

ABOUT THE PROJECT



FREE-DVV (Financial Resources and Education to Empower Domestic Violence Victims) is a European cooperation project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme that aims to address **economic violence as a critical and often overlooked form of domestic violence**. Economic violence severely limits survivors' autonomy and is one of the main factors preventing women from leaving abusive relationships and rebuilding their lives.

FREE-DVV is implemented by a multidisciplinary European partnership bringing together academic institutions and specialised organisations with long-standing experience in adult education, gender-based violence prevention, victim support, financial empowerment and policy advocacy. More specifically, the project consortium includes:

- **University of Tartu** (Coordinator, Estonia)
- **Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo (ABD)** (Spain)
- **Asociația ANAIS** (Romania)
- **Una Casa per l'Uomo – Società Cooperativa Sociale** (Italy)
- **Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)** (Cyprus)

Together, the partners combine research expertise, practical frontline experience, and strong connections with local communities and policymakers, ensuring a comprehensive and impactful approach to tackling economic violence in domestic violence contexts across the European Union.

Context and rationale

Economic violence includes behaviours such as controlling access to money, restricting employment opportunities, withholding financial information, or creating debt in the survivor's name. Despite its widespread presence in domestic violence cases, professionals often lack specific training and tools to identify and address it effectively. At the same time, survivors frequently do not have access to tailored financial education that could support their path towards independence.

FREE-DVV responds to these gaps by strengthening professional competences, empowering survivors, and promoting systemic change at institutional and policy level.

Objectives

The project aims to:

- Improve the capacity of professionals working with domestic violence victims to recognise and respond to economic violence.
- Support survivors of domestic violence in developing financial awareness, skills and confidence.
- Promote multi-agency cooperation and advocacy to strengthen institutional responses to economic violence.
- Contribute to more inclusive, accessible and high-quality adult education across Europe.

Key activities and outputs

FREE-DVV will develop and implement a set of innovative educational and advocacy tools, including:

- **A guidebook for professionals**, offering practical methodologies to identify and assess economic violence, case studies and intervention strategies.
- **A workbook for domestic violence survivors**, combining financial literacy with psychosocial empowerment and awareness of legal rights.
- **A massive open online course (MOOC)** for professionals, providing flexible, interactive and evidence-based training accessible across Europe.
- **Capacity-building and advocacy activities**, including policy briefs, stakeholder meetings and awareness-raising actions at local, national and European level.

All materials will be designed to be inclusive, user-friendly and adaptable to different professional and cultural contexts.

Expected impact

FREE-DVV will contribute to:

- Increased knowledge and skills among adult education professionals, social workers, victim support staff and counsellors.
- Greater financial autonomy and empowerment for survivors of domestic violence.
- Improved cooperation between services and institutions addressing domestic and economic violence.

- Stronger recognition of economic violence within policies, professional practices and public discourse.

By combining education, digital innovation and advocacy, FREE-DVV aims to create **sustainable change** in how economic violence is understood and addressed across the European Union.