

## CURRENT LEGAL PERSPECTIVES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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### **Abstract**

The judicial proceedings that are generated by violence against women registered significant increases at the level of the courts of the Court of Appeal Iași, from 2019 to 2023, according to the statistical data provided by the ECRIS computer application, used for the efficient management of cases.

In the case of domestic violence crimes, statistics have shown that women are the victims in most of the cases, whether there is an injury to bodily integrity or health, or even their death. Thus, at the level of the local courts in Iași and Vaslui counties, it was found that, within 5 years, 82% of the family violence crimes had women as victims.

There are many cases in which violence against women takes on forms of high danger, both by the materiality of the acts done by the aggressors and by their extension in time, and the recent casuistry has revealed that there are recurrences on the same victim by the same aggressor.

Although the protection orders are increasing significantly and their number has been double, the criminal persistence, by violating the protection order repeatedly, indicates the need to analyze the efficiency of the current legal instruments in reducing domestic violence against women.

**Keywords:** gender violence, domestic violence crimes, legislative measures, recurrence of violence against the same woman.

### **Résumé**

Les procédures judiciaires générées par la violence contre les femmes ont enregistré des augmentations significatives au niveau des tribunaux de la Cour d'Appel de Iași, de 2019 à 2023, selon les données statistiques fournies par l'application informatique ECRIS, utilisée pour la gestion efficace des affaires.

Dans le cas des crimes de violence domestique, les statistiques ont montré que les femmes sont les victimes dans la plupart des cas, qu'il s'agisse d'une atteinte à leur intégrité physique ou à leur santé, voire même de leur mort. Ainsi, au niveau des tribunaux de

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premiere instance des comtés de Iași et Vaslui, on a constaté qu'en 5 ans, 82 % des crimes de violence domestique avaient des femmes pour victimes.

Il existe de nombreux cas dans lesquels la violence contre les femmes revêt des formes de grand danger, par la matérialité des actes commis par les agresseurs et par leur extension dans le temps, et la casuistique récente a révélé qu'il y a des récidives sur la même victime par le même agresseur.

**Mots-clés :** la violence de genre, les crimes de violence domestique, les mesures législatives, la récurrence de la violence contre la même femme

### **Abstract**

Procedurile judiciare care sunt generate de violențe asupra femeilor au înregistrat creșteri semnificative la nivelul instanțelor judecătorești arondate Curții de Apel Iași, din 2019 până în 2023, conform datelor statistice furnizate de aplicația informatică ECRIS, utilizată pentru gestionarea eficientă a dosarelor.

În cazul infracțiunilor de violență în familie, statistica a demonstrat că cele mai multe cauze au ca victime femeile, fie că se produce o vătămare a integrității corporale sau a sănătății, fie chiar decesul acestora. Astfel, la nivelul judecătoriilor din județele Iași și Vaslui, s-a constatat că, în decurs de 5 ani, 82% din infracțiunile de violență în familie au avut ca victime femeile.

Există multe cazuri în care violența asupra femeilor îmbracă forme de ridicată pericolozitate, atât prin materialitatea acțiunilor exercitate de agresori, cât și prin întinderea în timp a acestora, iar cazuistica recentă a relevat că se produc recidive ale acestora asupra aceleiași victime, din partea aceluiași agresor.

Cu toate că ordinele de protecție sunt într-o creștere semnificativă, înregistrându-se o dublare a numărului acestora, perseverarea pe cale infracțională, prin încălcarea ordinului de protecție în mod repetat, indică nevoia de analiză a eficienței instrumentelor juridice actuale în diminuarea violenței domestice exercitate majoritar asupra femeilor.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** violență de gen, infracțiuni de violență în familie, măsuri legislative, recidive ale violenței asupra aceleiași femei

## **1. Introduction**

The first international instrument that was developed to approach the problem of violence against women was the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization in December 1993. It defines this phenomenon as „any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to cause harm or physical, sexual or psychological suffering to women”, including in their category verbal aggression, harmful practices (such as genital mutilation), any kind of coercion or the arbitrary freedom deprivation, regardless of whether it is carried out in the public life or the private one.

