



Programme DAPHNE 2006

« *Meta-analysis of the recommendations issued from the DAPHNE projects on intimate partner violence* »

Project n°JLS/DAP/06-1/134/WY

Synthesis of the final scientific report

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1. Objectives of the project

→ Since the beginning of the Daphne initiative a great many projects (more than 420 at the end of 2005) were realised. The large majority of these projects led to recommendations. These recommendations constitute a reservoir of ideas and solutions which have been by far unexploited. We wanted to systematically collect and create a « meta-analysis » of these recommendations for a sub-group of Daphne projects, those dealing with intimate partner violence (IPV).

→ The goal of the project consisted of creating a repertory of the projects concerning this type of violence, to extract the recommendations, classify and structure them in a data base to allow, for example, to extract future political orientations of interest to experts in the Member States (local and national level) or the Commission (European level), or to pinpoint precise problems of interest to futur project coordinators and to all actors in the field.

→ With this project we hoped to construct a tool capable of gathering the wealth of experiences and to capitalise on the thoughts and suggestions of a large number of project teams. This tool was to give witness to the richness of knowledge gained over the years and to allow to link, or sometimes oppose, recommendations of projects that until now have remained in isolation from one another.

2. Project development

→ Our project is a continuation of the very useful Daphne Toolkit. It constitutes a supplementary step in that it allows for the data from the Toolkit to be exploited using a tool (the *Meta base and its technical application, the Meta_soft*) in order to consult the **contents of the recommendations** formulated in the Daphne projects over the years dealing explicitly with IPV.

→ For us a **recommendation is a vector idea with an origin** (author of the recommendation), a **content** (the core of the recommendation) and an **arrival point** (the one or more recipients for the recommendation). We thus constructed a « space » for the Daphne project recommendations on IPV to have a living trace of the knowledge accumulated. Each recommendation is a nugget of information for the future to share with others.

→ **The project progressed** as follows :

- We defined the field of intimate partner violence and selected 99 projects dealing with this theme from amongst all of the Daphne projects from 1997 to 2005, which represents 23 % of all of the projects. After a long and relatively complex process we extracted 1360 « explicit recommendations » and « good practices » by exploring all of the accessible documents : final reports, annexes, as well as manuals, brochures and Websites of the projects.

- We thus collected in our *Meta base* the capitalization of experience from projects already completed by large networks and from projects developed in the last years, while taking into account the collective richness produced by a great variety of actions and actors. The *Meta base* gathers the propositions of 66 different project coordinators based in 19 Member States and having mobilised 388 different partners from 17 other countries.

- In parallel we constructed, selected and tested a group of descriptors characterising each recommendation and established a list of associated codes based on three main descriptors : Type of coordinator, Recommendation area (list based on 7 indicators from the plan of action adopted under the Danish presidency) and Type of recipient.

- We coded the 1360 recommendations making up the contents of the *Meta base* according to these descriptors and then developed and tested the corresponding technical application tool, the *Meta_soft*.

- We translated (Fr/En) the recommendations to make them accessible to a larger public.

- We quantitatively analysed the *Meta base* to display its structure and major tendencies. We used it on two illustrative examples : perpetrators of violence and assisting in the construction of the Daphne « Working Programmes ».

- Instead of providing only our own interpretations of the recommendations, we made the core of the project information (recommendations themselves) available to a public that is aware or sensitised to the topic and organised so the user can consult it according to different themes.

- Finally, we provided our own recommendations and conclusions from the project.

3. The *Meta base*

→ Each of the 1360 recommendations is tracked by a number of identifiers : year - project number - recommendation number. The names of the project and the coordinator are also available. The other descriptors are for answering the central question : « *Who is speaking about what and to whom ?* »

- **Who is speaking** : name and type of coordinator (NGO, university, municipality, etc.) ;

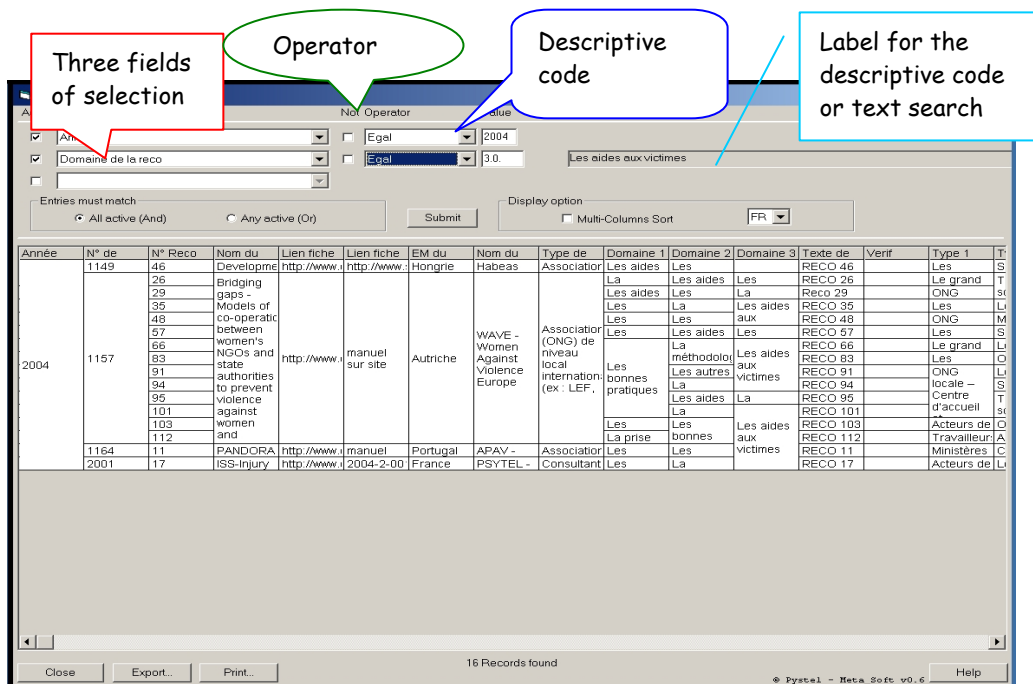
- **About what** : a recommendation can deal with 1 to 3 amongst 10 major areas ;

- **To whom** : potential or identified target audience for the recommendation (max 3).

