



**European Expert Group Meeting
“Confronting family poverty and social exclusion;
ensuring work-family balance;
advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity
in Europe”**

Convened as part of preparations for the
Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014
(Cfr. Report of the Secretary-General ,
Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the
International Year of the Family in 2014,
A/67/61-E/2012/3)

6-8 June 2011

3. Veilig Thuis

Official name of the Organization

Municipality of Rotterdam.

Website of the Organization

<http://www.rotterdam.nl>.

Name of the practice

Veilig Thuis (Safe Home) - The Rotterdam Approach to Family Violence.

Aim of the practice

One of the main problems during this economic crisis families are confronted with due to the increase of (psychological) stress, unemployment, poverty and drug addiction is family violence. The main aim of the Rotterdam approach and its action programme 'Veilig Thuis' is to stop and prevent family violence by using a system approach. .

Target group of the practice

All family members, victims of family violence and (assistance to) abusers in order to make one integrated family plan.

Name of the person who will make the presentation

Antonios Polychronakis.

Position in the Organization

European Programme Manager.



THE APPROACH TO FAMILY VIOLENCE IN ROTTERDAM

Anthony Polychronakis

European Programme Coordinator

12-6-2012

Reconstruction of the 'Maasmeisje' (2006)



What is 'domestic violence'?

Family Violence (i.e. domestic violence) refers to the use of physical or emotional force or threat of physical force, including sexual violence in close relationships'.

This includes violence perpetrated by a spouse, partner, son or daughter or any other person who has a close or blood relationship with the victim.

'Family Violence occurs in all social classes and is equally prevalent in both rural and urban Holland.



Types of Domestic Violence

- **Partner abuse**
- **Child abuse**
- **Elder abuse**
- **Parent abuse**
- **Honour-related violence**
- **'Loverboys' (Internal trafficking)**



National Research (Van der Veen & Bogaerts, 2010)

- More than 9% of the Dutch population had been a victim of obvious domestic violence in the preceding five years.
- 46% of the Dutch population had experienced any form of domestic violence or any unpleasant incidents in the family circle.
- Nearly 75% of the cases of obvious domestic violence concerned physical violence (65%) and sexual violence (8%).
- Approximately 64% of the victims of obvious domestic violence were women and 36% were men.



Other Reports in 2009/2010

- **Advisory and Support Center** : 6570
- **Honour Related Violence** : 211
- **Youth prostitution (loverboys)** : 220
- **Restraining Orders (RT region)** : 451



Action Programme 'Veilig Thuis' (Safe Home)



3 Spearheads of the Rotterdam Approach

1. Early detection and Reporting
2. More effective intervention
3. Working on a secure future and attention to prevention



1. Early detection and reporting

- Skills in Early Detection
- ASHG (Advisory and Support Centre for Domestic Violence)



- The Rotterdam's Code of Conduct
Professionals are expected to abide by the Rotterdam's Code of Conduct. The Code states that professionals must keep to the standards of the Code



2. More effective intervention

- **Active and system-orientated approach for all family members**



- **Break it down! Smaller is better - manageable numbers**
- **Criminal approach to child abuse and DV**
- **The founding of 13 Local Family Violence Teams (LTHG)**

