

Istanbul Convention

Preventing and combating violence against women and
domestic violence

and it's Monitoring

Preventing violence against women in the Nordic countries

Oslo 8th of March 2018

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When I was young(er?)... And then...

SEX

Boy-child  Man

Dangly bits (sex characteristics)

Macho Brave Aggressive

Bring in money

GENDER

Capable of holding a baby, of wiping up vomit...

Social /cultural meaning

SEX

Girl-child  Woman

Dangly bobs (sex characteristics)

Sensitive Emotional Nurturing

'Angel in the home'

GENDER

Fit for public life, employment outside the home, leadership

Social/cultural meaning

In the old days...

women's liberation,
women's rights, feminism,
equality for women,
women's studies, violence
against women, domestic
violence (IPV perpetrated
by men against women)

Nowadays...

human rights, gender
equality, gender studies,
gender based violence,
family violence, DV (what
about the men, children
older adults?)
feminism - passé or
extremists...

RESULT...?

**'WOMAN' HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN MADE
INVISIBLE!**

The still dominant patriarchal discourse has succeeded, with the help of all of us, in neutralising 'woman' and camouflaging this as 'progress'...

Good? Right and fitting?

achieved 'gender equality'?

women's rights as human rights are being upheld?

eliminated VAW?

BUT HAVE WE?

NO!

the Istanbul Convention

Council of Europe
Convention on preventing and
combating **violence against women**
and domestic violence

Concerns...

- There is a worrying trend in some Council of Europe Member States (e.g. Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania) of misrepresenting the aims of the Istanbul Convention. The fact that it defines gender as “socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men” is being used to deflect from its original aims, i.e. the protection of women from violence by men, and is used to present it as a document that would radically alter sexuality, family life and education. We are seeing similar discussions erupting in non-EU member states as well, for example Ukraine.
- It is important to use every opportunity to dispel such myths and to explain what the Istanbul Convention really is about: to protect women from violence, and not just domestic violence, which they experience because they are women.
- <https://rm.coe.int/istanbul-convention-factsheet-/168077da2c>

Extract

What is the term “gender” in the Istanbul Convention?

“Gender” and “sex” are two different things.

In the Convention, the term “gender” is based on two sexes, male and female, and means “the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men”.

Under the Istanbul Convention, the definitions of ‘gender’ and ‘sex’ are two different, separate concepts. The Convention’s explanatory report emphasises that the “term ‘gender’ under this definition is not intended as a replacement for the terms ‘women’ and ‘men’ used in the Convention.”

History

- First there was the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence: recommended a European human rights convention to prevent and combat violence against women
- Then there was the CAHVIO: drafted the text of the convention
- Then there was the Convention – and the explanatory report
- Then there was the GREVIO monitoring group
- Then monitoring started!

CAHVIO

In December 2008, the Council of Europe set up an expert committee, the Ad Hoc Committee for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO) composed of governmental representatives of Council of Europe member states.

The CAHVIO met eight times from April 2009 to December 2010, when it finalised the draft text of the Convention, and then one final time in January 2011 to finalise the text of the Explanatory Memorandum.

The Convention

The Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence was then adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 7 April 2011.

It was opened for signature on 11 May 2011 on the occasion of the 121st Session of the Committee of Ministers in Istanbul (hence known as the Istanbul Convention).

Following its 10th ratification by Andorra on 22 April 2014, it entered into force on 1 August 2014.

State of play

- ratified to date 28:

[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](#) [Sweden](#) [Switzerland](#) [Turkey](#)

- signed but not ratified 18:

[Armenia](#) [Bulgaria](#) [Croatia](#) [Czech Republic](#) [Greece](#) [Hungary](#) [Iceland](#) [Ireland](#)
[Latvia](#) [Liechtenstein](#) [Lithuania](#) [Luxembourg](#) [Republic of Moldova](#) [Slovak](#)
[Republic](#) [The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#) [Ukraine](#) [United](#)
[Kingdom](#)

[European Union](#)

- neither signed nor ratified 2:

[Azerbaijan](#) [Russian Federation](#)

Impact of the Istanbul Convention

- **The effects of the Istanbul Convention on national policy and legislation can already be seen:**
 - **Trend towards criminalising more forms of violence against women (stalking, FGM, forced marriage)**
 - **More countries setting up co-ordinating bodies**
 - **Large scale training initiatives**

GREVIO

GREVIO is the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Article 66 of the Istanbul Convention governs GREVIO membership. It states that GREVIO shall have between **10 (after the 10th ratification) and 15 (after the 25th ratification) members**, depending on the number of Parties to the Convention

GREVIO members must be nationals of the States Parties to the Convention.

