



## The role of the police in a multidisciplinary approach

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### The Belgian model : the "CPVS"

- Federal project, tested since November 2017 in three cities: Ghent, Liège, Brussels
- Initiative of the secretary of state on equality of men and women
- Steering and scientific follow-up by Ghent University, International Centre for Reproductive Health (Dr Ines Keygnaert)

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### Principals

- What is "good" for a victim
- .= "holistique" approach
- .= in line with international recommendations
- .= speed determined by the victim
- .= active role of the victim
- .= recognition of the victim status without reduction to this status
- .= one physical place

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### Actors

•Key roles:

1. forensic nurse
2. sexual violence police officer (SVPO)
3. psychologist
4. case manager

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### The forensic nurse

- Medical care
- First listen
- Search for traces according to story (with or without police file)
- Contact magistrate / police
- Follow-up (phone calls)

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### The police

- Definition of sexual violence = Rape and indecent assault (penal code)
- Less than 7 days
- 24/7
- Audition filmed at cpvs
- Work in plain clothes / ride home
- Bilingual (Brussels)
- Distinction majors / minors

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### Rape(art 375 penal code)

*"Any act of sexual penetration, of any nature whatsoever and by any means whatsoever, committed on a person who does not consent, constitutes the crime of rape. There is no consent, especially when the act was imposed by violence, coercion or trickery, or was made possible because of a disability or a physical or mental disability of the victim."*

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**Indecent assault**

*"An act contrary to the sexual manners and of a certain gravity committed intentionally on a person or with the help of a determined person without the valid consent of that person"*




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**The sexual violence officers**

- .volunteers
- .Selection / commission
- .training (60h)




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**selection**

- .Verification of the motivation
- .Management of stress and emotional charge
- .Basic knowledge
- .Behavior with victims
- .Questionnaire (prevalence / rape myth acceptance)




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**training**

- .Legal and technical knowledge
- .Awareness raising (homeless, LGBT +, migrants)
- .Professional secrecy, Substances, ...
- .Role play
- .Simulation
- .Secondary trauma




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**Local implementation**

- .Contactable and recallable
- .24h of disponibility
- .Volunteers of different services
- .Two-week training (+ Role play, simulation, awareness raising)
- .SVPO is limited to victim interaction ("interface with victim")
- .42 SVPOs trained (3 training sessions)
- .Police computer network installed in CPV




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### Differences with Ghent en Liège


- Ghent: one week of disponibility per SVPO
- Liège: detectives



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### Workload


- 6-10h per victim
- +/- 300 victims a year file a complaint
- +/- 50% of victims file a complaint




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### Findings -


- The commitment of the SVPO is temporary
- Monitoring of individual work load is necessary
- in addition to their normal work = consequences for the unit and for the individual (physical fatigue)
- A week of availability = too heavy



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### Findings +


- Ideal for victims
- Highly motivated staff
- Police personnel keep their normal role => reduces the risk of secondary traumatization
- Positive effect on the whole organization (contagious)



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### Findings +

***Structure eats culture for lunch***



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