

Initial project duration – 36 months – starting from 1 March 2019, new end date 28 February 2023, extended due to COVID-19

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## Sociology, Law, Political Science, Psychology

### Overview

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a major infringement of women’s human rights and an obstacle to sustainable development as set out in the SDGs. SGBV against migrant and refugee women is widespread, but often remains invisible and under-analysed both in academic research and policy-making. This research will take an intersectional approach to understand SGBV in the context of migration, analysing the ways in which discriminations and inequalities based on gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and age, interact to make certain women more vulnerable to SGBV and less able to access support and services for survivors than others. SGBV may be exacerbated by policies aiming to restrict migration, or to increase control of borders, which can push women into adopting dangerous routes to arrive in their country of destination. Conflict and the risks of migration may also render women vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation. Conditions of reception, and policies for integration in receiving countries may also lead to increased risk of SGBV for migrant and refugee women. But these women are not just “victims”, and their strategies and agency should also be explored. In sum, while we know that female migrants and refugees are particularly exposed to violence, we lack a systematic understanding of the underlying dynamics that (re)produce patterns of violence. It is this gap that the research seeks to fill in order to make policy recommendations for reducing these women’s vulnerability to SGBV and increasing their access to services.

### Progress to date

So far, the project has achieved the objectives of creating a baseline of country reports on contexts of GBV in migration. Each national team has proceeded to carry out empirical research through interviews with key informants, policy makers, NGOs and migrants and refugees in their countries. First results will be published in an edited book by Palgrave Macmillan in 2022.

### Impact of COVID-19

An important part of the project involved interviews and focus group discussions with migrant and refugee women which were interrupted by the lockdowns and confinement during the Covid-19 crisis. Therefore, the comparative data analysis is not as far ahead as planned.

### Team members

	Woman	Man	Other
<b>Gender balance in the whole consortium</b>	20 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Presence of women as lead researchers/PIs</b>	7 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Gender Experts in the team</b>	20 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Subsequent team members trained (Gender equality and/or IGAR)</b>	0 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

### Contribution to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

GBV-MIG has contributed to producing new knowledge on gender-based violence against specific groups of women which should help to design policies to prevent this violence and also to improve the health of the women concerned.

### Differences/inequalities between women and men highlighted by the project

GBV-MIG focuses on migrant women and refugees and has highlighted key differences in vulnerabilities of women and men to violence during migration – showing the ways in which women are more vulnerable to violence during migration because of legal, political, economic, social and cultural inequalities.

### Positive impact of the project on gender equality/scientific evidence on gender in the field

The research teams from all participating countries have completed background reviews of the legal, political, economic, social contexts concerning gender-based violence in the context of migration in each of the case study countries. These background papers have been published on the project website.

A website has been set up to provide a repository of publications from the project members.

A book proposal based on the project's results so far has been accepted for publication by Palgrave Macmillan.

Data collection with migrant women and with relevant NGOs and institutions has been started in each country, but was interrupted by Covid-19 and resulting lockdowns etc. Since then, GBV-MIG has re-started this data collection.

### Socio-economic impact; involvement of policy makers/civil society

GBV-MIG aims to have an impact both within and beyond academia. Although there are large existing bodies of research on both SGBV and on migration, these two areas are rarely considered together, both within academia, and by civil society and policy organisations. There is no current systematic comparative analysis of causes of and responses to SGBV against migrant and refugee women. The proposed research will thus bring new knowledge and analysis to both of these spheres of academic research, and to policy-making in the areas of SGBV prevention and response, and immigration and asylum policies, and other relevant policy fields (health, education, welfare). Knowledge exchange will occur both between co-investigators in the project, through mutual learning and exchange during the course of the project, and between co-investigators and outside partners, both within and outside of academia.

Furthermore, civil society organisations have been involved in data collection for the project.

In terms of events, Jane Freedman participated in a webinar on GBV and Migration in times of Covid-19 organised by the Migration Policy Centre, EUI.

On 20 September 2019, Madita Erdmann (from the Austrian team) addressed current challenges to overcoming gender-based violence against refugee women at a side event of the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings (HDIM), organised by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE in Warsaw.