



FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY “IMPLEMENTING NORMS, CHANGING MINDS”

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Photo: Marija Jankovic



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CONTENTS

Abbreviations and acronyms	3		
I. Executive summary	5		
II. Background and Context	9		
III. Results Achieved by Programme Objectives	12		
Specific Objective 1: To create an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and other forms of discrimination	13		
Result 1.1: Women’s voice and agency strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention	14		
Result 1.2: Laws and policies are reviewed and reformed to conform with international human rights standards including CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention	27		
Result 1.3: A regional dialogue and knowledge sharing mechanism on the implementation and monitoring of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW among Governments, CSOs and other concerned stakeholders is established and functional	32		
Specific Objective 2: To promote favourable social norms and attitudes and prevent discrimination of and violence against women	34		
Result 2.1: Women’s CSOs, media and government bodies have the knowledge to develop and implement innovative approaches to address harmful gender stereotypes	35		
Result 2.2: Women, girls, men and boys at the community and individual levels have a better understanding and acceptance of gender equality	39		
		Specific Objective 3: To empower women and girls (including those from disadvantaged groups) who have experienced discrimination or violence to advocate for and use available, accessible and quality services	48
		Result 3.1: Providers of general and specialist support services for victims of all forms of violence have the capacity to implement the standards enshrined in CEDAW and the IC	49
		Result 3.2: Improved case management by providers of specialist support services for victims of all forms of violence, with a specific focus on women and girls from minorities and disadvantaged groups	57
		Result 3.3: Better access to an improved service provision for women from minority and disadvantaged groups	63
		IV. Communication and Visibility	72
		V. Challenges and Lessons learned	78
		Annexes	98
		Annex I	
		List of CSOs beneficiaries of the Programme	98

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACEV	Mother and Child Foundation	FLD	Foundation for Local Democracy
ADRF	Albanian Disability Rights Foundation	Flying Broom	Flying Broom Women’s Communication and Research Association
AWEN	Albanian Women Empowerment Network	FWS	The Foundation for Women’s Solidarity
BIBIJA	Roma Women’s Center Bibija	GADC	Gender Alliance for Development Center
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Bosna i Hercegovina	GBV	Gender-based violence
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	GC FBIH	Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
CEFM	Child and early forced marriages	GE	Gender equality
CfPs	Calls for proposals	GenderLab	Gender Action Laboratory
CLCI	Center for Civic Legal Initiatives	GRB	Gender responsive budgeting
CMS	Center of Modern Skills	GREVIO	Council of Europe’s Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
CoE	Council of Europe	HCHR	Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
COMBI	Communication for Behavioural Impact	HERA	Health Education and Research Organization
CRINK	Center for Roma Initiatives	HRDC	Human Rights in Democracy Center
CRPM	Center for Research and Policy Making	IC	Istanbul Convention
CSSP	Civil Society Strengthening Platform	IEC	Information, education and communication
CSO	Civil society organization	IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
CVSV	Centres for Victims of Sexual Violence	KADAV	Kadınlarla Dayanışma Vakfı / Women’s Solidarity Foundation
CWR	Centre of Women’s Rights	KAGED	The Capacity Development Association
DV	Domestic violence	KGSC	Kosovar Gender Studies Center
ECARO	Europe and Central Asia Regional Office	KWN	Kosova Women’s Network
EC	European Commission	LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/ gender diverse, intersex and queer
EC DG NEAR	European Commission Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	LULUDI	Women and Youth Association
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights	MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
EDD	European Development Days	MWL	Macedonian Women’s Lobby
EHO	Educational Humanitarian Organization	MYLA	Macedonian Young Lawyers Association
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality	NAP	National Action Plan
EU	European Union	NCGE	National Council for Gender Equality
EVAWG	Ending violence against women and girls	NGO	Non-governmental organization
EWL	European Women’s Lobby		
FBIH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina		

NGO NOVA	Centre for Feminist Culture	UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
NM	North Macedonia	UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution(s)
NRAEWOK	Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Organizations of Kosovo	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
NRC	National Roma Centrum	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
NSAPDV	National Strategy and Action Plan Against Domestic Violence	USA	Advocates for Human Right
NSGE	National Strategy on Gender Equality	VAAO	Victim Advocacy and Assistance Office
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
OI	Ombudsperson Institution	VR	Virtual reality
OPMIP	Order for Precautionary Measures of Immediate Protection	WAVE	Women against Violence Europe Network
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe	WFE	Women Forum Elbasan
PCA	Project cooperation agreement	WRC	Women's Rights Center
RWN	Roma Women Network	WSA	Women's Studies Association
SBO	Specific Behavioural Objective		
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals		
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence		
SGG	Security and Gender Group		
SHRMC	Coalition "Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities"		
STL	Support to Life NGO		
THB	Trafficking in human beings		
ToR	Terms of reference		
ToT	Training of trainers		
TWG	Technical working group		
TWU	Turkish Women's Union		
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights		
UN	United Nations		
UNCT	United Nations Country Team		
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund		
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund		
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo		



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” programme aims to end gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the Western Balkan and Turkey, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women.

This report covers the three years of the Action, from 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2020. The report takes stock of the overall programme results and achievements, challenges and lessons learnt, containing an assessment of the implementation of activities carried out toward each of the expected results under the three objectives of the programme: 1) To create an enabling legislative and policy environment, in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination; 2) To promote favourable social norms and attitudes to promote gender equality (GE) and prevent discrimination and violence against women; and 3) To empower women and girls who have experienced discrimination or violence, including those from disadvantaged groups, to advocate and use available, accessible and quality services. It also captures challenges and lessons learnt partially drawn from the [programme final evaluation](#).

Progress, challenges and opportunities were discussed at Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meetings, held yearly and informed by technical working group (TWG) meetings held twice yearly in each IPA beneficiary. In addition to UN Women, PSC members included EC DG NEAR, EUDELS, Council of Europe (CoE), EIGE and CSOs supported by the programme.

Communications and visibility was a central feature of the programme, resulting in 13 regional e-newsletters (comprising 85 stories), 6 advocacy videos and 11 regional publications that were widely disseminated among programme stakeholders, published on the programme website and promoted on UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) social media channels. In addition, the programme’s [interactive report](#) featured the most significant results from regional and country level initiatives.

As a result of European Commission support to UN Women’s regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey [“Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”](#).

1. The number of reports of violence cases increased in targeted municipalities

In Albania, the programme contributed to:

- A 45% increase in reported cases of violence between 2017 and 2019 in Durres;
- A 7% increase in reported cases to police and a 72% increase in reported cases to the referral mechanism in Elbasan between 2017 and 2019;
- A jump by 555% of cases addressed by the referral mechanism (from 9 in 2017 to 59 in 2019) in municipality of Shkoder;
- An 18% decrease in the number of DV cases reported to police in Tirana, but cases referred to the referral mechanism increased by 570%, from 95% to 643% between 2017 and 2019;
- A 33% increase in number of reported cases to police in Vlore between 2017 and 2019;
- 41 women/girls reported violence to the Police Station of Kamza for the period April – June 2018, an increase of 20% compared to the first trimester of 2018. The Tirana district court granted protection orders for 60% of reported cases to the Kamza Police Station. The Police Station of Kamza received 54 cases of incidences of domestic violence (DV). There was an increase of 24 % compared to second trimester of 2018.

In Bosnia-and-Herzegovina, it was observed an increase of reported cases in Tuzla Canton following two local campaigns launched during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based-Violence in 2018 and 2019.

In Kosovo*, reporting rates of incidents of VAWG to the police increased by 20%, following an innovative campaign aiming to involve the public in preventing VAWG and focusing on education, awareness raising, and messaging that urges Kosovars to speak up if they suspect something. Reporting on domestic violence increased for the first time since 2009. Moreover, cooperation between CSOs and the Ombudsperson Institution (OI) increased following collaborative activities including cooperation regarding referral mechanisms in cases where institutions fail to address complaints from VAWG and DV survivors.

2. Perceptions and attitudes towards violence against women and girls changed:

In Albania, some of the key findings from a baseline (2018) and mid-term review report (2019) on perceptions on violence against women and girls reveal that:

- Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during the baseline, the percentage of respondents who believe that a person should be punished for forcing sexual relations on a spouse/partner increased by 15.4% (56% in the baseline);
- In the mid-term review, the percentage of male respondents willing to take action to prevent violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals increased by 20% (28% in the baseline); while the percentage of female respondents willing to take action to prevent violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals increased by 16.7% (43% in the baseline);
- The percentage of men respondents who believed that the suspicion of infidelity was a “good reason” for a man to hit his partner decreased by 3.9% (22.8% in the baseline versus 21.9% in the mid-term review); while the percentage of women respondents who believed that the suspicion of infidelity was a “good reason” for a man to hit his partner decreased by 45.3% (17% in the baseline versus 9.3% in the mid-term review);
- Moreover, approximately 600 men and, especially those from religious communities, were engaged through public forums to challenge gender stereotypes and traditional norms.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- In a period of 5 months, among 72 women from 6 rural communities, including from marginalized groups attended 30 workshops: 48% of respondents of a final survey felt that domestic violence was a personal problem; it was reduced to 18% after the workshops. Prior to the workshops, 68% respondents thought that family problems should only be talked within the family, compared to only 27% after the workshops. When asked whether it is necessary to stop violence if they witness it or are aware that it is happening, 56.8% answered yes in pre-tests, and 80.9% answered yes in post-tests;
- 12 representatives of local institutions involved in the response to domestic violence have a better understanding of gender stereotypes following a one-year training: 78% of participants expressed their readiness to change their way of thinking GBV, irrespective of their work experience and profession.

In Kosovo, an awareness raising ‘door-to-door’ campaign engaged more than 200 Roma, Ashkali an Egyptian community members in discussions about the issue of early marriages.

In Montenegro, creative workshops gathered 80% of Roma community in the municipality of Niksic. to take part in a round table discussion on ending child, early and forced marriages CEFM.

In Serbia, awareness of at least 2,000 high school girls and boys was raised on the advocacy initiatives addressing harmful gender stereotypes in 10 municipalities and 50 youth ambassadors (boys only) in 4 municipalities in Serbia were engaged to tackle the stereotypical perceptions and norms related to violence against women and girls among 500 teenagers in their communities. The target group’s understanding of VAWG, gender equality and harmful gender stereotypes increased by over 50% following the first campaign.

* For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. For UN Women, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

In Turkey, following 150 peer-to-peer women's meetings, 1,276 Syrian refugee women were informed of their rights in the topics of marriage and divorce, violence against women, sexual crimes, access to services, and the temporary protection regime. Over 550 men were engaged in fatherhood support programmes to prevent DV and promote fathers' active participation in childcare and gender-equitable, non-violent behaviours and attitudes.

3. Women and girls were granted a more accessible and quality access to services and specialist services:

Through on-the-job trainings, over 500 service providers in **Albania** – including police officers, health care providers, municipal staff, and teachers – are better equipped to address cases of domestic violence and fulfil their legal obligations regarding service provision to all victims of violence against women. Moreover, more than 500 women, girls, and members of marginalized communities in Albania (persons with disabilities, Roma and Egyptian women, and LGBTQI+ community members) are better informed on various forms of violence and services available to victims of violence in their areas through information sessions.

In Kosovo, more than 150 service providers, members of Coordination Mechanisms including shelters, were trained on new Standard Operation Procedures and UN Essential Guideline Package (UNEGP).

In North Macedonia, over 300 women victims of violence received free gender-responsive assistance – including legal aid, legal representation, psychosocial counselling, and group therapy.

Over 60 women lawyers from 7 regions of **Turkey** are better able to provide legal support to survivors of domestic violence/violence against women, with a focus on relevant international legal frameworks, including recent judgments from the European Court of Human Rights, as a result of capacity-building trainings.

4. Legislative and policy environment were enabled in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination:

Recent amendments to domestic violence legislation in **Albania** protect non-married partners, improves the procedure for the protection of persons with disabilities from domestic violence, and improve the services provided for victims of gender-based violence and judicial procedures related to the issuance of urgent protection orders and protection orders.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence in Republika Srpska, DV will be treated as a criminal offence instead of misdemeanour offence. The amendments were adopted in September 2019 and are expected to come in force in the first half of 2020.

Legislative changes to the Criminal Code of **Kosovo** were adopted in January 2019, resulting in the inclusion and definition of domestic violence as a separate criminal offense, accurately defining all acts of domestic violence, and codifying all articles of the current Criminal Code in a single chapter.

In North Macedonia, a new Criminal Code in line with the IC is being drafted.

In Serbia, new Law on Prohibition of Discrimination, which defines and prohibits direct and indirect discrimination, sexual harassment and incitement to discrimination was drafted and the Criminal Code to criminalize non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a person was amended in line with the IC.



II. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In the Western Balkans and Turkey, the development of a solid legislative and institutional framework on gender equality is being steadily translated into real change in the lives of women and girls. VAWG constitutes a severe public health concern that prevents women and girls from enjoying their full human rights, and urgent and continuous action is required to tackle it in all its forms.

Findings from the 2019 [Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe](#) (OSCE)-led Survey on VAWG (which includes comparable data from the Western Balkans, as well as from Ukraine and Moldova) demonstrate shocking levels of violence: 70% of women have experienced some form of violence or abuse during their adult lives, either at hands of an intimate partner or a non-partner. More specifically, 31% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner or non-partner during their lifetimes, and 60% of women have been subjected to psychological violence by an intimate partner – significantly higher than the EU average of 43%.

The process of European integration provided an opportunity to comprehensively address issues related to VAWG, as potential EU Member States must demonstrate a respect for EU Treaty provisions and the implementation of the “*acquis communautaire*,” including in the area of equality between women and men as an important part of the accession process.

The IC presented a second key opportunity and framework for addressing VAWG in the region. The Convention is a complex treaty that encompasses a human rights treaty, a criminal law treaty, and a treaty advocating for effective gender equality, establishing a structural connection between VAWG and gender inequality. It consists of 81 articles aimed at tackling VAWG which focus on prevention, protection of victims, prosecution, and integrated policies. The ratification of the IC by Turkey and the Western Balkans (with the exception of Kosovo)*

* The Republic of Kosovo is not in the position to ratify CEDAW since it is not a member of the United Nations. However, under the Kosovo Constitution, gender equality is protected by the state “international human rights conventions including CEDAW and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) precede national legislation”. According to article 22 of its constitution, CEDAW together with 6 other International treaties and Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) are directly applicable in the Republic of Kosovo and, in the case of conflict, have priority over provisions of laws and other acts of public institution. UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) establishing the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) stipulated at paragraph 11(j) that the responsibilities of the administration would include “protecting and promoting human rights”. While unable to ratify the Istanbul Convention, Kosovo has taken recent steps to amend Article 22 of its Constitution to include the Istanbul Convention in the list of directly applicable legal instruments for the protection of human rights.

built momentous progress and provides a comprehensive legal framework through which states can be held accountable for their action (or inaction) on ending VAWG. Additionally, with the exception of Kosovo, all Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) beneficiaries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and produce regular reports. While CEDAW reflects universal standards and has been the foundation for other international legal and policy documents on VAWG, it has no specific provision or binding prohibition on VAWG or domestic violence (DV).

The EU Communication on enlargement with the Western Balkans, adopted by the EC in February 2018, emphasizes that more needs to be done to ensure the full implementation of legislation that enshrines the fundamental rights of citizens: “[Equality between men and women must also be ensured and domestic violence tackled.](#)” Furthermore, the Communication underscores the importance of ensuring non-discrimination against minority groups, specifically Roma and LGBTIQ+ communities. Similarly, a 2019 study commissioned by the European Parliament found that despite the existence of solid legislative frameworks, the “huge discrepancy between laws and their application in practice” (p.12) impedes the effective functioning of gender equality mechanisms in the Western Balkans.

Research conducted under the “Implementing Norms Changing Minds” programme (henceforth the Programme), confirms that [significant gaps remain between the existence of relevant legislation and its full and proper implementation.](#)

Existing legislation and policies are often gender-neutral and fail to recognize the structural causes of VAWG, thus neglecting to effectively identify and address the root causes of violence.

Thanks to the programme, over 350 civil society organizations (CSOs) and key stakeholders on ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) at large were supported and for the first time trained to report on the implementation of the IC and in most of the cases to draw concrete measure to address the recommendations issued by the Council of Europe’s Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) that laid out its concerns in recent evaluation reports (available for [Albania](#), [Montenegro](#), [Serbia](#) and [Turkey](#)).

The programme was instrumental in opening the amendment of legislative efforts primarily focused on DV, to criminalize other forms of VAWG. Even when forms of violence are appropriately criminalized, GREVIO notes that sociocultural factors (e.g., social stigma, discriminatory gender stereotypes, and dismissive attitudes of judicial and law enforcement officials) prevent the full implementation of the law and prevent victims from accessing justice. [Survey data](#) collected under the Programme in the Western Balkans and Turkey revealed a high prevalence of attitudes that support traditional gender roles and justify VAWG. The survey findings also revealed that a strong taboo exists around the topic of VAWG; this taboo as well as existing social attitudes lead to the chronic underreporting of cases violence, contributing to impunity for perpetrators of VAWG.

Low awareness regarding laws and policies, both amongst enforcement agencies and the general population, contributes to this issue. The 2019 OSCE-led [survey](#) on VAWG revealed the extent of women's lack of awareness on what actions to take if they experience violence; 42% of women in the Western Balkans were not well informed or would not know what to do in case they faced violence, while only 23% of women considered themselves well informed or very well informed. Information gap is particularly true for women from minority and disadvantaged groups, who lack knowledge about the rights and services available to them, which leads to low levels of assertiveness in claiming their rights.

In all IPA beneficiaries covered under the Programme, support services for women are weak, and none meet the standards set forth in the IC, as noted in GREVIO reports for [Albania](#), [Montenegro](#), [Serbia](#) and [Turkey](#). Furthermore, research conducted under the programme affirms that [essential services for women victims of violence are regularly provided by CSOs](#) rather than government institutions, and those services often receive little or no government funding. The provision of effective, accountable security services is particularly important for women from disadvantaged groups who often suffer disproportionately from crime and insecurity, especially sexual and gender-based violence. Although violence occurs across all social groups, women from minority groups are in a more vulnerable situation that demands particular attention – the OSCE-led survey on VAWG found that women with disabilities were more likely to experience some form of violence in the 12 months preceding the survey, as were women who were refugees or displaced.

Despite the increased need for services for women from minority groups, research conducted under the programme found that [they are often unable to utilize existing services](#) due to language barriers, lack of access for women with disabilities, and the discriminatory attitudes of staff members and law enforcement officials.

The programme contributed to the EU Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations (2016-2020); and specifically with two of the pivotal areas: (1) Fighting violence of any kind against women and girls, and (2) strengthening voice and participation.

With these objectives in mind, the programme successfully contributed to improving the normative frameworks on EVAWG in all seven IPA beneficiaries covered under the Action. Additionally, it directly supported 196 CSOs and CSO networks, who in turn provided support to over 380 organizations that are members of the supported CSO networks, to strengthen and amplify the voices of women-led and women's rights organizations to advocate for the right of women and girls in the region to live free from violence.

Additionally, the Programme contributed to Objective 4, which requires gender evidence to be used in informing EU external spending, programming and policy making; Objective 6, which requires building central capacities for gender equality, challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes; and, Objective 7: Girls and women free from all forms of VAWG, both in the public and in the private sphere.

The programme contributed to the UN strategic framework in all participating countries as well as to two pivotal areas outlined in the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020: ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity and strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation.



III. RESULTS ACHIEVED BY PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1

To create an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and other forms of discrimination.

Indicator 1.a:

Number (%) of countries involved in the Action with normative frameworks that promote gender equality and non-discrimination against all women and girls contributed by supported stakeholders (SDG indicator target 5.1).

100% of countries involved in the Action have normative frameworks that better promote gender equality and non-discrimination against all women and girls, contributed to by supporter stakeholders. Progress in this area is evidenced by, inter alia, the following programme-supported achievements:

In Albania, following the approval of Law 9669, local referral mechanisms for DV cases were established in 41 out of 61 municipalities and funding for a national hotline was allocated. Significant amendments to the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations protect non-married partners, improve the procedures for the protection of persons with disabilities from DV, improve the services provided for victims of GBV and improve judicial procedures related to the issuance of protection orders. The new Law on Social Housing includes women survivors of DV among the groups prioritized for social housing. Finally, the Free Legal Aid Law entered into force in mid-2018, and the adoption of relevant by-laws in 2018-19 was crucial to preparing for its effective implementation.

In BiH, with the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence in Republika Srpska, DV will be treated as a criminal offence instead of misdemeanour offence. The amendments were adopted in September 2019 and are expected to come in force in the first half of 2020.

Kosovo's legal framework on DV is now aligned with the IC through a revision of the criminal code to include the definition of DV as a stand-alone and unique criminal offence and accurately define all acts of DV. The amendment of the Criminal Code came into force in April 2019 and will help institutions in their fight against VAW and ensure that perpetrators will be prosecuted.

In North Macedonia, programme partners supported the government to develop, adopt, and allocate financial resources for a National Action Plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention 2018-2023. Legal frameworks were also strengthened with contributions from 4 programme partners, as the draft version of a new comprehensive law for the prevention of and protection from VAW now covers all forms of VAW and includes definitions of 'VAW' and 'gender-based violence', as well as explicit reference to the 'principle of due diligence'.

Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey all adopted the recommendations laid out in the countries' first GREVIO evaluation reports. These developments are significant steps for implementing the IC and are creating a more enabling environment across the region to EVAWG, which have direct IC implications on improving the lives of women and girls in the region.



Result 1.1

WOMEN'S VOICE AND AGENCY STRENGTHENED TO ADVOCATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS AND POLICIES IN LINE WITH CEDAW AND THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

Indicator 1.a: Number of supported national and regional networks of women's civil society organizations, including those representing women from disadvantaged groups, that monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and IC in the 7 countries involved in the Action.

