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Chapter 1: About the Network

1.1 A European network now in motion

UNIDAS4EU started in November 2025 as an URBACT IV Transfer Network focused on strengthening local and intermunicipal responses to domestic and gender-based violence.

Led by CIM Tâmega e Sousa, in Portugal, the network brings together partners from Greece, Spain, Hungary, Italy, France and Ukraine. Over 30 months, the partnership is working to transfer the UNIDAS good practice and adapt its governance model, victim support services and monitoring tools to different local contexts.

The network responds to a shared challenge across Europe: how to move from fragmented services to more coordinated, accessible and sustainable support systems for victims.

1.2 A partnership built on different realities

UNIDAS4EU brings together a diverse European partnership led by CIM Tâmega e Sousa (Portugal), with partners from Greece, Spain, Hungary, Italy, France and Ukraine. Each partner contributes a specific territorial reality, allowing the network to test how the UNIDAS good practice can be adapted to different local governance systems, service structures and community needs

This diversity allows the network to compare challenges, exchange methods and test practical solutions that can be adapted across different European contexts.

1.2 Partners

- Lead Partner — CIM Tâmega e Sousa, Portugal
- Municipality of Drama, Greece
- Bétera, Spain
- Budapest 12th District – Hegyvidék, Hungary
- Municipality of Vicenza, Italy
- Ville de Meylan, France
- Dragomanov Ukrainian State University, Ukraine

1.3 Lead Expert - Linda Ainouche

Linda Ainouche supports the partnership with methodological guidance, strategic facilitation and tailored expert input throughout the transfer process.

Chapter 2: About UNIDAS good practice

2.1 The Portuguese model behind the transfer

UNIDAS is the Intermunicipal Victim Support Network of Douro, Tâmega e Sousa. Coordinated by CIM Tâmega e Sousa, it was created to ensure that victims of domestic violence can access specialised support, regardless of the municipality where they live.

The model combines local proximity with intermunicipal coordination. It supports prevention, protection and victim assistance while reducing fragmentation between services.

UNIDAS is based on a simple principle: victims should not have to navigate the system alone.

Through local support structures, multidisciplinary teams provide case intake, risk assessment and continuous follow-up. The network connects municipalities, the Public Prosecutor's Office, security forces, health services, social security and child protection commissions.

2.2 Three levels of governance

The good practice is organised across three connected levels.

- At local level, specialised municipal networks provide direct support.
- At intermunicipal level, CIM Tâmega e Sousa coordinates procedures, technical quality and resources.
- At regional and national level, the Territorialisation Protocol formalises cooperation between public entities and strengthens institutional sustainability.

Chapter 3: City Visits | Understanding each local context

3.1 Understanding the transfer context

During the Understanding phase, the Lead Partner, CIM Tâmega e Sousa, and Lead Expert Linda Ainouche visited partner cities to better understand each local context. These visits are a key step in the transfer process. They help partners identify local challenges, map existing services, meet relevant stakeholders and define how the UNIDAS good practice can be adapted to each territory. The visits also feed directly into the Transferability Study, supporting the creation of city profiles and helping each partner define realistic transfer ambitions.

3.2 City Visit - Drama, Greece

Date: 19-20 March 2026

UNIDAS4EU partners visited Drama, Greece, as part of the network's Understanding Phase. The visit brought together Lead Expert Linda Ainouche and CIM Tâmega e Sousa representatives to assess Drama's domestic violence response system and explore how elements of the UNIDAS good practice could be adapted locally. The programme included meetings at Drama City Hall and field visits to the Counselling Centre for Women Victims of Violence and Multiple Discrimination, the NGO Ladies Union of Drama, the Drama Police Directorate's Domestic Violence Department, and the Municipality's Department of Social Services.

The visit highlighted several local strengths. Drama is developing a new counselling centre with a multidisciplinary team, while the Domestic Violence Department of the Police operates 24/7 and provides a specialised entry point for victims. The Ladies Union of Drama also emerged as a key community actor, combining long-term victim support, prevention, school programmes, work with Roma communities and outreach activities.

At the same time, the visit confirmed that Drama's local support ecosystem is still only partly formalised. Key gaps include the absence of structured case management, unclear inter-institutional pathways, fragmented data collection and a limited operational role for municipal social services in direct victim support. For the transfer process, this makes Drama a strong partner for adapting UNIDAS good practice.



3.3 City Visit - Budapest District XII, Hungary

Date: 23-24 March 2026

The Lead Expert and Lead Partner visited the 12th District of Budapest – Hegyvidék, the Hungarian partner of the UNIDAS4EU network, as part of Phase 1 – Understand. The visit focused on the district's local system for preventing domestic violence and protecting victims, with particular attention to coordination between municipal services, law enforcement, social support structures and city-level strategy.

The programme included exchanges on governance models, referral pathways and operational practices used at district level. Key local actors presented how services are organised in practice, from early identification and referral to crisis response and victim support. The visit included meetings with the Family Support and Child Welfare Centre, the Budapest 12th District Police Department, the Hungarian Ecumenical Aid – Regional Crisis Ambulance, and the Budapest City Municipality, where the broader city strategy for preventing domestic violence was presented.

