



Alliance for Hope and Empowerment

One Safe Place for Hope and
Empowerment

the European Family Justice Center
initiative

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www.efjca.eu



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Eliminating gender-based violence, domestic violence and child abuse

&

EMPOWER survivors and restoring **HOPE** in the life of survivors and their children

by

Working on a high quality coordinated multidisciplinary approach

OUR EUROPEAN MISSION





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What is a Family Justice Center?

Co-location of a multidisciplinary team of professionals who are cooperating under one roof to offer help and support to victims/survivors of gender-based violence/domestic violence and their children:

one-stop-shop approach



A place where professionals come together and survivors come first – A SAFE PLACE



All services survivors and their children need are under one roof.



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What is a coordinated 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 domestic violence.

**Ending domestic violence is everyone's responsibility
= Multi agency approach**





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- Regulatory framework in Europe = Mandatory directive for all European countries **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence** *'The Istanbul Convention'*

Article 7 – Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies





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Article 7 – Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies

*Parties shall take the necessary legislative and other measures to adopt and implement State-wide effective, comprehensive and **co-ordinated policies** encompassing all relevant measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention and offer a holistic response to violence against women.*

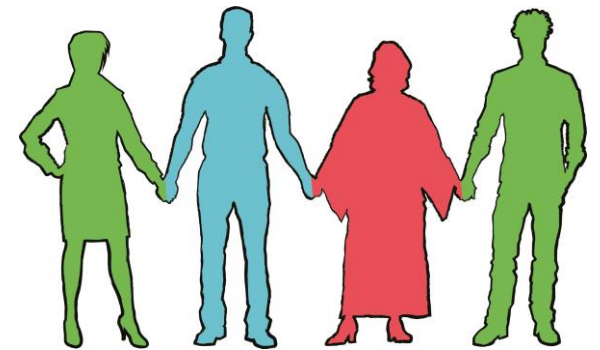


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Conditions for breaking the violence:

1. Working together on safety
2. Starting from the needs of the survivor + empowering
3. Specialized multidisciplinary approach
4. Result focused work
5. Developing an integral plan of action
6. Intensive case-management in high risk situations
7. Sharing information





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The Netherlands: Tilburg, Rotterdam (i.p.)

Belgium: Antwerp, Mechelen, Hasselt

Germany: Berlin

Italy: Milan

Poland: Warsaw

Sweden: Malmö

Northern Ireland: Derry

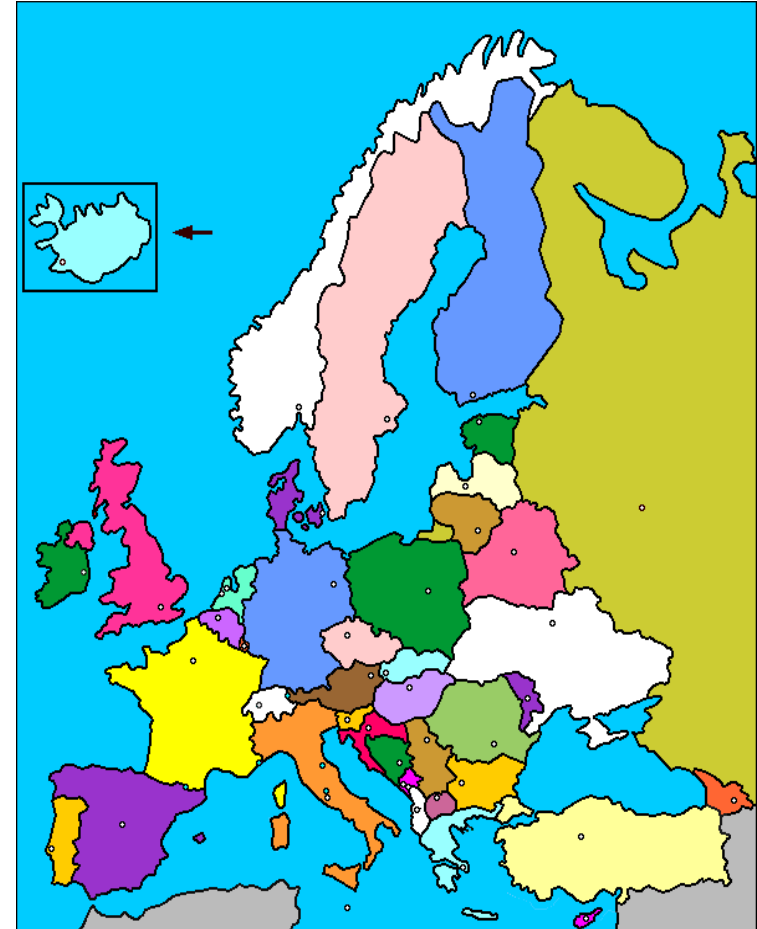
Iceland: Reykjavik, 2nd in process

France: Paris and Bordeaux

Under construction: various regions in the different parts of Europe: b.e. Moldova (2019)