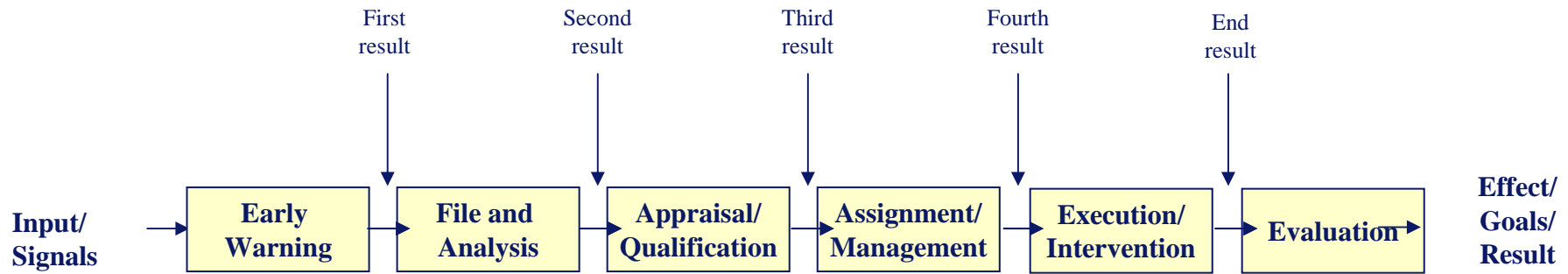


Local Family Violence Team

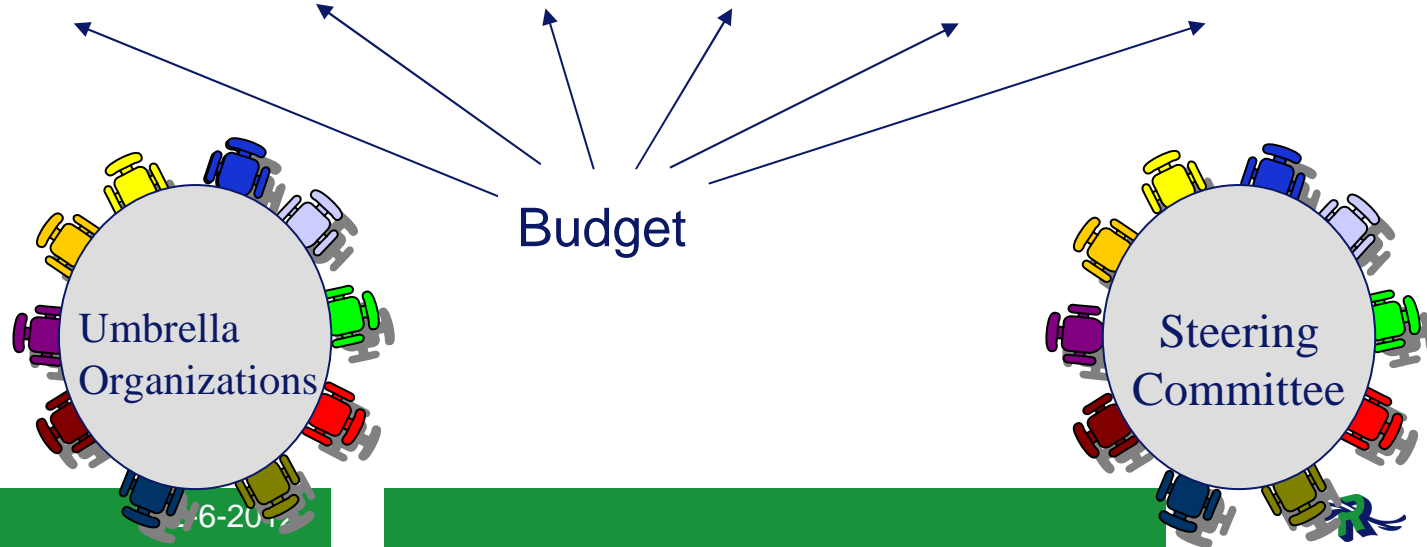
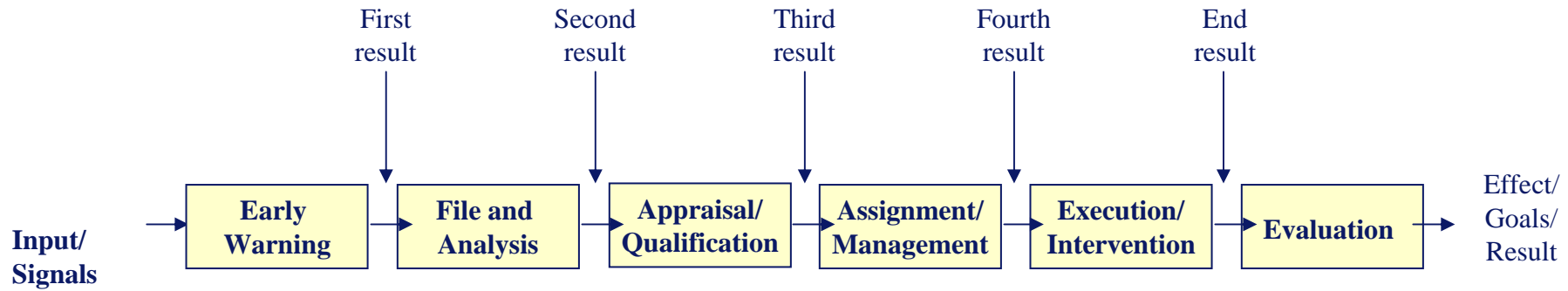
- **Municipal Health Department : coordination**
- **General Welfare Service**
- **Community Service Centre : perpetrator assistance**
- **Arosa: Women's Shelter**
- **Police Rotterdam-Rijnmond**
- **Child welfare**
- **Centre for Youth and Family**
- **Centre for Advice and Reporting Child Abuse**



Develop into a Process Chain



Develop into a Process Chain



3. Working on a Secure Future and Attention to Prevention

- **Help and Advice with attention to the parental role**
- **Empowerment of Victims**
- **Campaign and Guidance and the breaking of taboos**
- **Transmission of violent behavior programmes during pregnancy, programmes aimed specifically at children and young people**



Dutch law in three parts

- **Family-services (criminal law)**: police and criminal justice which focuses on abused women as victims, and men as violent male perpetrators.
- **Child protection**: focuses on children, but where mothers are seen as failing to protect their children from violence.
- **Custody and visitation (civil law)**: Even violent men end up being seen as 'good enough' fathers.

RESULT: contradictory practice! It is difficult to ensure that women and children are safe. → solution: Family Justice Centre



- **THANK YOU !**