A total of **196 CSOs and CSO networks** directly supported by the programme are engaged in monitoring and reporting on CEDAW and the IC. In turn, this support is extended to over 380 organizations that are members of the supported CSO networks.

In Albania, the Monitoring Network on Gender-based Violence, a **network of 48 programme-supported CSOs, was established** by the Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI). The Network monitors and advocates for the implementation of international obligations on ending VAW and coordinates members' activities. The Network compiles and makes available to all actors working in this area in Albania comprehensive information and trainings on key international and national resources on VAWG. The programme also supported the Albanian Women Empowerment Network to monitor the implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality (2016-2020), focusing on the functioning of a coordinated response to VAWG.

In BiH, United Women Banja Luka **built the capacities of 22 women's and human rights associations** to address key aspects of the CEDAW concluding observations and the IC provisions that pertain to access to justice and quality services for survivors of DV. Working with members of three different women's networks (Safe Network, BiH Women's Network and RING NGO Anti-trafficking Network), the CSO partner primarily focused on minority and disadvantaged groups of women, such as Roma women, women with disabilities, single mothers, women from rural communities and women survivors of violence.

In Kosovo, the programme-supported CSO Lawyer's Association NORMA worked closely with **20 CSOs** to strengthen their capacities to advocate for the development of the Kosovo National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence and the Action Plan 2016–2020 in line with CEDAW and the IC. Furthermore, the supported CSO Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women Organizations of Kosovo (NRAEWOK; 7 members) worked on implementing the National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence in line with CEDAW and the IC and on implementing advocacy campaigns on women's rights, early marriage and gender-based discrimination.

In Montenegro, the programme supported national network of **21 women's NGOs**, including sub-network of 12 NGOs (grant recipients) and including those representing women from disadvantaged groups, to monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and Istanbul Convention.

In North Macedonia, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (HCHR) strengthened the capacities of over **30 CSOs** on the use of human rights complaint mechanisms to claim women's rights and address gender-based discrimination, the practical use of the individual communications or/and inquiries under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, and shadow reporting to GREVIO in follow-up to the submission of an initial state report to GREVIO. Moreover, upon the issuance of the CEDAW concluding observations, a detailed matrix was developed for monitoring the CEDAW Committee recommendations, with clear progress and status indicators. In partnership with the Coordinating Body for Gender Equality and Office for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of Serbia, CSO experts from SOS Network Vojvodina amended the developed monitoring matrix in accordance with the official procedures of the government, so the tool also serves government entities.

In Serbia, Women Space NGO supported Roma Women Network, encompassing **30 Roma women's organizations**, to monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and the IC. In addition, SOS Network Vojvodina, which comprises five women's organizations from the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, worked on the production and submission of a CEDAW shadow and GREVIO report in follow-up to the Fourth Periodic Report of Serbia to CEDAW.

In Turkey, **13 organizations**, gathered under the Executive Committee for CSOs led by the Turkish Women's Union (TWU), were supported to strengthen over 60 organizations to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with international, regional and national commitments on gender equality and EVAW. Also, **20 Syrian and Turkish women's organizations** gathered under the platform 'A Woman is the Land to a Woman' to generate collaborative action to address the various forms of sexual and gender-based violence against Syrian refugees.

At regional level, the programme supported the establishment of the **first CSO network working on EVAWG in the Western Balkans and Turkey**, the [Civil Society Strengthening Platform](#) (CSSP) led by WAVE Network. The network comprises nine organizations: Albanian Women Empowering Network – Albania; Gender Alliance for Development Centre – Albania; Woman to Woman – Albania; Foundation United Women Banja Luka – BiH; Women's Wellness Centre – Kosovo; National Network to end VAWG and DV Voice against Violence – North Macedonia; SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic – Montenegro; Association Fenomena – Serbia; Foundation for Women's Solidarity – Turkey.



Kosana Beker, Program Director of FemPlatz, a civil society organization researching femicide in Serbia. Photo: Courtesy of FemPlatz

DETAIL OF ACTIVITY BY COUNTRY

ALB Activity 1.1.1. Establishment of and support to national CSOs platforms for monitoring implementation of CEDAW Recommendations and the IC.

The programme supported the establishment of the [Monitoring Network Against Gender-based Violence](#), a network of 48 CSOs led by the Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI). As a result of the Network's advocacy, a six-month inspection plan to monitor the procedures of police officers when dealing with DV cases was adopted by the Director of the Service of Internal Affairs and Complaint of the Interior Ministry. Advocacy efforts of the Network also enabled the inclusion of specific provisions to the new Law on Social Housing,¹ that includes women victims of DV among the prioritized groups for social housing. In order to unify data among different responsible institutions to ease cross-checking and comparison, the Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council issued a guideline "Determining the Rules for the Establishment of a Special Database on Family Violence Issues and Unification of their Registration" based on Human Rights in Democracy Center's (HRDC) inputs. The Network was also active in coordinating responses among CSOs through [statements and declarations](#) directed at national institutions to strengthen mechanisms for EVAW.

In 2018, the Network produced a [shadow follow-up report](#) to implement CEDAW recommendations and submitted the [UPR shadow report](#) presented in Geneva in 2019, focusing on Albania's progress and remaining challenges in implementing UPR recommendations. Furthermore, a [Beijing+25 alternative report](#) for Albania was submitted by the Network in July 2019.

ALB Activity 1.1.2. Capacity building of CSOs for monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020 (NSGE).

A [monitoring manual](#) was prepared and 12 CSOs were trained by the Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC) and Albanian Women Empowerment Network (AWEN) to monitor the National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE), especially the functioning of referral mechanisms in six municipalities.

The training was followed by the launch of [monitoring reports](#) for the same six municipalities for 2017, 2018, and 2019 that resulted in increased accountability of local officials to offer quality and accessible services to survivors. GADC and AWEN also engaged in dialogue with public authorities to address the identified gaps, including through participation and sharing of the findings in meetings of the Steering Committees of the Local Referral Mechanisms for cases of DV and with the Sub Parliamentary Commission on Gender Equality. In addition, local journalists were also trained to ethically report on GBV/VAW, subsequently producing a number of articles in local and national media outlets.

As a result, there was a significant increase in the number of meetings of referral mechanisms and the VAWG cases addressed by members of the community. One of the monitored municipalities registered a 550% increase in addressed cases.

BiH Activity 1.1.1. Support of existing national platforms of civil society organizations that are monitoring the implementation of the CEDAW observations and the IC, with special support for organizations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups.

[An alternative report to GREVIO](#) was produced and validated during four public discussions in Republika Srpska, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Brcko district with the participation of 99 representatives of ministries, centers for social work, police, health and educational institutions. During the discussion, examples of good practices and challenges in implementing the IC with a focus on specialist services were covered. For the production of the report, a national platform of 22 women's rights CSOs, representing various groups of marginalized women and led by CSO United Women Banja Luka and Women's Association Medica Zenica, were trained to increase their capacities to more efficiently monitor the implementation of the IC and collect data. Indeed, most of the organizations involved in data collection are providing direct support services for women victims of GBV. Additionally, 94 women from the Republika Srpska and FBiH, representatives of local women's grassroots organizations as well as minority and disadvantaged

¹ Law 40.44/2018, adopted on May 2018

groups of women, were trained on shadow reporting on CEDAW and IC through two thematic sessions on the role of CSOs as watchdogs.

The national platform developed a methodology for collecting data on the implementation of the IC. A unique questionnaire was used to illustrate the gaps in the protection system in BiH when it comes to response to cases of VAWG and DV. Furthermore, a [toolkit](#) for monitoring the implementation of the IC was developed, comprising indicators and areas of focus chosen by the platform, as well as instructions for CSOs on how to contribute to monitoring by collecting data on cases in the field.

KOS Activity 1.1.1. Support CSOs advocacy actions for implementation of the National Strategy on Protection from Domestic Violence 2016-2020.

As a result of programme advocacy efforts towards the central government authorities (including the National Coordinator for the Protection against DV, the Victims Assistance and Advocacy Office, Kosovo Police and Centers for Social Work), amendments of the Criminal Code were approved in 2019. These amendments include family and property related issues, particularly the division of property in cases of divorce, which is now 50% in favour of a woman regardless of spouses' financial contribution during their marriage. These amendments enabled an increase of government's accountability and the resolutions of ineffective implementation of legislation.

To achieve this result, 70 women representatives of 20 CSOs throughout Kosovo, including those representing women from disadvantaged groups, enhanced their capacities on advocacy for the implementation of the Kosovo National Strategy on Protection from Domestic Violence and the Action Plan 2016-2020. The training was based on the legal education guide developed by Lawyer's Association NORMA, which articulates a profound understanding of VAWG through an explanation of international legal commitments enshrined in CEDAW and the IC. Participant CSOs were identified through a mapping of existing active CSOs working on the area of gender equality and VAW in Kosovo developed by NORMA.

“The training was on the prevention of early marriages which is a phenomenon in our community. I participated and there were women who, for the first time, understood that this is wrong.”

Beneficiary (door to door campaign volunteer) of CSO implementing partner, Kosovo

KOS Activity 1.1.2. Capacity development of Kosovo Roma Ashkali and Egyptian Women's network (NRAEWOK) and CSOs on advocacy campaigns against early marriages, gender discrimination and women's human rights.

NRAEWOK produced a plan including recommendations on CEFM among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community members that was validated by 63 participants among state officials, representatives from EC and OSCE, municipal authorities, CSOs and victims' advocates. This plan relied on the lessons learnt from a programme-supported “door to door” campaign that engaged 200 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community members to discuss CEFM with 200 male members of these communities. The door-to-door campaign was aimed at enabling members to speak more openly with families from these communities.

The plan also builds on the report produced within the framework of the Programme, [“Capacity and knowledge assessment with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian CSOs in the area of early marriages and laws,”](#) that was presented to local and central level senior officials from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; Ministry of Justice; Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian CSOs; and the EU. The report was also distributed in the Roma community to parents, young people and elderly people with influence in the communities along with promotional awareness-raising materials such as t-shirts and brochures.

In terms of training, more than 30 CSO members of the NRAEWOK built their capacities for the implementation of CEDAW and the IC in Kosovo through awareness raising campaigns and capacity-building training.

MONT Activity 1.1.1. NGO competitive process for project proposals on addressing NGO capacities to advocate for stronger accountability of local and national authorities to implement CEDAW and IC and MONT Activity 1.1.2. NGO capacity development on project implementation, monitoring and maintaining dialogue with legislative and executive power pillars.

12 women's groups were supported by the Programme to advocate for and work towards the development of better

legal and policy frameworks related to gender equality and in the areas of VAWG and DV.

A coalition of 4 women's NGOs submitted a first shadow GREVIO report, which was significantly referenced in the GREVIO baseline report launched in 2018. The shadow report revealed both strengths and weaknesses in the relevant laws and practices of institutions and provided recommendations to drive change. It also provided a detailed review of women's groups' capacities to report against international conventions and advocate for change. In addition to the GREVIO report, programme partners submitted a shadow report to CEDAW in July 2017.

Due to the programme support, the national gender mechanism finalized the Action Plan for the implementation of the CEDAW Conclusions. This was achieved through the NGO coalition's advocacy efforts to promote CEDAW Conclusions and GREVIO recommendations during 2 meetings of the National Council for Gender Equality. The coalition also presented to the state authorities during a meeting with the Working Group for Chapter 2023, a proposal of recommendations on the implementation of CEDAW standards and CEDAW Committee Final Conclusions, as well as recommendations on the implantation of the IC and GREVIO recommendations with a specific focus on protection of the rights of victims of violent crimes.

Following a meeting initiated by partner NGOs with the State Prosecutors Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Police Directorate related to implementation of the standards of the IC and CEDAW Recommendations, an Operational Team for fighting violence in family including state representatives and 6 women NGOs was set up to monitor and oversee the conduct of institutions in GBV cases. The Operational Team held 8 monthly meetings to discuss high risk cases of GBV and propose measures for their urgent solution.

Women's Rights Center (WRC) contributed to building the capacities of women's CSOs by conducting a Training of Trainers (ToT) on VAW through 3 training modules with 21, 25, and 25 participants respectively in each module. The first module focused on family violence and institutional protection, the second on the link between VAWG and child abuse, and the third on assessment and management of security risks in cases of family violence.

The coalition promoted the CEDAW Convention; the Optional Protocol; selected cases considered by CEDAW



Prof. Dr. Feride Acar, Chair of GREVIO, CEDAW Expert.
Photo: UN Women/Emilie Gomez

Committee; and GREVIO Evaluation Report through several communications materials such as publications, brochures, handbooks, social media posts and a video.

In the area of capacity building, WCR organized the first-ever 2-day training for representatives of judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and lawyers in the country, on the practical application of CEDAW with the Training Center and OHCHR representatives to increase their knowledge and enable exchange of experiences when it comes to gender equality and practical application of CEDAW. Cooperation was enhanced among representatives of the center for social work, police department, local ambulance management and prosecutors after attending coordination meetings organized by NGO IKRE. IKRE increased networking capacities and knowledge on women's rights of local NGOs Podržimo djecu Rožaje, Paraplegičari, Avlija, Dzipijada that expressed their willingness to support the project through the distribution of advocacy materials, organization of public debates and other events for women.

In terms of awareness raising, NGO IKRE gathered decisions makers, opinion leaders, and GBV experts of the municipality of Rožaje located in North Macedonia to find solutions for a better implementation of national legislation in line with CEDAW and the IC in the municipality.

33 participants, including presidents of the municipality and the local parliament, principals of the 15 primary high schools, representatives of health care center, emergency ambulances, local police department, Islamic

center, Orthodox church, local political parties, local Basic Court and all secretaries in the local self-government participated in a public discussion on VAWG.

A total of 5 TV educational shows featuring an expert in psychology and an NGO activist were broadcasted in the local TV station of Rožaje and reached more than 7,000 views according to TV official report.

5 presentations were conducted with high school students on the definition, types, psychological aspect of VAW; the institutional support for victims of VAW. In addition, 2 workshops on VAW were held with female students of an Islamic high school.

2 additional workshops on VAW in local communities, managing goals and expectations on VAW in local communities and assessing real life situations in regard to VAW were held with targeted representatives of local communities, NGOs, religious leaders, media and interested citizens. 185 beneficiaries were reached through presentations and workshops, 70% of whom were women.

MONT Activity 1.1.3. Organize CSO forums for dialogue to ensure information exchange and knowledge.

Four CSO forums were organized as part of CSOs' capacity-building process, enabling them to fulfil the conditions for accreditation and licensing of service providers for victims of violence. The first forum was attended by 12 partner NGOs in August 2019 to discuss 1) the path of each NGO beneficiary in the process of licensing; 2) the review of capacities for organizational management and project development; 3) the education and capacity development needs of partner NGOs. The second forum took place in November 2019 with representatives of 9 NGOs and developed their skills regarding project cycle management, preparation of project proposals in accordance with the logical framework approach and the preparation of communication and planning documents in accordance with European standards.

The third forum gathered more than 100 participants from NGOs, women's groups, stakeholders, international organizations and shelters in December 2019 to mark the 20-year anniversary of Women's Safe House. Participants discussed progress made in the last 20 years in the normative and policy frameworks, institutional responsiveness and cooperation with NGOs. The fourth

forum was held in January 2020 with 30 activists who discussed the finalization of the first phase of the regional programme, the context in the country in light of the Beijing +25 and progress made at strategic planning of women's groups forum.

NM Activity 1.1.1. Capacity development of CSOs to use human rights-compliant mechanisms to claim women's rights (CEDAW Optional Protocol) and address gender-based discrimination.

For the first time in the country, a case of discrimination on the ground of ethnicity and gender was submitted to and accepted by the CEDAW Committee in Geneva by CSO partner HCHR. The case is grounded on denial of primary health services to two Roma women. In terms of training, 35 representatives of EVAWG key institutions, including seven CSOs, increased their knowledge about the process of preparation and submission of a communication to the CEDAW Committee. For that purpose, a [manual](#) on using the Optional Protocol to CEDAW was produced (available online in Macedonian, Albanian and English languages) and promoted in Skopje and Gostivar. Trainees learnt how to submit a communication using the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and preparing strategic litigation cases using international legal mechanisms.

Furthermore, 26 representatives of seven CSOs, two networks and three legal professionals built their capacities on the general and practical use of human rights complaint mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW in cases of gender discrimination and VAWG. Besides, 52 representatives of the social sector, justice sector, health sector, police and educational institutions in three cities (Kumanovo, Gostivar and Veles) built their capacities to implement the standards set in IC. According to the referred cases of violence by local collaborators from the three target municipalities, referral mechanisms among general and specialist service providers were improved.

In regard to advocacy, eight videos were produced as part of the campaign "Did you know that...", aiming to raise public awareness about women's human rights and encouraging women to seek out their rights and improve their position in society. The videos were reported on by 15 news agencies and outlets, aired on national TV and made available on MHC's social media channels and website, reaching over 7,000 views.

In addition, 37,010 people were exposed to messages related to women's human rights in the labour market, education, health, culture, sport, family and politics through 1,000 posters, 10,000 leaflets and 100,000 stickers produced by HCHR in both Macedonian and Albanian languages. Electronic versions of the stickers were posted on the Facebook page of the organization. In total, the Macedonian version of the stickers reached 28,683 people, and the Albanian version reached 8,327 people. Mechanisms for protection of GBV were promoted as well by HCRC through 500 printed brochures and 100 printed posters.

NM Activity 1.1.2. Support CSOs to conduct study on GBV and discrimination in public spaces to advocate for full legal regulation of all forms of VAW.

A scoping study on the impact of GBV on preventing women and girls from equally utilizing public spaces was conducted by the programme-supported CSO Coalition Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities (SHRMC). Findings of the study were validated by representatives of local institutions. The scoping study encompasses, inter alia 1) 200 surveys among randomly selected Albanian and Macedonian women; 2) seven focus groups with young women and girls, economically challenged women, public transport drivers, women sex workers, women with disabilities, police officers, and Roma women; 3) 12 interviews with local self-government officials, OI, public prosecution office, social, justice, health, educational sectors and civil society sector; 4) 2 safety audit walks in municipality of Tetovo; 5) observation of specific public spaces.

The scoping study was printed in 325 copies in Macedonian and Albanian languages. Conducted by Coalition Margins, the scoping study highlights the increased risk of violence in public spaces for marginalized groups of women, such as women with disabilities, sex workers, and Roma women, as well as the various mechanisms that women apply in order to go through the public spaces that are perceived as unsafe. The electronic versions of the study were published on the organization's website as well as on the site of the NGO Reactor "React – Be Secure".

Following the scoping study, a Local Action Plan for Prevention and Protection Against GBV was developed in the Municipality of Tetovo by Coalition Margins in cooperation with the representatives of the municipality of Tetovo, Local Ombudsman Office, Centre for Social Work and NGO Women's Forum. Consultations are still ongoing, comprising lobbying activities were realized with local authorities aiming at adoption of the Proposal Local Action Plan, and the advocacy meeting was held with the President of the Municipality Council in Tetovo on 19 March 2019.

SER Activity 1.1.1. Capacity development programme for the Roma Women Network (RWN) on legislative and policy development and on monitoring to enable a normative framework in line with CEDAW and IC provisions and standards.

A capacity-building training was organized by Women Space to guarantee the proper functioning of the RWN network to ensure that the rights of Roma women are respected in line with CEDAW and the IC by improving internal procedures and communications and by introducing a culture of mutual support among the organizations.

The training was preceded by a capacity assessment of the network's organizations that identified the major challenges they are facing (financial insecurity, visibility, limited integrity, autonomy and capacities to collect data in accordance with methodological standards).

Following the training, a [shadow report](#) was issued to CEDAW and GREVIO by Roma organizations led by Women Space (Nis, southeast Serbia) in partnership with Roma Women's Center Bibija (BIBIJA), were included in the [Concluding Observations](#) issued to Serbia by the CEDAW Committee following the review of the fourth period report on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (March 2019), as well as in the [GREVIO Baseline Evaluation Report to Serbia](#) (January 2020).

The recommendations to the state party include: a) conduct a survey on the prevalence and causes of gender-based VAWG, ensuring that it covers Roma women and

“Never in the last 3-5 years have we had a programme that included more women's CSOs than this programme. Only through one project, 23 organizations were involved.”

CSO implementing partner, Serbia

girls; b) accelerate the equal representation of women, including Roma women, in all areas of political and public life, in particular in decision-making positions, at the national and local levels; c) strengthen mechanisms for keeping Roma girls in the education system, d) prevent and eradicate CEFM through coordinated action by the competent authorities, NGOs and the Roma community.

The recommendations were informed by shadow reports on the specific position of Roma women and girls in Serbia and submitted to CEDAW and GREVIO (2018). To build capacity for data collection for the shadow reports, Women Space organized a training course for 15 representatives of RWN organizations on data collection related to violations of Roma women's rights and for monitoring the effects of the public policies on both Roma women and men. Based on this data collection methodology, 150 cases of Roma women's human rights violations were gathered, which served as a foundation for developing the shadow reports. Moreover, CSOs Women Space and Roma Women's Centre Bibija were 2 of the main informants on the issues related to Roma women rights violations during the GREVIO evaluation visit to Serbia (Feb 2019).

Seven organizations, members of Roma Women Network (RWN), secured support from local self-government or other donors for initiatives that address key problems Roma women are facing in their local communities. The initiatives were developed through the mentoring programme established to develop the capacities of RWN organizations that showed the potential for growth. The mentoring programme matched high capacity organizations with medium capacity organizations to develop their skills in specific problem areas as well as support their fundraising efforts.

Regarding advocacy efforts, RWN undertook a campaign entitled "Month of Roma Women Activism" (8 March to 8 April 2018) including 26 activities and events in 21 locations to raise awareness among the general population on the specific position of Roma women and girls, but also to make Roma women's issues more visible to decision-makers in local self-governments.

Moreover, on the International Day of Roma, 8 April 2018, a special hearing focused on CEFM about the position of Roma women within the Committee for Human and Minority Rights of the National Assembly of Serbia was organized.

SER Activity 1.1.2. Support CSOs and networks of women's CSOs to monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and the IC.

