



# Opportunities and challenges in multidisciplinary cooperation combating and preventing gender-based violence: examples from Estonia

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Some of the best examples of multidisciplinary cooperation in Estonia:

## **I. MARAC**

## **II. Action Plan on Domestic Violence**

## **III. Cross-Sectoral Prevention Action Plan**



# marac

I Multi Agency Risk Assessment  
Conference



SISEMINISTERIUM





MARAC is a monthly risk management meeting where professionals share information on high risk cases of domestic violence and abuse and put in place a risk management plan.



Launched in Estonia in 2016 and as of 2019, Estonia uses this model for high-risk intimate partner violence cases nationwide.



In each Estonian county there is an expert group that works based on MARAC principles. The members of the expert group are:



**Local victim support worker**



**Police**



**Prosecutor**



**Local Governments women's support Center**



**Child protector**



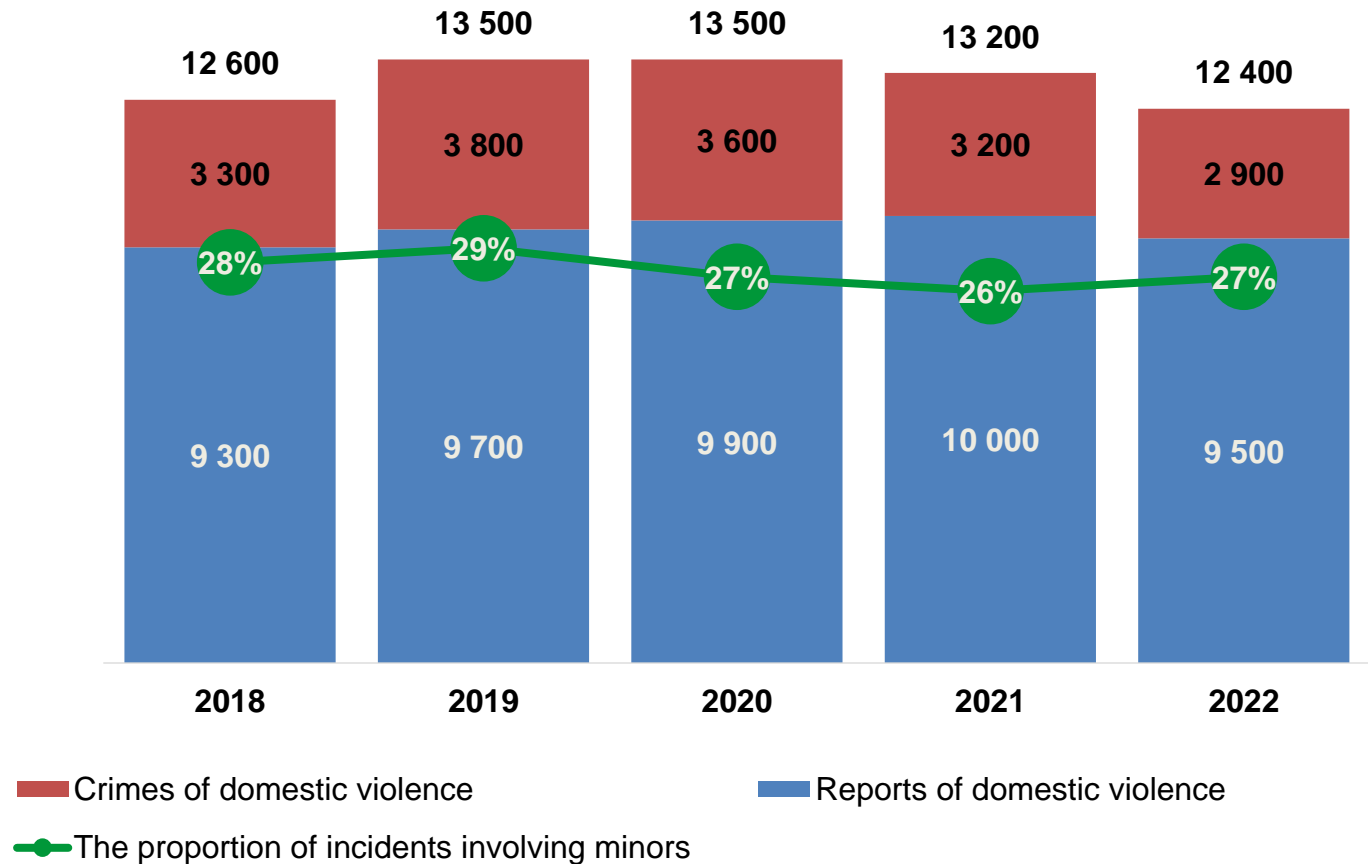
**Representative of the field of medicine**

All together we have 18 MARAC expert groups in Estonia.

