

Diotima Centre

Annual Report 2024



2024

About us

Diotima Centre is a women's non-profit organization, active since 1989, specialized in issues of gender equality.

Our vision is the defense of gender rights and the promotion of a world of gender justice.

Our mission is to provide comprehensive support to women who have suffered gender-based violence and belong to socially excluded groups (unemployed, single parents, low-income women immigrants).

Our intervention is holistic and aims to prevent and address the consequences of gender-based violence, strengthen the voice of women and promote gender equality in all areas of social, cultural, and economic life.



Fields of action

The core of our action is the provision of specialized support services to gender-based violence survivors.

At the same time, we carry out:

- **trainings** for professionals and the general public
- **awareness-raising campaigns**
- **research** on gender and gender-based violence issues
- **advocacy** initiatives

The methodology we apply is grounded in the **Feminist approach**, centered on empowerment, inclusive support and care; and in an intersectional approach, understood as an open process between theory and field experience.



Services for survivors

Our organization is **the only one in Greece that provides comprehensive specialized legal assistance services to victims of gender-based violence** (Greek, immigrant and refugee women).

Legal assistance includes free legal advice, representation in courts, and coverage of all legal expenses.

In addition, we support women, by providing them with **personalized psychosocial support**, escort, mediation and interpretation.

Since 2016, we have been providing all of our services to the refugee population as well (women, LGBTQI+, men- victims of gender-based violence and torture).



In 2024, we supported
853 survivors of gender-based violence.

426 women benefited from legal
assistance and court representation.



Empowerment groups

The innovative prevention actions we carry out include multilingual women empowerment groups and male engagement groups.

Through empowerment groups, we seek to:

- **inform** women on their rights
- **build bonds** of solidarity and mutual support networks
- **strengthen** female autonomy



Trainings

Our training activities are developed year by year, while they are addressed to various audiences:

- **professionals**, with the aim to identify and deal with gender-based violence incidents
- **general public** (young people, students), with the aim to raise awareness of gender, consent and violence
- **companies**, aiming to raise awareness and inform

For the seminars, we use interactive methods that are suitable for adults.



In 2024

2.651 individuals

participated in trainings empowerment,
prevention, and awareness raising
activities



Awareness raising campaigns

Campaigns constitute a key tool to inform, sensitize and mobilize society as a whole.

The Communication Department of the Diotima Centre has implemented **14 digital campaigns** in various formats, amassing **over 7 million views**. Two of these campaigns went **viral**, utilizing **7 channels/platforms** on social media.

With our campaigns we strive to:

- empower women
- shift gender stereotypes
- shape a collective culture of zero tolerance for gender-based violence

In order to achieve that, we need you on our side!



In 2024, we developed and took part in two digital campaigns featuring videos, podcasts, and engaging visual content.



campaigns

#EqualGen

The [#EqualGen](#) campaign ran for just over a year, from March 8, 2023, to late April 2024, establishing a sustained social media initiative focused on gender equality.

The campaign included [16 original visual artworks](#) by illustrator Eleni Koumi, [two videos on consent](#) under the title [#pesmeidiotropi](#), and [three podcasts](#) addressing key issues such as consent, everyday sexism, and body shaming. Altogether, the campaign [reached over 2 million people](#), with Gen Z emerging as the most engaged audience segment.

Follow [#EqualGen campaign](#).



#BeAwareTakeAction

"The awareness campaign [#BeAwareTakeAction](#) ran 25 November 2024 and aims to sensitize public opinion on combating stereotypes and violence against women with disabilities.

"As part of the campaign, a video and a research study titled '[Gender-Based Violence and Women with Physical and Sensory Disabilities](#)' were presented, aiming to highlight the multiple forms of discrimination and violence these women face."

Follow [#BeAwareTakeAction](#)



25 Νοεμβρίου
Διεθνής Ημέρα για την Εξάλειψη
της Βίας Κατά των Γυναικών

**Έμφυλη
βία &
αναπηρία**

Η φετινή πανελλήνια έρευνα, επιχειρεί να διερευνήσει τον βαθμό γνώσης που έχει το γενικό κοινό για την ευαλωτότητα των γυναικών με κινητικές και αισθητηριακές αναπηρίες απέναντι στην έμφυλη βία και τα εμπόδια που αυτές καλούνται να αντιμετωπίσουν όταν επιθυμούν να την αναφέρουν ή καταγγείλουν.