The programme partner SOS Network Vojvodina, composed of five women's organizations from the province of Vojvodina, submitted and presented a [comprehensive CEDAW shadow report](#) to 72nd CEDAW Committee session in Geneva (February 2019) along with the document "[Priorities and recommendations for the elimination of discrimination against women in Serbia](#)". 45 recommendations of the report were fully integrated into the CEDAW Concluding Observations issued to Serbia. The report focused on eight groups of women at-risk: Roma women, migrant women, single mothers, women with disabilities, rural women, elderly women, women victims of violence, and LGBTQI+ women.

The shadow report was prepared in consultation with 18 representatives from 10 women's CSOs to improve their understanding of the CEDAW reporting mechanism and cycle, including guidelines, methodology, and the specific requirements on intersectionality. The submission was preceded by a final consultative meeting with 12 representatives of CSOs and gender experts involved in the action to decide on the representation of the coalition, as well as to agree on key issues to be highlighted to the Committee members during the NGO sessions organized within the framework of this meeting.

The main conclusions of the shadow report were presented to 100 stakeholders at the Office for Human and Minority Rights and to other government representatives and members of the State delegation prior the 72nd CEDAW session in Geneva, to inform state authorities on the implementation of CEDAW and establish communication between the state bodies responsible for reporting to the CEDAW Committee and CSOs.

Following the 72nd CEDAW review sessions, the programme brought its support to SOS Network Vojvodina to create a detailed matrix to monitor the implementation of the CEDAW Concluding Observations that was validated by the government. Representatives of the Government Office for Human and Minority Rights, which coordinates the CEDAW reporting process, expressed their interest in using CSO's expertise and the matrix for internal governmental monitoring processes to lay the foundation for data collection for the next CEDAW periodic report. The matrix includes clear progress and status indicators

that take into consideration comparability with the objectives of the SDGs and the UPR. The development of such indicators was first announced right after the 72nd CEDAW review sessions in a conference attended by 78 high-level participants (the Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation, Office of Human and Minority Rights) and covered in 19 media reports. The report was presented during a press conference with the UN Women Serbia, UN Human Rights Team, Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms and Women's Platform for Development. The press conference was attended by more than 50 participants and resulted in 17 media reports.

In January 2019, SOS Network Vojvodina also submitted a [shadow report to GREVIO](#). The GREVIO shadow report provided insight from the perspective of women victims of violence and protection system users, as well as the organizations providing specialized services and analysing public policies related to VAWG.

During the GREVIO evaluation visit to Serbia (February 2019) all 12 organizations gathered by SOS Network Vojvodina provided in-depth analysis to the experts. These efforts resulted in well-defined and structured recommendations in the first [GREVIO Baseline Evaluation Report to Serbia](#) (Jan. 2020).

The submission was preceded by two awareness-raising sessions for 19 representatives from 12 women's CSOs to improve their understanding of the provision and reporting mechanisms of the IC, as well as a meeting with 22 representatives of relevant ministries, provincial authorities, independent bodies, and EU delegation to Serbia gender focal point, to inform on the role of the CSO coalition in monitoring and reporting on the IC, and to exchange information and facilitate collaboration towards the development of the shadow report.

TUR Activity 1.1.1. Establishment of new and support of existing national platforms of CSOs, with special focus on organizations supporting refugee and migrant women, to monitor the implementation of CEDAW Concluding Observations and the IC.

In September 2017, through the Istanbul Convention Monitoring Platform, a GREVIO shadow report was drafted and submitted by five programme partners: the Foundation for Women's Solidarity (FWS), the Women's Solidarity Foundation (KADAV), Turkish Women's Union

(TWU), Flying Broom Women Communication and Research Association and Women's Studies Association (Flying Broom). The report was endorsed and supported by 81 women's and LGBTQI+ organizations and outlined emerging issues related to VAWG and existing shortfalls in the implementation of the IC.

Through information sessions hosted by the programme, 11 CSOs were supported to submit a follow-up report to the CEDAW Committee (July 2018), whereas 21 partners from various women's organizations were provided with support in June 2019 to take part in the UPR held in January 2020. Both information sessions were intended as both educational and practical opportunities to engage with monitoring and reporting mechanisms with the support of experts and the programme. Additionally, the GREVIO mission meeting with representatives from 18 CSOs was facilitated and hosted by the programme, as well as bilateral meeting with the mission in which a comparison of Law No. 6284 and IC provisions and standards was presented.

In terms of capacity building, over 65 CSOs from across the country strengthened their advocacy capabilities to use CEDAW and the IC to hold law and policymakers accountable by being involved with an online platform developed to foster the IC's implementation in Turkey via reporting and monitoring and to host resources for individuals and CSOs from across the country to learn about CEDAW and IC. In-person training and meetings were targeted and adapted to deepen specific CSO's understanding and to build their capacities through an exhaustive overview of the women's CSO landscape in Turkey. Such overview was enabled through an unprecedented mapping conducted by TWU of active formal and informal networks working in the area of gender equality and VAWG, including those working with or representing women refugees and other disadvantaged groups of women.

Meetings and workshops were held by TWU with the support of the programme and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the participation of the chair of GREVIO. CSOs advocacy capacities to implement CEDAW Committee's concluding observations and GREVIO recommendations at local level were also strengthened through producing guidelines set out in an e-book published both in Turkish and English, comprised of an action plan, GREVIO interim report, and GREVIO comparison table. The e-book was created collaboratively

by members of 65 women's CSOs from across the country, with inputs from a group of experts consisting of members of the Executive Committee on NGO Forum for CEDAW. Programme advocacy efforts enabled to reach over 1,000 women through programme-supported production of brochures and guidebooks which served as a source of information about CEDAW and IC.

TUR Activity 1.1.2. and TUR Activity 1.1.3. Conducting a participatory capacity needs assessment and follow-up capacity development programme for women's CSOs, especially organizations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups (refugee women in particular).

The programme supported the strengthening of the platform "[A Woman is a Land to a Woman](#)" encompassing over 20 Turkish and Syrian women's CSOs and led by KADAV, aimed to increase solidarity between organizations within the platform and increase members' knowledge on CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention reporting and monitoring mechanisms, as well as the national legal framework regarding VAWG.



Ayça Bulut Bican, Resident Advisor of TACSO Turkey, at a CSO capacity building conference. Photo: Courtesy of TACSO

Thanks to the programme support, the membership of the platform was doubled and strengthened through building both the network and the capacity of its members to advocate for policy and law changes that align with IC and CEDAW. CSOs acknowledged the role and importance of this platform during participation in a conference held by KADAV in Istanbul in March 2019. The conference concluded with a policy declaration

and featured discussions on the most critical issues about VAWG and discrimination. Attention to the role and importance of this platform was also brought by a KADAV-produced video shared among women's networks and by a social media campaign that reached by 2500 people, entitled "[We are together](#)" on VAWG, CEFM and discrimination that promoted information and solidarity between women's organizations.

To strengthen women's CSOs' ability to advocate for policy change, capacity building training sessions were conducted to respond to the expressed needs of women's CSOs. The capacity training sessions were based on a capacity assessment conducted by KADAV with 25 Syrian and Turkish women's organizations/initiatives members of the platform "A Woman is the Land to a Woman". The assessment identified ways that KADAV could increase the capacity of these organizations to monitor and report on CEDAW and IC. Additionally, 21 representatives from various women's organisations increased their knowledge during an information session about GREVIO, CEDAW Committee and UPR, along with other UN monitoring mechanisms. Participants also became aware of the various opportunities available to CSOs to take part in the monitoring and reporting cycles, with a special focus on the upcoming UPR. Participants had the chance to work on the last period's recommendations together with the expert.

REG Activity 1.1.1. Support regional platforms of CSOs (with special support for organizations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups) to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the IC.

Through programme support to Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE), the CSSP, the first CSO platform covering all 7 IPA beneficiaries of the programme comprising 9 CSOs, was established to undertake lobbying and advocacy activities for improved legislation on VAWG and DV, and is still operating today. The CSSP was guided by two Action Plans 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, agreed upon by all 9 CSSP partners including the overall framework of the network, the roles and responsibilities of its partners, and approaches. Best practices and success stories were shared between partners and a larger audience through the establishment of a website to foster women's voices on social media platforms across the region (hyperlinked above). Satisfaction with the platform progress was

shown and challenges encountered by partners identified by 2 online surveys completed by CSSP members.

The CSSP developed several knowledge products to inform its members advocacy work at national and regional level, inter alia.

- [*“Doing it right: Making women’s networks accessible – with a special focus on women from minority and disadvantaged groups”*](#) was developed by CSSP member AWEN in collaboration with Gender Alliance Development Centre Albania, under the guidance of WAVE Network. The report offers an overview of the current situation of all IPA beneficiaries regarding CSOs access to networks.
- [*“The benefits and challenges of women’s networks: A comparative report”*](#) was developed by CSSP member Association Fenomena of Serbia. The report compiled answers received from 20 organizations, consisting of 7 women’s networks, 10 women’s organizations, 2 minority group organizations and 1 network working with marginalized groups.
- The comprehensive report [*“Advancing the Istanbul Convention implementation: The role of women’s NGOs and networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey”*](#) was prepared by CSSP partner AWEN. This report offers an overview of the current situation regarding IC implementation in the Western Balkans and Turkey, focusing on well implemented articles of the IC in each country, articles that are most problematic to implement, and the amount of government funding available for women’s NGOs in the field of VAWG. The report also focuses on how networking influences advocacy actions for IC implementation.
- [*“Mapping of sexual violence services in the Western Balkans and Turkey – Executive summary”*](#). All CSSP members identified the lack or only rudimentary provision of specialist sexual violence services in the region. The publication addressed the need to have holistic data about the number of support services working with victims of sexual violence and the type of institutions providing these services. For the purpose of this mapping, a questionnaire was designed by the WAVE office together with all CSSP members and distributed to key stakeholders.

In the area of capacity building:

- On the 29th and 30th of March 2018, the first training on using IC and CEDAW as advocacy and lobbying tools took place in Ankara (Turkey). The training was organized by KADAV in cooperation with WAVE Network. The training tackled topics such as the IC and its implications for CSOs, GREVIO monitoring and shadow reports submitted to GREVIO as well as the UN Women support in monitoring the CEDAW. Furthermore, renowned speakers such as the President of the GREVIO Committee, presented the monitoring process of the IC. Lastly, topics such as the use of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) mechanisms, as well as human trafficking from the CEDAW perspective, were also addressed during the two-day training.
- From the 5th to 7th June 2018, the second training on the “Istanbul Convention and the implementation process, NGOs’ shadow reporting to GREVIO”, took place in Sarajevo (BiH). The training was organized by the Foundation United Women Banja Luka in cooperation with WAVE Network and focused on the political system in BiH and the ratification and implementation process of the IC. Furthermore, it offered concrete advice from a GREVIO member as well as AWEN Network (Albania) and SOS Niksic (Montenegro) – that have both submitted a shadow report – on how to write GREVIO reports.
- From 25th to 27th of March 2019, the three-day “Training on the Istanbul Convention – Monitoring and Reporting” in Podgorica (Montenegro) organized by CSSP partner SOS Niksic gathered 20 participants from Albania, BiH, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey as well as 3 staff members of WAVE Network and 1 trainer from the Advocates for Human Rights (USA). The training focused on sharing experiences in relation to court monitoring. The example of Montenegro was highlighted through the lens of a judge of the Misdemeanor Court in Podgorica. Furthermore, best practices were shared regarding the follow-up process after receiving GREVIO country recommendations. As an example, the “Protocol on Action, Prevention and Protection against VAW and DV” was presented by the focal point for GREVIO representing the Government of Montenegro.

In terms of communications:

- A [CSSP video](#) was produced in 2018 to show how the platform has strengthened women’s voices and agency, including that of women’s organizations working with and representing women from disadvantaged marginalized groups, at a regional level. In the 4:30-minute video, partner organizations from Albania, BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey explained the importance of CSSP and how it has assisted their organizations.
- A second [annual CSSP video](#) was produced in 2019 to reflect upon the leaps of change made over the year during the project (partners were asked to comment on how collaboration is moving their region towards an effective implementation of the IC), to show the benefits of collaboration among them in the region, and to attract more potential partners to the project in the future, eventually leading to the creation of a vibrant network within the Western Balkans and Turkey.
- A campaign to raise awareness on the benefits of the IC in the Western Balkans and Turkey was carried out by all 9 partner projects, in all 7 countries, as well as by the WAVE Network on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. All CSSP partners participated in the campaign from the 27th to 31st of May 2019, except for North Macedonia which held the campaign 2 weeks later due to administrative and personnel issues in their organization. The purpose of the campaign was to disseminate positive messages about the IC. Partners worked together with the WAVE Network in selecting key articles of the Convention to be targeted and decided on the following: Article 1 (Purpose of the Convention); Article 3 (Definitions); Article 4 (Fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination); Article 6 (Gender-sensitive policies); Article 8 (Financial resources); Article 9 (NGOs and civil society); Article 22 (Specialist support services); Article 59 (Residence status). WAVE Network together with Association Fenomena created 8 messages and images that were further translated



Kick-off conference of the EU-UN Women Regional Programme “Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey”

Photo: UN Women

into all national languages of the 7 partner countries. The coordination tasks among the 2 organizations were mostly facilitated via Zoom meetings and e-mail exchange. Apart from the positive messages, partners also used the official CSSP and UN Women hashtags when disseminating the information: #CSSPstrongertogether#CSSPagainstVAWG#changingmindstoendVAW #SayNoStopVAW.

CSSP held the end of project meeting “Implementing norms, changing minds. CSSP: A two-year partnership” in Tirana (Albania), on the 11th and 12th of September 2019. 28 participants from 6 partner countries, such as partners of the project, policy makers (representatives from the Albanian Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Albanian Ombudsman, Albanian Parliament, Albanian State Police) and UN Women representatives gathered to take stock of the main achievements and lessons learnt of the past 2 years of the programme. The 1.5-day meeting, moderated by the Vice-president of GREVIO from Albania, also aimed at bridging the gaps between policy makers and women’s NGOs to ensure a more effective partnership between the 2 parties. Participants exchanged ideas on how to ensure effective partnership between women’s NGOs and state institutions, advantages and challenges of being part of a network (national or regional), as well as good practice examples when it comes to approaching national governments.

In the area of capacity building:

- BIBIJA and Women and Youth Association (LULUDI) organized 2 three-day trainings for partner organizations in Veles (North Macedonia) and Prague (Czech Republic). The training in Veles was attended by 22 representatives of 8 organizations, and the training in Prague saw the participation of 16 representatives of 10 national network organizations. In both trainings, participants increased their capacity to monitor CEDAW and the IC through the use of monitoring and data collection tools as well as methodologies, such as a monitoring matrix designed for use among partner organizations. Participants also agreed upon next steps regarding monitoring.
- BIBIJA conducted a 3-day training in December 2018 in Belgrade attended by 10 national CSO networks organizations. The training brought an opportunity to assess participants’ knowledge about discrimination, women’s rights, GBV, legislative framework, the

obligation that the state took over by signing convention on women’s rights, lobbying space, etc. Participants were introduced to a reporting matrix for human rights instruments developed by 3 programmes and to data collection methods.

- NGO Young Roma gathered 19 participants during a 3-day training conducted in February in Petrovac (Montenegro) to learn how to recognize human rights violations as well as to learn about provisions already adopted by Montenegro. The training allowed participants to gain a better understanding of the IC and CEDAW as well as to create connections between women and organizations.
- NGO Otaharin conducted a 3-day training in January 2019 in Bijeljina (BiH) attended by 4 national network organizations (16 participants and 2 trainers) on GBV and discrimination and its different forms, violence and discrimination perpetrated by the system and institutions (particularly experienced by Roma women and men experience), international standards and conventions, methods of data collection, and reporting of indicators, timing, allocation of responsibilities, resource assessment and writing of the report itself. At the end of the training, the outline of the monitoring work plan was prepared, representative of Otaharin provided information on the next steps and agreed on the organization of further activities.

Following the capacity building, a regional research [*“Regional Report on discrimination of Roma women in the area of healthcare, child marriages and support and protection in cases of domestic violence”*](#) including 4 national reports [*on the situation of Roma women*](#) was launched on the 19th of September 2019, revealing devastating statistics that called for urgent action. The launch of the report served as an opportunity for government and civil society representatives from across the region to gather and examine this common concern as well as to review the recommendations offered by the Roma women who wrote and contributed to the report.

Result 1.2

LAWS AND POLICIES ARE REVIEWED AND REFORMED TO CONFORM WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS INCLUDING CEDAW AND THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

Indicator 1.2.a: Number of laws, policies and enforcement mechanisms reviewed/adopted in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, and harmonized with the *acquis communautaire* contributed by Action supported stakeholders.

16 laws, policies and enforcement mechanisms have been reviewed/adopted in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, and harmonized with the *acquis Communautaire*, with the contribution of Action supported stakeholders.

In Albania:

1. Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations was substantially revised in 2018 and took into account several recommendations made by the Monitoring Network. The law now protects non-married partners, improves the procedures for the protection of persons with disabilities from domestic violence, improves the services provided for victims of GBV and improves judicial procedures related to the issuance of urgent protection orders and protection orders;
2. Law on Social Housing in Albania added specific provisions that include women survivors of domestic violence among the groups prioritized for social housing, in accordance with the IC;
3. Free Legal Aid Law entered into force in mid-2018, and the development and adoption of relevant by-laws during 2018–2019 was crucial to creating adequate fundamentals for its effective implementation;
4. Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council issued a guideline “Determining the Rules for the establishment of a Special Database on Family Violence Issues and Unification of their Registration”, based on advocacy and recommendations from programme partners;
5. Continuous lobbying by programme partners to improve and extend referral mechanisms has increased their number to 41 and strengthened monitoring efforts.

In BiH:

1. The Law on protection from domestic violence was amended in September 2019 rendering victims of domestic violence wider protection, highlighting coordination and tightening repercussions for inaction by relevant institutions;
2. The programme-supported Safe Network² led by the Foundation for Local Democracy (FLD), developed a policy document proposing legal and policy changes towards integration of services based on an analysis they conducted on existing gaps in the harmonization of current legislation and by-laws regulating specialist support services in BiH;
3. In FBiH, the programme supported a working group comprised of government representatives and CSO advocates which developed a proposal for a new piece of legislation on DV that addresses several shortcomings (inter alia, lack of operational standards and guidelines for shelters in FBiH, the legal status of specialized support services for victims of DV, lack of programmes for working with perpetrators, inadequate multisectoral cooperation and vague role of specialized NGOs).

In Kosovo:

- CSOs supported by the programme played an important role in the amendment of the Criminal Code of Kosovo (2012) adopted in January 2019, resulting in the inclusion and definition of DV as a separate criminal offense, accurately defining all acts of DV, and codifying all articles of the current Criminal Code in a single chapter;
- In 2019, the Constitutional Court of Kosovo granted full permission for amendment of the Constitution's article 22 to include the IC in the list of directly applicable international legal instruments for protection of human rights;
- UN Women supported the Parliamentary Women Caucus in drafting its Strategic Plan, where the Kosovo Constitution along with the IC and other international instruments governing gender rights were agreed to be the basis of work of all women deputies;
- Kosovo legislation was amended to provide for greater legal rights to property ownership.

In Montenegro:

- The new intersectoral "Protocol/Code of Conduct on action in cases of violence against women," developed with the active contribution of programme-supported NGOs, makes licenced NGOs officially became part of the multidisciplinary response – a serious milestone in shaping the fight against VAW in terms of providing an adequate multidisciplinary response in the treatment of victims.
- Montenegro adopted the recommendations laid out in the country's first GREVIO evaluation report. These developments are significant steps for implementing the IC and are creating a more enabling environment across the region to EVAWG, which have direct IC implications on improving the lives of women and girls in the region.

In Serbia and Turkey, the government adopted the recommendations laid out in the country's first GREVIO evaluation report. These developments are significant steps for implementing the IC and are creating a more enabling environment across the region to EVAWG, which have direct IC implications on improving the lives of women and girls in the region.

² Safe network is a network of CSOs gathered with the aim to develop an institutional and sustainable response to domestic violence at the national and regional level. Its secretariat numbers 7 members, all of whom are organizations running shelters. More information can be found here.

DETAIL OF ACTIVITY BY COUNTRY

ALB Activity 1.2.1. In-country CSO trainings for the preparation of CEDAW/Istanbul Convention shadow reports in coordination with the national platform

The Monitoring Network conducted a [capacity building programme](#) for 38 representatives of 26 CSOs on the monitoring process of the implementation of international standards against GBV, and 144 representatives of local NGOs around the country took part in three regional information sessions about the use of international standards as the basis for their advocacy work. The network developed a [practical manual](#) for CSOs to report on CEDAW, the IC and UPR, and a [manual](#) to guide the Ombudsman, upon the request of this institution.

A shadow report was submitted by CLCI in the context of follow up reporting procedures to the CEDAW Committee on the implementation of 4 recommendations on which Albania was required to report by 2018. 56 representatives of 18 CSOs actively participated in the report following 2 training sessions organized by CLCI and led by an international expert member of GREVIO to monitor requirements of CEDAW Committee and GREVIO and to learn about the relevant techniques for the preparation of shadow reports.

Furthermore, the CSO report for Beijing+25 was submitted by the Monitoring Network with contributions from 13 members, making Albania one of the first countries to have done so. This result is based on the efforts of 21 organizations which joined a webinar held by CLCI under the guidance of the network. Frequent communication, discussions and meetings were held with members of the network to strengthen the role of the network, identify challenges to overcome, and learn from experience.