Worldwide more than 170 FJC's (140 in the U.S.)

FJC's in Europe:



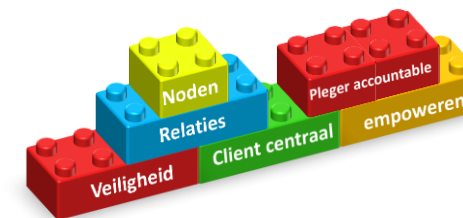


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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **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.





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MAIN FEATURES OF FJC

- Survivors don't need to tell their story to many different persons and agencies
- More information about the actions taken in the approach, the case manager has an overall view
- Reduce the number of domestic violence, serious incidents and murders
- Reduce child abuse incidents
- Quicker response is possible when new incidents, threats or changing circumstances occur
- Security is increased within a FJC
- Within the FJC there is a clear vision about the problem
- Professionals learn more about the possibilities of colleagues from other agencies



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Saving Lives – Reducing Costs

1 domestic violence murder will cost approximately £1.1 million



1 domestic violence murder prevented per year would provide savings equal to the total costs required to run the Family Justice Center for a year – including all key partner agency staffing costs



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Practice in the Family Justice Centrum Antwerpen, Belgium



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On site partners of FJC Antwerp

- 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



On site services:

- Peer groups
- Support by voluntary cooperators
- Self-defense courses
- Services for migrants and asylumseekers
- Legal advice
- Advice on debts
- Focus groups
- Medical examination
- Wellness: yoga
- Social integration

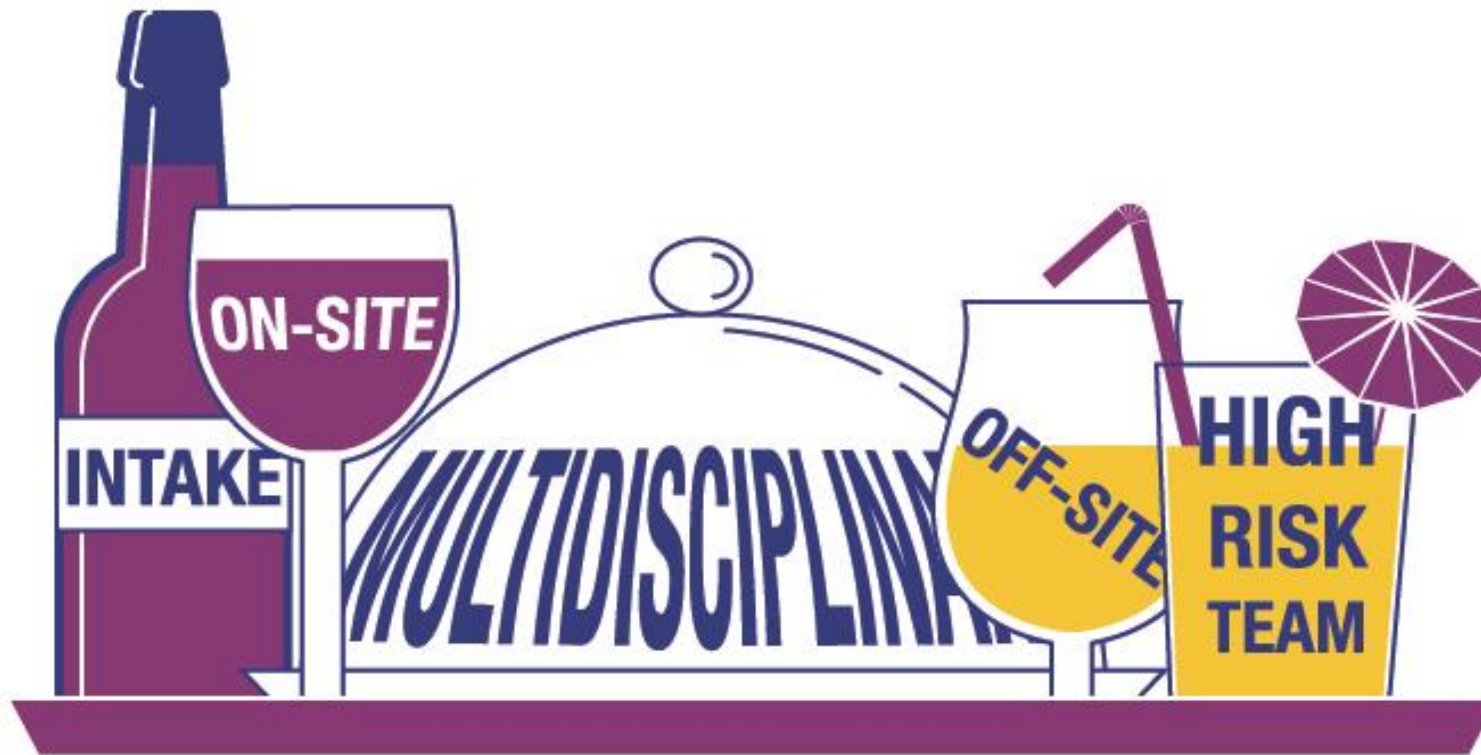
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Services FJC Antwerpen





