



ECOVIO: Economic violence: opening pathways across an unexplored gender-based violence issue for guaranteeing the women and children's fundamental rights



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Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1	ECOVIO Project Overview.....	4
1.2	Deliverable Purpose and Scope.....	5
1.3	Target Audience.....	5
1.4	Document Structure	5
1.5	Document Status	6
1.6	Abbreviations	6
2	ARTICLE 1: “ECONOMIC ABUSE DURING AND AFTER THE RELATION-SHIP OF PARTNER IN SPAIN”.....	7
3	ARTICLE 2: “NON-PAYMENT OF PENSIONS AND ECONOMIC VIOLENCE IN THE SPANISH LEGAL SYSTEM”	7

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 ECOVIO Project Overview

ECOVIO – Economic violence: opening pathways across an unexplored gender-based violence issue for guaranteeing the women and children’s fundamental rights – is a project funded by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission under Grant Agreement 856593 and conducted from October 2019 until September 2021. It engages 4 partners all coordinated by the University of Extremadura and joining together experts and associations from several areas field of knowledge (Economics and Finance, Psychology, Social work, Law) from 2 countries, Spain and Italy, with a total budget around half a million.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) may affect women from any socioeconomic positions. Gender-based Economic Abuse (EA) consists of exerting control over the woman’s access to economic resources, limiting the woman’s capacity to support herself and/or her children, conditioning her lifestyle and/or generating financial dependence on the perpetrator and undermining her possibilities to escape from the loop of abuse (Stylianou, 2018; Yount et al., 2016).

While EA during cohabitation has been formulated (Postmus et al., 2016; Stylianou, 2018), it also might start after the marriage ends (separation), being an understudied phenomenon (Kiss et al., 2012). In the case of Spain, after divorcing EA is not considered as abuse, and it becomes a mere formality or disagreement, as long as the woman did not complain and impose a criminal claim for a previous GBV situation during the cohabitation (Bodelón, 2014; Cruzat and Costa, 2008), limiting the identification and understanding of EA cases. Thus, there is a lack of comprehensive research into co-determinants and a regulatory evidenced-based framework for preventing and managing EA within a GBV perspective.

The ultimate aim of the ECOVIO is to shed light into this hidden and underestimated GBV as an essential step to ensure and guarantee the access to economic-financial rights for women and minors. In particular, the project-specific objectives are:

- To research into the specific elements defining EA cases and their co-determinants
- To design an action protocol for preventing and managing EA during and after the separation
- To define policy recommendation for decision-making bodies and relevant entities, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, social workers and any other key stakeholder
- To elaborate specific preventive measures and actions for empowering women and educating girls establishing a system for capacity building for preventing EA at macro, meso and micro levels aimed at the following target groups:

Target Group	Rationale
(1) Authorities and professionals within the legal system (prosecutors, judges, lawyers)	Current legal system does not tackle EA after cohabitation , being defined as a mere conflict within the divorce or maintenance-related claims settings; further long-life training in gender-issues is needed, as the CGPJ stated (Castro, 2018)
(2) Professionals working with women (social workers, social educators, advocates and NGOs)	EA implies a major problem for women and children , as regards vulnerability, social exclusion, risk of poverty, early school leaving, revictimization, infringing the higher interests of the child.
(3) victims, perpetrators and society as a whole	EA is deep-rooted in a systemic environment and founded over the imbalance of power between , so it is only one facet of a much wider GBV but tends to be unnoticed and ignored. Prevention and capacity building, for potential and actual victims, and deterrence, for perpetrators, seems to be crucial for breaking the loop of violence.

1.2 Deliverable Purpose and Scope

Both articles presented in this deliverable have been sent to of note journals, with a great impact in the field of gender.

Both papers are based on the research carried out within the ECOVIO Project. Judy Postmus one of the researchers with the greatest international impact in the field of economic gender violence have reviewed both articles. Judy’s experience could be assessed on [this link](#).

The journals where the articles have been submitted are:

- **Journal of interpersonal violence.**
- **Feminist Legal Studies.**

1.3 Target Audience

Academic experts, and researchers. This audience is of great relevance since it will allow the research carried out during ECOVIO project to be analysed by other researchers in gender studies, which will constitute an advance in global research.

1.4 Document Structure

In the document, both articles presented to the journals are presented. The first one is “Economic Abuse during and after the relation-ship of partner in Spain” which have been submitted to the Journal of Interpersonal violence while the second article „Non-payment of pensions and economic violence in the Spanish legal system“ to Feminist Legal Studies journal.

1.5 Document Status

This document is listed in the Description of Action as “**Public**”. This is the main reason why the complete articles have not been included in this deliverable, in order to guarantee the articles confidentiality and originality till their publication in the journals.

1.6 Abbreviations

UNEX University of Extremadura

UVEG University of Valencia

As result of the research carried out during the project lifecycle, **two research articles** have been elaborated in collaboration of the scientific project partners and some external experts. Since the content of this deliverable is specified as public in the project Grant Agreement, and it had been submitted to the European Commission before the approval of the articles by the Journals mentioned in the “Deliverable Purpose and Scope” point, the complete articles have not been included in this deliverable to guarantee the integrity of the publication and the originality required by the selected journals. However, in the following paragraphs, information regarding the articles is presented (title, authors and Journal of publication).

To have access to the full articles or ask for a preprint, and in order to accomplish with the journals publication rules (confidentiality and originality) please contact idomingu@unex.es as project coordinator.

2 ARTICLE 1: “Economic Abuse during and after the relationship of partner in Spain”

One of the articles is titled “*Economic Abuse during and after the relation-ship of partner in Spain*”. This article has been submitted to the Journal of interpersonal violence. This journal has an impact factor of 6, 144 on JCR, thus ranking it at Q1. It is the reference magazine in gender violence studies. It is indexed in more indicators as can be seen at <https://journals.sagepub.com/metrics/jiv>. Inmaculada Domínguez Fabián (UNEX) is the main author of this article. Moreover, Borja Encinas Goenechea (UNEX), Enrique Devesa Carpio (UVEG), Mar Devesa Carpio (UEVG) and Robert Meneu Gaya (UVEG) participated and reviewed the article. One of the most important researchers of the economic violence worldwide is Judy Postmus (Rutgers School of Social Work, New Brunswick). She contributed to the article reviewing it and giving feedback to the researchers.

3 ARTICLE 2: “Non-payment of pensions and economic violence in the Spanish legal system”

The second article is titled “*Non-payment of pensions and economic violence in the Spanish legal system*”. This article has been submitted to the Feminist Legal Studies which has an impact factor of 1.13 on JCR, thus ranking it at Q2. In the legal field, it is the leading journal in gender violence studies. In this article participated partners from the consortium. From **UNEX** Inmaculada Domínguez Fabián and Borja Encinas Goenchea, from **UVEG** Enrique Devesa Carpio, Mar Devesa Carpio and Robert Meneu Gaya, and from **GruppoR** Giorgia

Garamma. Moreover, as external experts from the consortia her Excellency Mrs. Alba Rodríguez Machado, judge of the Court of First Instance and Instruction 4 of Plasencia and Mrs. M^a Ángeles Jaime de Pablo, President of the Themis Association of Jurist Women also contributed to the article.



<http://economic-genderviolence.eu>