 ΕΝΕΡΓΩ [#ΓνωρίζειςΚατιΚανεΚατι](#)

Research activity

Our research activity has been uninterrupted since 1989:

- We carry out **field research**, implementing a feminist and inclusive approach.
- We formulate and disseminate **policy proposals**, on the basis of our research and filed work.
- We create **policy tools** to promote gender equality.

Our aim is to integrate the gender perspective into social, labor, migration, integration and other policies.

In 2024, we published **3 studies**, reports, policy briefs on gender rights, gender-based violence, and equality.



**let's discuss
changing
society**

Research activity

In 2024, the Diotima Centre prepared

- policy brief titled "[Integrating a Gender Perspective in Education](#)", which provides a concise overview of the institutional framework for gender equality in education, along with recommendations for a gender-sensitive educational policy.
- the study "[Gender Approaches in the Energy Sector](#)" aims to support the development of gender-responsive policies that ensure equal access to clean energy technologies.
- the research "[Advocacy Practices for Gender Rights](#)" aims to promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices in advocacy for gender rights.



Advocacy

Advocacy actions are a core component of our work.

We are consistently fighting **to give voice to the needs and the rights of excluded groups of women**, by participating in national and international forums, feminist networks, public consultation processes, lobby groups, networks for highlighting and promoting social issues, and for asserting women's rights.

In 2024, the Diotima Center **co-signed 5 joint letters and issued 2 press releases** to contribute to the public dialogue on issues related to gender equality, gender-based violence, and refugee issues.



ANNEX

Projects 2024



Continued

Title	PRESS
Funding	Funded by the EU in the context of CERV Project Grants (Project number 101049295),
Implementation period	01.02.2022 to 01.01.2024
Goal & Objectives	The PRESS project aims to promote early detection and prevention of sexual harassment/ violence, with a particular focus on gender-based cyber sexual violence, and offering support services to women, young people, and LGBTIQ victims or potential victims of these types of gender-based violence.
Key actions	-Bibliographic / desk research on sexual harassment and cyber violence and on the recent developments during the Covid-19 pandemic. -Mapping of the existing situations regarding the reproduction of sexual harassment and violence in the Greek media -Drafting a Good Practice Guide on consent -Capacity-building training activities addressed to professionals of mental health, social workers, educators, lawyers, multidisciplinary teams of professionals, and students. -Training of Trainers (ToT) activities addressed to media professionals and aiming to combat sexist and stereotypical beliefs about sexual harassment and sexual violence. -Support activities for gender-based violence survivors -Psychosocial support for GBV survivors and people (over 16) at risk of experiencing sexual harassment. -Legal counseling and legal aid. -Empowerment and awareness raising – through team activities and workshops for young adult persons and teenagers (16-17 years old). -Policy proposals and measures to be taken on a national and European level based on the desk research and the needs of GBV survivors supported by Diotima Centre. -Proposals on how to mainstream gender in news reporting for sexual harassment and cyber violence. -Organization of a roundtable discussion on sexual harassment and consent and on cyber sexual violence – shared among experts and young people. -Awareness-raising and informative activities -Online campaign for the general public on sexual harassment on the internet.ommunication campaign on sexual harassment and consent addressed to children and young persons and focusing on educating and sensitizing on issues relating to respect, body boundaries, and consent.
Beneficiaries	Young women, men, and LGBTQI people (16-35) – especially school and university students who will be informed about their rights, available services, and complaint procedures; Key professionals supporting GBV survivors – i.e., psychologists, social workers, educators, and lawyers (employed in the public and private sectors) People employed in the production of news/ reporting of sexual harassment, sexual violence, and cyber violence – i.e., journalists, news producers, etc. Policymakers and stakeholders The general public
Collaborations	Diotima Centre as Coordinator, National Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies and Genderhood as partners