BiH Activity 1.2.1. Technical assistance to CSOs and government to review/reform laws, policies and legislations at the BiH Entity Levels, including the set-up of interdisciplinary groups to pool expertise

The programme-supported Safe Network³ led by the Foundation for Local Democracy (FLD), developed a policy

³ Safe network is a network of CSOs gathered with the aim to develop an institutional and sustainable response to domestic violence at the national and regional level. Its secretariat numbers 7 members, all of whom are organizations running shelters. More information can be found [here](#).

document proposing legal and policy changes towards integration of services based on an analysis they conducted on existing gaps in the harmonization of current legislation and by-laws regulating specialist support services in BiH. The policy document identified 4 key areas for legislative intervention: 1) establishing standards for providing specialized services to victims of violence, 2) ensuring the status and position of Safe Houses in the institutional protection system, 3) establishing a unique 24-hour SOS telephone line for the territory of BiH, and 4) providing access to free legal aid to all victims of DV. The policy proposal was presented to 56 participants ranging from Ministry of Social Welfare of FBiH, Ministry of Finance of FBiH, Gender Center of FBiH, Agency for Gender Equality of BiH, delegates to the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, all engaged to be further involved to develop proposals for legislative and policy changes, as well as in advocacy towards their adoption.

In addition, 2 working groups, one in each of the entities, were established to come up with proposals for legal solutions to the issue of unequal access to specialist support services by victims of DV. The working groups were comprised of the relevant Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Social Welfare from each of the entities, entity Gender Centers, the state Agency for Gender Equality BiH, the steering board of the Safe Network and independent experts. During its work, the group identified in a new document several shortcomings (inter alia, lack of operational standards and guidelines for shelters in FBiH, the legal status of specialized support services for victims of DV, lack of programmes for working with perpetrators, inadequate multisectoral cooperation and vague role of specialized NGOs) within the current entity legislation to be addressed by drafting a comprehensive new document.

The lack of new government in place in FBiH for one year following the drafting of this new document posed a considerable challenge for the working groups to be able to advance the law to be discussed in the entity parliament. In addition, the ad interim Minister of Labour and Social Policy found no interest in being the custodian of the new legislation or proposing the law officially to the government.

In the area of advocacy, based on an alternative approach developed by the Safe Network to include female parliamentarians from different political parties at various levels of government in FBiH, parliamentarians gave proposals for further action aiming at adopting the new Law on Protection against DV in the FBiH (entity and cantonal). A total of 40 female parliamentarian members of the FBiH Parliamentary Assembly and cantonal assemblies, as well as women's rights activists, were engaged and committed to providing their political clubs with information on the new legal solution in order to obtain further support in the process of submitting the new law to parliamentary procedures, as well as organizing panel discussions in their respective constituencies on this topic to raise further political support for the issue.

In addition, 83 participants coming from institutions involved in the response to DV (police, centers for social work, justice, health care, education etc.) attended discussions panels to bring the IC closer to service providers at the local and cantonal/coordination level, as well as to advocate for the need to make changes to the legislation on DV in FBiH.

Discussions panels were organized in FBiH, specifically in Mostar, Siroki Brijeg, Odzak, Tuzla and two in Bihac for representatives of 2 different cantons (Hercegovina Neretva and Una Sana Canton).

The programme supported Safe Network to provide input on the process of revision of the Law on Protection from DV in Republika Srpska, initiated by the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, which is in charge of the law's implementation. The working group formed by the Ministry was expanded to include several proposals for amendments coming from CSOs, mostly related to the criminalization of the act of DV, risk assessment and the obligation of signing local protocols on cooperation in response to DV.

During the process of mandatory public consultations on the new proposed amendments, the programme-supported CSOs from Republika Srpska, members of the Safe Network, organized 5 public discussions in Banja Luka, Bijeljina, East Sarajevo, Modrica and Trebinje. The public discussions were attended by a total of 110 people, including representatives of police (Ministry of Interior), centers for social work, courts and prosecutor's offices, academia, legal aid centers, city/municipal administrations and CSOs.



Fatima Bećirović, BiH

Photo: UN Women / Imrana Kapetanović

MONT Activity 1.2.1. NGO Project implementation monitoring and coordination and MONT Activity 1.2.2. Support in expert level dialogue with authorities on amending legislation in accordance with the IC.

As the result of the new intersectoral "Protocol/Code of Conduct on action in cases of violence against women," licenced NGOs officially became part of the multidisciplinary response, with the right and duty to exchange data and support in processing cases on the same ground as institutions of the system. It constitutes a serious milestone in shaping the fight against VAW, in terms of providing an adequate multidisciplinary response in the treatment of victims. NGOs took an active part in the development of the Protocol. It was ensured that the strategic impact of the new Protocol is made substantive by aligning the multidisciplinary approach with key legislation acts, with the support of IT solutions and the tracking of each team member's performance to ensure timely, effective and adequate response mechanism. The Protocol introduced aligned methodology of data collection, and developed templates for data exchange. Database is to be used for evidence-based policy making and process improvements, as well as strengthening the overall accountability of the institutions involved.

NM Activity 1.2.1. Advocacy and expert level dialogue with the government and Parliament to amend existing legislation in line with international standards, human rights mechanisms recommendations, EU Directives and Istanbul Convention

Draft amendments for changes of the Criminal Code were submitted to the Ministry of Justice in August 2019. As a result, a new Criminal Code in line with the IC is being drafted with the inputs of partner organization Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) which participated in the working group for drafting the Criminal Code.

These changes in legislation were informed by a gap analysis, as well as an assessment of the capacities of the Centers for Social Work prepared by CRPM and were made available in both Macedonian and Albanian languages before being published online. To collect data for the gap analysis, the programme-supported Macedonian Women’s Lobby (MWL) which conducted a desk research and held 3 focus groups with victims of violence and CSOs service providers; lawyers representing victims of violence; and prosecutors, judges and experts in criminal law. The gap analysis findings were validated in a national conference held in July 2019 among relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, they were also presented to the parliament thanks to the support of the Women’s Parliamentarian Club.

REG Activity 1.2.1. Support the running of the Regional Expert Working Group (REWG) to convene key stakeholders and women’s organizations to draw measures to tackle the intersecting issues between gender and other forms of discrimination

The Regional Expert Working Group (REWG) was informally established and comprised over 40 CSOs representing and working with minorities from the region, led by the CSO partner Imkaan. To get a solid overview of the understating of intersectional approaches of organizations in the region and draw a road map for action, participatory research was conducted and published under the title [“A thousand ways to solve our problems: An analysis of existing violence against women and girls approaches for minoritized women and girls in the Western Balkans and Turkey”](#). The research unveils the challenges that ‘by and for’ organizations (those both staffed by and working with minoritized women) face in their efforts of incorporating an intersectional approaches to violence in their work,



Photo: UN Women

monitoring and reporting to international mechanisms such as CEDAW and IC, and engaging with the EU accession process. The report was widely disseminated including through a meeting with European Commission Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (EC DG NEAR) in Brussels, Council of Europe (CoE), European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and OSCE. With a view to address the capacity needs identified in the research, a 3-day capacity building was held in Sarejevo in March 2019 for over 25 CSOs from the region. Following the capacity building, 3 policy briefs addressing the key issues discussed in the training were produced: [“Funding intersectional violence against women and girls services”](#), [“The value of intersectionality in understanding violence against women and girls”](#), and [“Data collection by and for minoritized women.”](#)

“The most innovative thing was providing the small grants and empowering the organizations. First, we trained them on how to work as an organization internally. We also helped them understand how to write a project and then we focused on financial management.”

CSO implementing partner, Albania

“... policies, inclusive partnerships”



Result 1.3

A REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING MECHANISM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION AND CEDAW AMONG GOVERNMENTS, CSOS AND OTHER CONCERNED STAKEHOLDERS IS ESTABLISHED AND FUNCTIONAL

Indicator 1.3.a: Number of regional cooperation mechanisms and formal and informal agreements between Governments, women’s organizations, and other concerned stakeholders for policy development and jointly monitoring implementation of the IC and CEDAW.

The programme established a regional forum as a mechanism for regional knowledge sharing and informal dialogue on the IC and EVAWG practices in the region. The forum provided a space for exchange of knowledge which is conducive to advancing normative frameworks and practices; and better service provision within countries, across the region, and among governments and CSOs.

Indicator 1.3.b: Number of national and regional statements by women’s CSOs in traditional and non-traditional media.

More than 50 national and regional statements by women’s CSOs have been published in traditional and non-traditional media.

“I have always considered myself an advocate for gender equality. From a very young age and throughout my studies, I have questioned the role given to women in society and developed a strong feminist spirit, aspiring to societal change and a life free from discrimination and violence for all.”

Hungarian MP Zita Gurmai



2 REGIONAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL FORUMS

DETAIL OF ACTIVITY BY COUNTRY

REG Activity 1.3.1. Convene a regional inter-governmental forum on the implementation of the IC through which CSOs, including organisations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups, can engage with government representatives and regional institutions.

2 regional inter-governmental forums were held throughout the programme:

- The [First Regional Forum](#) for the promotion of the IC in the Western Balkans and Turkey gathered over 150 representatives of different levels of government and civil society from Albania, BiH, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, in Skopje (North Macedonia) on 27 and 28 November 2018 to discuss the efforts invested so far to combat VAWG and DV but also challenges and opportunities. Representatives were united, for the first time for some of them, to promote the implementation of the IC in the region on the occasion of the campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

The event was convened by the Government of North Macedonia, UN Women, the EU, and the CoE, in partnership with European Women’s Lobby (EWL) which informed the First Regional Forum with preparatory analytical work, including broad consultations with CSOs throughout the region regarding the implementation of the IC from a civil society perspective and resulting in a concept paper entitled, [“Integrated Policies, Integrated Approach,”](#) which provided an overview of all policies and legislation on VAW and IC in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

During the forum, different voices were heard, from representatives of national and regional institutions to CSOs, and progresses and achievements were presented and evaluated, particularly with regards to the implementation of the IC. Most agreed that while there have been significant achievements, there is room for drastic improvements.



Kick-off conference of the EU-UN Women Regional Programme “Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey” Photo: UN Women

- The [Second Regional Forum](#) for the promotion of the IC in the Western Balkans and Turkey gathered 130 representatives of civil society, national governments, and regional institutions in Tirana (Albania) on the 9th and 10th of October 2019. The [Second Regional Forum](#) was convened by the Government of Albania, CoE, EU, and UN Women. A series of conclusions and recommendations were developed, summarized as:
 - 1) Effective inter-agency cooperation should include all sectors at all levels of operation,
 - 2) Education and training must be offered to service providers at all levels of implementation,
 - 3) Specialized and centralized centres for survivors of sexual violence should be established,
 - 4) Gender-sensitive budgeting should inform the sustainable allocation of resources, and
 - 5) Standardized language and definitions of various forms of violence should be applied.

The Forum was accompanied by the launch of the [“Mapping on Sexual Violence Services in the Western Balkans and Turkey,”](#) developed by the CSSP and leveraged during the forum working groups.



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2

To promote favourable social norms and attitudes and prevent discrimination of and violence against women

Indicator 2.a:

Percentage of people among targeted communities in the countries involved in the Action who think it is never justifiable for a man to beat his wife disaggregated by gender and age.

Percentage of respondents in baseline study who disagree or strongly disagree that finding out a partner has been unfaithful is a “good reason” for a man to hit his wife:

IPA beneficiary	Female (%)	Male (%)
Albania	70.8	59.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	88.7	83.3
Kosovo*	-	-
North Macedonia	77.5	74.1
Serbia	95.9	90.2
Turkey	89.0	68.8

*Literature review was conducted in lieu of baseline study in Kosovo. Literature review revealed that one in five respondents (21.1%) think some time is OK for a husband to hit his wife. Almost one third of respondents (29.9%) think that domestic violence is a normal part of any relationship, and society in general accepts that violence happens sometimes. Further, almost the same proportion of respondents (31.3%) still believe that domestic violence is “a family matter, so neighbours shouldn’t report it to police”.

Result 2.1

WOMEN'S CSOS, MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT BODIES HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ADDRESS HARMFUL GENDER STEREOTYPES

Indicator 2.1.a: Number of new advocacy initiatives addressing harmful gender stereotypes implemented by partners in this Action

14 initiatives were undertaken:

- **In Albania**, 1860 women and men, boys and girls increased their knowledge on gender equality and gender stereotypes through 50 community forums and awareness raising meetings held by Women Forum Elbasan (WFE).
- **In BiH**, gender roles were discussed to primary school students during workshops held in 6 schools. Also, the Women's Support Chain developed by Vive Žene, women victims of violence were empowered to speak publicly – many of them for the first time – about their experiences, contributing to break the stigma around VAWG.
- **In Kosovo**, reporting rates to the police of incidents of VAWG increased by 20% following an innovative campaign to involve the public in preventing VAWG, introduced by Kosovo Gender Studies Center (KGSC) and developed using the Communication for Behavioural Impact (COMBI) approach.
- **In Montenegro**, the Montenegrin women's rights movement was historicized and publicized by women's rights activists during a workshop held by the Centre for Feminist Culture (NGO NOVA).
- **In North Macedonia**, 170 secondary school students improved their skills on how to use communications channels to disseminate messages related to prevention of gender-based discrimination and VAWG in their communities.
- **In Serbia**, a pilot training with 13 media houses and 16 journalists was held to reduce stereotypes in media reporting on VAWG. Also, the programme provided technical support to Center of Modern Skills to develop a COMBI plan for reducing VAWG in high school.
- **In Turkey**, over 550 fathers participated in father groups to improve their communication skills within the family and increase their involvement in hands-on childcare.

DETAIL OF ACTIVITY BY COUNTRY

REG Activity 2.1.1. Design and implementation of an experimental advocacy innovation facility – the GenderLab – to support CSOs in testing new and innovative advocacy initiatives on eliminating gender stereotypes

The GenderLab assessed, designed and implemented innovative, scalable prevention and advocacy interventions that address gender harmful stereotypes at community levels to build the evidence on what works and what does not and strengthen knowledge of effective approaches. As preparatory and ongoing training, 33 CSOs from all 7 IPA beneficiaries were trained on applying the 10-step Communication for Behavioural Impact (COMBI) methodology to reduce VAWG in November 2018 in Skopje. In May 2019, 25 CSOs from all 7 IPA beneficiaries attended clinic workshops in Istanbul to discuss the initiatives undertaken and redirect them as needed.

The following was undertaken under the GenderLab:

Baseline Surveys

In order to establish the goals of the GenderLab, the regional programme conducted a baseline survey in 6 countries to establish an understanding of current and dominant attitudes and perceptions (and the factors that influence them) toward gender equality and violence against women at community level. The baseline survey provides insight into selected communities' cultural and social perceptions, from which strategies could be developed to influence persistent behavioral and cultural patterns that serve as obstacles to the development of societies and the achievement of gender equality. These surveys were conducted by local CSOs, as small-scale quantitative surveys and in-depth qualitative interviews at community level, and the results were developed into [infosheets](#) for dissemination and public use.

To drive the establishment of the GenderLab, a final report was conducted and completed in June 2018 including case studies from each country/community and data for all indicators that will enable changes to be tracked over time, such as demographic data on age, sex, and marital status. In order to collect field data, the programme signed a project cooperation agreement (PCA) with six CSOs: the Observatory for Children's Rights (Albania), Analitika

(BiH), the CRPM (North Macedonia), the Kosovar Gender Studies Center (KGSC; Kosovo), SeConS Development Initiative Groups (Serbia) and the Flying Broom Women's Communication and Research Association (Flying Broom; Turkey). Conclusions from the final report aided in analysing the findings and results of a baseline survey.

Mapping Existing Initiatives

In order to design its own methods and approaches to induce positive shifts in social norms, the GenderLab looks to previous initiatives as a reference. A mapping of existing awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives undertaken by CSOs in the countries involved in the programme over the last five years was conducted. This exercise, compiled by YADA Foundation and published in 2018, identified a number of advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives and tools that have proved to be successful at country level, while also highlighting limitations in existing knowledge and [expertise](#) on behavioural change initiatives in the region.

In addition, initiatives and tools that were shown to be influential and successful at country level were identified, whilst also highlighting the limitations in existing knowledge and expertise on behavior change initiatives in the region. To identify these initiatives and tools, a mapping of awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives undertaken by CSOs in programme-participating countries over the last 5 years was conducted.

This mapping served as a reference for the development of the calls for proposals (CfPs) to select CSOs to test the advocacy initiatives and tools identified as good practices, launched in Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia and Turkey.

Furthermore, conventional information-education-communication campaigns (IEC) and advocacy/promotion programmes increased awareness and knowledge but were not as successful at achieving behavioural results. From the results, it became clear that informing and educating people, while critical, are not sufficient bases for behavioral responses; it is one thing to know, another to do. It was concluded that behavioral impact will emerge only with effective communication programmes purposefully directed at behavioural goals, and not just

directed at awareness creation, advocacy or public education. Desired behavioral results could be achieved only with effective public and personal communication that overcomes the barriers that deter acceptance of the recommended behaviours. Initiatives under the GenderLab targeted a wide variety of issues, responding to data collected, needs expressed, and solutions suggested by the communities in which they were based. Nevertheless, there were certain themes that applied cross-regionally, informed by the baseline surveys in each country as well as the experiences of the implementing partners.

Working with the Media

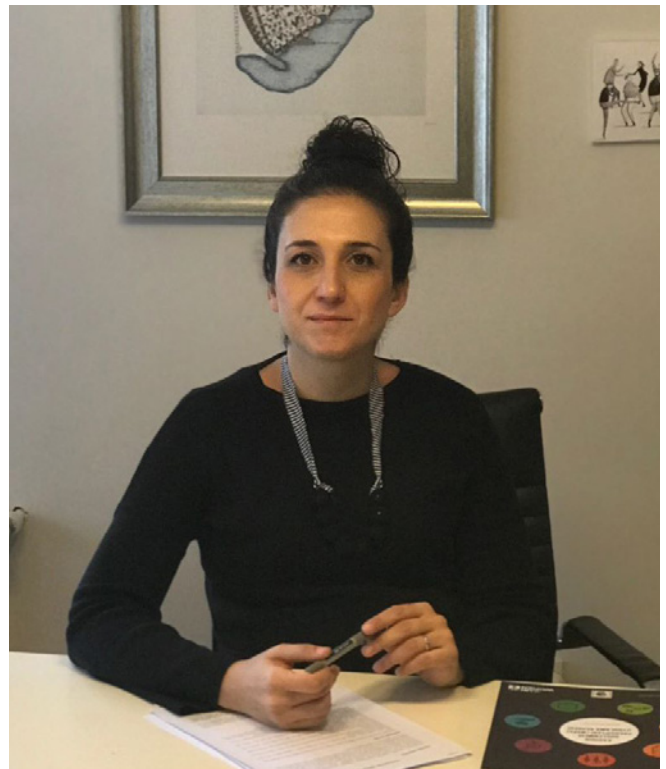
Many of the baseline reports indicated the key role that the media plays in disseminating information and reaching target populations. Often, however, this takes the form of reinforcing negative gender stereotypes or expectations, or poor reporting techniques on instances of VAW. Several interventions under the GenderLab looked to harness the power of the media into a tool for EAWG. In Montenegro, for instance, NGO NOVA (Centre for Feminist Culture) worked closely with the Montenegrin Women's Museum to prepare the publication and digital exhibition "Women's Movement in Post-Socialism Montenegro – Map of the Road Passed Through."

This collaboration included heritage as a crucial part of sustainable development, while employing contemporary cultural practices to exhibit activist artefacts. In Turkey, the Women's Studies Association (WSA), along with other women's groups and refugee organizations, trained local journalists, scholars, and university students from communication departments to promote the use of gender-sensitive and non-racist language towards refugee women and to raise awareness on the impacts of the gender discriminatory wording in the local media. News articles from these trainings were drafted by participants and published in newspapers in Mersin and Hatay.

The WSA also developed a social media campaign denouncing discrimination against refugee women, which included designing visual materials and postcards to be distributed. In Albania, Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC) trained local journalists and mentored them in writing articles on VAWG from an ethical and gender inclusive reporting lenses. Albanian Disability Rights Foundation organized a number of radio shows on reporting violence against women with disabilities.

Engaging School Communities

Early education about the consequences of gender inequality and VAWG is key in the fight for a future society where violence and discrimination are unacceptable. In BiH, CSO Vive Zene conducted 18 workshops with 90 children in 6 primary schools to encourage children to think beyond traditional gender roles, stimulating their creativity to reshape harmful stereotypes. Women's



Ayşe Pinar Guyer, YADA

Safe House Montenegro engaged in activities aimed at impacting the education of young high school students through awareness raising on the unacceptability of violence against women.

Additionally, they provided comprehensive support for female and child survivors of DV, including provision of shelter services, counselling, psychological and legal assistance. In Albania, Women Forum Elbasan organized an exhibition and open lecture with 65 university students titled "What Were You Wearing?" to encourage reporting of sexual violence and harassment in school/university.

Community Mobilization

In partnership with CSO Vive Zene in BiH, 22 participants met to discuss an increase in violence and the inadequacy

of legal regulation that protects women victims of violence, including representatives of governmental and social and health care institutions, CSOs, and political representatives.

Additionally, 12 workshop sessions were held with women from rural communities, including marginalized groups, to address challenges and solutions for gender equality in their region, and the group “Women’s Support Chain,” composed of 12 women survivors of violence, met for 18 sessions over 10 months to discuss personal life stories and experiences with VAWG. This development of community networks and support systems is a solution that can ensure community ownership and sustainability of EAWG initiatives.

In some areas, these interventions were structured for awareness-raising. NRAEWOK conducted a door-to-door campaign in Kosovo to inform and discuss with families the negative consequences of child marriage, intending to change perceptions about the family as a unit and effect behavioural and attitudinal change in gender roles. They also conducted 5 capacity building trainings for 50 women from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities to discuss international legal standards and held 2 “family conferences” with members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community and other stakeholders involved in the fight against early child marriage.

In Turkey, the WSA held two roundtables for members of the community to share their experiences with one another on VAWG, discrimination, and refugee rights. In Albania, 5 forums were held with religious leaders and youth from each religious community to engage the religious community as a partner in combating VAW and increasing awareness among young followers of different religions.

