



COUNTRY REPORT 2017

Statistical Factsheet

About WAVE

For the past 20 years the WAVE Network – has been in a unique position to address and prevent violence against women (VAW) and their children. Founded in 1994 as part of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network, it has been an independent association since 2014 and currently has 130 members in 46 European countries. Our members mainly encompass NGOs which are either individual women's specialist services or networks working against VAW, academics and survivors of VAW. WAVE is still the only European wide network focusing exclusively on gender-based violence (GBV) and its work continues to be of vital importance.

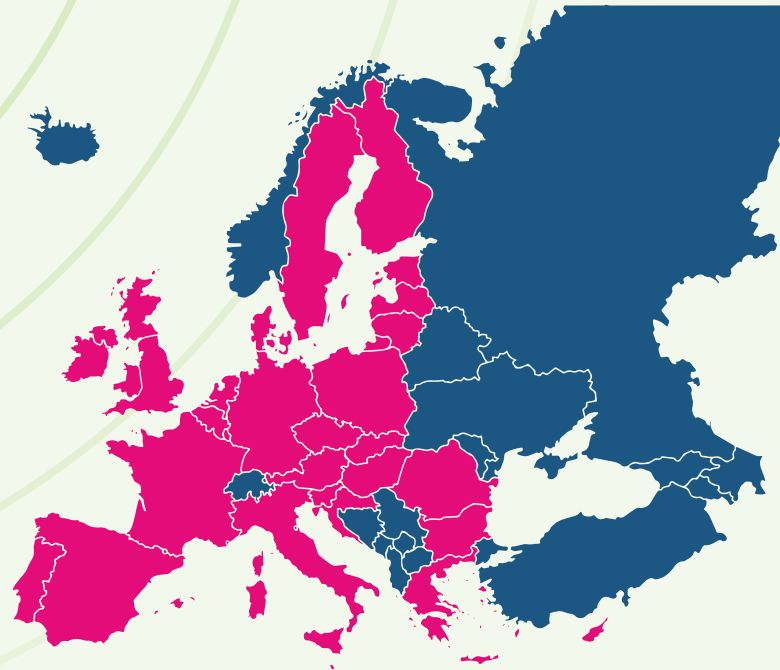
The Dataset

The 2017 WAVE country report provides statistics related to women's specialist support services from a total of 46 European countries. For the purposes of this report WAVE is referring to the countries mentioned, with the general term of "European countries", although we are conscious that these 46 countries do not reflect all European countries. Although some data sets include only part figures for these countries, the actual number of countries reflected in each data sample is indicated in brackets within the tables.

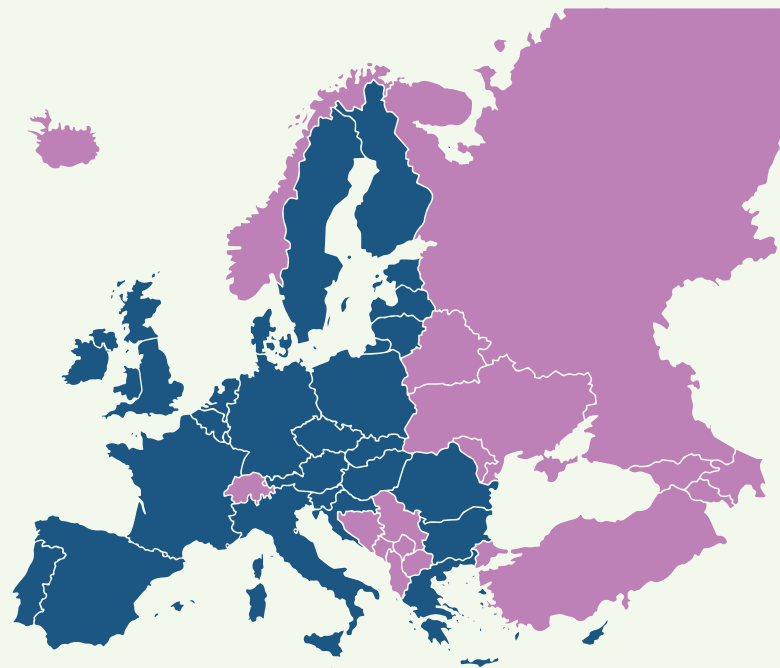
The Istanbul Convention

An essential document setting standards for the provision of specialist women's support services in Europe is the Istanbul Convention. This is the status of signatures and ratifications of the Istanbul Convention (IC)¹ as of January 18th, 2018:

- **The Convention has been ratified by 28 States:** Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey.
- **The Convention has been signed by 18 States:** Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Slovakia, Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom.
- **The Convention has also been (partially) signed by the European Union in June 2017.**



● EU and ● Non-EU WAVE Member States



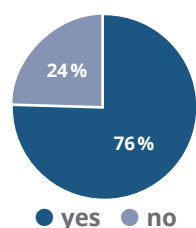
¹ Council of Europe Chart of signatures and ratifications: https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures?p_auth=FXKBcBKZ, 16.03.2018

National Women's Helplines (NWH)

A helpline qualifies as a national women's helpline if it is a service provided specifically for women and if it only, or predominantly, serves women survivors of violence. A women's helpline should operate 24/7, should be free of charge and should serve survivors of all forms of violence against women. It should operate nationally and provide adequate support to women from all regions; this means the staff must be properly trained, have effective communication skills and be knowledgeable about regional situations and all relevant provisions².