Budapest presents a relatively well-structured system, with clear strategic alignment and active cooperation between municipal services, social protection structures and police authorities. At the same time, the visit showed that referral pathways vary in maturity and could be further consolidated to improve continuity and consistency across institutions. The main lesson for UNIDAS4EU is that

effective victim support depends not only on the existence of services, but on how clearly they coordinate and work together across the local system.



3.4 City Visit - Vicenza, Italy

Date: 26-27 March 2026

The Lead Expert and Lead Partner visited the Italian partner, the Municipality of Vicenza, as part of Phase 1 – Understand of the UNIDAS4EU network. The visit focused on Vicenza's local system for preventing and responding to gender-based violence, with particular attention to coordination between local authorities, health services, civil society organisations and specialised victim support structures.

The programme included institutional and working sessions at Palazzo Trissino, Vicenza City Hall, and a technical visit to the CEAV Anti-Violence Centre, where partners learned about the centre's services, procedures and multidisciplinary team. The visit highlighted a mature local framework combining prevention, emergency response, specialised support, long-term recovery, reintegration and work with perpetrators. Particular attention was given to the "Red Code" protocol, which provides fast-track and priority response for victims within the health system, as well as to support for children exposed to violence.

Vicenza offers a structured and comprehensive model with strong multi-sector coordination. The CEAV Anti-Violence Centre plays a central role in specialised support and case management, while cooperation between institutional, health, social and civil society actors helps create a continuum of care from crisis response to recovery. The visit provided valuable insights for UNIDAS4EU partners on how to strengthen end-to-end pathways, improve coordination and support the prevention of reoffending.



3.5 City Visit - Meylan, France

The Lead Expert and Lead Partner visited the French partner, the Municipality of Meylan, as part of Phase 1 – Understand of the UNIDAS4EU network. The visit focused on how the city responds to domestic and gender-based violence within a complex multi-level governance system involving municipal, metropolitan, departmental and national actors. Meylan is a medium-sized municipality in the Grenoble-Alpes Métropole area, where social isolation, especially among older women living alone, and the low visibility of support services remain important concerns.

The visit explored the role of local entry points such as the CCAS, municipal services, police, the gendarmerie, youth and education actors, and specialised associations. Partners also examined the role of the CLSPD, which supports prevention and institutional coordination, while noting that it does not yet function as an operational case-management mechanism. Discussions highlighted that,

although many actors are active, survivor pathways remain fragmented and continuity can weaken once cases move between services.

Meylan has an active institutional ecosystem and growing political commitment, but still needs to move from informal coordination to a clearer shared pathway. The development of the Maison des Solidarités was identified as an opportunity to improve accessibility, coordination and joint responses. For UNIDAS4EU, the main lesson from Meylan is that existing actors and prevention spaces need to be connected through a more structured local system, ensuring better follow-up from first identification to referral and support.



3.6 City Visit - Bétera, Spain

Date: 13-14 April 2026

The visit involved Lead Expert Linda Ainouche, the Lead Partner team and local stakeholders, combining institutional meetings, technical visits, roundtable discussions. The programme focused on understanding Bétera's local and regional response to gender-based violence, with particular attention to coordination between the municipality, Local Police, Guardia Civil, social services, the 24-hour Women's Centre and equality structures.

The first day opened at the Local Police station, where partners were introduced to Bétera's operational procedures, entry points for victims, case registration, risk assessment, monitoring and institutional coordination. The visit also highlighted the role of the specialised EMUBE police unit, the use of technological tools such as translation equipment for migrant women, and dedicated spaces for victim reception. A visit to the 24-hour Women's Centre showed how specialised, permanent and accessible services support women through information, referral and follow-up within the regional system.

The second day focused on political and technical coordination and contributions from regional and local actors. Participants discussed the role of social services, psychology teams, specialised support for women, children and young people, security forces, health services, justice actors and women's associations. The visit confirmed Bétera's strong interinstitutional framework and provided useful input for the UNIDAS4EU Transferability Study.



4.1 City Visit - Felgueiras, Portugal

Date: 29–30 April 2026

The visit to Felgueiras allowed partners to observe the UNIDAS coordination system in practice and explored how the model connects municipalities, technical teams and institutional partners around a shared victim support pathway.

The sessions focused on understanding the governance logic behind UNIDAS: how responsibilities are assigned, how cases move through the system, how institutions coordinate, and how local proximity is combined with intermunicipal leadership.

This visit helped partners move from a general understanding of the good practice to a more operational reading of its transfer potential. The main outputs were a comparative maturity assessment, the identification of transfer gaps and the first transfer hypotheses for each partner city.