Engaging Men and Boys

One of the defining recommendations made by the baseline survey in all countries was the need for educating and engaging men and boys in the fight against VAWG. Concerning statistics point to an urgent need for action to effect attitudinal and behavioural change in men and boys across the region. In Albania, WFE promoted the “Agents of Change” initiative during International Women’s Day, which exhorts men and boys to act as role models to positively influence their communities, especially those in rural areas, and to contribute to a change of minds regarding gender equality, gender roles and VAWG. In

addition, WFE engaged approximately 600 men and boys through public forums, especially those from religious communities, to challenge gender stereotypes and traditional norms.

Strategic Communication Campaigns

Innovative and creative ways of raising awareness and educating the public about issues related to gender equality and VAWG are a key component of GenderLab initiatives. CSO Vive Zene in BiH developed a strategic communication campaign that involved workshops with women victims of violence, a CommuWorkshop on public speech, the collection and distribution of audio, visual, and written stories of personal victims of violence, and the observance of international days to bring public attention to the consequences of VAWG and the importance of gender equality. In Kosovo, the Kosovar Gender Studies Centre used music videos and TV spots screened on buses, as well as celebrity activism (going to work with a faux black eye) to draw attention to these issues. The Kosovo Women’s Network also used social media and street events, as well as workshops and meetings with disadvantaged communities, to capture public attention.

In Serbia, Association Fenomena developed three campaigns, including “The Power to Change,” a self-help approach for violence prevention and for women survivors of DV. Association Fenomena also participated in “Step Up!” a European-wide campaign promoting the rights of women survivors of violence and their children to access support and protection.

The campaign involves young people spreading positive gender-equality messages by calling for the best meme and engaging young cartoonists and youth ambassadors. Finally, they developed the ‘Live Library’ – an innovative, inclusive, pro human rights methodology using the stories of real women to reduce the negative stereotypes and prejudices that stand as key causes of discrimination in society. Also in Serbia, the Centre for Modern Skills appointed and trained “Youth Ambassadors” on communication and the development of campaigns, as well as establishing a digital platform for content dissemination, and holding a thematic conference and exhibition to present the outcomes of the campaign.

In Turkey, Flying Broom worked in Mersin with teachers and parents of Syrian schoolchildren to educate them about the dangers of CEFM and about the benefits of keeping girls in school.



Result 2.2

WOMEN, GIRLS, MEN AND BOYS AT THE COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL LEVELS HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF GENDER EQUALITY

Indicator 2.2.a: Number of people who have been exposed to messages challenging harmful gender stereotypes among targeted communities.

Country	Women	Girls	Boys	Men
Albania	828	651	65	38
BIH	105	99	56	10
Kosovo	280	210	160	150
Montenegro	120	0	0	80
North Macedonia	200	1800	1800	200
Serbia	0	2000	550	0
Turkey	200	250	250	1300
Subtotal	1733	5010	2881	1778

“Women from disadvantaged groups have accessed justice and other protection services, thus opposing habits and traditions of tolerating and enduring violence in their communities. Police authorities have changed their attitude and behaviours towards violence and victims of violence from disadvantaged groups and service providers in three local communities have increased their understanding of violence and multiple discrimination of women from disadvantaged communities.”

Representative of Roma organization, BiH

DETAIL OF ACTIVITY BY COUNTRY

ALB Activity 2.2.1. Design and implementation of an experimental advocacy innovation facility – the GenderLab – to support CSOs in testing new and innovative advocacy initiatives on eliminating gender stereotypes and ALB Activity 2.2.2. Baseline and end-line programme data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards VAW before and after the implementation of the GenderLab

The baseline survey [“2018 Public perceptions of gender equality and violence against women – Albania”](#) was produced by programme-supported CSO Observatory for Children’s and Youth Rights.

Data includes responses from 1260 women, girls, men and boys of ages 15-64, in the region of Elbasan and municipalities of Durrës, Korçë, Shkodër, Kamëz, Tiranë and Vlorë, in both urban and rural areas, including members of disadvantaged communities (Roma, Egyptian, persons with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+).

In order to have comparable data throughout the life of the programme, the Observatory conducted a mid-term review survey using the same methodology and same sampling/target group as the baseline. According to the info sheet [“Perceptions on violence against women and girls”](#), as a comparative overview during baseline and mid-term review phases, the main changes are as follows: 77% of respondents were aware of the existence of a law on gender equality (compared to 65% in the baseline), and 83% were aware of the existence of a law on VAWG and DV (78% in the baseline).

The percentage of respondents who believe that a person should be punished for forcing sexual relations on a spouse/partner increased from 56% in the baseline to 71% in mid-term; the percentage of male respondents willing to take action to prevent violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals increased from 28% in the baseline to 48% in the mid-term.

Also, a lower proportion of respondents believed marital rape is non-punishable (71.4%, compared to 56% in baseline), and significantly fewer men believed that girls belong to the domestic sphere (15%, compared to 33% in baseline).

The Observatory for Children’s and Youth Rights devised a strategic communication campaign with the aim to change a specific behaviour related to VAW Specific Behavioural Objective (SBO). To agree on the SBO, the Observatory held validation meetings with 65 representatives of central level institutions, the referral mechanism of Durrës municipality, healthcare workers in the city of Elbasan and with police officers from Tirana. During the meetings, participants discussed the SBO and provided important feedback on the tools to use during the campaign and what makes the most sense in their local communities.

In addition, 700 questionnaires were completed by citizens in the targeted areas to collect perceptions and attitudes that need to change in order to improve the fight GBV by emphasizing reporting. The agreed-upon SBO identified, which will be used during the implementation of the GenderLab communications campaign in the second phase of the programme, aims to increase reporting of cases of violence not only by the general public, witnesses and survivors, but also local officials involved in addressing VAWG.

However, increasing the number of reported cases requires preparedness by responsible institutions to respond to this increase. As such, The Observatory conducted an assessment of the needs of local institutions to address cases of violence in the 6 targeted municipalities. 1,051 questionnaires were distributed in the community and several focus groups with local institutions were conducted, culminating in an Assessment Report (in process of publication), which informed preparation and finalization of the Strategic Communications Plan to implement the Specific Behavioral Objective through the innovative GenderLab.

“We are very satisfied. It was the first time we were implementing the program and it also empowered our internal organizational management.”

Grassroot women’s organization (beneficiary), Albania

Albania Activity 2.2.3. Capacity building and awareness raising campaign on the effects of and how to address harmful gender stereotypes, including HeForShe – with the involvement of communities, private sector, CSOs, CSOs representing Roma women, government, human rights advocates and other well established institutions.

Five community forums with 178 participants (129 women & girls, 49 men & boys) were held in high schools and rural areas of Elbasan region. Local actors such as WFE specialists, local coordinators on gender equality and ending violence against women, police areas specialists, municipality employees, schools' headmasters, teachers were invited to discuss gender equality and gender stereotypes through their perspective with young boys and girls.

On International Women's Day, HRDC held awareness raising meetings with students from three schools in the municipality of Kamez. The purpose of this activity was to raise citizens' awareness about respect for women's rights, their information on forms of gender-based violence, and institutions where a victim of violence can be referred for protection. Citizens were equipped with information packages on legal aid services and social economical schemes, such as economic assistance, social housing programs, etc. Furthermore, on the same day the Woman Forum Elbasan organized an awareness event which aimed to promote "Equal property rights for women and girls." The activity was organized with 24 women and girls, survivors of violence, beneficiaries of WFE services from the whole Region of Elbasan.

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement on the functioning of the Referral Mechanism, HRDC and SAWG continue to support the municipalities in organizing coordinating meetings involving key institutions such as the police station, health center, shelter, schools including psychologists, and offices of employment, as well as representatives of various organizations that provide services to the categories in need. A total of seven coordination meetings were organized in Kamza and Lezha municipalities. Furthermore, referral mechanism meetings were held in all six municipalities monitored by GADC and AWEN.

During its awareness raising campaigns, HRDC has disseminated around 250 leaflets which contain information about all forms of violence as well as institutions where victims of violence can seek support, and approximately 150 women/girls were contacted.



Tanja Mandić Đokić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Photo: UN Women

BiH Activity 2.2.1. Design and implementation of an experimental advocacy innovation facility – the GenderLab – to support CSOs in testing new and innovative advocacy initiatives on eliminating gender stereotypes and BiH Activity 2.2.2. Baseline programme data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards VAW before and after the implementation of the GenderLab

The baseline survey "[2018 Public perceptions of gender equality and violence against women – Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)" was produced by programme-supported Centre for Social Research Analitika. Data includes responses from 504 women, girls, men and boys in 16 regions and 27 municipalities of BiH, in both urban and rural areas. The findings from the baseline report have been used as the basis for adapting the GenderLab concept to BiH, and the data will be used for further awareness raising purposes and future programming in the area of prevention. Through 30 workshops organized by CSO partner Vive Zene, 145 children (99 girls and 46 boys) learned about gender roles – using examples of their parents – and how to think beyond them, and 70%

of them showed positive changes in their behaviour and understanding of gender roles.

As an example, one boy noted that while people generally think men are better drivers than women, he observed that his mother was in fact a better driver than his father. He considered that assumptions of someone's abilities based on their gender were often incorrect.

Regarding awareness raising among women, in a period of 5 months, 72 women from 6 rural communities, including from marginalized groups, changed their attitudes towards GBV following 30 workshops: pre-tests conducted by Vive Zene showed that more than 48% of respondents felt that DV was a personal problem; it was reduced to 18% after the workshops. Prior to the workshops, 68% respondents thought that family problems should only be talked within the family, compared to only 27% after the workshops. When asked whether it is necessary to stop violence if they witness it or are aware that it is happening, 56.8% answered yes in pre-tests, and 80.9% answered yes in post-tests.

The group Women's Support Chain, comprised of 12 women who have experienced discrimination and GBV, met for 18 sessions over 10 months and intensely worked on their individual life stories and experiences of violence in order to be able to speak openly about it in the form of living library (a form of autobiographical storytelling and dialogue with listeners) and encouraged other women to break the cycle of violence. They set up "Women's Support Circles" in 6 local communities of north-eastern BiH that gave to the 90 women participants the opportunity to meet other women and to prepare themselves for speaking in public in other communities.

In the area of capacity building of service providers, 12 representatives of local institutions involved in the response to DV have a better understanding of gender stereotypes, culture and community work in Posavina Canton.

78% of participants expressed their readiness to change their way of thinking GBV, irrespective of their work experience and profession. By attending 3 modules of training over one year, they learned about challenging stereotypes and prejudice regarding gender, sexual orientation and diversity but also on the availability and accessibility of quality services in their region.

Furthermore, 22 participants (19 women and 3 men) in 2018 and 47 participants (39 women and 9 men) in 2019 (representatives of educational and health institutions, relevant ministries, social and health care institutions, judicial institutions, representatives of CSOs and political parties) discussed an increase in reported cases of violence in Tuzla Canton and gaps in legislative regulations to protect women victims of violence. This was achieved through 2 local campaigns organized in Tuzla during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in 2018 and 2019, bringing together women from different rural communities involved in the project to mark the campaign and openly condemn GBV. The project was additionally promoted through a [video](#) produced for this purpose.

KOS Activity 2.2.1. Design and implementation of an experimental advocacy innovation facility – the GenderLab – to support CSOs in testing new and innovative advocacy initiatives on eliminating gender stereotypes and KOS Activity 2.2.2. Baseline and end-line programme data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards VAW before and after the implementation of the GenderLab

The baseline survey "[2018 Public perceptions of gender equality and violence against women – Kosovo](#)," produced by programme-supported CSO KGSC, examined existing dominant public attitudes, perceptions, opinions and beliefs toward gender equality and VAW. Data was drawn from two recent reports from Kosovo Women's Network: "[No more excuses: An Analysis of Attitudes, Incidence, and Institutional Responses to Domestic Violence in Kosovo](#)" (2015); and "[Sexual harassment in Kosovo](#)" (2016). It included survey responses from 1315 women, girls, men and boys of ages 18+, in 36 municipalities of Kosovo, in both urban and rural areas. The document also provides information on civil servants' perception of sexual harassment in the workplace. Besides the desk review, interviews were conducted with representatives from UN Women, Kosova Women's Network (KWN), Kosovo Police, a representative from a women's shelter, OSCE and Prosecutor's Office. Informed by the baseline findings, KGSC was able to build strategies to promote attitudinal and behavioural change through a COMBI campaign.

The main goal of the campaign was to tackle patriarchal norms that support VAW and increase the number of cases reported to the police by 20%.

The COMBI campaign reached over 800,000 people through events, social media, and a short video featured on buses traveling from Pristina and led to an increase of reporting of cases VAW by 20.8%. In contrast to traditional awareness raising campaigns, the COMBI campaign focused on education, awareness raising, and messaging that urges Kosovar citizens to speak up if they suspect VAWG. The campaign targeted individuals around the age of 35 – the age group most likely to report violence to the police, whether as witnesses, neighbors, or victims themselves. Under the headline “Everyone can say something to stop VAW” and #SaySomething, KGSC published various materials aiming to encourage reporting. A [leaflet](#) has been released on social media and the website provides basic information on what constitutes GBV via an empowering approach for women victims or potential victims and guidance on steps to follow in case of VAWG.

Following the campaign, a midterm review was undertaken, concluding that there is a high prevalence of VAWG and high acceptance of violence. The report shows that reporting on DV increased for the first time since 2009, and there is considerable increase from previous years. While physical violence remains one of the most frequently reported form of abuse, reporting rates of sexual violence remain the same, with little to no improvement in the last decade. The report concludes that persisting problems regarding the investigation of sexual violence include widespread stigmatization and victim-blaming by the Kosovo Police, lack of confidentiality on the identity of victims, lack of specialized services, and a lack of guidelines and coordination mechanism like those of domestic violence. The findings also show that women are still underrepresented in decision making bodies, including corporate boards, and possess much less property than men. Through the information obtained by the midterm review KGSC was able to identify several important factors that will be addressed in the second phase.

The midterm review was based on a desk review of 5 research studies carried in 2018-2019 that address gender-related issues and on main findings from interviews conducted during December 2019, with the key informants representing centers for the protection of women, international organizations working in Kosovo, representative of Agency for Gender Equality, Kosovo Police, National Coordinator for Protection from DV, representative from KWN, and NRAEWOK.

MONT Activity 2.2.1. Organise creative workshops involving Roma women NGOs, media and human right advocates.

Through creative workshops conducted by programme-supported NGO Center for Roma Initiatives (CRINK), 200 Roma community members participated in 7 forum theatre shows, representing 80% of the Roma community in the municipality of Niksic. Also, 20 Roma women NGOs, media and human rights advocates to take part in a round table discussion on CEFM.

CRINK developed several communication materials, such as 6 short video clips broadcasted on local TV (for a month, 5 times per day) based on in-depth interviews of Roma and Egyptian women victims of CEFM explaining how Roma and Egyptian children marriages are contracted and their consequences. CRINK also aired 6 life stories on national radio station and on social media to convince parents not to marry their girls at a young age and encourage girls not to endure violence; the videos were viewed 2,256 times on Facebook. On a local scale, CRINK put up a billboard at a crossroad showing the message “Arranged marriage is slavery” donated by the local private sector company, being a positive sign of their commitment to combating CEFM and opportunity for future partnerships.

MONT Activity 2.2.2. Interactive design of local community campaigns with women’s groups support

Leading feminist organization NGO Nova mapped the history of women’s activism in Montenegro related to topics such as violence and discrimination, peace, decision making, participation in politics, and women’s economic rights, with the aim of making visible the struggles and contributions of the Montenegrin women’s rights movement. The project included the collection of evidence and documentation, including photographic and interview documentation; thematic consultations with key stakeholders to cross reference collected evidence; and working meetings with women’s rights activists to solicit their feedback.

In the area of awareness-raising, Women’s Safe House produced the [song](#) “Unbreakable” performed by 11 prominent Montenegrin female singers, that reached out to 200,000 citizens of Montenegro – representing the third of the population. The song is for every woman who suffered or is suffering from any form of violence, whether psychological, emotional, or physical. The text of the song

carries a strong message that strives to inspire a change. It also supports the promotion of women's engagement and affirmation in the area of popular culture and art in general. The music video was publicised widely during the 16 days of activism against GBV, following the media-covered launch event.

Partner NGO Regina Jelena Project was supported to create thematic workshops gathering representatives of CSOs, business sector, public administration and diplomatic representatives, to trigger discussions of women-exemplars in male dominated cultures during 3-days round tables.

Following topics were covered during the roundtables: women's leadership in variety of social change; royalty, charity and feminism; dispelling prejudices regarding women leaders; learning from role models – in demand for women's leadership; gender inequality from perspectives of family, economic, culture and public life. Thematic workshops were complementary of Government's ongoing effort to develop cultural monument of Princess Jelena celebrating women's leadership. Although discussions on the women's leadership did not generate high level interest of media, the partner NGO triggered a lot of discussion on women role-models in Montenegrin history through their communication activities.

In this era of rapid social change and boundaryless communication platforms, individuals need to establish their own portfolio of developmental relationships and role models are a very important aspect of this. Therefore, initiative of Women's Political Network to integrate history of women in the curriculum of history classes is one of the important milestones triggered, among other staff, with public debates deriving from those initiatives.

NM Activity 2.2.1. Design and implementation of an experimental advocacy innovation facility – the GenderLab – to support CSOs in testing new and innovative advocacy initiatives on eliminating gender stereotypes and NM Activity 2.2.2. Baseline and end-line programme data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards VAW before and after the implementation of the GenderLab

The baseline survey [“2018 Public perceptions of gender equality and violence against women – Republic North Macedonia”](#) was produced by programme-supported CRPM. Data includes responses from 722 respondents

including women, girls, men and boys aged 15-64, located in four regions and 30 municipalities/cities of Serbia, in both urban and rural areas.

Additionally, 3 stories were selected as successful awareness-raising campaigns to inform future efforts and initiatives. Results from the baseline study were showcased through 4 infographics shared with stakeholders to increase their awareness on the perceptions, public beliefs and attitudes towards gender equality and VAWG in the country. Infographics accompanied by a teaser also reached 2900 people during the campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence via CRPM's Facebook page.

Informed by the baseline findings, the programme-supported Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) worked with 6 secondary schools (in Kichevo, Kumanovo, Shtip, Shuto Orizari, Tetovo and Karposh), 18 professionals (psychologists, pedagogues and teachers) on prevention of VAWG in schools. 6 modules for education on VAWG intended for secondary schools were prepared through a 3-day training conducted by MYLA in Mavrovo in September 2019 on children's and adolescent rights, legal framework and international mechanisms of VAWG and DV.

6 community outreach initiatives such as a fashion show, dramatization, public debates and forums targeting more than 4,000 young people as well as entire municipalities were implemented in target municipalities.

Through 60 workshops in 6 secondary schools, 120 students increased their knowledge about gender equality and EVAWG and how to implement community outreach initiatives aiming at prevention of VAWG. 170 students increased their capacities on the use communications channels to disseminate important messages related to prevention of gender-based discrimination and VAWG in their communities. 12 students from primary schools increased their knowledge about how to use new technologies towards elimination of VAW and DV after attending a video-making workshop.

Following these workshops, 3 videos were produced and used as a visual tool to send message on the harmfulness of violence and stereotyping. As a result of a 3-day training for multisectoral teams for Tetovo and Kumanovo in December 2019, 28 representatives of relevant institutions (social sector, police and justice and health sector) increased their capacities for gender responsive

and quality service provision as well as for integrated approach in dealing with cases of VAWG according to the standards set in the IC and the [Essential Services Package](#).

SER Activity 2.2.1. Design and implementation of an experimental advocacy innovation facility – the GenderLab – to support CSOs in testing new and innovative advocacy initiatives on eliminating gender stereotypes and SER Activity 2.2.2. Baseline programme data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards VAW before and after the implementation of the GenderLab

The baseline survey [“2018 Public perceptions of Gender Equality and violence against women – The Republic of Serbia”](#) produced by programme-supported SeCons. The data on gender equality and VAWG at the community level from 722 interviewees in 30 municipalities was collected based on a standardized questionnaire and methodology. Additionally, 15 in-depth interviews with key institutions were conducted to map the initiatives and campaigns undertaken over the last 5 years to challenge gender stereotypes and traditional gender-discriminatory norms and beliefs that justify VAWG.

The survey identified 4 campaigns conducted by CSOs and women’s organizations as examples of good practices that could serve as a basis for further actions towards breaking gender stereotypes and harmful attitudes and perceptions.

The results of an assessment conducted by SeCons revealed that the network of youth ambassadors established by the programme supported CSO Center of Modern Skills (CMS) reduced stereotypical attitudes after attending only one structured programme led by the CSO. CMS contributed to enhance the motivation of young men, to become agents of change against GBV, by establishing a network of 50 youth ambassadors in the municipalities of Kikinda, Sabac, Belgrade old town, and Paracin, to reach 500 teenagers to tackle stereotypical perceptions and norms related to VAWG and to trigger a change of attitudes among the youth population.

As an initial activity, the capacity development mentoring programme was organized for selected youth ambassadors. In order to reach additional teenagers in their communities, the youth ambassadors were engaged through uniquely created campaigns implemented during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence to eliminate harmful gender stereotypes, challenge patriarchal norms, and end violent relationship through:

- A [video](#) to tackle the harmful attitudes of boys was created by the ambassador in Belgrade and was presented in DorcolPlatz during the 16 Days campaign, as well in the civic education classes in several Belgrade high schools;
- In Sabac, following a survey conducted by the youth ambassadors revealing that every third girl attending the high school has experienced some form of verbal, digital, or physical violence, the network organized an event attended by 100 students in the public library with the support of municipal officials to present the survey results along with the presentation of the models of desirable behaviour of teenagers to challenge harmful gender attitudes;
- In Kikinda, a similar presentation as in Sabac was organized for the students of technical high schools;
- In Paracin, a theatre play was created and presented in public theatre describing the harmful attitudes among teenagers, along with messages on how to overcome the problems.