Title	LILA
Funding	CERV-2021-DAPHNE, funded by EU
Implementation period	01.03.2022 to 28.02.2024
Goal & Objectives	The project's general objective is to design, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive and tailored support program aimed at women victims of gender-based violence (GBV) and their children, based on their individual needs and paying special attention to those having arisen from the covid-19 social and economic crisis.
Key actions	1. Development of a protocol for psycho-social support to increase women's resilience, help them escape abusive relationships, regain autonomy, and prevent further victimization/ involvement in violent relationships 2. Implement a pilot program to enable as many women/girls as possible to access it without discrimination. preventing child abuse and promoting maternity support, etc. 3. fostering and enhancing multi-agency cooperation to increase the capacity of stakeholders and relevant professionals to provide support to survivors 4. raise awareness around gender-based violence, coordinated by the Diotima Centre 5. contributing to the identification of the emerging needs of the target groups in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the diagnosis of their social, emotional, and economic situation
Beneficiaries	ABD Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo (Spain) Diotima Center, Fondazione ACRA (Italy), and Payoke (Belgium). Visit the project page here
Collaborations	With public services and NGOs

Title	Community linkage
Funding	CERV-2021-DAPHNE, with EU funding
Implementation period	05.2022 to 06.2024
Goal & Objectives	The program aims to effectively interconnect gender-based violence prevention and response services and refugee communities, with a view to early identification and support of survivors in the post-COVID-19 era.
Key actions	assessment of the needs of services preventing and dealing with gender-based violence participatory research with migrant women as agents of change in identifying and addressing gender-based violence networking between migrant/refugee communities capacity building of professionals, based on the needs of migrant women strategic planning of innovative coordination processes between actors providing services to address gender-based violence and networks of migrant women awareness-raising campaign and advocacy initiatives (conferences at national and European level)
Beneficiaries	migrant women GBV survivors, migrant women, professionals working in the field of gender-based violence
Collaborations	Surt, Fundacio de Dones Fundacio Privada (Spain) and partners are Diotima Centre (Greece), Cesie (Italy), and Zrs Koper (Slovenia).

Title	All safe II
Implementation period	11.2022 to 10.2025
Goal & Objectives	The aim of the programme is to support and empower women who experience gender-based violence in any form, have limited economic and/or social resources (low income, unemployment, single-parent families, precarious conditions, etc.) and live in the region of Attica and Central Macedonia. The programme seeks to help women escape from abuse and regain their independence and dignity.
Key actions	Legal advice and legal representation Psychosocial support Vocational counselling
Beneficiaries	Greek women and immigrant women who have experienced and/or are experiencing any form of gender-based violence.

Title	Play the game and stay safe						
Funding	UNICEF						
Implementation period	12.2022 to 05.2024						
Goal & Objectives	The project aims to promote gender equality among young people and foster a culture of zero tolerance for gender-based violence. Through the application we aim to raise awareness and information about online sexual harassment, in its various forms, focusing on issues of consent, healthy interpersonal boundaries, and relationships.						
Key actions	Design and development of an application in 3 languages (Greek, English, Farsi) to be used as a "learning game". Young people will participate in the design and implementation.						
Beneficiaries	Young people between 14-17 years old, speaking Greek, English, and Farsi.						
Collaborations							

Title	Equal Gen
Funding	The Active citizens fund in Greece
Implementation period	04.2022 to 04.2024
Goal & Objectives	The project "Equalgen" engages multiple groups nationwide through combined activities of training, empowerment, awareness and art, emphasizing in young people (16-30 years old), as adolescence and the first years of adulthood are a period of formative experiences in terms of beliefs and way of life and gender expression.
Key actions	-empowerment, self-awareness, capacity building and information workshops on the rights of lgtbqia+ people and women (16-30 years) -artistic workshops to raise awareness for equality with the use of contemporary art tools -groups, both online (6 actions) and live in Athens (6 actions), with the participation of up to 15 people, on issues of gender equality, gender roles, gender identities and gender violence. -collective empowerment and care activities in the context of a group of peers -online trainings for educators -digital campaign on gender issues, gender equality and gender-based violence. -thematic policy briefs, the first on the prevention of gender-based violence and the second on the needs of teachers to integrate the perspective of gender equality in the pedagogical process
Beneficiaries	young general public, educators
Collaborations	Emantes, Anasa Cultural Center for African Art and Culture