As violence against women is an extreme form of manifestation of gender-based discrimination and a serious way of violating human rights, rooted in the wrong belief of the inequality between men and women, its main foundation is the aggressors' refusal to recognize the victims' right to freedom, decision, and respect, the reason why, even nowadays, this phenomenon continues to be an impediment to the development of the human society.

The phenomenon of violence against women has been pointed out during many centuries as serious damage to most of the prerogatives registered by the Charter of the Fundamental Rights, as brutal violations of the rights to life and human dignity, the interdiction on the use of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to non-discrimination and the right of access to justice. It marks a deep inequity between women and men, as a disproportionate ratio of forces based on old gender stereotypes, related to „the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities and attributes that a given society consider adequate for women and men” [art. 3, paragraph (3), letter c) from the Istanbul Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe on 11th May 2011, in force since 1st August 2014].

From a criminal perspective, violence against women encompasses crimes such as femicide, rape, sexual assault, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced abortion or refused sterilization, trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, harassment, hate arousing speech, and gender-based discrimination offenses, as well as various forms of cyber-violence, including refused sharing or handling of intimate material, cyber-stalking and cyber-bullying.

## **2. Legislative measures adopted internationally**

Violence against women is widespread throughout the world and, in varying percentages, in the member countries of the European Union. It must be fought, and this fight is also currently considered as a priority on the list of objectives of the European Commission. It is materialized in measures that propose to ensure respect for the community values and the fundamental rights of all people, regardless of gender.

It is worth noting that, in the past three decades, there has been a tendency to multiply collective actions by which states and international bodies have taken care to prevent, to stop and to sanction gender-based violence, by mobilizing political and decision-making factors, law specialists, sociologists and representatives of the civil society in a joint action to eradicate it, to educate and to raise awareness of the incompatibility of such a phenomenon with the principles and the operating way of the contemporary world.

The Convention on the Elimination of All the Types of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations by Resolution no. 34/180 of 18th December 1979, in the member states of the Council of Europe. Important steps were taken for the regulation and implementation of effective legislation to prevent gender-based violence and to protect the rights of its victims, by taking „the necessary measures to modify the schemes and the means of social and cultural behavior of men and women”, in order „to eliminate prejudices and customary practices or of any other kind, based on the idea of inferiority or superiority of one gender or the template image on the role of men or women” [Art. 4, paragraph 2, letter a) of the Convention on the Elimination of All the Types of Discrimination Against Women].

Then, in 1993, the Declaration on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence was elaborated by the United Nations and, later, the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Fight against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, known as the Istanbul Convention. It is recognized as the most important legal instrument with the force of law, which clarifies that the issue of gender violence and the issue of domestic violence transcend the personal framework and belong to the competence of public authorities. It imposes a standard of rules intended to guide the efforts of the member states of the Council of Europe in fulfilling the joint objective of preventing aggressive behaviors based on gender considerations, eliminating their main cause, supporting and protecting victims, criminalizing and sanctioning the various forms by which the abuses committed against women take place. Thus, by a series of provisions regarding gender stereotypes considered inequality factors between men and women, the Convention suggests the promotion of non-violence and mutual respect in interpersonal relationships, and it emphasizes the fundamental role of governments in promoting these values (Moț, 2018).

As it results from the statement of reasons of the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence, up to the present moment, no specific legislative act has been carried out in the European Union, by which to regulate, with a binding character, the social phenomenon of gender-based violence. However, in an adjacent way, the issue was approached by various normative provisions issued in other areas, such as judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the right to asylum, and non-refoulement. The accession procedure of the European Union to the Istanbul Convention was complete, too, by submitting two instruments<sup>2</sup> of approval that determined the entry into force of this act as of 1st October 2023.

