THE EUROPEAN HOMICIDE MONITOR

How does it work and how may it benefit the understanding of femicide cases?
Existing Datasets

- Court Data
- Police Statistics
- Cause-of-Death Statistics
- Newspaper Data
Practical Limitations

Reliability in question:

i. Differential use of definitions
ii. Differential data sources
iii. Exclusion homicides in conjunction with other crime

Unit of analysis

*Either victim or offender or case.*
Overcoming Practical Limitations

European Homicide Monitor

i. Similar legal codes
   Murder, manslaughter, infanticide, assault leading to death

ii. Joint homicide database
    Finland, The Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland

iii. 85 variables
    Homicide victim, perpetrator and event variables
Overcoming Practical Limitations

iv. 1,577 homicide cases; 1,666 victims and 1,917 perpetrators
Three countries, 4 years

v. Allowing for case-based (time and space), perpetrator-based and victim-based analyses
The Importance of the EHM
The Importance of the EHM

Key lesson learned:
Combining data is feasible and of high quality;

Data can be used to:
Target homicide prevention efforts, including femicide prevention efforts;

Dataset is source for evaluation of homicide prevention policies.
Key Limitations

The weakest link:

**Existing data** in the national databases
*missing variables / unknown values*

**Definitional** problems in national databases
*assault leading to death included / excluded*

**Time-consuming** task
*currently nationally funded*
Theoretical / policy-oriented perspectives
testing hypotheses, measuring impact, policy changes

Judicial perspectives
femicide clearance rates; sentencing of femicide

Small homicide types, including femicide subtypes

Long-term data collection
trends and developments in femicide

Researching Femicide in the EHM
The Future of the EHM

Other member states

Other research institutions

Expanding and improving existing data
Become Involved

(i) European Homicide Monitor

Currently **four** European countries;

Empty dataset and coding **freely accessible**;

**Sharing data** based on quid-pro-quo principle.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable number</th>
<th>Variable name in SPSS</th>
<th>Complete variable name</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Clarifying instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SERNR</td>
<td>Serial number</td>
<td>Open variable (numeric)</td>
<td>The serial number starts off with the submitting countries' country code times 10,000. Add one for every new row. Each number must be unique (only appear on one single row in the dataset) and by the first digits indicate the country of origin by country code (see Appendix B for a complete list).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CASENR</td>
<td>Case number</td>
<td>Open variable (numeric)</td>
<td>The serial number starts off with the submitting countries' country code times 10,000. Add one for every new case. Each case number must be unique (only appear on the rows that belong to the same case in the dataset) and by the first digits indicate the country of origin by country code (see Appendix B for a complete list).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3               | COUNTR                | Country                | 30 = Greece  
31 = Netherlands  
32 = Belgium  
33 = France  
34 = Spain  
36 = Hungary  
39 = Italy  
40 = Romania  
43 = Austria  
44 = United Kingdom  
45 = Denmark  
46 = Sweden  
48 = Poland  
49 = Germany  
351 = Portugal  
352 = Luxembourg  
353 = Ireland  
356 = Malta  
357 = Cyprus  
358 = Finland  
359 = Bulgaria  
370 = Lithuania  
371 = Latvia  
372 = Estonia  
386 = Slovenia  
420 = Czech republic  
421 = Slovakia | Choose the country that has submitted the data (should be the same as the country in which the homicide occurred). The value is the same as the country code (see Appendix B for a complete list). |
| 4               | NRVIC                 | Number of victims      | Open variable (numeric)  
999 = Unknown | State the number of victims involved in the case. A victim is defined as any person who is a victim of lethal violence. Murder attempts, other forms of violence and other crimes committed against others in the case. |
Become Involved

(ii) European Homicide Research Group

On-line presence and networking;
Panels at ASC, ESC;
Joint grant proposals.

www.violenceresearchinitiative.org/ehrg.html