

PROGETTO ENABLE Early Network-based Action Against violent Behaviours to Leverage victim Empowerment

ENABLE

The ENABLE Project – Early Network-based Action against violent Behaviours to Leverage victim Empowerment is based on **the ZEUS Protocol**, signed in 2018 and renewed in 2019, between the Anti-Crime Division of the Milan Police and the Italian Centre for the Promotion of Mediation(CIPM) for the effective application of Laws no. 38/2009 and 119/2013 on domestic violence (DV) and stalking.

The Protocol ensures an early, integrated and multi-level response to gender-based violence. It entails that individuals who are issued with a warning for DV or stalking by the police, are immediately referred to CIPM for clinical/criminological treatment. At the same time, those who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence or stalking are referred to local victim support services.

The Protocol seeks to **achieve the following objectives:**

- Prevention of gender-based violence through early referrals to treatment for individuals issued with warnings
- Behavioural shift among those issued with warnings, who shall be supported in putting a stop to their violent actions
- Creation of a strong partnership between law enforcement agencies and other local authorities, to ensure that at-risk individuals promptly access treatment
- protection of victims through access to support services
- enhanced knowledge of their rights among individuals who experience domestic violence or stalking and improvement of their perceived feelings of safety and well-being
- creation of a network of local support services.

Thanks to the ENABLE Project, the ZEUS protocol will be signed in 8 other Italian cities besides Milan, namely Cagliari, Genoa, Piacenza, Verona, Vicenza, Bari, Prato and Rome.

To stay up to date on the project, keep an eye on this webpage.

This project was funded by the European Union's Rights Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)

In collaborazione
con la Polizia di Stato

(2014-2020)



PROGETTO ENABLE Early Network-based Action Against violent Behaviours to Leverage victim Empowerment

What is a warning?

A warning is a civil law measure that aims to "warn" a person who conducts stalking and /or other abusive acts, which do not yet constitute a crime, in order to prevent the escalation of violence and the consequent initiation of a criminal proceeding.

Who can request a warning?

- Anyone who experiences stalking
- Anyone who experiences or knows someone who is experiencing domestic violence

Reports are fully anonymous.

What do I have to do to request a warning?

All you have to do is present at the closest police station. It is not necessary to be accompanied by a lawyer and **the report will remain anonymous**, meaning that under no circumstances will the person issued with a warning come to know who made the report.

How does the warning procedure work?

All necessary information related to the narration of events will be collected by the police in order to ascertain the validity of the request for a warning. What's most important therefore, is knowing how to explain the facts in a clear and detailed manner. Whenever possible and if available, evidentiary documents may be presented. If the report is made by third parties, the police will contact the alleged victim, who will be called in for an interview.

What happens to the person receiving a warning?

The person in question will be summoned by the Police Commissioner and will be warned of the repercussions of persisting in carrying out harmful and persecutory actions. In cities where the Zeus Protocol is active, individuals will be referred to a team of specialists **to commence a treatment pathway**. The treatment pathway will allow those accessing it, to change their behaviors and halt their harmful conducts.

If the warning is requested, will it involve a trial?

No, the warning is a first formal act to prevent the escalation of violent behaviours, but it does not involve a trial.

What does the treatment process consist of?

Individuals issued with warnings will participate in a series of individual interviews, conducted by psychologists and criminologists, with the aim of confronting their behaviors and putting a stop to their violent conduct. The team of professionals will collaborate with the police and shall keep in touch with the person who has suffered such actions, if she/he consents to such contact, so as to constantly monitor the situation.



PROGETTO ENABLE Early Network-based Action Against violent Behaviours to Leverage victim Empowerment

What support can be given to those who experience stalking or domestic violence?

At the time of reporting, the person experiencing staking or DV will be provided with information about local support services. The police shall also obtain their consent to be contacted by professionals in charge of offender treatment, so as to constantly monitor the situation.

What happens if, despite the warning, the person persists in his/her abusive conduct?

If, despite the warning, the subject persists in his/her actions, a criminal proceeding can be initiated, without the need for an additional complaint by the person who has suffered violence. In addition, the culprit could face an increase in his/her sentence.

Police stations that are part of the project:

Cagliari, Genoa, Piacenza, Verona, Vicenza, Bari, Prato and Rome

Stalking

Stalking is a crime that involves any type of unwanted behavior carried out in a repetitive and persistent manner, that makes a person feel unsafe.

Stalking is a crime according to Article 612 BIS of the Italian Penal Code.

Who is the stalker?

In most cases the stalker is someone the victim know or interact with; however, they can also be a stranger. In any case, a stalker is anyone who disturbs, imposes unwanted attention, threatens, and harasses.

What does the stalker do?

The stalker generally performs acts that in and of themselves may appear harmless but that over time, due to their frequency and duration, can become dangerous.

Specifically, the stalker can:

- Constantly send letters, e-mails or texts, leave messages via social networks or on the car, at home or at work, and make phone calls at any time of day or night;
- spy on their victim;
- send unwanted gifts or place orders and advertisements, such as offers for sex or obituaries on behalf of the victim;
- obtain information about the victim through other people;



PROGETTO ENABLE Early Network-based Action Against violent Behaviours to Leverage victim Empowerment

- damage the victim's property, read or steal their correspondence, break into their home;
- directly threaten and insult the victim and/or people close to them
- be physically violent. This can potentially lead to physical and sexual assault.

What are the consequences for those who experience stalking?

The attitudes and behaviors described above arouse feelings of danger, fear, insecurity and fear in those who experience them, which lead to a radical change in lifestyle habits and in restricted freedoms.

Domestic violence and abuse

The expression *domestic violence* refers to different forms of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence that are committed by a family member against another member of the household (regardless of whether the perpetrator of such acts shares or shared the same house with the victim). Domestic violence can also occur among former spouses or former partners.

Domestic violence is a criminal offence under Art. 572 of the Italian Penal Code.

Physical acts of domestic violence

Physical violence includes:

- Kicking
- Punching
- Slapping
- Jostling
- Scratching and biting
- Throwing objects

Domestic violence of a sexual nature

Physical violence is often accompanied by sexual violence consisting of:

- Sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual jokes
- The victim being forced to view pornographic material
- Use of coercion and threats to force the other to perform sexual acts
- Rape

This project was funded by the European Union's Rights Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)

In collaborazione
con la Polizia di Stato

(2014-2020)



PROGETTO ENABLE Early Network-based Action Against violent Behaviours to Leverage victim Empowerment

Psychological violence

Domestic violence involves psychological abuse that includes acts such as:

- insults
- intimidation
- denigration
- humiliation
- threats
- Manipulation
- Eliciting guilt
- Instilling fear, anxiety, feelings of danger

These acts can be directed towards the victim or their family, friends and close acquaintances. The perpetrator of violence can exercise control over the victim's entourage, denying the victim the opportunity to see other people and even making her/him doubt herself/himself to the point of feeling crazy. This phenomenon is called "gaslighting".

Economic violence

Domestic violence can also manifest itself economically when the abuser:

- limits or controls the victim's money
- uses their money without their consent
- prohibits the victim from working
- exploits the victim, e.g. by forcing her/him to work without a contract or remuneration

This publication solely reflects the views of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.

This project was funded by the European Union's Rights Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)

In collaborazione
con la Polizia di Stato

(2014-2020)

