

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

SURVEY ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE EU-GBV, 2021

Legal basis

The survey is conducted in the framework of the project 'Survey on Gender-Based Violence' in implementation of Grant Agreement with the European Commission № 960467-2019-BG-GBV SURVEY-2.

The survey is carried out according to common and harmonised methodology developed and approved by Eurostat and in strict compliance with the requirements of the national legislations of the countries.

The survey is included in the National Statistical Programme adopted by Council of Ministers Decision 17/11.01.2021, which regulates the deadlines for conducting statistical surveys and the respondents' obligations to provide the data.

Survey on gender-based violence

The aim of the 'Gender Based Violence Survey' is by using a common and harmonised methodology, to provide reliable, comparable and representative data on all types of violence covered by the survey, as well as on the frequency and intensity of experiences, at national level and in all countries of the European Union. The survey results provide up-to-date statistics on the prevalence of violence against women. The information gathered can significantly complement that from existing administrative sources - such as police, judicial or prosecution statistics.

The survey was conducted between November 2021 and February 2022 among women aged 17 - 84 years.

The main method of data collection was face-to-face interview using electronic device (CAPI). Due to the sensitive nature of the topic for the convenience of the respondents and considering the epidemic situation in the country at the time of the fieldwork, for the first time, the NSI also applied a web-based application for respondents' self-interviewing (CAWI).

A nationally representative sample of 8,240 private households with at least one woman aged 18 - 74 was drawn. In accordance with the survey methodology, institutionalised households, such as boarding houses, residencies for students or workers, social service institutions, prisons, etc. were excluded from the target population.

The survey applies the principle of the voluntary participation and consent, and only one person per household was interviewed. A total of 5,580 women were successfully interviewed and the response rate was 77.4%.

The object of the survey are women aged between 18 and 74 years living in private households.

Modes of data collection were combined - personal interview with electronic devices (CAPI) or web-based application for respondents' self-interviewing (CAWI).

The following types of violence **were covered**:

- **Physical violence** - intentional behaviour aimed at causing suffering and inducing fear through the use of direct physical force resulting in bodily pain and/or injury.
- **Psychological violence** - intentional behaviour that involves seriously impairing a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats by an intimate partner. This type of violence includes a range of behaviours involving acts of emotional abuse and controlling behaviour.
- **Economic violence** - intentional behaviour to control and/or limit a person's access to financial resources, property, labour market and education by an intimate partner. As well as control and/or limit in decision making related to economic status
- **Sexual violence** - intentional behaviour intended to coerce a relationship of a sexual nature by physical force or coercion without the person's consent. Includes any type of harmful or unwanted sexual conduct, such as rape, attempted rape, forcing another person to engage in acts of a sexual nature with a third person, and other acts (touching without consent, any act the person finds humiliating).
- **Domestic violence** - includes any act of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence, as well as attempted violence in the family or in the household. It includes family members, intimate partners and persons who live or lived in the same household when the violence occurred.
- **Sexual harassment at work** - includes any form of unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by a person in the work environment resulting in a violation of a person's dignity, insult or humiliation. For example, inappropriate staring, touching, remarks, jokes or inappropriate suggestions from persons with a professional relationship.
- **Violence in childhood** - covers the following experiences before the age of 15: psychological or physical violence perpetrated by parents; sexual violence perpetrated by any person; acts of violence between parents. Parents are biological, step or foster parents, other persons responsible for raising and educating, occupying the 'figure of parents'.

Sample selection

A three stage stratified cluster sample on national and regional level was used. The sample was stratified by using the administrative regions in the country and persons' place of residence (town, village). As a result of the stratification 56 strata were designed. At the first stage the census enumeration units (PSU) were selected. At the second stage, the private households with women aged 18 - 74 were identified. In the third stage - one woman aged between 18 and 74 years was identified per household.

Statistical accuracy of the results of some basic indicators

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Indicator	Number of respondents - n (unweighted)	Estimated proportion - p (weighted)	Standard error - SE	Confidence interval		Design effect deff
				95% lower limit, in %	95% upper limit, in %	
Share of women who have experienced psychological violence by an intimate partner						
Total	5451	19.4	0.9	17.7	21.1	2.665
Share of women who have experienced physical violence (including threats) by an intimate partner						
Total	5451	7.1	0.6	5.9	8.3	2.878
Share of women who have experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner						
Total	5451	2.2	0.3	1.5	2.9	2.949
Share of women who have experienced physical (including threats) or sexual violence by an intimate partner						
Total	5451	9.3	0.7	7.9	10.7	3.323
Share of women who have experienced psychological, physical (including threats) or sexual violence by an intimate partner						
Total	5451	20.5	1.0	18.6	22.4	3.133
Share of women who have experienced physical violence (including threats) by a non-partner						
Total	5580	3.5	0.4	2.7	4.3	2.741
Share of women who have experienced sexual violence by a non-partner						
Total	5580	2.4	0.4	1.6	3.3	4.432
Share of women who have experienced physical (including threats) or sexual violence by a non-partner						
Total	5580	5.9	0.7	4.6	7.3	4.696
Share of women who have experienced physical violence (including threats) by any perpetrator						
Total	5580	8.5	0.6	7.4	9.6	2.287
Share of women who have experienced sexual violence by any perpetrator						
Total	5580	3.4	0.5	2.5	4.4	3.697
Share of women who have experienced physical (including threats) or sexual violence by any perpetrator						
Total	5580	11.9	0.8	10.4	13.4	3.179

Depending on the nature of the questions, the period covered is different - last 12 months, last 5 years, lifetime or from age 15 to the time of the interview (as an adult). The choice for this observation period was made to obtain the most reliable answers. The period is also essential in correctly referring to the experience by type of violence and by perpetrator, in cases where a woman has been the victim of more than one type of violence by more than one perpetrator.

All presented data are based on the subjective assessment of the respondents and no documents were required to verify the accuracy of the answers.

The indicators calculated refer to unwanted experiences by women after the age of 15, except where a specific age is indicated or in relation to violence in childhood. Indicators for intimate partner violence refer to the entire period of time since the relationship began, regardless of age.