

Annual Report 2020

Diotima Centre





About us

Diotima Centre is a women's, non- profit organization established in 1989 on the initiative of an interdisciplinary group of women. A constant pursuit during our multiannual action is the highlight and confrontation of gender discrimination at all levels of social, political and economic life.

Our vision is the defense of gender rights and our mission is the multifaceted support of women who have suffered gender-based violence and belong in socially vulnerable and excluded groups of women (unemployed, single parents, low-income women, refugees, immigrants).

In addition, Diotima Centre aimed at promoting a world of gender equality and justice implements:

- research and studies on gender issues and gender-based violence
- training groups of professionals regarding gender-based violence.
- advocacy actions
- informative and awareness raising campaigns
- awareness raising actions
- awareness raising workshops for male refugees for the identification of gender stereotypes see here

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Strengthening survivors

Our organization is the unique in Greece that provides comprehensive services specialized in legal aid to victims of violence, including legal advice, judicial representation, coverage of all court costs. In parallel we support women by providing personalized psychosocial assistance and escord - mediation. In recent years all our provided services are also addressed to men, LGBTQ+ individuals – gender and sexual violence survivors among the refugee population.



03

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In 2020 we supported 1951 women, men, LGBTQ people - female and male survivors of gender-based violence in Athens, Thessaloniki, Lesvos, Samos and Chios.



Research

Gender and digital exclusion in Greece

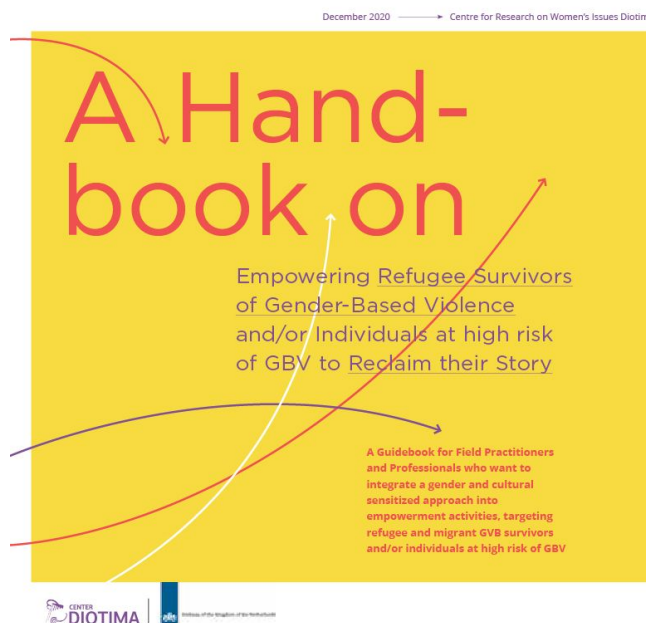
The study was conducted in the framework of the program "Women Going Digital", implemented under the support and funding of the Latsis Foundation. The purpose of this study is to shed light on aspects of the under-representation of women in technology sector, encouraging policies and practices to overcome it.



06

A handbook on empowering refugee survivors

The handbook is a result of the project “Assisting Professionals to Support and Empower Refugee”, that was funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Athens. The main goal is to become a Guidebook for those field practitioners and professionals who would like to integrate a more gender and culturally sensitized approach into their activities.



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Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Centre Diotima, with the kind support of the British Embassy Athens, published this handy guide, in the form of frequently asked questions and answers, contains essential information for survivors of domestic violence, but also for any person who wants to help others and protect themselves.





Trainings

Diotima Centre utilizes feminist training principals when designing and implementing seminars and workshops. This means that trainers employ participatory, non-hierarchical, and power-sharing learning, aiming to bring forth an understanding of how patriarchal ideology has reduced and altered our understanding and experience of self and the societies we live in. Through this lens, trainers attempt to discuss the intersections of gendered, racial, sexual, and social diversity and inequality.

Although trainers incorporate theory in their approach to ensure participants are acquainted with key concepts and best practices they mainly focus on different interactive methods best suited for adult learning such as role-play, group and individual work.

Diotima's trainings target staff with different roles/specialties, and varying experience as well as knowledge levels. For this, the first part of the training aims to “even the ground” and bring all participants to the same level of knowledge regarding basic concepts and information. The remaining of the training specialises the knowledge to the needs of the particular group of participants and creates space for open discussion between participants and trainers.

