



Funded by
the European Union

Multidisciplinary approach of gender-based and domestic violence in Family Justice Centers (One Safe Place)

EUCPN
Leuven
2022

Bert Groen

European Family Justice Center Alliance





How to build a culture of trust to work together, gap bridges and support

“Taking the best of what you already have and bring it all together.”
Casey Gwinn





Gender-based violence/domestic violence requires a specific approach

- Common and highly under-reported problem.
- Many fatalities and victims with physical and mental injuries.
- Complex and in many situations dangerous dynamics
- Those involved often stay in each other's environment (parents, family)
- Devasting impact on children -> intergenerational transfer of the violence
- Great social costs
- Gaps in interventions, approach and expertise
- Many services involved -> transcends policy domains, policy levels and competencies





What is an integrated multidisciplinary approach?

- A coordinated community response in which social service agencies, health care providers and criminal justice providers join forces to work together to tackle gender-based violence/domestic violence
- **Ending gender-based violence/domestic violence is everyone's responsibility = Multi-agency approach**





“Survivors should not have to adapt to what is offered by the service providers or systems”

It’s all about placing the survivors in the middle!



Family Justice Centers



A Family Justice Center is the co-location of a multidisciplinary team of professionals who are cooperating under one roof to offer help and support to victims of gender-based violence/domestic violence and their families.

Movie: www.efjca.eu





Why Family Justice Centers?

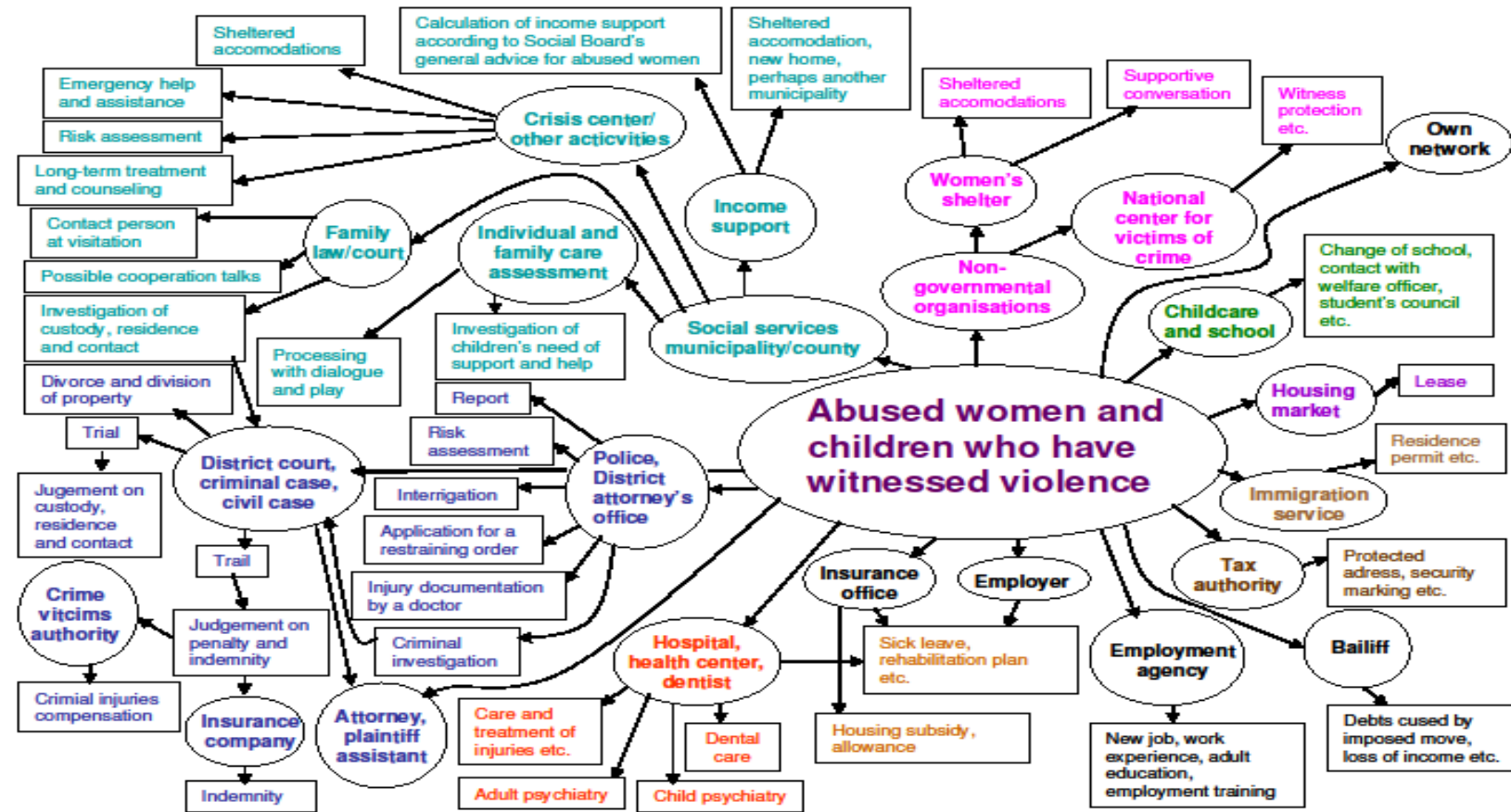
Multi agency approach of violence against women has shown encouraging results, but there are still major obstacles:

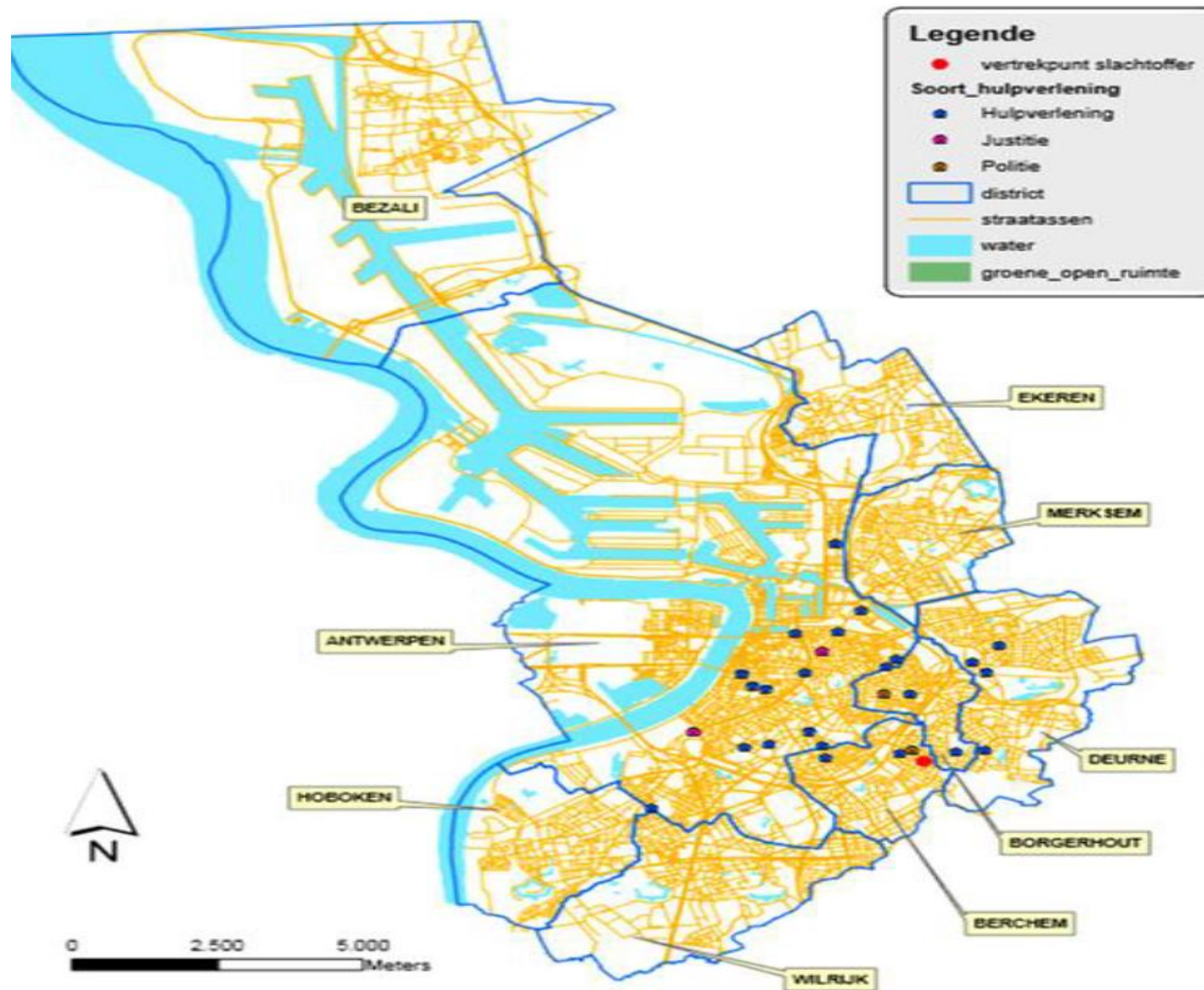
1. Victims are still expected to travel to a variety of organisations to get safety, help and support.
2. Victims have to tell their story over and over again.