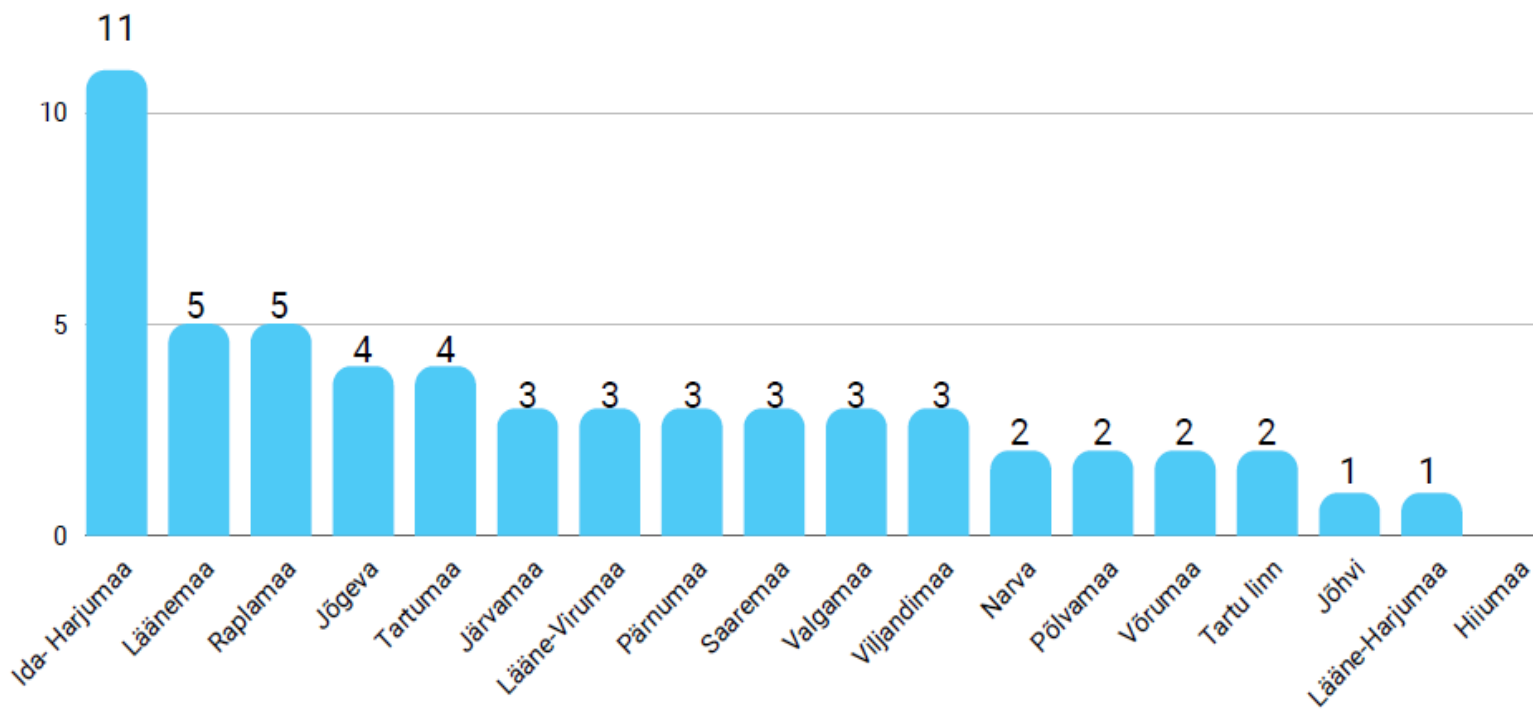


## Domestic violence statistics (30.10.2022)

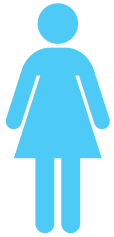
- 19 serious crimes were registered (2021 – 23).
- Six people died at the hands of their loved ones (2021 – 5).