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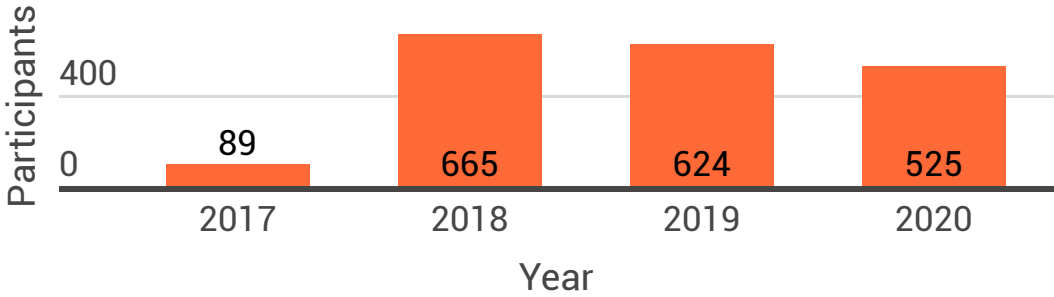
For 2020, 32 trainings, with 525 female and male participants, took place. More specific: Specialized professionals supporting female and male survivors, specialized front-line professionals that come in contact with survivors, professionals working with unaccompanied children, teachers, students, general public.



Statistics

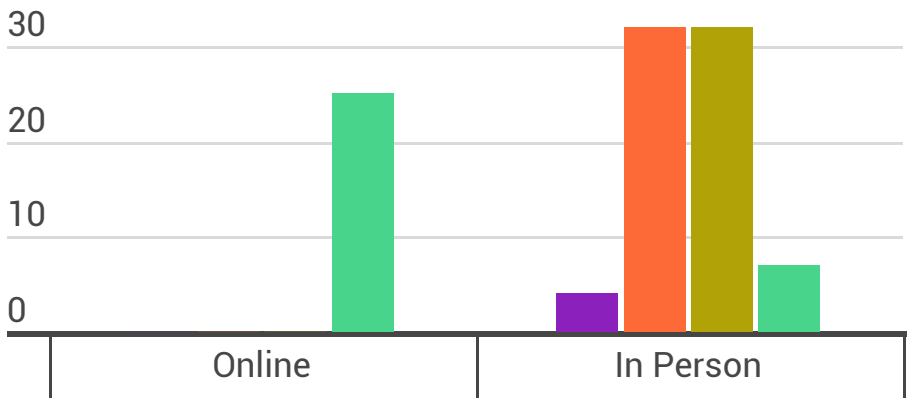
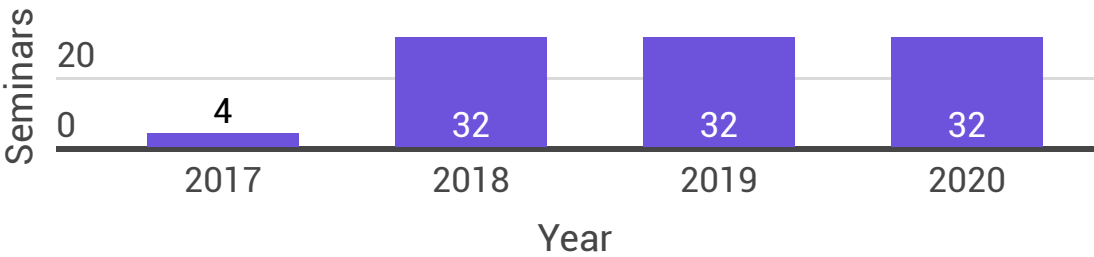
01

Persons trained per year

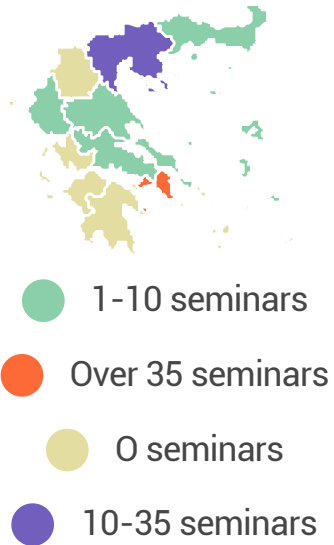


02

Number of trainings per year



● 2017
 ● 2018
 ● 2019
 ● 2020



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Advocacy

Participation in committees at the Parliament

On May 22, 2020, Diotima Center participated in the meeting of the Special Standing Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights, of the Hellenic Parliament, on the subject: "Domestic violence in the time of corona-virus: Women's organizations share/(testify) their experience".