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Working on all live domains – empowerment:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Safety planning▪ Traumatic experiences▪ Financial problems and debts▪ Work related problems▪ Housing▪ Physical health▪ Mental health▪ Social network, isolation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Migration problems▪ Psychological problems▪ Education and child care▪ Gender related problems▪ Honor related problems▪ Undocumented and refugee status▪ ... |
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High Risk team

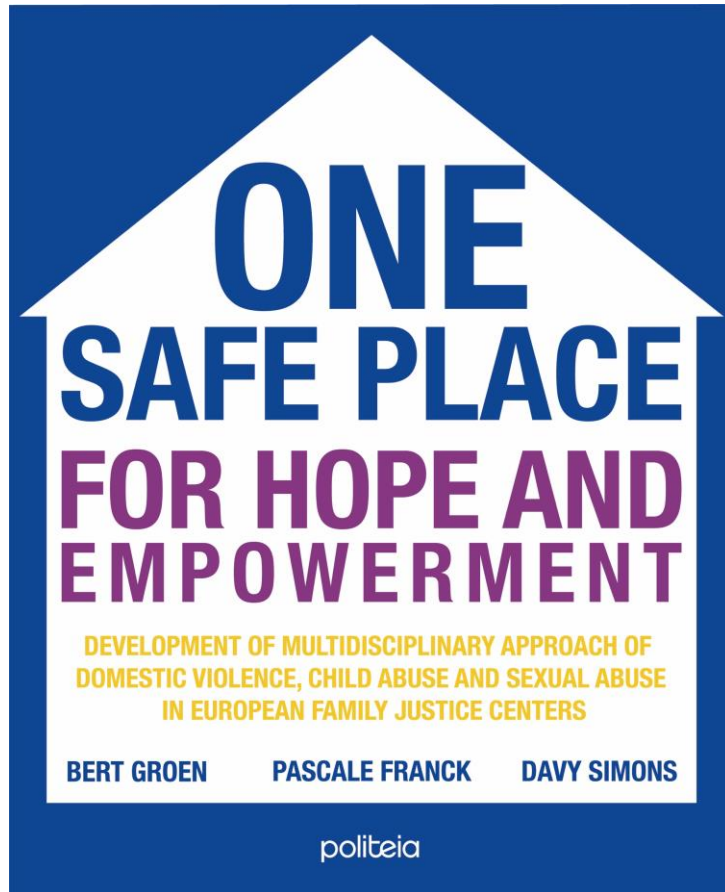
- A Family Justice Center needs a high risk team onsite.
- The risk assessment during the intake is an important instrument to go into the depth of the situation and the possible aftermaths of the disclosure.
- High risk cases need a strong and intensive case management, including police and justice department involvement.
- Strong and intensive case management aiming at empowerment of survivors



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European literature about Family Justice Centers



<http://www.politeia.be/nl-be/book/one-safe-place/15893.htm>

Politeia: One Safe Place



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Thank you for your attention



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