analysing and evaluating the Italian anti-violence system in the light of the new governmental measures, in particular with respect to networks:

- **National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2021-2023** identifies territorial anti-violence networks as a central tool for local policy governance and defines intervention priorities in which territorial anti-violence networks play a key role ( i. e. priorities 1.4, 2.1, 2.4, 2.6, 4.3)
- **New National Minimum Standards for Women's Centres and Shelters (2022)** reaffirm the centrality of networking for the operation of AVCs (article 4, 5, 6)
- **National Minimum Standards for Perpetrators Programmes (2022)** affirm the centrality of networking for the operation of PPs (article 2, 5).