## New MARAC cases in 2022 (01.01-31.06)



## Profile of new cases



Most of the victims were women. (94.7%). Three or 5.8% of the new cases were men.



40 years old on average. Ages ranged from 16 to 88



Minor children were involved in 75 cases. Just over 70% of the victims had at least 1 minor child.



In 49.1% of the cases, the perpetrator was the current partner, in 40.4% of the cases the ex-partner, and in 7% of the cases the adult son.



32 victims (56.1% of cases) lived separately and 25 victims (43.9%) still lived with the perpetrator. Most of the victims had their own housing (84.2%)



## Profile of new cases



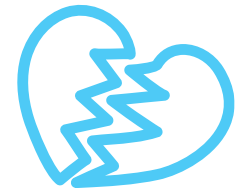
22% of MARAC victims applied for a restraining order. They were applied in only five cases.



The victim's support network is weak. In 43% of cases, the support network of the victim was weak (25 victims) and it was absent in every tenth victim. This is a worse indicator than at the same time in 2021.



In 44 or 77% of cases, criminal proceedings were applied. Both civil and criminal proceedings were ongoing in 5% of cases (three cases)



The main types of violence experienced by the victim in the first half of 2022 were overwhelmingly a combination of mental and physical violence. This was experienced by 40 victims (or 69.0%).

## More specific facts

- ✓ **As of 2022, nearly 600 life- and health-threatening cases have been in the view of MARAC.**
- ✓ **So far, none of the cases in MARAC's network have resulted in suicide or homicide.**
- ✓ **All the cases that reach MARAC are based on DASH risk assessment.**
- ✓ **In 2022, the number of new cases has dropped by 19% compared to the same time last year (2021-72 new stories, 2022 - 57).**
- ✓ **In 2022, 32 cases (56% of cases) were referred by victim support worker. Followed by the police, who referred 14% of cases (or 8 cases) and women's support centres (6 cases).**  
Individual cases come through other specialists or in cooperation between us.



## Systems and structure that support MARAC expert groups

- ✓ MARAC volunteer system with **60 trained volunteer support staff**
- ✓ **A self-care system "Self-care account" has been created for MARACs**, within the framework of which funding is offered for supervisions and co-visions. If self-care has not been basic, since 2020, 16 out of 18 MARAC actively use a self-care account.
- ✓ **3 times a year, the MARAC expert group meets together**, which includes representatives of all areas of cooperation from every county in Estonia.
- ✓ In 2023, MARAC is **partly in the state budget**.
- ✓ **A new Victim Support Act is being approved**, in which the high-risk victim and his assistance in networking are covered by the profile of an adult in a particularly vulnerable situation.
- ✓ ADDITIONAL READING: <https://www.palunabi.ee/en/domestic-violence-and-intimate-partner-violence?fbclid=IwAR252WEVoSOJkNk1rwzmS3tITFrgNlphTBOJXicv3TZBqGRrZhrfnnti4RA>



## II. Action Plan on Domestic Violence



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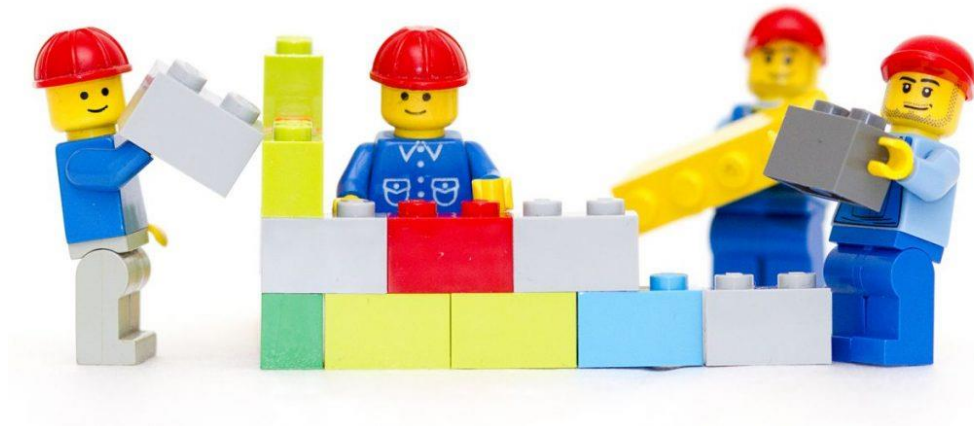