Complex systems victims cannot navigate are not the answer!

The Municipality of Hässleholm's chart for government contacts women may need when they become victims of domestic violence





Casus1 slachtofferhulp - start juni 2012



FJC: GUIDING PRINCIPLES



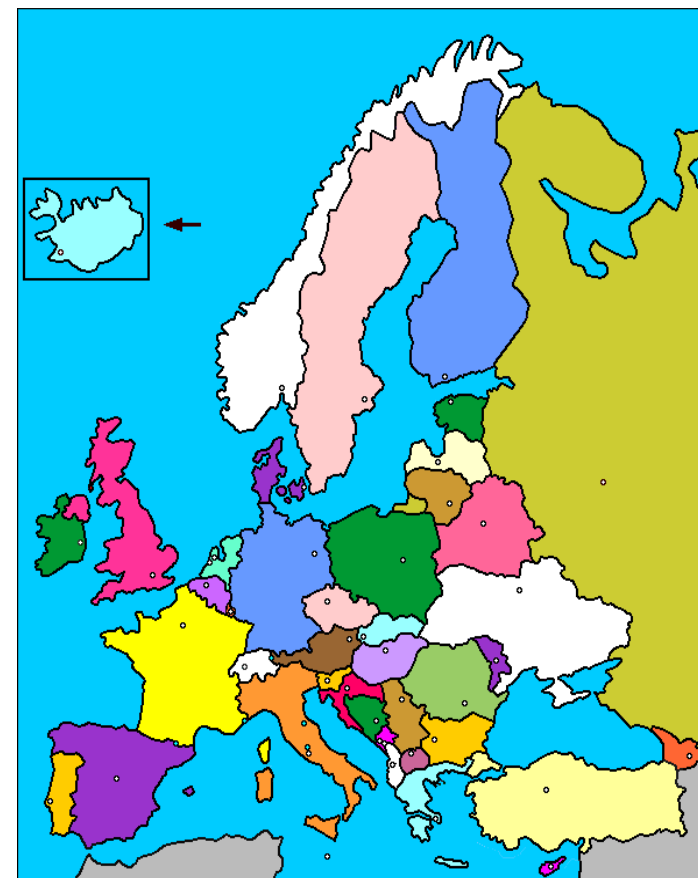
- **Safety comes first**
Increase safety (direct and stable)
- **Victim-centered**
Provide victim-centered services that promote victim autonomy and increases empowerment
- **Survivor-driven**
Shape services to clients by asking them what they need
- **Empowered**
Offer survivors a place to belong even after crisis intervention services are no longer necessary
- **Relationship-based**
Maintain close working relationships among all collaborators/agencies
- **Offender-accountability**
Increase offender accountability through evidence-based prosecution strategies and/or evidence-based treatment programs



FJC's in Europe



- The Netherlands: Tilburg, Rotterdam, Leeuwarden
- Poland: Warsaw
- Germany: Berlin
- Belgium: Antwerpen, Hasselt, Mechelen, Kempen
- N. Ireland: Derry
- Italy: Milan
- Iceland: Reykjavik, Akureyri, Victoria Hills
- Sweden: Malmö
- France: Paris, Bordeaux
- Aruba (in development)
- Bonaire (in development)





Specialized cooperators of all these organisations are detached to the FJC:

- They work together in 1 interdisciplinary team from one location
- They build the bridge between their own organisation and the FJC, supporting the approach to domestic violence and child abuse of their organisation
- Share information and take shared responsibility for the action plans to stop violence
- They are all mandated in their role

- Police
- Prosecutor's office
- Women's aid, Victim services
- Crisis team
- Services for child abuse
- Social Service of Youth Court
- Youth Care
- Services for social welfare
- Counseling
- Centre for mental health
- Services for job seeking
- Medical services
- Services for housing
- Probation
- Perpetrator programs
- Local and national authorities



Client's space FJC Antwerp





Children's space



Funded by
the European Union

European Family Justice Center
Alliance

www.efjca.eu

E-mail:

board@efjca.eu