In the meeting, 36 women's organizations were engaged. In favor of Diotima Center, were placed Anna Vougiouka (social scientist / researcher) and Marina Farmakidi (lawyer) on good and bad practices, gaps and challenges in the system of responding to domestic violence during the pandemic.





Press Releases

- *December 2020*: Diotima Center for co-supervision
- *November 2020*: For arrests of feminists on November 25
- *September 2020*: Female survivors in Lesbos are exposed to the violence of the perpetrators
- *July 2020*: Moroccan trans woman in danger of deportation
- *April 2020*: Immediate need for emergency measures for victims of domestic violence violence
- *April 2020*: Victims of domestic violence in Moria are unprotected
- *March 2020*: Police expelled a victim of domestic violence under the pretext/(excuse) of coronavirus
- *March 2020*: March 8: Feminist Strike for Gender Equality
- *January 2020*: Many female refugees - victims of gender-based violence are homeless

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Campaign

Women from the empowerment teams of Diotima Center recorded the conditions of their lives, spoke about their desire to integrate into Greek society, themselves as long as their children too. Based on their words, we created the digital campaign "My message for integration ". Campaign was published on the World Refugee Day 2020.

Women were encouraged to talk about their life in Greece and to map their needs while recording them. Our goal was to make their own voice be heard.



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Events

30 years of Diotima: history, present and perspectives of a feminist route with obstacles

Having the indication of all aspects of gender inequality as a fixed point of reference and fighting against it as a goal, Diotima Center completed 30 years by organizing a discussion about the present, past and future of feminist route



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Events for International Women's Day

Diotima Center organized and participated in various actions for the International Women's Day with the aim of raising awareness for gender equality and the abolition of discrimination against women. In Athens, lawyer Marina Farmakidi attended the Empowerment Tea Party of TedxAthens.



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Multicultural event

In Thessaloniki , Diotima Center in collaboration with the Iris Center, organized a multicultural event for Greek women, refugees and immigrants. There was a painting and photography exhibition consisting of female refugees projects. Through the event we indented to develop a dialogue between women, to exchange free opinions and reflections on our rights, focusing to common concerns, experiences and hopes, regardless of age and country origin.



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Survivor event

Co-organization of the final online event for the project "Survivor service enhancement for migrant and refugee women survivors of gender-based violence ", with themes: prevention and addressing gender-based violence against migrant women and refugees, domestic violence and covid, exchange of good and bad practices.



SURVIVOR
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

ΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ ΤΗΣ ΓΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑΣ ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΙΣΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΤΩΝ ΦΥΛΩΝ

Η Γενική Γραμματεία Οικογενειακής Πολιτικής και Ισότητας των Φύλων σας προσκαλεί την

Τετάρτη 30 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020, ώρα 10:30 - 14:00
στην

"ΤΕΛΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΔΙΚΤΥΑΚΗ ΕΚΔΗΛΩΣΗ ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΥ"

ΔΙΑΣΟSH ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΡΩΝ ΠΟΥ ΔΙΕΧΩΣΗ ΠΕΡΙΣΤΑΣΙΩΝ ΕΜΦΥΛΗΣ ΒΙΑΣ

που γίνεται στο πλαίσιο υλοποίησης του ευρωπαϊκού προγράμματος SURVIVOR: "Ενίσχυση των υπηρεσιών για μετανάστριες και γυναίκες πρόσφυγες απόλησσας έμφυλης βίας"

Η ημερίδα θα πραγματοποιηθεί με live streaming μέσω της πλατφόρμας zoom





Event for World Day for the Elimination of Violence against women

On the occasion of the International Day of Violence Elimination against Women, Diotima Center and the Journal: "efimerida tw n sintaktwn" coorganized an event on "Femicide: from street to the law", with the participation of journalists, activists, university professors, researchers. Our goal was to approach the most extreme form of gender-based violence, from legal, anthropological, political, journalistic and activist point of view.