Title	Support services in women refugees (2nd phase)
Funding	UNHCRGreece
Implementation period	01.2022 to 12.2025
Goal & Objectives	It aims at providing comprehensive support services, which include prevention (community engagement interventions), and empowerment of the refugee community (community empowerment interventions), GBV case management and legal aid in the areas of Attica, Thessaloniki and Lesvos.
Key actions	-Provide free legal aid -representation in court included-to people who have been sexually abused or at high risk -Provide personalized psychosocial support in the context of gender-based violence management (GBV case management) -Develop a mechanism for referring incidents of gender-based violence to competent bodies, such as public services, NGOs, etc. -Carry out prevention actions: raise awareness of gender-based violence issues, empower refugees, including men, through close cooperation with local refugee communities
Beneficiaries	GBV survivors

Title	Remote psychosocial support			
Funding	Athina I. Martinou Foundation			
Implementation period	03.2023 to 01.2024			
Goal & Objectives	The aim of the program is to support and empower survivors and to reduce the consequences of gender-based violence.			
Beneficiaries	Women and migrant women who experience all forms of gender-based violence, live in rural areas, and have limited financial resources.			
Keys Actions	The program provides remote psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence. To better serve the women, the program offers the possibility of telephone or online communication, ensuring all safety and protection measures for the service users.			

Title	EQUALL – Equal opportunities for all
Funding	Piraeus Bank's multifaceted EQUALL program
Implementation period	12.2023 to 06.2024
Goal & Objectives	The project aims to respond in a targeted manner to the need for empowerment, economic and social self-sufficiency and independence of survivors of gender-based violence, enhancing their efforts to escape abuse and support an independent life.
Key actions	- Individualized supportive psycho-educational professional counselling sessions aimed at empowering women to recognize their positive and strong points, to creatively and proactively manage their autonomy by utilizing all available resources (material, psychological and social) and to achieve the reconstruction of their self-image, the enhancement of their self-esteem and self-confidence. - Upgrading of qualifications and acquisition of (new) skills. Through counselling support, their professional profile (educational level, previous work experience) is mapped, soft/social skills are identified and exploited, and their (re)orientation is encouraged. - Preparation for searching and finding a job.
Beneficiaries	Women of all ages and social profiles and can particularly help those in a precarious economic situation (unemployed or underemployed, etc.), regardless of their formal qualifications who have experienced gender-based violence



New programs

Title	FEMI-NET
Funding	BUILD programme
Implementation period	April to November 2024
Objectives	- To empower Civil Society Organisations in Greece, with a focus on organisations having a narrower range, which are supporting women, femininities and LGBTQI+ persons and are promoting gender equality and inclusivity. - The exchange of good practices and expertise on advocacy in cooperation with European CSOs.
Target groups	- Human rights defenders supporting vulnerable population groups. - Members of CSOs working in the social field for the promotion of gender equality and LGBTQI+ rights.
Activities	- Information and empowerment seminars Through seminars the target groups of FEMI-NET will be informed about their rights and empowered in order to enhance their visibility and audibility. Then all those interested will become focal points. It is expected that 25-30 members of CSOs, migrant/refugee communities and activists will participate in the seminars. - Qualitative research – of a narrow range In the context of FEMI-NET there will be focus groups discussions and interviews in order to trace policies and measures contributing to the strengthening of fundamental rights and gender equality. The research aims at documenting good practices of advocacy implemented by CSOs in Greece and the EU, which can be adopted on a national level. - Mutual learning workshop The aim of the workshop is to develop a context enabling the exchange of experiences and know-how in order to explore the potential to set up an advocacy network and a common activity platform.

Title	DISC
Funding	CERV-2024-GE
Implementation period	November 2024 to October 2026
Objectives	The project's objective is to challenge gender stereotypes and raise awareness on gender inequalities in care by applying art-based techniques and methodologies.
Target groups	DISC is addressed to adolescents, social workers, adult educators, youth workers and informal caregivers.
Activities	• Produce a training methodology, addressed to adults and adolescents, aiming to challenge gender stereotypes and promote equality in care • Organisation of interactive experiential workshops addressed to adults and adolescents across Greece • Produce a manual including the methodology, the tools and the activities implemented in the workshops • An intervention on inequalities related to care-giving based on the Forum Theatre techniques, which will be presented to local communities across the country • Drafting of a policy brief, including proposals drawing from citizens perspectives gathered during the Forum Theatre presentations • Organisation of an awareness-raising campaign, including a documentary and two podcasts, aimed at highlighting the necessity of gender care balance and a care democracy.