

## **Sub-network 2: Executive Summary**

Coordinator: Professor Irina Novikova (Latvia); Deputy: Professor Jeff Hearn (Finland); members from Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Israel, Latvia, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. The Sub-network's work began by updating and expanding the existing database of the European Documentation Centre on Men. From this research baseline, the Sub-network designed a shared methodological framework for transnational comparative research on men's violences and men's gendered practices of social exclusion and inclusion, taking account of cultural and social differences. It considered and assessed the possibilities for common concepts, definitions and standards for European level research on the roots of violent behaviour, social inclusion/social exclusion and violation. An important aspect was documentation of the process of developing a methodological framework, identifying the obstacles and solutions.

### **Methodological principles**

(i) *Gendered analysis and gendered power relations*: Research strategy needs to attend to the centrality of gender and gendered power relations - not only in terms of substantive focus of the research, but also the gender composition of research networks.

(ii) *Gender collaboration*: Research on men's violences needs to bring together women and men researchers who research men and masculinities in an explicitly gendered way. Such a meeting point for women researchers and men researchers is necessary and timely in the development of good quality European research on men in Europe.

(iii) *Use of multiple methods, methodologies and epistemological frames*: No one method is able to answer the spread of research questions; a range of methods needs to be employed. While attending to the existing statistical and other information, qualitative and grounded methods and analyses need to be emphasised and developed. It is necessary to critically reflect on the methods in use as research proceeds.

(iv) *Interconnections between social arenas*: A key principle is to see the interconnections between men's violences and other social arenas, e.g. home, work, care.

(v) *Ethical and political sensitivities*: Studying sensitive and powerful topics, such as gendered violence, calls for addressing ethical issues in the research process, as follows: Strong attention needs to be given to ethical questions in the gathering, storage and distribution of data and other information; Be respectful of all researchers and what they bring to the research; Be aware that the major regional differences within Europe (and beyond) mean that assumptions that single models should be applied in all parts of Europe should be treated critically and with great caution; Be aware of major national, legal and cultural differences within Europe, e.g. around openness/secretcy, financial accounting; Value self-reflective approaches to the development of multiple methods, and in the conduct of researchers, meetings and other activities; Be aware that much research is done by goodwill and indeed overwork, and with few or no additional resources; Express positive support and gratitude, not excessive criticism; Be aware that most people are working in their second, third or fourth language, so that extra attention may need to be given to clarity in the working language; In collective research discussions give feedback in good time, and not late in the process of research production; Develop appropriate, fair, collective publishing policy, so texts/information are not used inappropriately by others as their own; Develop projects that are fair in the distribution of resources, including between those with greater coordinating functions and

other research functions; Develop a violation-free mode of organisation and working; Aim to produce working environments that people are pleased to be in.

(vi) *Examining and problematising roots and explanations of men's violences:* The examination of causes, explanations and 'roots' needs to be considered in broad, multiple ways, without seeing them in over-simple and deterministic interpretations.

(vii) *Building on and reviewing the contribution of Critical Studies on Men.*

(viii) *Developing comparative, transnational orientation, by attending to cultural variations, convergences/ divergences in time/space, and intersecting power relations.*

### **Research priorities**

1. Focus on men's violences to women, men, children, transgender people, by full attention to men's relations with men.
2. Develop quality assurance in research on men's violences in terms of it being conducted in the full knowledge of international, critical gender scholarship and research on what is already known.
3. Link research on men's violences to social inclusion/exclusion, and intersectional approaches to cultural and other differences.
4. Link research on men's violences to human rights agenda, its potentials and its limitations, including its feminist critiques.
5. Link research on men's violences to critical debates on masculinities/men's practices.
6. Include physical, sexual and other forms of violences, including the relations of men's violences and men's sexualities.
7. Develop transnational, as well as comparative and international, research, including research on men's transnational violences.
8. Develop policy-driven research on what reduces and stops men's violences.
9. Attend to both questions of research content on men's violences and questions of research process in researching men's violences, and also to their interrelations.
10. Increase investment and build support for research in Central and Eastern Europe.
11. Focus on ethical issues during and throughout the research process; develop collaborative, facilitative and supportive research environment from the beginning.
12. Develop relational approaches between: forms of men's violences; men's interpersonal violences and men's institutional violences; social divisions/exclusions/inclusions; violence and other social arenas.
13. Develop research exploring dynamics of men's violences transnationally, giving a primary role (not necessarily the only primary role) to qualitative approaches.
14. In developing research strategy to explore the dynamics of men's violences in a transnational, transdisciplinary fashion, create and maintain considerable "spaces"/fora - both initially and throughout the project - to ongoing discussions and consultations between the researchers involved about the methodologies/methods they adopt and about developing frames for accommodating/dealing with/taking advantage of variations in such methodologies/methods. This cannot be emphasised too much.
15. When and where researchers are brought together to explore such issues, it is vital that research strategy creates clear "spaces" or fora - both initially and throughout the process - whereby analytical and theoretical variations can be discussed and clarified, and frames developed to accommodate, deal with and harness such variations. This is especially so with transdisciplinary research, and is essential where research is to be transnational and transcultural.