Refugees awareness workshops

Interventions of the institution regarding gender violence among the refugee population, which have been implemented since 2018, include actions "for men engagement"(male engagement). More detailed, these are actions and workshops for men refugees. Given that in the overwhelming majority of cases, the perpetrators are men - whether it has to do with the abusio of women, LGBTQ people, but even other men (ex. in hostilities where one side "humiliates" e.g. sexually the leader of the other) - our goal is the prevention of such incidents ".

In/During the sections of the workshops, we approach issues of equality, human rights, gender stereotypes, gender-based violence, as long as citizenship issues. The starting point each time is stereotypes and beyond that we touch on as many topics as possible we can in every meeting. In this context, djing lessons were implemented for underage refugees. During the lessons we approached the knowledge and techniques of djing with various interactive ways but also audiovisual media, while making sure the material we use, is inclusive for all gender and sexualities.

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Annex

Programs 2020

New programs

Strengthening GBV services and response ability for survivors at the new site: The project is being implemented by CRWI Diotima with the Support of International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Objective

The project aims to enhance Diotima's teams and activities in Lesvos that respond to the needs of female and male GBV survivors and to the emergent situation that has emerged after the destruction of Moria's RIC and its replacement with the New Site at Kara Tepe.

Activities

- Provision of case management and PSS services to GBV survivors
- Provision of legal counselling and legal aid to GBV survivors
- Provision of emergency accommodation to GBV

Targeted Population

GBV survivors who are accommodated at the New Site in Kara Tepe

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Engaging the community for the protection of GBV survivors and women at risk in Kara Tepe: The program is implemented by the Diotima Centre with funding from UNICEF. The program concerns the prevention and to tackle the gender-based violence in the new camp of Lesvos.

Objectives

The main goal of the program is the identification, registration and provision of psycho-social support to GBV survivors and women at risk of gender-based violence, by a team of specialized professionals (coordinator, psychologists, social workers, interpreters, social scientists, child animator).

The key actions

- Communication with community activities (CwC), such as workshops, focused discussion groups, group activities, etc. with the participation of GBV survivors, women at high risk of GBV and adolescent girls residing in the new camp
- Interventions of two SGBV mobile teams in the new camp, for the registration of the population, that is facing gender-based violence or is at high risk of GBV, the provision of psycho-social support and the referral to the appropriate services
- Training of professionals working in the new camp regarding the basic concepts of gender-based violence, first aid for mental health, etc.
- Strengthening the existing gender-based violence management team of the Diotima Centre in Lesvos, with the aim of responding to the increased needs.

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GRIPP: Increasing gender sensitivity: This project has been supported by the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM), a collaborative initiative of the Network of European Foundations (NEF)

Goal

Goal of the project will be to increase the sensitivity of trainees to recognize gender inequality and its diverse cultural contexts and to promote gender sensitive practices through their work.

Basic activities

- Preparation of training materials and delivery of 3 seminars on the meaning, sociocultural origins and effects of gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexism and patriarchy
- Preparation of training materials and delivery of 3 seminars on topics related to gender and gender based violence (GBV), aiming to increase the knowledge and enhance the skills of participants to effectively provide support to GBV survivors
- Preparation of training materials and delivery of 3 seminars on GBV, with a specific focus on enhancing participants' skills and capabilities to act as a first point of identification of child survivors and/or children at risk of GBV, as well as of children affected by violence experienced by their primary caretakers

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All women safe_Free legal aid to domestic violence survivors: CRWI Diotima in collaboration with the Municipality of Athens is implementing the program “All women safe” for the period April – October 2020. The program aims to offer free legal aid to Greek and migrant women, victims of domestic violence. The women should have low incomes (10.000 Euros annually) as well as be residents or citizens of the Municipality of Athens.

Goal

The program's goal is to support survivors and reduce the consequences of domestic violence, which is increasing worldwide, due to the restriction of movement that has been imposed to the citizens, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Services

CRWI Diotima's professionals will provide survivors with free legal aid and short term psycho-social support.

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FM OUT: Forced marriages, tools for professionals in Europe:

Finding ways out to forced marriages: prevention, protection and support tools for practitioners across Europe is co-funded by the program Rights, Equality and Citizenship.