### **3. Statistical data on gender-based violence committed in the European space**

The Directives 2012/29/EU on the rights of victims, 2011/99/EU on the European protection order, 2011/93/EU on the sexual abuse of children, 2004/80/EC on compensation, and in the Directives on gender equality include general norms that also apply to victims of gender-based violence. Nevertheless, it is currently necessary to adopt a European instrument designed specifically to regulate and

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<sup>2</sup> With reference to Council Decision (UE) 2023/1075 of the 1st of June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, regarding the institutions of the Union and the public administration, JO L 143 I, 2,6,2023, p. 1 and the Council's Decision (UE) 2023/1076 of the 1st of June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, regarding aspects related to the judicial cooperation in the criminal matters and regarding asylum and non-refoulement, JO L 143 I, 2,6,2023, p. 4.

sanction this „manifestation of historically unequal power relations between women and men, which led to the domination over and discrimination against women by men and preventing the full advancement of the latter” (Convention Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (2011)). It is justified by the worrying statistical data that, despite the social evolution and the efforts made by international bodies, continue to reveal alarming conclusions regarding the number of cases where women are abused.

From this point of view are relevant the results of the extensive research conducted by the Agency for Fundamental Rights of the European Union in 2014, prove that 13 million women, representing 7% of those aged between 18 and 74 in the European Union, have been subject to physical violence during the past 12 months before the interviews conducted as part of the survey, that one in 10 women had suffered a type of sexual violence after the age of 15 and that of the women who have or had a relationship with a man, 22% were physically and/or sexually abused. It has been estimated that almost a quarter of victims of sexual assault do not report such incidents to the police or to any other institution or organization because of feelings of shame and fear, feelings favored by the social tendency to blame the victims in such situations. It has been estimated that 50 women lose their lives every week due to domestic violence, that two out of five women (43%) have experienced a form of psychological violence by their partner, that one in 10 women has been stalked for the purpose of harassment and that between 74% and 75% of women in professional or managerial positions have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime (FRA – European Union Agency For Fundamental Rights, 2014, Violence against women: an EU-wide survey).

#### **4. Legislative measures implemented nationally**

In the national legislation, there are legal provisions aimed at the legal protection of women who become victims of violence, in terms of domestic violence with immediate limiting intervention, and also in terms of gender-based aggression.

For example, with a general characteristic of Law no. 211/2004 on some measures to provide the information, support, and protection of victims of crimes. This law determines several elements imposing obligations of the state authorities to victims, including women subject to acts of violence, which are circumscribed to the crimes of attempted murder and qualified murder, to the crimes of bodily harm, rape, sexual assault, as well as other intentional crimes that resulted in their bodily harm.

Among the measures established by this law, we find the legal assistance offered free of charge to the victims of these crimes and the granting of financial compensation by the state in case the perpetrator is insolvent or disappeared. These material compensations usually include, among other things, hospitalization expenses and other categories of medical expenses paid by the victim in the healing and recovery process, lost earnings, and moral damages, to the extent that they

have been awarded by judicial means after the court determines the guilt of the aggressor.

As for domestic violence, Law no. 217/2003 regulates another legal instrument by which Romania understood the need to promote the policy elaborated at the international level in the matter of fight against violence in the family, regardless of their nature: physical, mental, verbal, sexual, economic, social or spiritual. The celerity of the response of the state authorities in order to stop these aggressions is the fundamental attribute of the protection order, incident in the event that there is an imminent risk that the life, physical integrity or freedom of a person will be endangered by a violent action in the family, because this legal instrument is assigned an essential role in reducing the possibility of the transposition of such a risk into reality.

The temporary protection order is the responsibility of the police bodies and it is justified by their ability to intervene immediately. Thus, temporarily, for a period of five days, there is one or several protection measures capable of contributing to the suppression of the identified imminent risk, and it may be decided to temporarily evict the aggressor from the joint home even if he is the owner of the property right over the dwelling, the reintegration of the victim and, as the case may be, of the children into the joint home, by ordering to the aggressor to keep a minimum distance from the victim, from the members of her family, residence or workplace, the obligation to wear an electronic surveillance device permanently and, possibly, to hand over to the police all the weapons that he owns (Law on the prevention and combat of domestic violence (2003)).

According to the procedural rules, it is imposed within 24 hours after the issuance of the temporary protection order, the police station must ensure its submission to the prosecutor's office, and then the prosecutor will verify whether it is necessary to continue the protection measures, by applying an administrative resolution on its original copy.

