

# Still going strong? The role of gender inequality in the framing of projects selected under the EU DAPHNE programme

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# Policy framings of 'violence against women' in the EU



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- Structural gender inequality (EP, 80s)
- Institutionalised in the 90/00s:
  - Women's rights as human rights
  - Public health (strategic choice)

*Does the increased attention to public health and economic and social costs of violence at the level of EU policies have implications for the selection of projects in terms of (de)gendering?*

# Empirical analysis



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- DAPHNE programme to combat violence against children, young people and women
- 1997-2005: 412 projects selected for funding
- Critical frame analysis with selected frame markers:
  - Problem representation
  - Policy actions
  - Active actors
  - Passive actors
  - Target groups
  - Goals
  - Norms

# Framings of selected projects



- Implicit gender inequality: multiple passive actors
  - Dominant

FRAME	PROBLEM	ACTIVE ACTOR	PASSIVE ACTOR	NORM
IMPLICIT GENDER EQUALITY: MULTIPLE PASSIVE ACTORS No: 202	Domestic violence Violence against women	(-)	Women, young people, children	Gender equality implicitly
	Trafficking Prostitution			
	Alcohol/drug-related violence			
	Sexual harassment		Women	

# Framings of selected projects



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- Violence against children
  - Significant

FRAME	PROBLEM	ACTIVE ACTOR	PASSIVE ACTOR	NORM
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN</b> No: 130	Child abuse Violence against children (in home/family)		Children	(NOT gender equality)
	Child pornography			
	Sexual abuse/violence in residential institutions			
	Bullying Violence at school		Children Young people	
	Self-harm		Children Young people	
			Unaccompanied minor migrants	

# Framings of selected projects



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- Structural gender inequality
  - Marginal

FRAME	PROBLEM	ACTIVE ACTOR	PASSIVE ACTOR	NORM
STRUCTURAL GENDER EQUALITY No: 38	Men's violence against women Gendered violence Male dominance	Men	Women	(Structural) gender equality
	Honour-based violence		Immigrant/ Muslim women	

# Framings of selected projects



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- Female genital mutilation
  - Minor

FRAME	PROBLEM	ACTIVE ACTOR	PASSIVE ACTOR	NORM
<i>FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION</i> No: 12	Female genital mutilation		Women, children, young people Ethnic minority women	Human rights Women's rights

# Framings of selected projects



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- Public health
  - Transversal but weak frame (one frame marker) (20%)
  - Rarely important part of problem representation (4%)

FRAME	PROBLEM	ACTIVE ACTOR	PASSIVE ACTOR	NORM
<i>PUBLIC HEALTH</i> No: 17	Violence			Public health

# Conclusions



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- Still going strong?
  - Public health not prevalent: framing does not transcend/limited spill-over
  - Gendering of projects despite public health (wide framing)
  - Non-gendered projects on children/young people
  - Gender-specific violence (not structural/power-related but committed against women)
  - Neutralising structural concerns and problem perceptions related to power and dominance
- Differentiation between EU institutions
  - The power of interpretation (EC intervening between legal texts and project selection/implementation)



- Framings and institutional contexts
  - Public health: strategic dominant foreground frame (-weakly-institutionalised through legislative policy process)
  - Structural gender equality: strong background frame (modified but not replaced, and reproduced in EC discursive practices and policies)
  - Dynamic spaces: frames can move in the processes of (continuous) institutionalisation
  - BUT: importance of legal texts – weakness of actor dependency and will