Goals

FM-OUT aims to equip professionals working (in)directly with potential victims of forced marriages (FM) with competences and tools in order to face the challenges posed by this social problem in 4 EU countries.

Main activities

- Conducting research in 4 countries (Spain, Greece, Belgium and Germany) regarding forced marriages among immigrant populations.
- Creating relevant interactive, digital, educational materials
- Educational training programs for professionals
- Implementation of educative and psycho-pedagogical activities for young men and women
- Advocacy towards decision making bodies to bring to view the issue of forced marriages and come up with solutions.

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Women going digital: Empowerment of the digital skills of unemployed women: The program was designed and implemented by the Diotima Center, with long experience in women's empowerment, and Social Hacker Academy, specializing in technological education.

Goal

According to research data, women are under-represented in Information and Communication Technologies, facing difficulties both in their inclusion in the digital labor market and in their daily lives. In this context, the "Women Going Digital" program aims to:

- Strengthening the digital skills of unemployed women
- Upgrade their professional profile
- Facilitating their access to the digital labor market
- Raising awareness of low representation of women in ICT and taking action to converge on the gender digital divide

Main activities

- WordPress Website Learning Tutorial
- Soft skills training
- Networking with the job market
- Research on the low representation of women in the technology sector

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Strengthening MHR: Beyond gender stereotype: The program is being implemented by Centre Diotima and funded by Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), which belongs to the Open Society Foundation.

Goal

The project seeks to fill in the gaps observed and identified with regards to psycho-social support and mental health services available for and provided to refugee adolescent boys (16 and above) and adult men, residing in Athens urban area, who are survivors primarily of GBV and/or possibly other forms of violence.

Activities

Conduct of Needs Assessment (research) in urban Athens area, mapping of the targeted population as well as of the existing agencies they may reach. Capacity building program for the front-line professionals who will staff the new service. Pilot service provision to the targeted population through experienced and trained staffed members

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ARIANDE II: Developing multidisciplinary police reporting procedures to prevent to domestic violence: The program is funded by the DG Justice/ Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC).

Goals

The program aims to identify the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and to propose the relevant policies to the Greek State in order to sensitize police officers in terms of:

- moving into action while cooperating with Civil Society's organizations for protecting female immigrants and refugees who are survivors of domestic violence
- deal with the reduced numbers of reports/ accusations regarding domestic violence incidents, by offering educational and consulting programs as well as by providing practical tools provision.
- Organizing (24) consulting meetings with interdisciplinary working groups



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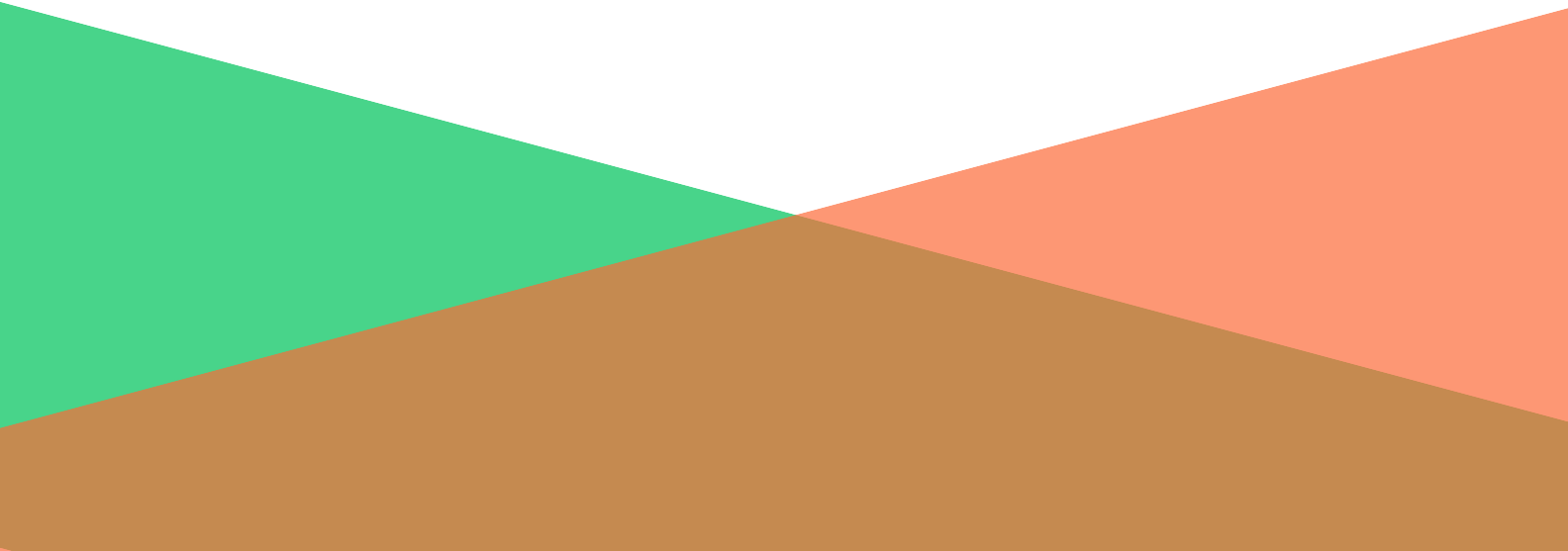
Support Diotima's online helpdesk: With the support of Mediterranean Women's Fund CRWI Diotima's activities regarding the response to GBV survivors in the framework of Covid-19 are enhanced.