### III. Cross-Sectoral Prevention Action Plan

**Measurable progress requires interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration (Hawkins et al. 2015)**

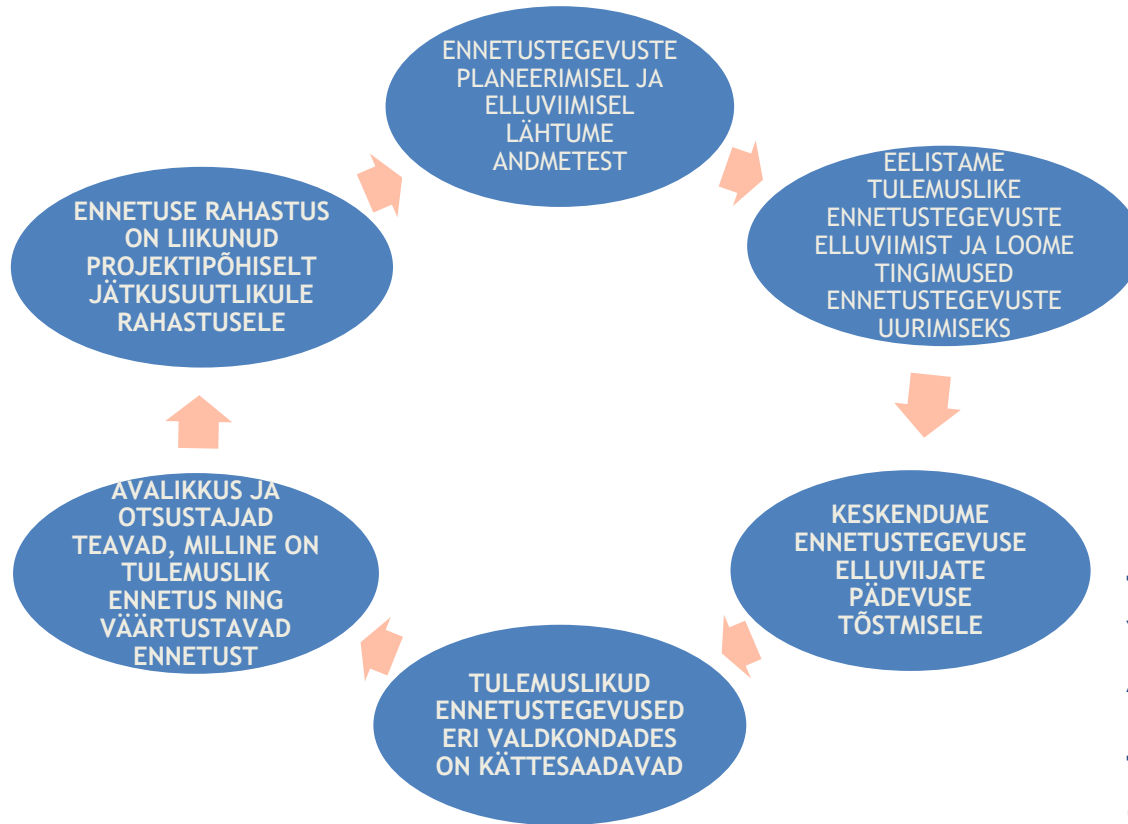
Before the plan there was a concept:

- **Target related problems collectively**
- **Increase evidence-based planning and coordinated decision-making about adapting, implementing and evaluating interventions**
- **Set standards for funding interventions**
- **Define clear roles and responsibilities of different agencies**



### III. Cross-Sectoral Prevention Action Plan

#### The system of the action plan:



**THE SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, YOUTH, CULTURE, HEALTH AND SECURITY SECTORS HAVE PUTH THEIR BACKS TOGETHER IN ORDER TO CREATE CROSS-SECTORAL PREVENTION**





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**Täna tähelepanu  
eest!**