Further, CMS created a page on their [official website](#) to provide space for key information regarding the project, including statistical data, first-hand stories and testimonials about the significance of combating GBV that will continue to serve as a platform for future networking of youth ambassadors and other interested young people to share relevant content and raise visibility of the phenomenon of GBV and its consequences in local communities. A final conference was organized at the EU Info Center in Belgrade to discuss project results and the role of all attendees (project participants, EU Delegation to Serbia gender focal point, Commissioner for Protection

“Through regional forums, we had the opportunity to see what the situation in other countries is. This was an important benefit from the Programme. More of these forums should be organized in the future.”

CSO representative, Serbia

of Equality, UN Women representatives, and male public figures) in changing harmful gender stereotypes and roles that lead to VAWG.

The final conference was supported by an international COMBI methodology expert and a [video](#) was created covering the overall project implementation and the final conference. Prior to the planned end-line survey, the programme organized consultations to assess the implementation strategies, considering the very short period between baseline and planned end-line assessment, to measure the actual changes in attitudes and behaviours (18 months).

SeConS measured the effects of the local campaigns on high school boys implemented in cooperation with CMS. The results show that the target group's understanding of VAWG, gender equality and harmful gender stereotypes increased by over 50% following the first campaign. Also, the willingness of high school students to expand their knowledge of gender equality, gender-based stereotypes and GBV demonstrates minimal resistance to change. The results of the campaign were obtained through an in-depth assessment that used both quantitative and qualitative research methods to explore the gender norms, values, and attitudes among young men who promoted the local campaign.

The assessment clearly showed that the high school population, especially outside of the capital, is completely off the radar of institutions/organizations, and opportunities for this target group to hear more about gender norms, values, and attitudes and learn how to recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes are rare or non-existent. Based on the initial findings, the target groups for change (high school boys) is conservative in a high proportion (15.1% agree that abortion should be prohibited by law in all cases, while 33.8% believe that abortion is acceptable only in cases where it is medically justified) and highly tolerant to GBV (e.g., one slap is not to be considered as violence).

Following the implementation of a training by programme supported Fenomena Association, the reporting of 15 media houses and 22 journalists on VAW and femicide was improved and participating journalists significantly increased their knowledge and awareness of non-sensationalistic reporting, with overall self-estimated rate being 4.9 (on a scale of 1-5). The principles of non-sensationalistic reporting were fully adopted by media

houses and resulted in 192 published articles that fully respect the victim's/survivor's privacy and avoid sensationalistic and harmful details, leading to secondary victimization, 80% of which contained a paragraph on prevention along with information on services available at the national and/or local level. It is estimated that articles reached over 100,000 readers. The training that led to this result took place in June 2019 and covered the following topics: basics about femicide and media reporting on VAWG, the IC and media reporting, Republic of Serbia legislation related to GBV and DV, the research presentation "How do women read you," and the presentation of the network Women journalists against violence. Following the training, the one-on-one mentoring programme with journalists continued through hands-on support in reviewing articles and suggesting improvements.

Fenomena Association also contributed to increasing the awareness of at least 2,500 boys and girls adolescents on harmful gender stereotypes in 10 municipalities in Serbia through 2 innovative approaches: "Live Library" organized in 9 towns throughout Serbia, as well as at the Belgrade book-fair in October 2019 in partnership with the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, to tackle stereotypical perceptions and beliefs on discrimination and VAWG; and "the Power of Change" that engaged 83 girls in 14 workshops and self-defence courses to increase their self-esteem and knowledge on VAWG and harmful gender stereotypes. Out of this pool, 10 outstanding girls were selected to create 3 public events and digital content on harmful gender-based stereotypes with the support of their workshop peers. Their online activities achieved over 2,000 social media impressions (likes, comments, subscribing, shares, follows). To prepare for the initiative, Association Fenomena held a 4-day ToT for 18 selected trainers from CSOs and other institutions running support services for survivors of GBV to act as facilitators. The participants received an official certificate from the Republic Social Protection Institute.

To reflect the results achieved during the project for all project partners, a final conference was organized in December in Kraljevo with the participation of UN Women and EU Delegation to Serbia representatives. Association Fenomena managed to secure the continuation of this project for the next 3 years with funding from the UN Trust Fund for EAWG. The project will cover additional municipalities and media houses in Serbia to challenge harmful gender stereotypes and norms.

TUR Activity 2.2.1. Design and implementation of an experimental advocacy innovation facility – the GenderLab- to support civil society organizations in testing new and innovative advocacy initiatives on eliminating gender stereotypes.

A baseline study was completed on public perceptions and attitudes toward violence against women and gender equality. As part of the research for the baseline study, the Flying Broom Women’s Communication and Research Association collected data from 406 interviewees in the province of Mersin and 19 in-depth interviews from public and civil society institutions, from which 6 success stories that changed gender discriminatory mindsets were identified and documented.

Two delegates from Flying Broom Women’s Communication and Research Association and Women’s Studies Association participated in a 2.5 days training in Skopje, Macedonia from 29 November to 1 December 2018 on how to develop and implement strategic communication programmes for achieving specific behavioural results with regard to reducing violence against women. The workshop, that gathered over 25 CSOs from the Western Balkans and Turkey, included specific guidelines for the development, implementation and assessment of strategic communication initiatives.

TUR Activity 2.2.2. Establishment of communication platforms and solidarity groups among refugees and hosting communities to fight against the gender stereotypes, especially those related to refugee and migrant women.

20 media outlets in Hatay and Mersin improved their awareness of gender equality and gender discriminatory language against refugee women and its negative effects through the publication of a handbook on the topic by the Women’s Studies Association (WSA). Furthermore, 33 media employees, local CSO representatives and scholars raised their awareness about the power and impact of local media on strengthening the bias and prejudice against refugees and refugee women.

They also created an understanding that local media should see women’s CSOs and refugee women themselves as the source of news. The workshops found their place in the local media, as 4 newspapers published stories about them. Simultaneously, over 12,000 people were reached in target communities by a social media campaign



Nuray Özbay, Photo: UN Women

conducted by WSA to provide truthful, rights-based information about refugee women and their experiences and to call out discriminatory discourse against refugees in mass media.

Furthermore, through two 3-day workshops, 30 refugee women and 10 women’s organizations increased their knowledge on refugee rights and support mechanisms in Turkey regarding VAWG. 2 additional 1-day trainings with representatives from 10 women’s organizations raised their awareness on the importance of working with refugee women and identified potential areas for capacity building regarding refugee services within their organizations. Women’s organizations also improved access to information on refugee women’s rights through the publication of a handbook on this issue.

To combat gender stereotypes about refugee and migrant women, both within the refugee and host communities, 30 refugee women and 20 women’s organizations increased their knowledge about refugee rights and support mechanisms. To achieve this result, identified as necessary in the baseline survey, WSA developed 2 three-day workshops and 2 one-day training on the importance of working with refugee women and potential organizational capacity building for refugee support. Negative stereotypes about Syrian women were also challenged through Turkish languages courses developed in collaboration with the Maya Association, and 2 intercultural nights organized in Hatay and Mersin, which brought together Turkish and Syrian women and journalists from the region.



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3

To empower women and girls (including those from disadvantaged groups) who have experienced discrimination or violence to advocate for and use available, accessible and quality services

Indicator 3.a:

Percentage of women and girls, including those from disadvantaged groups, who experienced violence in the last 12 months who seek help from services providers supported by the Action.

In Albania:

- 200 women received support following community information sessions, such as free court representation, referral to vocational education courses, registration in the regional employment office, and psycho-social support.
- 45% increase in reported cases of violence occurred between 2017 and 2019 in Durrës;
- 7% increase in reported cases to police and 72% increase in reported cases to the referral mechanism occurred in Elbasan between 2017 and 2019;
- A jump by 555% of cases addressed by the referral mechanism (from 9 in 2017 to 59 in 2019) took place in Shkodër.
- 18% decrease in the number of DV cases reported to police occurred in Tirana, but cases referred to the referral mechanism increased by 570%, from 95 to 643 between 2017 and 2019.
- 33% increase in number of reported cases to police occurred in Vlorë between 2017 and 2019.
- 20% increase in cases of violence reported to the Kamza Police took place between the first and second quarters of 2018.

In Kosovo, more than 300 women, including most disadvantaged, received services from service providers and members of Coordination Mechanisms in 7 municipalities, including shelter and legal advice. Furthermore, through the support of Kosovo Women's Network, a lawyer was engaged to support the referral of cases to the OI. The network corresponded regularly with shelters, towards identifying cases to assist, and created a sort of helpline where women whose rights have been undermined by a certain institution can call and get legal counselling on how to report the case at a higher level, and eventually at the OI.

In North Macedonia, more than 300 women victims of violence, including Roma women, received free gender-responsive assistance – including legal aid, legal representation, psychosocial counselling, and group therapy – from CSO partners.



Result 3.1

PROVIDERS OF GENERAL AND SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT THE STANDARDS ENSHRINED IN CEDAW AND THE IC

Indicator 3.1.a: Number of services providers at the health, justice, and security (police) sectors who have reviewed and/or adopted standards procedures in line with the IC for delivery of support services to victims of all form of violence.

In Albania, 334 providers of services of municipalities of Kamza (45 police officers, 132 health care providers, 32 municipal staff, 128 teachers) adapted to the new legal requirements after changes in DV law in 2018, by issuing risk assessments for police and special medical reports for health care professionals.

In BiH, approximately 36 service providers (institutions) in the health, justice and security (police) sectors in 12 municipalities revised and adopted new protocols on cooperation in response to DV at the municipal level. Three municipalities have established permanent bodies or adopted new protocols to improve multi-sectoral coordination and response to cases of VAW.

In Kosovo, more than 150 service providers, members of Coordination Mechanisms including shelters, were trained on new Standard Operation Procedures and UN Essential Guideline Package (UNEGP). Also, more than 100 representatives of CSOs and members of local coordination mechanisms in 7 municipalities – in the sectors of health, law enforcement, justice, education, and social services – now have the knowledge and capacity to implement the standards outlined in the Istanbul Convention and other international and national legislation following their participation in capacity-building trainings.

In North Macedonia, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy is using a costing methodology developed by CSO partner HERA as a basis for sustainable financing of specialized services. In addition, HERA developed standards and operational procedures for the rape crisis service center and a program for working with victims of sexual violence. Furthermore, 6 Modules of the Global Guideline Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence: Core Elements and Quality Guidelines are now available in Macedonian. The Global Guideline has

been submitted to the working group for development of the new Law on prevention and protection of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as to all specialist service providers and the multisectoral teams for dealing with cases of DV in two municipalities in the country.

In Serbia, 3 general service providers were reviewed and improved standard procedures for provision of support services in line with IC. The procedures and guidelines of the 7 Centers for victims of sexual violence (CVSV) in Vojvodina province were improved to respond better to the specific needs of women with disabilities victims of sexual violence and rape. The developed Guidelines for treating the women with disabilities survivors of sexual violence and rape were adopted by the CVSV and directly led to the improved service for women with disabilities. Moreover, the procedures within the social welfare services in 5 municipalities in Vojvodina were amended to enable the professionals trained with programme support to provide services in the sign language for the deaf women, along with enabled service for online reporting of violence to the police (also important for deaf women, since previously only telephone reporting line was existing).

In Turkey, over 60 women lawyers from 7 regions of Turkey are better able to provide legal support to survivors of VAW, following their participation in extensive trainings on international and regional legal frameworks, including the Istanbul Convention and recent judgments from the European Court of Human Rights. Foundation for Women's Solidarity (FWS) engaged with Bar Associations in Mersin and Duzce to conduct capacity building trainings on national, international and regional legal frameworks on VAW and techniques to avoid and overcome secondary victimization of lawyers, as well as how to not avoid causing any secondary victimization of applicants.

DETAIL OF ACTIVITY BY COUNTRY

ALB Activity 3.1.1. Capacity building of governmental and non-governmental service providers on the implementation of the recommendations of the multi-country study on availability and accessibility of EVAWG services in response to VAWG.

Human Rights in Democracy Center (HRDC) and Shelter for Abused Women and Girls (SAWG) revived 2 non-functioning referral mechanisms in Kamez and Lezha. Around 160 women of Kamza were supported or referred to relevant public and non-public state service following information sessions organized by HRDC during 2018 and 2019 attended by 424 women and high schools students who received detailed information on various forms of violence and services available to victims of violence in their areas. The sessions included members of Roma and Egyptian communities and women living in challenging socio-economic circumstances. HRDC also contacted around 125 additional women in the areas where they

live or work and shared leaflets with information on forms of VAWG and available services.

334 providers of services of municipalities of Kamza (45 police officers, 132 health care providers, 32 municipal staff, 128 teachers) were trained, including through on-the-job sessions, on their specific legal obligations with regards to provision of services for all forms of VAWG. On-the-job training with police officers in one of Kamza's police commissariats with the highest number of reported cases informed police officers about recent changes in legislation and resulting obligations for them. This led to this police station becoming one of the first to issue risk assessments for cases of VAW, a new requirement from the 2018 amendments to DV law. Training sessions with healthcare providers in Kamza and Lezha educated health workers about their legal obligations in the area of EVAWG, in compliance with domestic and international standards, and enforcing the co-operation of the health

institutions with the referral mechanism reactivated in the municipalities of Kamza and Lezha. The latter issued the first ever special medical reports for cases of VAW, one of the few in the country to do so. Also, teachers were trained regarding legislation and the role of educational institutions in the protection of young people from all forms of GBV. Furthermore, 32 employees among social administrators, specialists of economic aid, the Child Protection Unit of Kamza municipality, and the Administrative Unit of Bathore and Kamez attended one training session. Upon the request of the municipality of Tirana, 65 staff of administrative units of rural areas in Tirana increased their knowledge about their role in managing cases of VAWG by attending 5 training sessions. Particular attention was placed to increase their knowledge in the recent amendments to the Law on Domestic Violence.

In 2019, 15 CSO representatives in Lezha were trained to better address DV and GBV. During the training sessions participants were informed about new legal changes, ways to address DV and GBV taking into consideration the local context, referral mechanism and ways to cooperate as well as ways to identify and report GBV cases.

BiH Activity 3.1.1. Supporting training of service providers by the Safe Network to align their quality standards with CEDAW and the IC requirements, changing gender stereotypes and harmful practices.

When it comes to strengthening access to quality services, with support from the programme, Safe Network, under the leadership of CSO partners Lara Bijeljina and Zena BiH Mostar, led the work on advancing multisectoral cooperation and response in cases of DV in 7 locations in BiH.

21 representatives of Safe Network that work directly with victims and/or involved in multisectoral teams were trained on international standards in service provision based on the Essential Services Package, and specifically module 3: “Justice and policing essential services.” Members of the Network were trained to lead the work on strengthening the role of these sectors in multisectoral

response at the local level and start the development of guidelines for safety risk assessment of victims of DV. In addition to that, 18 representatives of Safe Network are better able to monitor the work of multisectoral teams and coordination bodies at the local and cantonal level. Based on a unique methodology developed by Safe Network, a monitoring report was developed on the work of referral mechanisms and coordination bodies. Monitoring was conducted in 4 cantons in FBiH and 3 cities in Republika Srpska from August 2018 to the end of March 2019. The monitoring areas were: Canton Sarajevo / City of Sarajevo, Una-Sana Canton/Bihac, Hercegovina-Neretva Canton/Mostar, Tuzla Canton/Tuzla, City of Bijeljina, City of Banja Luka, municipality of Modrica.

The resulting [monitoring report](#) contains evidence and statistical data on DV; feedback from 7 focus group discussions with 66 women who reported domestic or partner violence; data and findings from 4 cantons and referral in Bijeljina, Modrica and Banja Luka; the results of a survey of 689 women and men on the understanding and visibility of violence in their communities, their willingness to report violence in their environment and family, their opinions on victims, perpetrators and causes of violence; questionnaires completed by focus group participants; and success stories of multisectoral response to VAWG as examples of good practice.

Some of the key recommendations from the report include further standardization of multisectoral cooperation in the laws on protection from violence, the standardization of the establishment and operation of local coordination bodies and new legal institutes for the protection of victims in Republika Srpska, and the inclusion of the specific needs of marginalized groups of women, especially Roma women and women with disabilities, into the legal framework and protocols for cooperation.

As a result of the expansion of the support to Safe Network’s monitoring efforts to 6 other municipalities, 3 in the region of Bijeljina (Ugljevik, Lopare, Pelagicevo) and 3 in Hercegovina Neretva Canton (City of Mostar, and municipalities of Jablanica and Neum). In total, 11 protocols on cooperation in response to DV at the local level with the standards of the IC were standardized.

“Awareness is being raised, and women have realized their worth, that they have rights, that they are protected and that there are people they can talk to.”

CSO representative, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The monitoring of the work of multisectoral actors in the response system took place over 44 meetings, in which 130 professionals from the police, centers for social work, health institutions, educational institutions, municipal governments and CSOs engaged in reviewing and revising standards and procedures for multisectoral cooperation.

Along with revision and adoption of new protocols, additional changes were achieved in the process of monitoring and consultation with members of referral mechanisms. For instance, by decision of the mayor of Bijeljina, a working group for preventing and combating DV was formed as a permanent body under the city administration. The working group drafted a new protocol and work plan for the upcoming 2 years. In Bihac, the coordination body worked on involving new actors in multisectoral cooperation (municipal commissions for gender equality).

In Sarajevo Canton, the new protocol included as a member for the first time a CSO representing persons with disabilities. In this canton, an action plan was developed for the following 2 years. In Tuzla Canton, CSO Vive Zene, a member of the Safe Network, initiated the establishment of a coordinating body at the cantonal level, which would be appointed by the decision of the cantonal government or the relevant ministry.

In the area of service providers capacity building, a total of 146 representatives of service providers from governmental and nongovernmental sector were trained on multisectoral response to VAWG and DV through 7 two-day workshops organized by the Safe Network in 7 cities/regions. Guidelines on strengthening the role of the judiciary, prosecutors and police in multisectoral cooperation were developed through 4 consultative meetings with 30 professionals from governmental and nongovernmental sector and academia. The guidelines have a special focus on the assessment, risk management and improvement of safety of victims of VAWG and DV and were made using the standards of the IC and Essential Services Package. The guidelines consist of tools for risk assessment and procedures on ensuring the safety of victims of VAWG and DV. To add to legitimacy of the guidelines, the Safe Network organized a validation workshop for Safe Network members, judges, prosecutors and police from project locations. These guidelines were the basis of CSO advocacy to push for introducing a special article in the Amendments to the Law on Protection from DV in Republika Srpska.

KOS Activity 3.1.1. Develop capacities of DV coordination mechanisms to implement the municipality strategies for protection and reintegration of VAW survivors in selected municipalities in Kosovo.

Domestic Violence Action Plans 2019-2021 were successfully revised in 7 target municipalities to direct the efforts for combatting DV and GBV in the coming years. However, the implementation of the Action Plans depends on the expected changes to the Law on Protection from DV, that would mandate the establishment of coordination mechanisms in each municipality and ensure their long-term sustainability.



Qerim Emmini, a volunteer for a door-to-door campaign to prevent early marriages in minority communities in Kosovo.

Photo: UN Women / Natalie Vaughan

For this reason, capacities of the coordination mechanisms were improved to implement and monitor the DV Actions Plans. Coordination mechanisms became functional across institutional bodies for coordinated response to DV and GBV by establishing collaboration and coordination with central level institutions determined as key engine for the future functioning of the coordination mechanisms, preventing its dysfunctional or passivity.

These 2 central level bodies recognized the municipal coordination mechanisms as their primary counterparts at the local level. End-line research on the progress of implementation of DV Action Plans in accordance with the methodology and indicators was disseminated among the main partners and stakeholders.

Roles and responsibilities of the Gender Officers at the local level, specifically their role within coordination

mechanisms, were defined by more than 50 representatives of 7 coordination mechanisms, including Municipal Gender Equality Officers. The importance of such identification was previously raised during a meeting in North Mitrovica in October 2018 with representatives of coordination mechanisms of 4 municipalities in northern Kosovo (Leposavic/Leposaviq, Mitrovica/North, Zvečan/Zveçan and Zubin Potok), the National Coordinator for the Protection against DV, the Director of the Agency for Gender Equality within the Prime Minister's Office, and other representatives of central level institutions.

In terms of capacity building of services providers, over 100 representatives of CSOs, local institutions, law enforcement and educational institutions from 7 municipalities gained a better understanding of international legislation and standards related to DV (IC, Kosovo Law on Gender Equality, Law on Protection against DV, Standard Operational Procedures for police, shelters for DV victims and existing psycho-social and legal support centers) and of advocacy and lobbying for gender responsive budgeting (GRB), by attending training organized by NGO AKTIV.

In April 2019, the provisions of IC were presented to increase the quality of services provided to survivors of DV and GBV and to raise public awareness regarding these issues in target municipalities through joint meeting with 4 coordination mechanisms in northern Kosovo.

KOS Activity 3.1.2. Capacity development of CSOs service providers for victims of violence, with a focus on organizations representing disadvantaged groups, to engage in policy development.

More than 30 shelter staff operating in all 7 shelters of Kosovo built their capacities for case management of VAWG/DV survivors by attending an on-the-job training organized by the CSO Safe House, following the ToT aiming to enhance and strengthen the response of DV service providers working directly with victims of DV. In addition, 2 staff members of Safe House built their capacities in

empowerment and improvement of cooperation between Kosovo shelters and the role of Ombudsperson through a 2-day training organized by Kosovo Women's Network.

MONT Activity 3.1.1. Establish coordination mechanisms with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

At the initiative of programme-supported CSOs, coordination mechanisms were established not only with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and national body for monitoring the IC, but also with the multisectoral Operational Team for fighting violence in family within the Ministry of Interior. The group of CSOs supported by the Programme is jointly acting as an informal monitoring body.