Objective

This project aims to enhance Diotima's response to GBV survivors by supporting specialized professionals who staff Diotima's online Helpdesk.

Activities

Provision of information and counselling to GBV survivors (or persons who are at risk of GBV) from a specialized professional via an online Helpdesk.



Programs that continue in 2020

Intervention against Sexual and Gender Based Violence in urban areas: Through an integrated approach in line with National Public System and other relevant stakeholders, the project seeks to build on the existing experience and lessons learned from the implementation of the current project and the data gathered from the field and the gaps identified so far, so as to continue to address the following objectives through a rights centered and participatory approach in the population residing in four urban areas: Athens, Thessaloniki, and in the population residing in the site of Moria, Lesbos.

The project is funded by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) .
Implementation period: January 2020 – December 2020.

The above mentioned objectives will be achieved through the following action points.

- Ongoing SGBV prevention and response through the mobilization and engagement of the community,organizing regular community consultations, promoting agency and ownership of public space,and finally through identifying and addressing security issues and collective concerns by the refugee community in the sites.
- Ongoing provision of SGBV case management services in the locations listed above and expansion to Athens,Thessaloniki and Thessaly Urban areas.
- Ongoing provision of free legal aid services to continue to address needs for legal action for a growing number of survivors of SGBV in the proposed areas of intervention and expansion to Thessaloniki, Athens and Thessaly Urban areas..

The survivor project: Enhancing services for refugee and migrant GBV survivors: To Enhance the quality and access of services for refugee and migrant GBV survivors in Greece and strengthen GBV programming through transnational dialogue and sharing GBV best practices, resources and tools in Greece and Europe

Main Activities

- Expand and train female cultural mediators
- Train public social services staff on specialised support for GBV survivors
- Establish SOPs and a community referral mechanism for GBV services
- Design and implement pre-service seminars for professionals
- Produce communications and information materials in appropriate languages
- Create a regional online platform for resource sharing
- Conduct exchange visits to boost cross-border learning, and European skills sharing on GBV best practices
- Conduct an interactive, action-oriented Regional GBV Workshop.



Strengthening skills of field professionals to respond to incidents of gender based violence: The program is funded by Unicef. Within the framework of the program, training seminars will be delivered to 200 non-specialist first-line professionals working in open hosting structures in the mainland.

Goals

- Enhancement of the front line staff skills to identify SGBV survivors
- Provision of clear guidelines on when and how to refer identified cases
- Increasing the knowledge of existing referral pathways and promoting the creation of new ones when needed
- Addressing the staff's perceptions of gender roles and promoting positive examples of how these can be reframed

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Research “Girls on the move”: “Girls on the move” is part of a global researching effort, conducted in several regions worldwide (South America, Africa and Balkan) and funded by “Save the Children”.

Goals

“Girls on the move” aims to assess the needs that girls have at their countries of residence as well as the challenges they are facing throughout their journey.

It's the first research that has been conducted in Greece regarding underage girls, reducing in this way the lack of knowledge and empirical data, in the terms that existing data refer to boys, ignoring girls' special needs.