TABLE 1 – Overview of National Women's Helplines in Europe

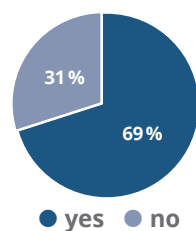
	Total number of NWHs	NWHs free of charge	NWHs operating 24/7	NWHs free of charge and operating 24/7 (= meeting the standard of the IC)
Europe (46)	35	30	27	24
EU countries (28)	20	18	15	14
Non-EU countries (18)	15	12	12	10



European Countries with at least one national women's helpline (%)

The figure on the right demonstrates that most countries in Europe (76%) have at least one national women's helpline, providing support for at least one form of violence against women.

The remaining 24% of countries do not have a national women's helpline, but do have other national helplines or regional helplines which can provide support to victims of violence. National Women's Helplines Meeting Istanbul Convention Standards.



National Women's Helplines Operating 24/7 and Free of Charge (%)

This figure demonstrates that more than half of the national women's helplines operate both free of charge and 24/7. In other words, 69% of the national women's helplines do meet the Istanbul Convention standards for a women's helpline to be free of charge and operate 24/7.

NWH – KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ 76% of European countries (35 out of 46) have at least one national women's helpline providing support to survivors of gender based violence (71% of EU countries and 83% of non-EU countries).
- ▶ 30 out of 35 (86%) of European NWHs operate free of charge.
- ▶ 27 out of 35 (77%) of European NWHs operate 24 hours and 7 days per week.
- ▶ 24 out of the 35 countries we hold data for within this report (69%) of European NWHs fulfil the basic criteria for the Istanbul convention standard i.e. that a NWH is free of charge and operates 24/7.

Women's Centres

WAVE understands the following under the term 'women's centre': The term includes all women's services providing non-residential specialist support to victims, serving only or predominantly women survivors of violence and their children. The following services are subsumed under the term: women's counselling and women crises centres, supporting women survivors of all forms of gender-based violence; services focussing on the support of survivors of sexual violence such as rape crisis, sexual assault centres and centres for girls who experienced sexual violence; regional crises centres on domestic violence; pro-active intervention centres serving victims as a follow-up to police interventions; specialist services for black, minority ethnic women, migrant and refugee women victims of violence; outreach services; services providing independent domestic or sexual violence advisors, and other newer types of services.³

TABLE 2 – Summary of Findings on Distribution of Women's Centres in Europe

	Total Population	Total Number of Women's Centres
Europe (46)	836,707,643	3,861
EU-Countries (28)	510,377,998	3,267
Non-EU Countries (18)	326,329,645	594

WOMEN'S CENTRES – KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ There are currently 3,861 Women's centres in Europe.
- ▶ 85 % of these centres are in EU countries, and 15% in non-EU countries.
- ▶ Overall there is a wide variety of women's centres throughout Europe, however the 5 most prevalent types of centres are: domestic violence intervention centres; rape crisis centres/services for sexual assault survivors; centres for black, minority ethnic and migrant women; centres for survivors of trafficking; and counselling centres.

National Action Plans addressing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- ▶ 24 EU member states out of 28 had National Action Plans in place in 2016 and after.
- ▶ 11 non-EU countries out of 18 had National Action Plans in place in 2016 and after.
- ▶ When it comes to meeting the minimum standards of the IC for provisions regarding women's specialist support services, the existence of a NAP or a national strategy tackling VAWG reflects a greater degree of state commitment and can ensure that more funding is allocated to this sector.

² WAVE Country Report 2017 Glossary p. 114.

³ For further information see WAVE Country Report 2017 Glossary p. 115.

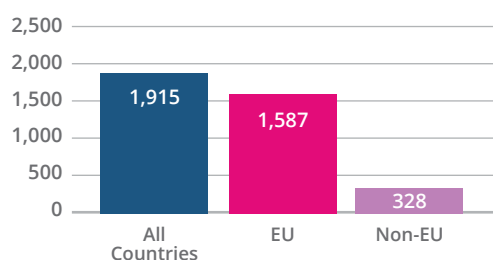
The term “women’s shelter” is in this report used interchangeably with “women’s refuge.” A women’s shelter is a specialist service for women survivors of violence and their children, if any, providing safe accommodation and empowering support, based on a gendered understanding of violence and focusing on the human rights and safety of victims⁴.