The first ten members of GREVIO were elected by the Committee of the Parties at its first meeting of 4 May 2015, for a period of 4 years, renewable once.

GREVIO held its first meeting on 21 - 23 September 2015 in Strasbourg. On that occasion, it adopted its Rules of Procedure and elected its President and Vice-Presidents.

In March 2016, GREVIO adopted a questionnaire on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Convention. It launched its first evaluation procedure shortly after.

Members of GREVIO

Feride ACAR (Turkish), **President of GREVIO**

Marceline NAUDI (Maltese), **First Vice-President**

Simona LANZONI (Italian), **Second Vice-President**

Biljana BRANKOVIC (Serbian)

Françoise BRIE (French)

Gemma GALLEGO (Spanish)

Helena LEITAO (Portuguese)

Rosa LOGAR (Austrian)

Iris LUARASI (Albanian)

Vesna RATKOVIC (Montenegrin)



Our work

We have had 13 meetings, with a 14th planned for June.

Our first meeting was dedicated to setting up rules of procedure etc., and then we started working on the first baseline questionnaire which we agreed on and adopted at our 5th meeting in March 2016.

We started the Evaluations straight after that and have been working on them ever since.

Evaluations are carried out on a country-by-country basis. The procedure is triggered by GREVIO when we send out the questionnaire to the state parties concerned. We try to gather as much information as possible and try to ensure that the process is dialogue oriented.

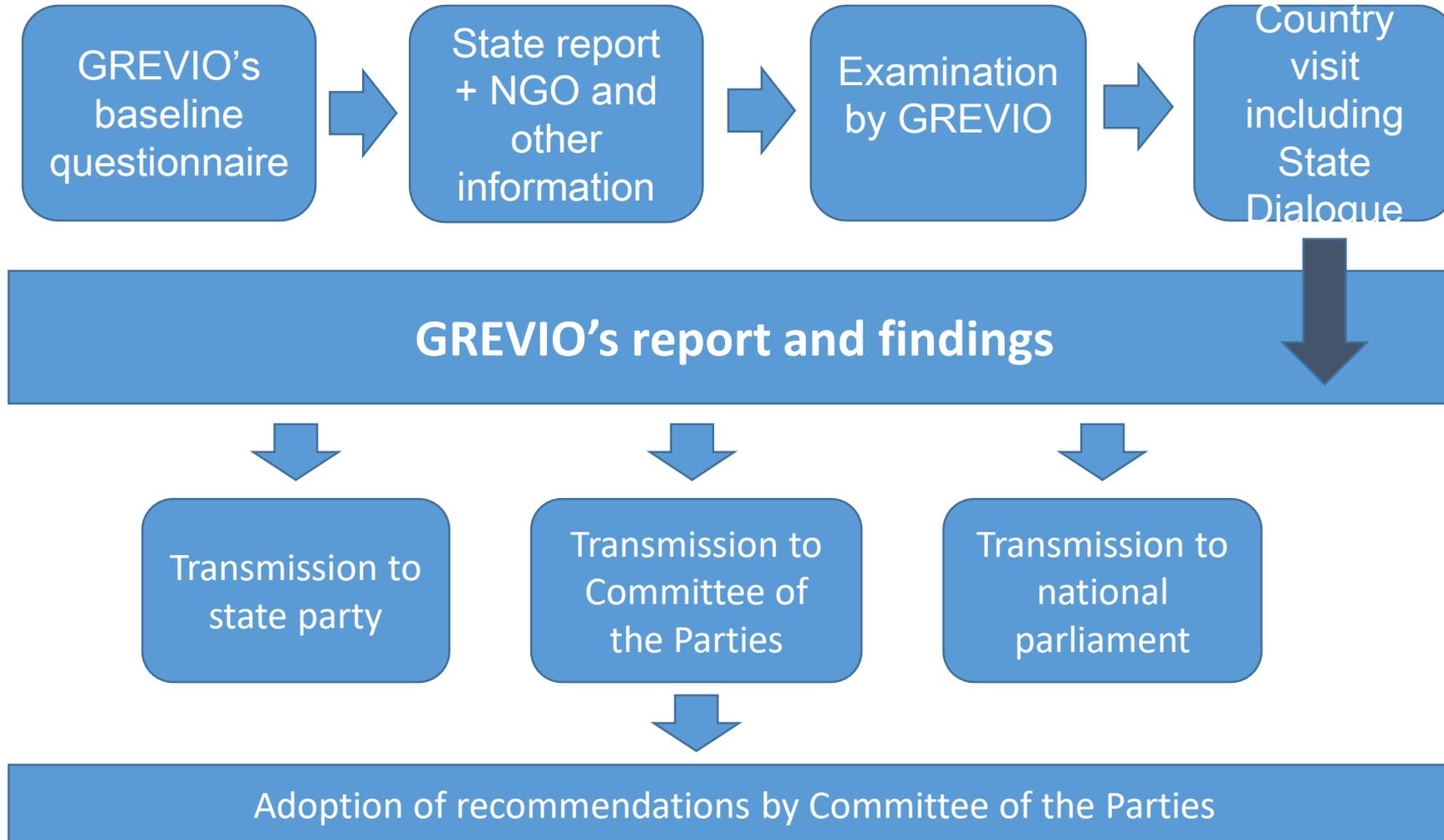
According to the timetable, it will take GREVIO approximately a year and a half to complete the full procedure for each country, from sending the questionnaire to publishing the GREVIO report.

