



## **Needs assessment of professionals working with women with co-occurring intimate partner violence victimisation and problematic substance use: The MARISSA Project**

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### **Abstract**

The MARISSA project is a two-year (2020-2022) transnational project, funded by the EU. The project brings together six partners from three European countries (Estonia, Greece and Iceland) and aims to address the phenomenon of co-occurring Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) victimisation and Problematic Substance Use (PSU). The Project aims to develop ways that would encourage better collaboration between different service providers and enhance their understanding and capacity of co-occurring IPV and PSU.

This paper explores the existing literature on co-occurrence of IPV and PSU and reviews extensively the existing interventions, tools, methods, material, & practices in Europe and beyond, regarding multi-agency between IPV and PSU organisations. Specific information is provided by each participating partner about their countries (policy, legislation, services). A Needs Assessment Report describing the existing context & the key findings on the needs & challenges of professionals is also presented. As a result of this process, the consortium developed specific policy recommendations for the European level on advancing policies related to IPV and PSU in order to ameliorate the support for women victims of IPV with co-occurring PSU problems and facilitate multi-agency cooperation in the field. Ways of promoting the national policy recommendations produced in the Project to local/regional/national policy makers are also discussed.

**Keywords:** Intimate Partner Violence, Problematic Substance Use, needs assessment, capacity building, policy recommendations