TABLE 3 – Overview of findings on women’s shelters in Europe

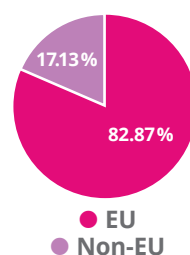
	Total Population	Women's Shelters	Number of bed-spaces needed	Number of existing bed-spaces	Number of beds missing	Number of countries which meet the IC minimum standard
Europe (46)	836,707,643	1,915 (n=44)	68,096 (n=43) ⁵	26,938 (n=43)	42,985 (n=43)	7 (n=43)
EU countries (28)	510,377,998	1,587 (n=26)	39,721 (n=26)	19,457 (n=26)	20,812 (n=26)	5 (n= 26)
Non-EU countries (18)	326,329,645	328 (n=18)	28,375 (n=17) ⁶	6,397 (n=17)	22,370 (n=17)	2 (n= 17)

n=number of countries which provided statistics for this figure

Number of Women's Shelters in Europe

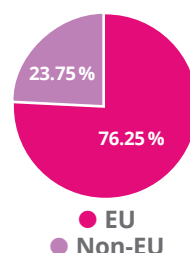


The figure shows the distribution of women’s shelters across 46 European countries, within and outside of the EU.



Percentage of Women's Shelters in Europe

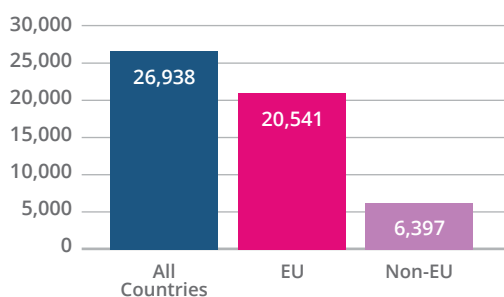
The figure shows that less than a quarter of all women’s shelters are located in non-EU countries. This implies that women affected by violence living outside of the EU have less opportunities to access a women’s shelter.



Percentage of Beds in Women's Shelters in Europe

The figure shows that over three quarters of women’s shelter beds are located in the EU. Implicitly, this means that women affected by violence outside of the EU have less chances to get accommodation in a women’s shelter.

Number of Beds in Women's Shelters in Europe



The figure shows the distribution of beds in women’s shelters across 46 European countries, within and outside of the EU. The total population of all EU member states (28) in 2016 was 510,377,998⁷, whereas the combined population of all non-EU countries (18) surveyed amounted to 326,329,645⁸.

WOMEN'S SHELTERS – KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Currently 1,915 shelters are available for women experiencing domestic violence in Europe⁹. These provide 26,938 bed spaces to women and their children.
- ▶ Out of 43 European countries only 7 (16%) countries meet the minimum standards of bed-spaces for women’s shelters according to the Istanbul Convention – 5 EU-countries and 2 non-EU countries.
- ▶ 21 out of 26 EU member states (81%) fail to meet the IC standards, and 15 out of 17 non-EU member states (88%) fail to meet the IC standards on minimum required bed-spaces in women’s shelters.

⁴ For further information see WAVE Report 2017 Glossary p. 115.

⁵ This total figure of bed-spaces needed excludes the estimates for France, Spain and Ukraine, since there was no data available for these countries

⁶ Statistical data was only available for 17 non-EU countries

⁷ Source: Eurostat Database, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ 24 EU-countries and 17 non-EU countries



WAVE Step Up! Campaign on the rights of women survivors of violence and their children to receive support and protection

Our mission is to end violence against women and girls (VAWG). As a European-wide feminist network, WAVE provides an interactive platform for exchanging knowledge, experiences and practices, and also primarily includes services that directly support women and girls, affected by VAWG. The Step Up! Campaign amplifies the voices of all women and girls who experience VAWG, aims to improve and increase support services for them, and it also works towards raising general awareness about the omnipresence of VAWG, in order to end it.

We cannot reach these goals alone - we need YOUR support!

WAVE Information Centre

The WAVE Information Centre provides direct support to persons seeking information and help, to survivors as well as other persons. The crime of violence against women and their children does not stop at national borders. Migration and the growing mobility of people in European countries have increased the number of women affected by gender based violence who are crossing borders

The WAVE Information Centre also provides information to persons from different organisations and institutions seeking contacts to organisations in other countries for cross-border cooperation and exchange. Additionally, the Centre answers requests from governments, academics, the media, and the general public.

Opening hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 to 14:00 (CET)
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E-mail: office@wave-network.org
Web: www.wave-network.org
Facebook: WAVE Network
Twitter: @WAVE_Europe

How to donate to WAVE?

If you wish to support WAVE's work by making a donation, there are two possibilities:

By credit card:

If you have a credit card, you can transfer the donation via Paypal on the WAVE Website:
www.wave-network.org/support-wave

By bank transfer to:

Bank account name: Association WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe)
Bank: Bank Austria
IBAN: AT75 1200 0006 1078 2021
BIC/Swift Code: BKAUATWW

There are many ways of joining WAVE!

If you are interested to become a member of the WAVE network, or become involved in the activities of the Step Up! Campaign please contact our office, we will be happy to discuss this with you.

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 Friday 9:00 to 15:00

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