

The work of the CoE to prevent and combat VaW: The Istanbul Convention





1. VaW in Europe: 2014 CoE data

CoE analytical study: Results of monitoring Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence (*complements FRA survey*)

Positive trends:

- More forms of VaW criminalised
- More comprehensive national policies to prevent and combat VaW
- More nat. co-ordinating bodies against VaW
- More training of professionals; recognition of the role of education in preventing VaW



1. VaW in Europe: 2014 CoE data

BUT:

- Only one form of VaW criminalised in all MS
- National policies addressing all 9 forms of VaW of Rec(2002)5 - only in 4 MS
- A third of MS does not meet standards of number of shelter beds for women+children (for cases of domestic violence)
- Specialised services for women victims of sexual violence lagging behind those DV



2. The Istanbul Convention

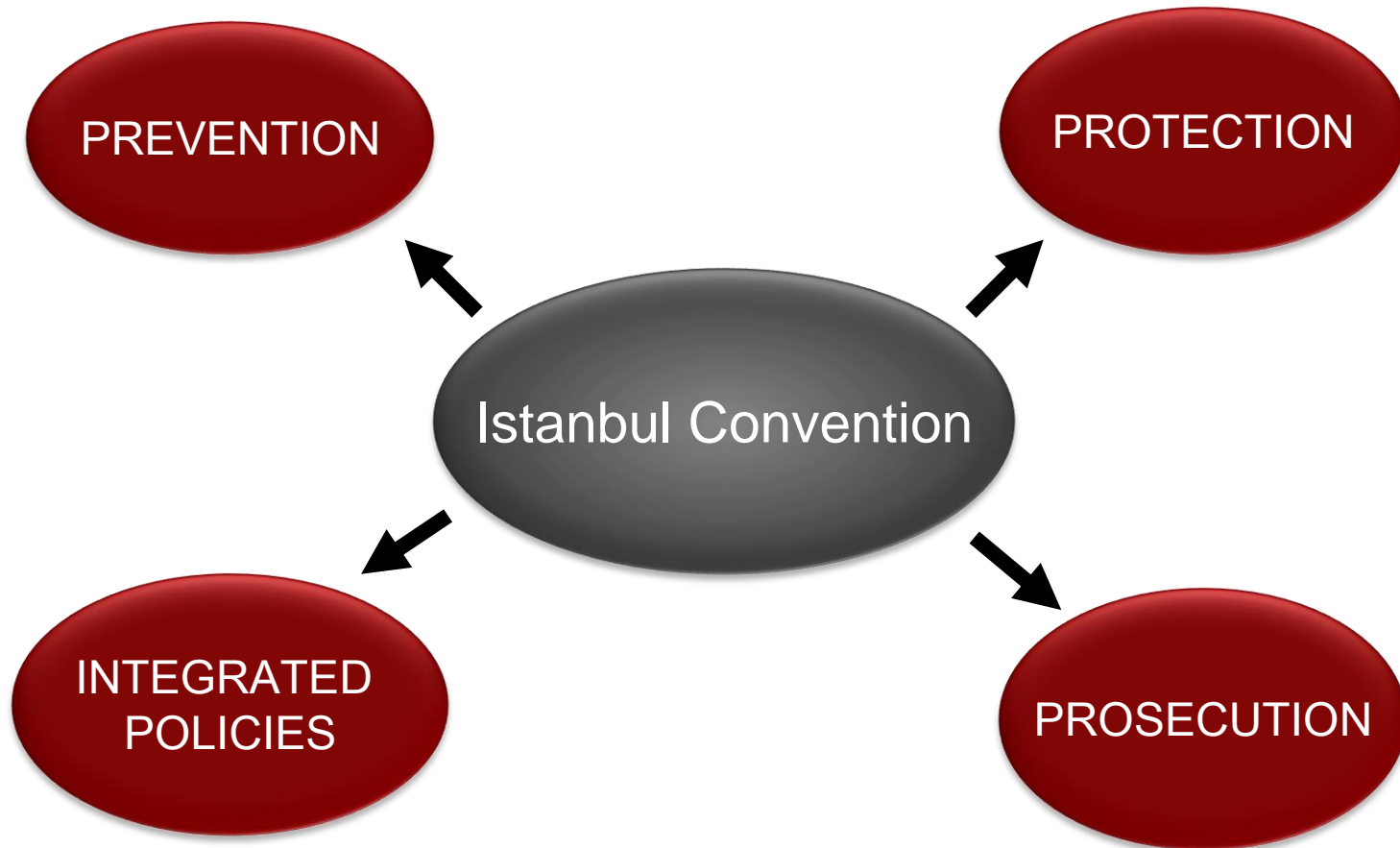
- In force since August 2014
- Currently: 15 Parties and 22 signatories
- Open to non-member states + EU accession
- VaW as a human rights violation + a form of discrimination against women
- Unequal power relations between men as women as the root cause of VaW: need GE
- VaW is not a private matter but a State responsibility
- Survivors' rights and needs are at its core



Scope of the Convention (cont.)

- domestic violence: physi./sexual/psyc./eco.
- psychological violence
- stalking
- physical violence
- sexual violence, including rape
- forced marriage
- female genital mutilation
- forced abortion + forced sterilisation
- sexual harassment

2. The Istanbul Convention: A holistic approach





2. The Istanbul Convention (cont.)

- Independent monitoring mechanism (GREVIO) being set up (for 2015)
- Already generating debate at the nat. level
- Increased visibility of Convention obligations
- Legal and policy changes and impact linked to ongoing ratification procedures
- Civil society, national parliaments **and** **human rights institutions** expected to play an active role in monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention



3. CoE's work with countries

- **Support member states** to sign/ratify + and implement the Istanbul Convention
- **Promote the Convention** in Europe and beyond (co-operation with non-MS, IGOs, NGOs...)
- Collect and disseminate information on **national measures** to combat VaW
- Provide **visibility to good practices**
- Further monitoring rounds of **2002 Recommendation ?**



3. CoE's work with countries (cont.)

- **Three recent papers**: prevention of VaW, awareness and perpetrator programmes
- **Others in the pipeline**: Emergency barring orders, private sector, data collection (2015)
- **New publication**:
 - **CoE/Amnesty International Guide on the Istanbul Convention as a tool to end Female Genital Mutilation**

See at: www.coe.int/conventionviolence



Any questions??



www.coe.int/violence

www.coe.int/equality

My e-mail address:

carolina.lasen-diaz@coe.int