The Felgueiras visit was integrated into the UNIDAS4EU International Seminar, promoted by CIM Tâmega e Sousa in partnership with the Municipality of Felgueiras, bringing together national and European experts, UNIDAS and UNIDAS4EU partners, and municipal technical teams to discuss prevention, domestic violence response and victim support. The event highlighted five years of work by the UNIDAS network in the Tâmega e Sousa territory, marking its 5th anniversary and its recognition as an URBACT European Good Practice now being transferred to other urban contexts through mutual learning.



Chapter 4: Transnational Network Meeting in Portugal

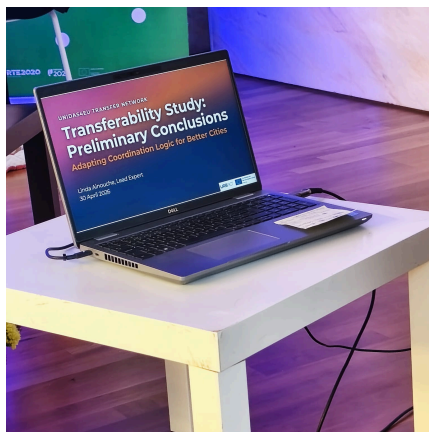
4.1 Felgueiras, Portugal

The UNIDAS4EU Transnational Network Meeting took place in Felgueiras as part of the programme connected to the UNIDAS4EU International Seminar and the study visit to the UNIDAS good practice. The meeting brought together the full consortium of the URBACT Transfer Network, including the Lead Partner, CIM Tâmega e Sousa, the partner cities and institutions — Municipality of Drama, Municipality of Bétera, Budapest 12th District – Hegyvidék, Municipality of Vicenza, Municipality of Meylan and Dragomanov Ukrainian State University — and the Lead Expert, Linda Ainouche.

The consortium meeting was led by Lead Expert Linda Ainouche, who presented the main conclusions from the city visits carried out during the Understanding Phase. Her presentation focused on the different local systems analysed across the network, highlighting common challenges, local assets and key transfer conditions. The discussion also addressed the main topics of the Transferability Study of the UNIDAS good practice and preliminar conclusions.

The meeting provided an important moment for partners to align the next steps of the network and prepare the transition from understanding local contexts to adapting and testing transferable good practice of UNIDAS. Through joint discussion, the consortium reinforced coordination between European partners, clarified priorities for the coming months and strengthened the shared

commitment to building more integrated, victim-centred and territorially coordinated responses to domestic and gender-based violence.



Chapter 5: ULG meeting in Portugal

5.1 Local stakeholders enter the process

The URBACT Local Group meeting in Portugal was held on 14 April 2026 and brought the transfer process closer to local actors. ULGs are the link between transnational learning and local implementation. In Portugal, this means involving stakeholders connected to social action, equality, education, health, justice, security forces, child protection, civil society and communication.

5.2 Reviewing progress and preparing the grounds

The agenda opened with the approval of the minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Technical Monitoring Committee, ensuring continuity between previous coordination moments and the current phase of work. Participants then reviewed the implementation of the activity plan for the first quarter of 2026, checking progress, identifying any pending points and aligning the next actions with the project calendar.

A central part of the meeting was dedicated to preparations for the visit by the URBACT partners. This included organisational coordination, technical inputs and the definition of how local actors would contribute to presenting the UNIDAS good practice on the ground.

The meeting also included a final point for other matters of interest, allowing participants to raise additional operational issues relevant to the network.

Chapter 6: Transferability Study

6.1 Transferability Study sets the roadmap for adapting UNIDAS across Europe

The UNIDAS4EU Transferability Study, prepared within the URBACT Transfer Network, provides a shared analytical basis for understanding how the UNIDAS good practice can be adapted to different European urban contexts. The study presents UNIDAS as a territorial response to gender-based violence, domestic violence and intimate partner violence, built around coordinated pathways and clearer institutional responsibility.

The document analyses the transfer potential of UNIDAS across the partner territories: Bétera, Budapest District XII – Hegyvidék, Drama, Kyiv, Meylan and Vicenza. These cities operate in very different governance, legal and social contexts, ranging from municipalities and metropolitan districts to a capital city working under wartime conditions. This diversity makes the study a key tool for identifying what can be transferred directly, what needs adaptation and what depends on each local system's maturity.

A central conclusion is that the network is not simply transferring a model, but helping cities align their domestic violence support systems according to their own level of coordination and operational readiness. The study shows that services alone are not enough: effective protection depends on structured pathways, case management, multi-agency coordination, data sharing and continuity from first contact to long-term support.

The Transferability Study will guide the next stages of UNIDAS4EU, moving the network from understanding local systems to adapting, testing and consolidating transferable elements of the good practice. Through city visits, bilateral exchanges, ULG work and transnational meetings, partners will use the study to define local priorities, strengthen coordination mechanisms and prepare their transfer plans.

Next Steps

This journal provides a snapshot of current efforts and best practices in domestic violence prevention and support across Europe. The UNIDAS4EU network will continue to build insights, fostering collaboration and sharing knowledge to create safer communities for all. We encourage continued engagement with the resources and initiatives highlighted within this publication.



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