MONT Activity 3.1.2. Open call for NGOs on capacity development interventions for women's groups capacity development as service providers

In order to improve service provisions and capacity development of NGOs to provide better access for women from disadvantage groups project was focused on needs response that included: capacity development of specialized service providers and their local partners and stakeholders. Two women's groups that worked with vulnerable Roma population (CRINK and MNE Women's Lobby) were grant recipients from the regional programme. Both organizations under their project supported activities received number of accredited trainings that provided them with preconditions to obtain licence for specialized services providers. In addition, NGOs were supported with number of thematic events held with representatives of the key stakeholders primarily Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and Institute for Child and Social Protection discussing the process of licencing position of women's groups in the overall system response to GBV. Furthermore, needs assessment has been conducted for women's organizations and partnering women's groups in regard to strategic planning and programme management capacities that have been delivered under the Thematic forums.

“I participated as a services user. What helped me was the conversation, self-defense, yoga, sewing training... I was able to help myself and I will try to be even better. Earlier, I was (self) isolated and with-drawn, and later with their help, with all the programs, I empowered myself and it's much easier for me to live.”

Service user, Montenegro

MONT Activity 3.1.3. Training support for development of quality and accredited support services providers for victims of all forms of violence in partnership with national and local stakeholders and NGOs.

With the programme support, standards for SOS line and Shelter were developed, and the work on developing standards for crises centers is currently in progress.

In addition, the programme was commissioned to conduct the analysis of priority services for GBV survivors as per the IC, and the final draft was sent to the Ministry for consideration and further endorsement.

NM Activity 3.1.1. Technical assistance to Government and CSOs to address the gaps in provision of services identified in the assessment of the availability and quality of services in response to VAW and align to minimum standards set with the IC: 1) Develop strategic policy document and sustainable plan for the establishment of minimum specialist support services, 2) initiating policy discussion and needs/capacity assessment for opening of the first rape crisis center for survivors of sexual violence.

A National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of the IC was adopted by the government in 2018 with the technical support of programme-supported CSO Health Education and Research Association (HERA), at the request of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP). HERA facilitated multi-stakeholder consultations and supported the working group meetings.

Thus, the NAP was developed through a consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders, 6 ministries, decision makers, civil society sector and academia.

As the result of an intensive national and local level advocacy campaign at the end of 2019, 11 specialist services were established in the country and publicly announced by the MLSP: 2 shelters, 2 rape crisis centers and 7 services for psychosocial counselling. A methodology prepared by HERA to estimate the cost of 6 specialist services for victims of violence served as the cornerstone of the advocacy campaign and as a basis for increasing and sustainably financing specialist services by the government. The methodology was promoted at a national conference opened by the MLSP and the Minister of Health and attended by 36 representatives from state institutions and CSOs on the 28th of June 2019 in Skopje.

The document was developed through a consultative process involving women's CSO service providers and the MLSP and comprised a public policy document containing recommendations for funding and increasing the availability and accessibility of services for survivors of VAWG, standards and operational procedures for the rape crisis service center, and a program for working with victims of sexual violence. As a result of capacity building workshops attended by 61 representatives of specialist and general support services providers held by HERA in 3 municipalities (Kumanovo, Veles, Gostivar), referrals of services providers from the social justice police sector and educational institutions increased. Participants had the opportunity to increase their understanding of standards set in IC related to specialist services, with a focus on psychosocial counseling service.

The involvement of municipalities in the support of specialist services has increased as a result of the participation of 76 representatives of MLSP, local self-government, local service providers and CSOs in 3 local advocacy roundtables in 3 municipalities in the country in June. In terms of institutions and CSOs capacity building, 16 representatives of relevant institutions and CSOs acquired skills and knowledge for providing psychosocial support to victims/survivors of VAWG and DV within the center for psychosocial counseling by attending a 4-day training organized by HERA in Berovo in direct cooperation with the MLSP. At their turn, 643 women and children victims of violence as well as perpetrators received psychosocial support, counseling, psychotherapy, and individual and group therapy, and 77 women victims of violence or discrimination received free legal aid or representation by HERA.

NM Activity 3.1.2. Strengthen capacities and support select CSOs and state service providers to set minimum specialist support services and use integrated approach to service provision to survivors of violence.

2 coordinative centers and 2 multisectoral teams coordinated by programme-supported Educational Humanitarian Organization (EHO) were established and act as local mechanisms for protection of survivors of violence in the municipalities of Shtip and Strumica. Representatives of Centers for Social Work, police, health institutions and women's organizations from the 2 target municipalities were included as members of the multisectoral teams.

Recommendations for the advancement of the work of the multisectoral expert teams for protection of victims of violence at local level, as well as recommendations for the improvement of the work of the local self-government units in the field of prevention of VAWG and DV, were provided in a manual model “Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence: Core Elements and Quality Guidelines” translated into Macedonian languages and distributed to all relevant stakeholders. Along, a user-friendly leaflet for women with information on the main forms of violence and multisectoral teams operating in Shtip and Strumica was shared in the communities.

In light of the results of 2 reports mapping services in both municipalities identifying gaps and challenges in service provision since the ratification of the IC, 28 representatives of local self-governments, police, centers for social work, public prosecution, judiciary, educational institutions, health institutions and CSOs increased their capacities for implementing the standards of the IC and the essential services to be provided by their respective sectors through a 3-day capacity-building training organized by EHO. In addition, 23 representatives of police, social workers, health institutions, judiciary, CSOs, local self-governments built their capacities to implement an integrated approach in dealing with cases of VAWG during a 3-day workshop.

In the area of CSOs capacity building, 15 representatives of CSOs providing services to women and girl victims of violence (through crisis centers providing short-term accommodation, centers for psychosocial counseling, free legal aid, SOS line) increased their capacities to follow international standards when providing services. 12 representatives from 6 CSOs providing different specialist services for women and girl victims of VAWG built their capacities to network, advocate, teamwork, effectively communicate, prepare gender analysis and gender budget initiatives. 10 CSO representatives increased their knowledge about strategic planning and sustainability of CSOs in light of the preparation of sustainability plan to provide specialist services for victims of violence.

SER Activity 3.1.1. Support for the establishment of the Rape Crisis Centre in line with Istanbul Convention and standards for the Rape Crisis Centers.

In 2019, programme-developed guidelines regarding the treatment of women with disabilities survivors of sexual violence and rape were adopted by the Centres

for Victims of Sexual Violence and led to the improved service for women with disabilities. This result follows the development in 2018 of specific procedures in a set of amendments, focusing exclusively on women with disabilities, to the guidelines of CVSV, with the inputs of programme supported CSO ...iz kruga Vojvodina.

The 7 Centers located in Novi Sad, Zrenjanin, Subotica, Sombor, Kikinda, Vrsac and Sremska Mitrovica, were established in 2017 under the management of the Provincial Secretariat for Health. Through this process, the knowledge and understanding of professionals engaged in CVSV (medical doctors and staff in charge for trauma and counselling support) on the specificities of treating women with disabilities and on the ability to recognize their specific needs were strengthened following 2 seminars. The first seminar was held in Zrenjanin, attended by 12 staff members from Zrenjanin, Vrsac and Kikinda, while the second one was held in Sremska Mitrovica, attended by 13 staff members from Sremska Mitrovica and Novi Sad.

SER Activity 3.1.2. Support CSOs in provision of services to women victims of violence from marginalized groups, with a special focus on women with disabilities.

As a result of joint efforts with CSO partner ...iz kruga Vojvodina, relevant local institutions adopted and began in 2019 to implement recommendations for improving support services for women with disabilities. The [“Report on the experience of women with disabilities in gender-based and domestic violence.”](#) served as a basis for setting recommendations for institutions to improve support services for women with disabilities, including general remarks as well as recommendations for each individual sector in question. The recommendations were analyzed at a consultative meeting organized in November 2018 in Novi Sad with representatives of relevant institutions.

The report covers data on the number of women with disabilities experiencing DV and GBV, the type of violence they experienced, their relationship with the preparator, the person they asked for support, and the support received. Research and data collection for the report included 1) a mapping of persons with disabilities associations in 7 targeted municipalities in Vojvodina Province (Novi Sad, Subotica, Sremska Mitrovica, Vrsac, Zrenjanin, Sombor, Novi Becej), 2) 136 surveys of women with disabilities and focus groups with 47 women with disabilities, and 3) a [survey](#) on 27 institutions that provide general support services for women with disabilities

survivors of violence to identify the current state of and gaps within accessibility of services for women with disabilities.

Good practices identified in the research informed the mentoring programme implemented in 2019 in 5 selected municipalities to enhance services for women with disabilities survivors of GBV/DV by replicating examples of good practices. The implementation strategies were developed for each of the selected municipalities where the examples of good practices were replicated (Novi Sad, Sremska Mitrovica, Sombor, Vrsac and Zrenjanin). The following activities took place under the mentoring programme:

- To improve police proceedings in cases of violence against deaf and hearing-impaired women, CSO ...iz kruga Vojvodina worked with the Police Administration in Zrenjanin to enable the service of online reporting of VAWG. An email address for the service was activated and information on the new service was shared with the association of people with disabilities active in the area and their members. To enable this service, CSO ...iz kruga Vojvodina donated a computer from their own assets for permanent use by the Police Administration in Zrenjanin, as the lack of the equipment was preventing this service being functional
- In Vrsac, guidelines for the treatment of women with disabilities by medical workers were endorsed, leading to improvements in medical care and attention. This result was preceded by a joint meeting with 37 medical workers from the Vrsac and Sombor Health Centers, as well as advocating directly to the Heads of Social and Health Protection, after which an agreement was reached to distribute the guidelines and support their implementation in the 48 ambulances in both municipalities.
- To enable professionals to better communicate with hearing-impaired women and collect data on sign language speaking cases, 2 sessions of sign language practice were organized for 40 representatives of the police, center for social welfare, and the health sector in Vrsac and Sremska Mitrovica. A 3-day training programme on sign language was delivered in June 2019, followed by an advanced training for the same group of participants in September 2019, based on their request.
- In Novi Sad, a study on the implementation of accessibility standards for the Center for Social Work and a technical study of the building was developed. An agreement was reached with the Head of City Administration for Social Protection that manages the city's Accessibility Team to proceed with construction to improve the accessibility of facilities, services, and practices of the Center for Social Work, financed by the city budget. All measures recommended by the study for the implementation of accessibility standards were included in the 2020 city budget and will be implemented towards the end of 2020.
- Accessibility training for judicial system members was organized in October 2019 to inform professionals about the principles of accessibility and universal design and to increase their capacities to apply the acquired knowledge in their domain of work. The accessibility training is accredited by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and was attended by 19 professionals employed at the Basic Court, the Higher Court, the Court of Appeal and the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office of Novi Sad.

Finally, the closing conference of the project "Domestic Violence Protection Services and Institutions Available to Women with Disabilities" held on 25 November 2019 in the City Assembly of Novi Sad and attended by 40 professionals, highlighted that services and institutions for protection against DV are in many cases not accessible to women with disabilities.

Further, coordinated actions are necessary to improve all systems, as well as to ensure that all professionals are able to recognize the specific needs of women with disabilities survivors of violence, along with adequate and available support services.

In order to communicate project achievements to the general public and raise awareness on the specific forms of violence to which women with disabilities are exposed, CSO ...iz kruga Vovodina published a total of 99 articles and human interest stories on its website [Portal o invalidnosti](#) as well as on its Facebook page throughout the project. On average, each article had 300 unique visitors.



Result 3.2

IMPROVED CASE MANAGEMENT BY PROVIDERS OF SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE, WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM MINORITIES AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

Indicator 3.2.a: Number of providers of specialist support services related to VAW in the countries of Action that collect and use data on beneficiaries in line with international standards for improved case management.

In Albania, over **200 law enforcement officials**, health workers, municipality staff, school staff, and community members (including Roma) benefited from 67 capacity buildings on VAWG and services available.

In Kosovo, **200 institutions** from the central and local level collected and used data on beneficiaries for improved case management, as a result of several trainings conducted following the signature of the MoU on utilization of the database on collection of DV cases developed by the programme. Trainings took place between central level representatives of all relevant institution that will use the database to enable the monitoring and prosecution of DV cases, and ensure accountability, by obliging relevant institutions to include necessary information from central and local levels in this database.



200
INSTITUTIONS

12
PROVIDERS

In Montenegro, **12 representatives** of CSO specialist service providers were trained to use the software for data recording on VAWG developed in line with international standards by integrating highly regarded international and regional publications (from the CoE and other EU institutions) as references. 60 services providers from 16 women's groups cooperated to establish partnerships, exchange knowledge and prepare better for the licensing process based on an intensive consultative process with all relevant institutions and stakeholders.

In North Macedonia, 12 providers of specialist services were trained to use a unified software for collecting data on VAWG, which was developed in line with international standards by integrating highly regarded international and regional publications (from the CoE and other EU institutions) as references. The entire software is installed in the production environment, and 2 guidelines for the utilization of the system and for the security risk assessments were also prepared.

In Serbia, the bases for the creation of Model for improvements in data collection and the methodology of forensic examination at the scene of the crime related to femicide was developed and further endorsed by the working group of professionals from the Council for Eradicating the Domestic (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Labour, Employment Veteran and Social Affairs).

In Turkey, 61 female lawyers from 7 regions and over 10 Bar associations, including Ankara Bar Association, were trained to provide legal support to survivors of VAWG and DV with a focus on judgment from the ECHR. 2 checklists, one of each for use during criminal and civil proceedings, were developed with the assistance of lawyers in the field.

DETAIL OF ACTIVITY BY COUNTRY

ALB Activity 3.2.1. Preparation of a practical guide/manual for service providers to implement the Standard Operation Procedures that are being developed based on the UN Essential Services Package for Women and Girls.

6 practical guides for communities and service providers for use in Kamza and Lezha municipalities were developed by HRDC, in partnership with the Shelter for Abused Women and Girls and were shared with other organizations and state authorities. In addition, a user-friendly leaflet for women with information on the main forms of violence and service providers was shared with the communities. Furthermore, a total of 67 capacity-building trainings on VAWG and services available were conducted with service providers.

19 were conducted with law enforcement officials, 12 with health workers, 4 capacity-building session with municipality staff in each municipality, 8 information sessions with school staff, and 24 information sessions with community members (including Roma). In addition, meetings leading to the successful reactivation of referral mechanism of Kamza and Lezha were held.

KOS Activity 3.2.1. Support to National Domestic Violence Coordinator Office to develop standardized online data system for tracking VAW and DV cases.

Under the programme, the first National Unified Database for tracking cases of VAWG and DV was officially launched on the 4 December 2019 and developed in close collaboration with line ministries, the Agency for Gender Equality, police, judiciary and other key actors such as the Office of the National Coordinator for Domestic Violence, which has access to all data and will take ownership of the database upon completion. The database will enable the monitoring and prosecution of DV cases in Kosovo and ensure accountability by obliging relevant institutions to include necessary information from central and local levels. A MoU on utilization of the database on collection of DV was signed on 14 March 2019 between central level representatives of all relevant institutions that will be utilizing the database. Training sessions on how to use the database were provided to more than 120 database users and representatives of institutions. An IT specialist located at the office of the National Coordinator at the Ministry of Justice was secured by UN Women to enable the maintenance of the database and coordinate all database users by also supporting further advancement of the system.

MONT Activity 3.2.1. Support advancement for NGO supporters of victims of violence and policy development (NGO Open call for support to accredited services for victims of violence).

A new ethical guideline regarding working with women survivors with a focus on safety and security of survivor was developed following a focus group organized by partner SOS Nikšić with survivors, built on gaps, strengths and weakness unveiled and experiences by DV survivors and staff while living/working in shelter. 200 copies of the guidelines were distributed to specialist services providers. In addition, two thematic training programmes were created for employees in shelters – on the topics of safety and security and the importance of psychological self-care. Survivors of violence were also involved in the group discussions. Concerning shelters, staff, volunteers and activists received 30 hours training on the use of ethical principles while working with DV survivors. Staff and survivors benefited from a training on safety in everyday life to ensure that residents feel safer and better. On this regard, alarm system was installed on the shelters, improving the physical safety of survivors and staff.

NGO SOS NK advanced the competencies of SOS Niksic staff, other women's CSOs, and key stakeholders through educational certification. The project is primarily designed to build professional skills and to ensure new long-lasting training opportunities in order to adequately prepare providers and to continue to work on concept of integrated security within women's DV sector. The expertise of specialist staff was increased through 1) the creation and delivery of 2 brand-new in-depth course-works for GBV advocates and professionals engaged in helplines and shelters, 2) the preparation of 2 guidelines for authorized expert trainers on methodology for conducting trainings, 3) the development of two 12-hour accredited trainings for professionals and advocates, 4) assistance in integrated security of both DV survivors and advocates. Through the project, they contributed to state efforts towards introduction of standards and quality in the provision of all services keeping the focus on the needs for specialist expertise and services in formal accreditation process.

With a view address the issue of underreporting in the municipality of Herceg Novi located at the border with Croatia, the local NGO Ksená benefited from training on GBV and mentorship of experienced women's groups (Safe Women's House from Podgorica, SOS Niksic and

SOS Podgorica). The training included a study visit of Women's Safe House shelter and knowledge sharing regarding organisational response and personal capacity development for work with victims of violence, as well as project development, management knowledge. NGO Ksená also benefited from consultancy support of NGO SOS Podgorica. In terms of awareness activities, a campaign on VAWG based on well-known sportsmen's experience was developed by NGO Ksená in the municipalities of Herceg Novi, Kotor, Tivat and Budva. Furthermore, the NGO cooperated with 16 women's groups in 3 municipalities and engaged more than 60 participants in 2 public events on VAWG, based on an intensive consultative process with all relevant institutions and stakeholders in order to establish partnerships, exchange knowledge and prepare better for the licensing process.

KSENA also conducted activities related to the preparation for licensing at the organizational and individual level. KSENA prepared the normative framework for the organisation itself in accordance with bylaws required for licencing in order to establish first crises centre in Herceg Novi licensed to provide psycho-social support services. In addition, staff prepared for individual licensing exams in regard to social welfare protection and state exam, one of the preconditions to obtain license. 2 staff members completed 70% of the documents required for licencing.

MONT Activity 3.2.2. Monitoring and evaluation of introduced and supported services for victims of violence.

Partner NGO SOS Podgorica successfully received licensing of the specialist service "Crisis Center for Women Victims of Violence" in accordance with legal and procedural standards. SOS Podgorica developed procedures concerned to meet the requirements for licensing a counselling service for victims of VAW and DV. The licensing of this service does not correspond with existing regulations, therefore the process is difficult to handle and alternatives are required, however, with the programme support, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare amended the rulebook regarding this specific service which created legal preconditions for the establishment of crisis centers in accordance with the IC in order for SOS Podgorica to obtain the license. In total, NGO SOS Podgorica provided support to 78 women victims of violence through legal and psychosocial support in accordance with international standards, requirements and best practices. SOS Podgorica's cooperation with

“Working with women MPs on issues related to aligning the Criminal Code with the Istanbul Convention is very important. MPs have shown great interest and dedication, which is essential because changing the laws requires consensus.”

CSO representative, North Macedonia

institutions improved as well as joint action of institutions and CSO service providers thanks to continuous communication and meetings with representatives of the Directorate for Social and Child Protection and the Ministry and preparatory work on licensing of the specialist service.

SOS Podgorica designed and accredited 2 basic and advanced educational programmes necessary for licensing of professional workers in the field of providing services to women victims of violence and DV; established organizational procedures and policies for the “Crisis Center for Women Victims of Violence”; and increased the knowledge and skills of their staff and volunteers in providing support to women victims of violence in accordance with the standards of treatment, by carrying out a 3-day training as per the accredited programme.

Partner CSO Women’s Safe House was granted a license for performing specialist service of a women’s shelter while conditions for victims were improved through occupational therapy and recreational activities that enabled them to overcome the trauma of violence more easily, including:

- 12 work and occupational workshops (decoupage technique of decorating objects, painting by numbers);
- 10 workshops on computer training. Women showed great interest in learning the basic functioning of the computer and the Internet itself, as well as on internet security;
- 12 educational workshops for children accommodated with their mother (educational toys, learning letters, numbers, shapes, calculating tasks, and improving motor skills);
- 12 self-help and empowerment workshops for shelter residents;
- 2 seminars on multidisciplinary response to GBV cases and role of specialized services providers in case management for 18 representatives of the Center for Social Work, 18 representatives of the

Police, 5 representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and 3 from the court for misdemeanors from the following municipalities: Pljevlja, Zabljak, Niksic, Pluzine, Bijelo Polje, Rozaje, Plav, Budva, Herceg Novi, Tivat and Kotor.

In the area of capacity-building, programme-supported SOS Podgorica created a unique method of collecting and recording data at the level of women’s groups, informing both the professional and the general public. The base is meant to be used by other organizations providing specialist assistance and support services to significantly affect the creation of conditions for organizations to become competitive and leverage their bargaining capacities with the Government, as well as for future contracting in the context of public private partnership.

To set up the method, 2 one-day meetings with representatives of 10 women’s NGOs were organized by SOS Podgorica to consider and identify key indicators for establishing a uniform database. Once the indicators defined, data collection from all NGOs were connected through the [Google Forms application](#), which enables easy data entry via computer or mobile phones, whereas data processing is done through the main application installed on a laptop or computer.

NM Activity 3.2.1. Support to service providers in revising their practices in data recording of women survivors by adopting a unified/integrated approach and strengthening data confidentiality, referral, and safety risk assessment.

The data collection templates currently used by governmental entities (police, social services, Institute for Social Activities) and non-governmental entities (SOS line, crisis center for victims of violence, psychosocial counselling center, free legal aid center, shelters) were reviewed by the programme-supported National Council for Gender Equality (NCGE) to develop a unified software for collecting data on VAWG. The software was developed in line with international standards by integrating highly regarded international and regional publications (from



Anna Sacipovic, Serbia
Photo: UN Women

the CoE and other EU institutions) as references. It was ensured that the software utilizes correct terminology and address the needs of people with disabilities and people with different sexual orientation as a result of joint meetings between NCGE and organizations promoting LGBTQI+ rights and the rights of people with disabilities.