Moreover, pursuant to art. 38 of the previously mentioned normative deed, the person whose life, physical or mental integrity or freedom is endangered by an act of violence done by a family member can request to the court that, in order to remove the danger, the latter will issue a protection order to impose, for a temporary period, one or more of the measures – obligations or interdictions – mentioned above, as well as, additionally, to limit the aggressor's right to use the joint home when it can be shared, the accommodation of the victim and, as the case may be, of the children, in a social assistance center that provides protection, accommodation, care and counseling for victims of domestic violence, the interdiction for the aggressor to travel to certain localities or certain areas allegedly known by the protected person, the interdiction of any contact with the victim, including by telephone, by mail or in any other way (Law on the prevention and combat of domestic violence (2003)).

The usefulness of the protection order derives from the enforceable character of this legislative instrument, given that the implementation of the measures established by the police or ordered by the court does not require a

summons or the passage of any period of time, there is a series of legal consequences in case of its non-compliance.

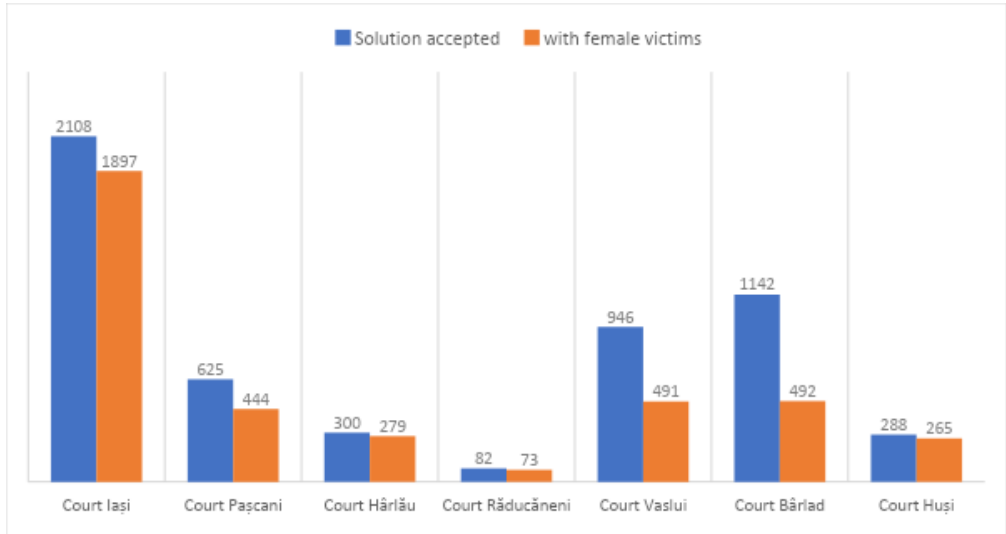
## **5. The efficiency of the current national legislative instruments**

The General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police provided public information that certifies that in the year 2020, there were 8,393 temporary protection orders and 8,210 protection orders, of which a third were violated. Their number has increased considerably: 10,336 protection orders and 11,047 temporary protection orders registered in the year 2021, with 25.89% and 31.62% respectively more than the previous year. Among the 10,336 protection orders ordered by the Romanian civil courts, 4,870 came from temporary protection orders, issued pursuant to art. 28 of Law no. 217/2003 by the police bodies, in order to reduce the risk found in the exercise of their duties regarding the life, physical integrity or freedom of the victims of domestic violence. According to the same data, in 28% of the cases in which the police intervened, they found the existence of a high risk, and in 40% of these situations, the victims refused to proceed with the issuance of the temporary protection order (Network for the prevention and combat of violence against women, 2021).

At the Court of Appeal Iași, the statistical data show that the number of protection orders issued by the courts in its constituency in the past 5 years has been doubled. It increased from 277 in 2019 at the Local Court Iași to 547 in 2023 at the same court. Thus, from the graph below (Figure no. 1) it results that, in the period 2019–2023, from the total of 2,108 cases whose subject was the request for the issuance of protection orders, registered at the Local Court Iași, 1,897 of these files had female victims.