Steps in the first (baseline) evaluation procedure

- Step 1: Reporting and information gathering
- Step 2: Examination of Report
- Step 3: Evaluation visit including State Dialogue
- Step 4: Preparing the draft GREVIO report
- Step 5: Preparing and adopting the GREVIO report
- Step 6: Publication and dissemination of the GREVIO report
- Step 7: Follow-up to the GREVIO report



First evaluation Procedure





Revised Provisional timetable for the first (baseline) evaluation procedure: 2016 - 2020

Parties to the Convention	Questionnaire to be sent	Deadline for reports	State Dialogues	Evaluation visits	Publication of GREVIO Reports
Austria Monaco	March 2016	September 2016	November 2016	November/ December 2016	September 2017
Albania Denmark	September 2016	January 2017	April 2017	May 2017	November 2017
Montenegro Turkey	January 2017	May 2017	October 2017	November 2017	September 2018
Portugal Sweden	May 2017	September 2017	February 2018	March 2018	January 2019



Finland France	November 2017	March 2018	September 2018	October 2018	July 2019
Italy Netherlands Serbia	February 2018	June 2018	February 2019	March 2019	January 2020
Spain Andorra Belgium	July 2018	December 2018	June 2019	September 2019	2020
Slovenia Malta Poland	February 2019	June 2019	Q1 2020	Q1/Q2 2020	
Romania					



Spain Andorra Belgium	July 2018	December 2018	June 2019	September 2019	2020
Slovenia Malta Poland	February 2019	June 2019	Q1 2020	Q1/Q2 2020	
Romania San Marino Bosnia and Herzegovina	June 2019	November 2019	T2 2020	T3 2020	
Georgia Norway Germany	November 2019	April 2020	T1 2021	T1/T2 2021	

NGOs and civil society: GREVIO's sources of information

What does the Convention say?

Article 68 (5): GREVIO may receive information on the implementation of the Convention from non-governmental organisations and civil society

What do GREVIO's Rules of Procedure say?

Rule 35 (1):

GREVIO may invite non-governmental organisations and other members of civil society active in the areas of concern to GREVIO, in particular women's organisations, national coalitions of organisations and national branches of international non-governmental organisations, to provide it with information in relation to [...] a questionnaire [...].

HOW BEST TO BE HEARD BY GREVIO?

Drawing-up of a shadow report following the examination of GREVIO's baseline questionnaire (made public in March 2016)

Provision of additional information following the examination of State reports (published, as a rule, following reception)

- co-ordination at European and national level
- sharing resources, experiences and expertise
- *N.B. check the web site for reporting deadlines but be assured that we are happy to receive information at any time during the monitoring procedure*

HOW BEST TO BE HEARD BY GREVIO? (cont)

Country visits

GREVIO delegation will seek to meet NGOs/civil society representatives on the ground during country evaluation visits.

So... how's it going..?

Good team with varied backgrounds (legal, service provision, policy, etc.)

Backed by Secretariat who work very hard.

Lots of work – lots of (time wasted) travelling.

Too few of us!

Secretariat could also do with more staff...

BUT

Generally going quite well... I think...

Article 6, para 3

- The initial election of 10 members shall be held within a period of one year following the entry into force of this Convention. The election of 5 additional members shall be held following the 25th ratification or accession.
- Since the 25th ratification has now occurred, 5 more members will be elected to GREVIO in May.

For your information

4 The election of the members of GREVIO shall be based on the following principles:

a they shall be chosen according to a transparent procedure from among persons of high moral character, known for their recognised competence in the fields of human rights, gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence, or assistance to and protection of victims, or having demonstrated professional experience in the areas covered by this Convention;

b no two members of GREVIO may be nationals of the same State;

c they should represent the main legal systems;

d they should represent relevant actors and agencies in the field of violence against women and domestic violence;

e they shall sit in their individual capacity and shall be independent and impartial in the exercise of their functions, and shall be available to carry out their duties in an effective manner.

Thank you