A recommendation is described with all of these descriptors in the *Meta base*. The recommendations are accessible in French or English.

→ The large majority of the recommendations were provided by international or national NGOs. They are oriented or anchored in actions. They highlight the importance of the gender-based approach, propose methods and ways for local collaboration between actors, and propagate the continuation of exchanges at all levels. They address national decision makers as much as professionals in the field, followed by European actors and the public at large.

→ We developed a consultation tool in *Visual Basic* of these recommendations which functions on all computers with *Microsoft Windows* © 98 and newer versions : the software *Meta_soft*. Once downloaded by the user one can select, consult, edit and export the recommendations concerning its own field of interest. A user's manual (En/Fr) guides the user step-by-step. We also provided different ways to choose recommendations.



→ Next we showed two concrete examples for qualitative usage of the *Meta base* : analysis of the recommendations concerning « the perpetrators of violence » and how to use the *Meta base* to assist in planning axis for the next Daphne « Working Programmes ».

4. Recommendations and added value from the project

→ Our recommendations deal with three topics : the improvements concerning the Toolkit Daphne (5 recommendations), the management of the Daphne projects (7 recommendations) and the management of the Daphne programme itself (7 recommendations). To view these recommendations please see Chapter 8 of our final scientific report.

→ The added value of our project can be seen on two levels :

Level 1. The meta-analysis identified the major issues dealt by the partner projects financed on intimate partner violence by the Daphne programme. It assisted globally in sensitising political decision-makers and actors in the field to constantly improve the quality of their practical interventions, to cooperate with other field actors and for cooperation at the European level. It highlighted the importance of information exchanges and good practices.

Level 2. Having a *Meta base* available with the contents of the recommendations from Daphne projects on IPV enables the following :

- identification of good practices, innovations and concepts present in the recommendations of numerous projects, but often unknown or forgotten by other actors ;
- availability of a tool for comparing recommendations by actors, countries, topics and target audience, according to indicators established by European authorities in 2002 ;
- appreciation for the considerations, work and pedagogical tools of the large networks and Daphne experts, built up over the years and to reinforce the links created ;
- development of a feeling of link between projects ; to ensure increased transfer of ideas and concepts at the heart of the programme ; to orient the actions which had added value ;
- availability of a rich content base which, without eliminating the diversity of the formulations and intentions, assists in establishing a cartography of recommendations on IPV ;
- selection of themes within a gender-based perspective without deleting other approaches, via descriptors for the recommendations in the application *Meta_soft* ;

- enabling research on important content beyond the formal final reports using a free search on the contents of the recommendations (search by word or by a "string of characters") ;
- ensuring a large diffusion of the project contents due to important translation work for French speaking countries ;
- availability of a tool which is simple to use, created for actors, decision-makers and experts in the field, including experts in the European Commission ;
- availability, also, of a future-oriented tool as it allows for differentiation of strong points or missing information, as well as confronting different points of view in order to create new approaches.

→ We see this tool as a **knowledge challenge**, a means to confront ideas for improving action, as we have shown in the analysis of recommendations concerning the perpetrators of violence. In the permanent struggle against violence towards women, the recommendations from the Daphne projects are like « seed of thoughts » which will germinate into innovative actions. We believe that the *Meta base* gathers the **vitality of the Daphne programme on the topic of intimate partner violence**.

→ Reading one recommendation in isolation probably does not make much sense. What makes sense is to relate together the recommendations from the same project with recommendations from other projects on the same topic. One should see the *Meta base* as a **generator of ideas and actions**. It has the potential to be a source of inspiration to reinforce the **actions of the 400 partners** engaged in the Daphne projects, as well as for other actors since the base is accessible to all.

→ One must think of the *Meta base* as a navigation tool, for « **extracting gold nuggets of information** » rather than a rigid classification of recommendations. It allows for a fine comparison on the projects and to display the **convergences** and **sometimes divergences** in the orientation, principles and domains. Then one can characterise theoretical approaches (see our final scientific report) which deal with these questions and evaluate their contributions not only to the Daphne programme but also to projects, within the domain of actions recommended by the Commission, the Council of Europe and the Member States.

→ We would like to insist on the fact that the *Meta base* can assist in making strategic choices, in making ideas emerging from the projects, but it cannot of course define them itself. It is an **exploration tool**, for « **conceptual hunting** », a **motor for confronting ideas**. We do not judge the quality of each recommendation gathered, nor their differentiated importance, real feasibility or transferability. We create additional **synergy between projects**, to **inspire ideas for future work**. Yet, it is clear that it is up to the user to collect and organise this within a framework suitable to the problem under study. **This *Meta base* summons us to think and act.**

For these reasons we invite you to access the *Meta base* and use it !

→ Lastly, let us recall the number of outputs from the project :

1 : Final scientific report ;	5 : CD-ROM containing all of the documents and the software produced, with one sent to the Commission to be available online as a successor to the Toolkit ;
2 : Current synthesis report (En/Fr) ;	6 : Documents and software are available for download on our Website www.psytel.eu .
3 : Final administrative report ;	
4 : <i>Meta_soft</i> , our software in <i>Microsoft Windows</i> © 98 and above to access the <i>Meta base</i> (En/Fr) and a user's manual (En/Fr) ;	