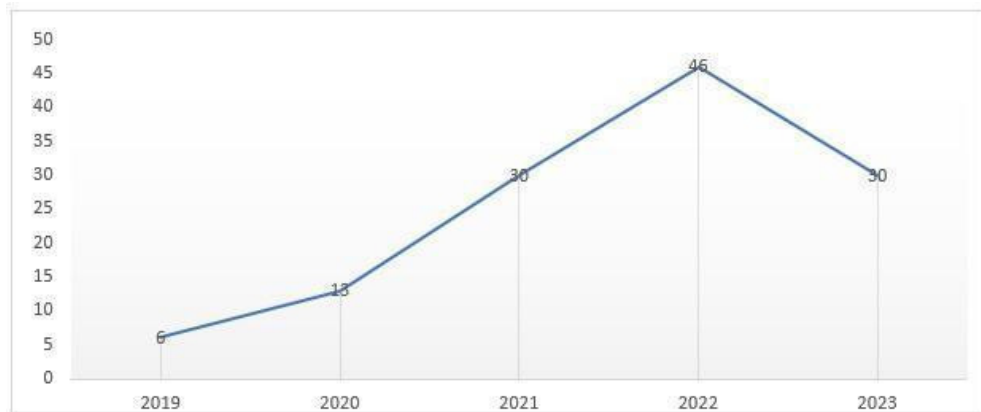
These indicators show that the percentage of women in Iași city who use this legal defence instrument is placed at the level of 90% of the total protection orders issued by the judicial bodies, which supports its effectiveness in the fight against gender-based violence in the family.

At the Local Court Vaslui, in the same period of 5 years, the increasing number of the protection orders is equally worrying, from 18 in 2019 to 307 in 2023, where women were victims of domestic violence in 52% of these cases. According to the statistical information shown in the attached graph (Figure no. 1), in the period 2019–2023, a total number of 946 files were registered by the Local Court Vaslui who was requested to order the issuance of protection orders, 491 of these requests were made by women who became victims of domestic violence (according to the data provided by the ECRIS computer application, used by all the Romanian courts for the efficient case management).



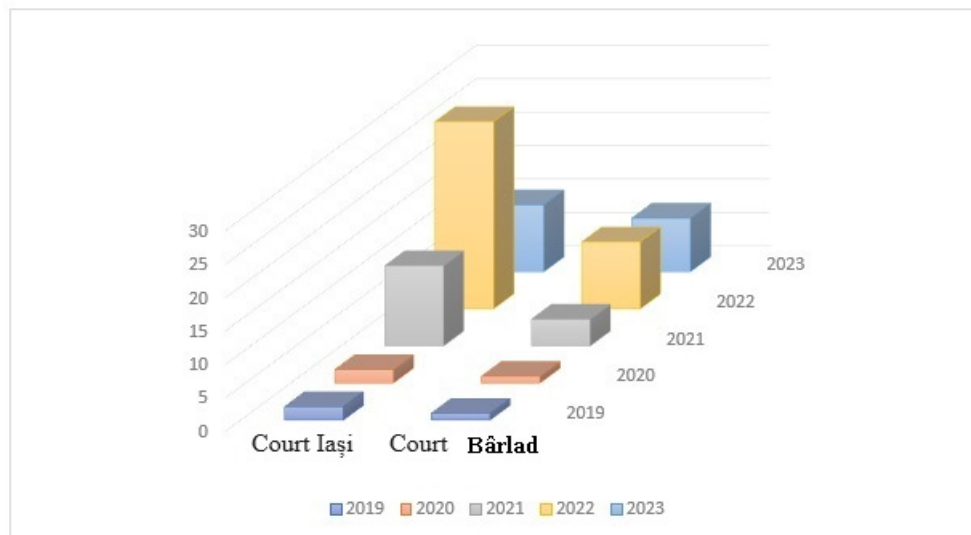
**Figure 1.** Total of the cases registered in the period 2019-2023 in the courts located in the territorial district of the Court of Appeal Iași, having as a subject requests on the issuance of the protection orders, according to the data provided by the ECRIS computer application, used by all the Romanian courts for the efficient case management

The violation of the protection order, pursuant to art. 47 of Law no. 217/2003, is considered a crime and may be punished by imprisonment from 6 months to 5 years. The courts in Iași and Vaslui counties, in the period 2019-2023, registered cases in which people who committed this crime were sent to court, in an increasing number from year to year, and the peak was reached in 2022, with the mention that, in 2023, the statistics are made until 15.11.2023.



**Figure 2.** Total of the cases registered by the local courts located in the territorial district of the Court of Appeal Iași, having as a subject committing the crime of non-compliance with the protection orders, according to the data provided by the ECRIS computer application, used by all the Romanian courts for the efficient case management





**Figure 3.** Cases registered by the Local Court Iași and by the Local Court Bârlad, having as a subject committing the crime of „the failure to comply with the protection order”, according to the data provided by the ECRIS computer application, used by all the Romanian courts for efficient case management

A comparative look at the criminal cases registered by courts with a different workload shows that the year 2021 was the beginning of a period of increase in the number of crimes that consisted in the violation of the protection order, given that the measures imposed at the global level during the pandemic with the SARS-Cov2 virus isolated women together with their aggressors, which increased the number of cases of violence against them and also the number of protection orders issued by the authorities during that period.

The recent casuistry at the trial courts registered in the territorial circumscription of the Court of Appeal Iași demonstrates numerous situations in which there are recurrences of violence against the same woman by the same aggressor, and there is repeatability in committing the crime of „violating the protection order”, despite the measures applied by the authorities. This aspect indicates the need to analyze the effectiveness of the current legal instruments in limiting and diminishing the phenomenon of gender violence.

For illustration, we want to show that by Criminal Judgement no. 2195/2023, pronounced on 13.10.2023, the Local Court Iași ordered to convict a defendant to a sentence of 3 years and 3 months imprisonment for having committed the crime of „violating the protection order”. It was noted that, on 9th March 2023, on 16th April 2023, and on 20th April 2023, he illegally entered the house and the yard of his concubine, including when the injured person was at home, so he violated the provisions of the protection order issued against him, on 20th February 2023, by which the court ordered him to keep a minimum distance of 50 m from the injured person and from her home for a period of 6 months.

Previously, the defendant was also sentenced to 1 year and 3 months imprisonment, after having committed the same type of act, as it was known that he had committed other acts of violence against his concubine. The solution of the first court was confirmed by the court of appeal, by Criminal Judgement no. 1141/2023 of 19.12.2023 of the Court of Appeal Iasi.

There are many cases in which violence against women is dangerous by the materiality of the violent actions and also by their length of time.

The Local Court Bârlad faced such a situation in 2021 when, by Criminal Judgement no. 349/2021, pronounced on 12.11.2021, it ordered the sentencing of a defendant to a sentence of 2 years and 6 months imprisonment because he was found guilty in the intentional commission of the crimes of „violation of the protection order” and „domestic violence”.

In this case, it was noted that, after the moment when he was notified of the obligations imposed by a protection order issued against him, the defendant went to his concubine's home, by violating the interdiction to approach her home and her person at a greater distance less than 50 m. In this circumstance, the defendant by domestic violence, grabbed the woman by the neck and knocked her on the ground, after which, he used a piece of roof tile and he hit her hard on the head. When he saw that the victim was trying to get up, the defendant continued to use acts of violence against her, kicking her in the ribs and hitting her with a bucket on her head, in that moment a witness intervened and the injured person ran away to the public road. The defendant did not give up and chased his concubine, and as they ran, he punched her, causing her to fall to the ground. He continued to hit her in various areas of the body, with his fists and also with his feet, causing the victim traumatic injuries that needed 7-8 days of medical care to heal, according to the forensic report in the file case.

The defendant requested the reduction of the sentence and the suspension of its execution, but the appeal he filed was rejected as unfounded by the Court of Appeal Iași. For this purpose, by Criminal Judgement no. 296/2022, pronounced on 12.04.2022, the judicial control court stated that „the defendant is known in the community as a violent person, who becomes aggressive after the alcohol consumption, and from 25.04.2021 to 23.06.2021, the emergency number 112 was notified of five other similar events, regarding the domestic violence he had shown, from which it results that the criminal episode for which he is judged was not only one, an isolated one, the defendant frequently had violent conduct to his concubine, in relation to whom he should have had feelings of affection and respect”.

Relevant in assessing the reiteration risk of the criminal behavior by the defendant was also the statement he gave before the criminal investigation bodies during his hearing as a suspect, when he said: „I was violent with her from jealousy. I've hit her before. And when a protection order was issued, I beat her”. Thus, despite the attitude of admission and apparent regret shown by the defendant during the criminal trial, the judicial control court did not leave unsanctioned the wrong way in which he preferred to behave to the person with whom he had relations similar to those of his spouses and to comply with the criminal norms and

the rules of social coexistence, it was obvious that he was not really aware of the seriousness of the criminal behavior and the negative consequences it generated.

This type of reprehensible conduct seems to be more and more common in practice as criminal judicial proceedings involving acts of violence against women have registered substantial increases in a period of only 5 years, from 2019 to 2023, in 10 courts in Iași and Vaslui counties, located in the territorial district of the Court of Appeal Iași.

As for domestic violence crimes, most cases have women as victims, whether there is an injury to their bodily integrity or health or even their death. From this point of view, it is worth noting that in the courts subordinated to the Court of Appeal Iași, in 5 years, a percentage of 82% of all the crimes of domestic violence reported to the judicial authorities indicate that women were victims.

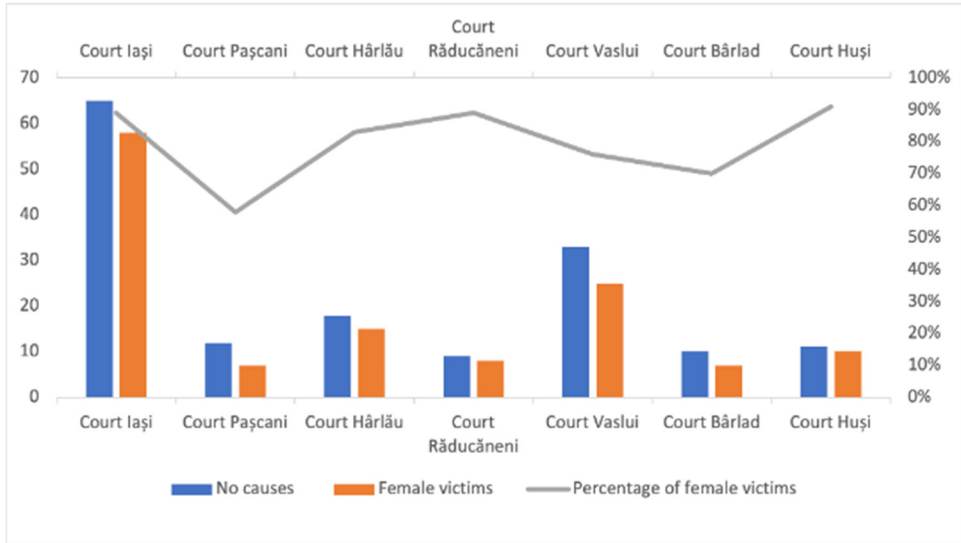
Art. 199 of the Romanian Penal Code, with the marginal name of „domestic violence”, regulates a veritable aggravated form of the crimes of murder, qualified murder, assault or other violence acts, bodily injury or assault or injuries causing death, to the extent that it is established that, in relation to the accused person, the passive subject of the crime has the quality of a family member. Such a deed is considered to be more severe, justified by the particularity of the passive subject to whom the antisocial behavior is shown, which is why the criminal law provides for the increase of the special maximum of the punishment provided by the law by a fourth.

The murder of a family member is one of the most severe crimes that can be committed against a woman, and the case history certifies that, in time, situations of this type have taken on different ways of committing them.

For example, currently, the County Court Iași registered a case in which a defendant is tried for having committed the crime of aggravated murder against a family member. He was charged with having repeatedly acts of physical violence against his wife from July 2016 to December 2021 (committed specifically on 8th July 2016, 29th September 2020, 4th March 2021, 30th April 2021, 24th May 2021 and 14th December 2021). He hit her with his fists and feet in several areas of the body and, especially in the head area, causing multiple cranio-cerebral traumas that led, by their intensity and frequency, to the constant alteration of her health condition, complicated in evolution with bronchopneumonia, and finally led to the violent death of the victim on 7th March 2022. The criminal prosecution bodies showed that the defendant often used to apply physical corrections to his wife, because he personally lost amounts of money in gambling, also generated by the consumption of alcoholic beverages and drugs, and the decreasing income obtained by the victim from the video chat activity, especially since he had set her amounts of money that she should have earned daily and the amount of which was constantly increased.

In support of the request to hold the defendant criminally liable, it was also noted the terror that he caused to his ex-wife and that prevented her from supporting and completing the legal proceedings that the mother and her close

relatives took into account started, asking the courts on various occasions to order protective measures against the violent man.



**Figure 4.** The total number of cases registered in the period 2019-2023 at the courts located in the territorial district of the Court of Appeal Iași, having as a subject the crime of domestic violence, according to the data provided by the ECRIS computer application, used by all the Romanian courts for the purpose of efficient case management

From the previous graph presented, it can be seen that the percentage of female victims in the cases registered by the Local Courts of Pașcani, Huși, Bârlad, and Vaslui with the subject of domestic violence crimes is much lower, and the decreased rate of notification of this type of crime can be found among the possible reasons.

The reluctance of women to inform the authorities about the commission of violence acts against them and, particularly, of those committed in the family, is a frequent problem in practice, not only at the national level. The tendency to cover up the abusive episodes in which the women are involved involuntarily, as well as the negative effects they experience physically, psychologically, and socially, is determined by social stereotypes and various cultural factors, by the emotional or economic dependence that women often have in front of men, their insufficient trust in the effectiveness of the measures ordered by the authorities, the lack of motivation to do what is necessary to bring the aggressors to criminal responsibility, the fear of stigmatization and the fear of being considered the only responsible for the marital problems or for causing the conflict episode, the habit or the lack of information on the rights legally conferred on them.

The children's attachment to the aggressor parent and the apparent regret he shows to the victim, with the empty promise of the non-existence of chances of repeating such behavior, as well as the false sense of self-blame are other

discouraging factors that women who become victims of violence face all around the world.

However, this fact represents an insurmountable impediment in capturing the real dimension of the phenomenon of gender violence and, implicitly, in the way of combating it, including the numerous cases in which women are abused by members of their own families. In this way, significant discrepancies are determined between the factual truth and the statistical data available to the authorities, with the consequence of creating a wrong overview of the efficiency of the measures implemented and the solutions already provided.

In an attempt to encourage abused women to report such facts and to request the assistance of the state authorities, there are various information and education campaigns for the population, intended to raise the awareness of the victims and to strengthen their confidence in the help provided by the specialized bodies. Among these, we mention, as an example, the annual international campaign, entitled „16 days of activism against violence against women”, coordinated by the United Nations Organization, the prevention campaign of domestic violence „In Ioana’s world organized in Romania by the Police Inspectorate of Sibiu County, by the Department for the Analysis and Prevention of Crimes, in partnership with the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men and the National Police Corps as well as „The campaign for awareness of violence against women among young people, at the university level”, launched by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Centre for the Human Rights within ”Titu Maiorescu” University in Bucharest, in rallying them to the international efforts for the Campaign of „16 days of activism; Stop the Violence!”.

## **6. Conclusions**

The analysis of the effects of the legal instruments derived from the specific legislation regarding the phenomenon of violence against women indicates a good level of the efficiency of Romanian criminal justice regarding the imposed responsibility of the aggressors and in terms of the procedural guarantees offered to the female victims.

However, even only from the statistical indicators of the specific cases of violence committed against women, it results that it is still not fully reported or notified to the state authorities, a fact for which it continues to be imposed, with priority, to find methods or means with maximum efficiency so that the judicial mechanisms will be implemented, in order to activate the legal guarantees regulated by the national legislation.

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