The entire software is installed in the production environment, and 2 guidelines for the utilization of the system and for the security risk assessments were also prepared. 12 representatives of CSO specialist service providers were trained in June 2019 to use the software for data recording. 2 articles in the draft law on prevention of and protection from VAWG and DV clearly defining the role of CSOs in data collection and data protection (never defined in previous legislation) were adopted following the submission by NCGE of comments to the working group. 11 representatives of CSOs, including specialist service providers (SOS line, crisis center, service for psycho-social counseling, shelter and free legal aid service) received training about security risk assessments, implementation of protection measures, urgent and immediate intervention of each service.

A thematic forum entitled “Data collection on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence: Requirements of the Istanbul Convention” was held on the 20th

of September 2019 in Skopje and attended by 20 representatives from CSOs (SOS line, crisis center, service for psycho-social counseling, shelter and free legal aid service) and state institutions (MLSP, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health). Prepared conclusions and recommendations on data collection were submitted to the MLSP, which coordinates the process of developing of the new Law on prevention of and protection from VAWG and DV.

During 3 local events organized in Shtip, Bitola and Tetovo in October 2019, 59 representatives of CSOs and state institutions (social sector, justice sector and police) increased their knowledge about data collection on GBV as per the IC as well with the developed system for recording data on VAWG and DV intended for CSOs specialist service providers.

SER Activity 3.2.1. Support CSOs to advocate for the introduction of the Femicide Review Investigation, internal state investigation of responses of the institutions and service providers for women victims of violence.

A first-ever interdisciplinary year-long study on femicide entitled [“Societal and Institutional Responses to Femicide in Serbia”](#) was published as a result of the first-ever holistic approach to femicide cases in Serbia, pursued by a coalition of CSOs lead by Gender Knowledge Hub. Comprising 2 volumes, this inter-disciplinary study examines the causes, triggers, and responses to cases of femicide based on an analysis of court judgments on femicide from higher courts from 2015-2017, as well as case studies of the attitudes of convicted perpetrators of femicide and an assessment of the capacities of institutions to respond to and collect data on these cases.

The study shed a light on a number of important trends, among them the following: more than 74 % of femicides take place in a family or intimate partner context and 49.3 % are killings of spouses or out-of-wedlock intimate partners. Home remains the most dangerous place for women given that 68 % of femicides take place in the home or yard of the victim and/or perpetrator. These killings are marked with particular brutality, and 50.7 % are classified as aggravated murders. Nevertheless, in only 10 % of cases, the perpetrator received a maximum sentence of 40 years. 47.1 % of victims who suffered violence before their murder did not report it to the authorities.

As cases of femicide are not tracked systematically, the study provides clear recommendations for preventing femicide and achieving justice for victims, including codifying femicide as a special type of crime with a clear definition, strengthening the capacities of institutions tasked with responding to cases of VAWG, and introducing special protocols for the actions of authorities and institutions. The improvements in data collection and the methodology of forensic examination at the scene of the crime providing the model for femicide data collection was endorsed by the working group from the Council for Eradicating the Domestic Violence (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Labour). Findings collected will further serve as a bases for creation of the Femicide Review Investigation based on the UK or Austrian model. In terms of capacity building on the prevention of femicide, 3 trainings were held in Nis, Belgrade and Novi Sad in June 2019 in partnership with the Judicial Academy. Preliminary research results on institutional responses to femicide cases were presented, along with challenges in the legal qualification of criminal acts, sentencing, and capacities of relevant institutions and CSOs in providing support to survivors of GBV.

Partners' work was largely recognized among professionals of general and specialists services provisions (police, prosecution, center for social welfare, and women CSOs) but also in academic feminist circles, while the research studies published under the programme were presented with a unique feminist award for special contribution to feminist science and practice – the “Andjelka Milic” award. The study and findings were presented at a conference on 14 November 2019 on the premises of UN House with over 100 participants from the government and CSOs. In terms of awareness raising, partners organized a press conference on the occasion of the Remembrance Day for Women Victims of Femicide in Nis and issued 4 electronic newsletters on GBV and femicide that were distributed to partner organizations, CSOs, social media outlets, and relevant institutions at the local, provincial and national level.

TUR Activity 3.2.1. Capacity development of service providers – particularly those assisting women refugee and migrants to strengthen referral systems for victims of violence (informed by findings and recommendations of the expert group on the intersectionality of inequalities and discrimination).

61 female lawyers from 7 regions were trained by the Capacity Development Association (KAGED) to provide legal support to survivors of VAWG and DV with a focus on judgment from the ECHR. 2 checklists, one of each for use during criminal and civil proceedings, were developed with the assistance of lawyers in the field at a follow-up workshop. Similar training sessions were also conducted with various Bar Association, as a result of the initial training.

11 CSOs and 11 public authorities created a collaborative space for stakeholders to exchange knowledge and perspectives on challenges and opportunities of case management of women's rights and VAWG during a network meeting held by KAGED. Resources were made available to provide lawyers representing women survivors of violence, particularly those from minorities or disadvantaged groups, with an arsenal of precedent and legal frameworks to argue their cases.

This result was achieved by the development of an [online portal](#) containing resources on international frameworks, including 5 decisions from the ECHR, 4 decisions and 1 general recommendation from CEDAW Committee, all of them translated into Turkish, and one guidebook with information disseminated during the training. 500 physical copies of this guidebook were distributed.

Specialist providers of legal services were also supported by the Foundation for Women's Solidarity (FWS) that organized the first capacity building training with members of the Duzce Bar Association in July 2019. Additionally, through a guidebook developed jointly by FWS and KAGED, information on the relationship between gender-based discrimination, gender and the law; standards of CEDAW; relevant general recommendations of CEDAW Committee and its views; recommendations regarding individual complaints; and principles and standards of IC, were made available as a resource for legal service providers.

The programme also began steps to partner with the Gelincik Project – a project of the Ankara Bar Association – to discuss future collaborations and learn from their experience in the field. Gelincik Project provides free legal aid to victims of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence, primarily against women, as well as children, LGBTIQ+ people, dependent elderly and disabled individuals, and raises awareness on the prevention of violence.



Result 3.3

BETTER ACCESS TO AN IMPROVED SERVICE PROVISION FOR WOMEN FROM MINORITY AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

Indicator 3.3.a: Number of women and girls from disadvantaged groups receiving comprehensive and immediate care from services available

In Albania, approximately **500 women and girls from vulnerable communities** (Roma women, women with disabilities, women from LGBTIQ+ community) through information sessions and door to door meetings to inform on available services, local organizations and access to institutions.

In BiH, **24 women and girls from disadvantaged groups** use available services based on feedback from beneficiaries and implementing partners’ reports. In addition, nearly 700 individuals have received assistance through a Roma mediator programme that bridges the gap between Roma communities and local institutions.

Kosovo developed an effective delivery of integrated services for a total of **347 women survivors of violence in 7 shelters** in line with UN Essential Services. This comes as a result of programme’s support working closely with Safe House and other shelters to increase knowledge and skills of professionals within the system of protection from VAW to efficiently deliver integrated services for protection of women survivors of violence.

In Montenegro, following awareness-raising and advocacy activities on VAW based on an assessment of knowledge and perceptions relying on **190 interviews** in Albania-inhabited areas, over **100 women** sought services reaching out to trained community focal points.

In North Macedonia, **77 Roma women victims** of discrimination or DV benefited from free legal aid or representation.



In Turkey, out of **1276 Syrian refugee women** who benefited from direct awareness-raising initiatives to be better informed of their rights in the field of marriage and its dissolution, VAW, sexual crimes, available justice services and access to these services along with the temporary protection regime, 850 of them sought services reaching out to trained community focal points.

In Serbia, through a context-specific outreach activities, the access to and provision of services for at least **2,000 women** living in isolated rural and mountainous areas, Roma women living in the settlements, and women with disabilities subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, was improved by building their trust in institutions through the programme of “service providers closer to women” and awareness-raising to recognize and report violence and adequately use available services, as well as increasing the capacities of service providers to tailor their services to the specific needs to the women through innovative models of service provisions, such as “women of trust” mechanism for women subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence. Moreover, following the development of a comprehensive toolkit on the mandate of the independent government bodies working on gender equality and anti-discrimination, at least 3,000 women in the communities were reached and informed on free of charge services by the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, National Protector of Citizens and Provincial Ombudsman.

DETAIL OF ACTIVITY BY COUNTRY

ALB Activity 3.3.1. Promotion of the right to access services and information on use of and type of services available for Roma women and other disadvantaged groups.

The right to access services among Roma women and other disadvantaged groups in 4 municipalities (Tirana, Shkodra, Vlora and Elbasan) was promoted by the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF), in partnership with the Roma Women Rights Centre and LGBT Alliance. ADRF and its partner completed the report [“Violence against women and girls from disadvantaged communities – An overview of the phenomenon of VAW and girls from Roma, LGBT and disability communities.”](#)

In terms of awareness-raising and to promote the project, 175 people attended 4 sessions with Roma and Egyptian communities, 4 sessions with persons with disabilities and 1 session with LGBTIQ+ community members. In addition, 4 information sessions were organized in 4 targeted municipalities with local CSOs to mainstream the issue of protection from violence of women from disadvantaged communities. In addition, 121 service providers (from local police, courts, healthcare providers, social services,

etc.) from 4 cities attended 9 info sessions to improve service delivery for survivors of violence from vulnerable groups by understanding their specific needs and the additional forms of violence and discrimination these women experience. A [user-friendly guide](#) on various forms of violence and available service providers was finalized and utilized in information sessions. The guide is also published and shared in alternative formats, such as easy read format, braille, and with audio accompaniments. ADRF and its partner organizations produced a photo exhibition displayed in 3 cities showcasing experiences and stories of women with disabilities, Roma women and LGBTIQ+ women. A booklet with stories of women from these communities who have experienced VAWG, and a video of different women from targeted communities were also produced.

BiH Activity 3.3.1. Promotion of the use of services among women from minority and disadvantaged groups.

The programme developed a [guide for service providers](#) to identify and illustrate necessary changes in services offered by different institutions in order to make protection

services accessible to all. This result is based on a study commissioned by the programme on intersectional barriers to access to services by women from marginalized groups, including Roma women, rural women, women with disabilities, internally displaced women and women returnees, and elderly women. The main findings of this study confirm the fact that support and services coming from different institutions in BiH are linked to hierarchy, a person's position in the society and their ethnic or social identity, or disability status, hence support and services are not available equally. In addition, women who experience intersecting forms of marginalization face even more restricted access to support services.

Through a series of interventions conducted by CSO Bolja Buducnost – a Roma women's association – trust between local services providers and Roma women in 3 locations (Tuzla, Prnjavor and Visoko) was increased. 56 services providers (39 women and 17 men) took part in 3 workshops on anti-discrimination and prejudice and stereotypes in community work, and 70% reported improving their understanding of issues related to multiple discrimination and the specific needs of women belonging to disadvantaged groups.

Besides, women belonging to marginalized groups had an opportunity to speak directly with representatives of institutions providing protection against discrimination and violence. This is the result of the other component of Bolja Buducnost's work on trust-building sessions with local service providers and women belonging to marginalized groups. In total, 11 sessions were conducted in 3 locations (3 in Tuzla, 4 in Prnjavor and 4 in Visoko) with 117 representatives of service provider institutions and women coming from disadvantaged groups (69 women and 48 service providers). Many of the workshops turned into concrete case conferences that allowed for local stakeholders who might not have an opportunity to meet in such a forum, to discuss how cases were addressed and whether they could have been addressed more effectively.

Furthermore, through 15 sessions (5 in Tuzla, 5 in Visoko and 5 in Prnjavor) organized by Bolja Buducnost and attended by 266 women from disadvantaged backgrounds, 60% women have a better understanding of how to use protection services and 24 women reported using protection services available in their communities thanks to programme-supported interventions. In addition, 4 cases of violence and 2 cases of discrimination

were reported by participants. Assistance was also given to one perpetrator of violence to be able to enroll in alcohol abuse treatment program.

A total 6 community mediators were supported through the project (2 per location) and provided assistance in 323 individual cases (74 women, 54 men, 111 boys, 84 girls) in exercising rights to social protection, access to justice, healthcare coverage, education and birth registration. This was achieved via support given by the mediators to women on available mechanisms of protection against violence and discrimination and the reporting process of any form of violence or discrimination. Engaging community mediators proved to be an example of a good practice that can also contribute to addressing specific problems in communities where they are present through community-based initiatives with government institutions. By using information material on [violence](#) and [discrimination](#), as well as a [guide to exercising social, economic and civil rights](#), produced in local and Romani languages, the programme helped inform over 400 women, most of them Roma, women from remote areas, or stricken by poverty.

Through 9 peer workshops (3 per target location; Tuzla, Visoko and Prnjavor) attended by 166 young men and boys towards the transformation of gender stereotypes and awareness raising about GBV, 40% of participants have a better understanding of gender equality and gender norms in the context of GBV. The objective of these workshops was the presentation of gender and gender norms in the context of GBV, but considerable attention was also given to understanding the impact of gender norms on men's and women's lives and the personification of gender effects on the lives of participants. The workshops included two modules based on the gender-transformative methodology developed by CSO partner Association XY. The workshops covered the following topics: biological determination of sex and gender; act like a man, act like a woman; labeling violence; what I do when I'm angry.

Roma women network Uspjeh, which gathers 5 Roma CSOs, increased its capacity to advocate for improvement of protection services for women belonging to marginalized groups. The network was able to embark on a process of using evidence collected throughout the project and their previous experience addressing Roma women's and families' needs to prepare for dialogue with relevant institutions in charge of development of the next Action Plan for Roma in BiH (2020-2024).

The aim was to put Roma women's issues at the forefront of the discussion and actively participate in working groups which will oversee writing up the new priorities to make sure women's needs are specifically addressed. These identified priorities were included in the document "[Platform for improving rights and position of Roma women in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)" comprising 1) an analysis of the situation of Roma women's needs; 2) a set of recommendations that guide various key actors in the formulation of policies, strategies and plans in order to adequately address the needs of Roma women as a particularly marginalized group of women; and 3) measures and action plans that will contribute to the advancement of rights and the position of Roma women in BiH.

KOS Activity 3.3.1. CSO advocacy/dialogue with the Office of the Ombudsman to address discrimination and promote the rights of women survivors of violence and improve access to justice by strengthening collaboration between CSOs and Ombudsman groups in Kosovo.

Cooperation between CSOs and the OI increased as a result of meetings and other collaborative activities including cooperation regarding referral mechanisms in cases where institutions fail to address complaints from VAWG and DV survivors. As a result of meetings with KWN, the OI appointed a person responsible for continued cooperation on this project to address concerns to the OI related to failures of institutions to address cases of VAWG. In addition, the OI agreed to cooperate closely with KWN to address recommendations to relevant institutions with regard to data collection disaggregated by gender (where missing) to ensure that all responsible institutions are keeping track of cases treated or reported, in accordance with the Law on Gender Equality and the Strategy Against DV.

Following 2 workshops organized by KWN, more than 100 participants (representatives of shelters and NGOs, social workers, and legal advisors for shelters) increased their knowledge on the role of the OI in assisting cases of GBV, but also on institutions responsible for responding to GBV, and the steps that must be taken prior to bringing a case to the OI. From these workshops, 3 main recommendations were developed: 1) increase the knowledge of the referral mechanisms for shelters, centers and NGOs staff in order to address cases when institutions failed their legal obligations; 2) increase cooperation amongst shelters, centers and other NGOs in order to better address



Marai Larasi, the Executive Director of Imkaan, a partner in the EU/UN Women

concerns of survivors of violence, when institutions have failed to support them and to address cases, when all legal mechanisms have been used and no results have been achieved; 3) promote good institutional practices and collaborations to encourage victims to furthermore address complaints and requests to relevant institutions.

In terms of awareness raising, 665 people visited the exhibition "Break the silence: Ending violence behind walls" hosted by KWN in June 2019 in Skënderbeu square in Pristina. Symbolically, this exhibition portrayed a labyrinth, resembling a home where DV occurs. The harrowing stories and statistics within these walls affected those who had the courage to walk inside the labyrinth. After attending the exhibition, a total of 124 women survivors of violence solicited services provided, mainly information on institutions providing support to persons who have suffered violence.

MONT Activity 3.3.1. Organise NGO call for proposals to provide tailored support to Roma NGOs.

The programme-supported CRINK prepared documentation for the process of licensing service. In accordance

with the rules on detailed requirements for issuance, installation, suspension and withdrawal of the license for the performing activities of social and child care, the project team engaged a company from Niksic, which worked on the preparation of the sketch of the space or the office where the services are provided to submit for licensing.

In terms of capacity building, a one-day training for personal data protection was held with trainers from the Protection Agency and was attended by 5 members of CRINK who became acquainted with the competences of the Agency for Data Protection and Free Access to Information through practical and theoretical work. The participants gained the skills of registering data and became acquainted with the importance of drafting a general rulebook on personal data protection. In addition to mentoring services, the organization developed collection methodology in accordance with the fields of work and services that it provides to users, as well as the rules on the protection of personal data. As a result of CRINK advocacy efforts with representatives of the municipality of Niksic, a working space was offered by and within the municipality itself. This result is more likely to contribute to a higher number of women reporting CEFM and DV. CRINK also worked on the promotion of the organization's phone number for community members to have a better understanding of services provided. Special telephone helpline for victims of arranged child marriages was also initiated, as well as the purchase of mobile phone in order to support free application for more accessible communication with target communities.

MONT Activity 3.3.2. Establish mentorship scheme for capacity development intervention and support to minority and Roma groups.

The improved cooperation between Montenegrin Women's Lobby with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and Ministry of Interior through the licensing process to address the severe human rights violation of trafficking in human beings (THB) exposing Roma and Egyptian children at a great risk of CEFM, resulted in quicker determination of guardians and case managers, as well as the development of an individual work plan for an under-aged victim of trafficking (forced begging) who was the beneficiary of the National Shelter for Victims Trafficking. Following programme support to the Montenegrin Women's Lobby, the CSO enhanced its organizational capacities to deliver specialist service support to victims of violence and

obtained a license for the national SOS helpline for victims of sexual violence under the project. CSO's capacities were strengthened through 1) the training of new social workers and psychologist in the field of GBV who passed a social protection exam for professional staff at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; 2) adjusted working facilities in order to meet spatial capacities required for licencing of helpline for victims of sexual violence; and 3) received licensing for service of performing activities of social and child protection under the SOS line for victims of sexual violence. In terms of capacity building, the Montenegrin Women's Lobby designed and accredited 2 training programmes to improve the knowledge of staff regarding children THB and the competences of professional social workers related to procedures for prevention, detection and protection of children THB; and improve to knowledge and skills of professionals in establishing an effective system of prevention, assistance and protection from THB and for working with victims of trafficking.

Montenegrin Women's Lobby's awareness efforts enabled to increase awareness of women and girls regarding THB, CEFM and GBV; increase and resulted in a better identification and mobilization of legal provisions among institutions representatives to better protect victims and ensure the prosecution of perpetrators. To obtain such results, the CSO published 6 cases studies along with recommendations further developed in animated video formats disseminated and discussed during 4 round tables.

Following an assessment of knowledge and perceptions based on 190 interviews (90 in Ulcinj, 60 in Tuzi and 40 in Kraje) on GBV in Albanian-inhabited areas, the programme conducted several awareness-raising and advocacy activities to address following issues unveiled by the assessment: although women recognize violence, they tend not to report; women find local communities non-supportive and judgemental, making their decision to report violence more difficult; level of women's activism is evaluated as low and the establishment of more women's groups and particular specialist service supporters welcomed; and women living in border areas between Montenegro and Albania suggest stronger cross-border cooperation and possibility to provide victims support in shelters in Albania if women find it safer.

Programme partner Feminist group for rights of Albanian women (INTEGRITET) advocacy efforts gathered 34 professionals representatives of local institutions—working

“Because Roma people think differently, I didn’t know that you don’t have to have intercourse with your husband; that it is sexual assault if a woman is forced to.”

Roma girl (youth), North Macedonia

on social issues but also from the social protection, police, judiciary and CSOs – during 2 workshops to increase best practices exchange on multidisciplinary response, adopt an intersectoral approach and provide an efficient support to victims of GBV. In the area of awareness-raising, over 2,000 inhabitants were reached by a campaign on GBV targeting communities in Albanian-inhabited areas. The campaign was conducted through the local TV station with the coverage of the region where Albanian population lives.

According to the estimated outreach of the broadcasted TV show in which representatives of the NGOs took part, the audience was both rural and urban. Furthermore, the organization has conducted two workshops in Ulcinj, 1 in Tuzi municipality and 1 in Kraje gathered women from different social spheres that have been targeted as influential, proactive and progressive individuals. Concerning the efforts targeting the youth, 64 high school students in Albanian inhabited areas were involved in the thematic workshops for youth and organized lectures on the issue of VAWG and discussed preventive measures and methods of reporting violence.

NM Activity 3.3.1. Support to CSOs to develop initiatives in support of Roma women to identify their needs, claim their rights and increase their access to services.

The National Action Plan for Roma women and advocacy campaign for increased availability of free legal aid services of Roma women and girl victims of violence or discrimination were developed by the National Roma Centrum (NRC). In the area of advocacy, the research report “Availability and access to support services for Roma women and girl survivor of violence in Kicevo, Kumanovo, Veles, Shtip, Kocani and Prilep” and 1 public policy document were promoted at 6 local events (in Kicevo, Kumanovo, Veles, Shtip, Kocani and Prilep) attended by 182 representatives of CSOs, state institutions (social sector, justice sector), municipal representatives and Roma citizens.

Besides, 50 local stakeholders were informed about on the right of Roma victims to receive essential services and on

the availability of free legal aid service for Roma women and girl victims of violence and discrimination, following 21 meetings organized by NRC in 6 municipalities. Roma women and girls were also targeted through brochures distributed in 6 municipalities aiming at recognizing different forms of VAWG and discrimination, available both in Macedonian and Romani languages.

In terms of capacity building, 12 young Roma girls from 6 municipalities who participated in the Roma media camp BUVERO, a Roma training programme for research and leadership, in Etno village in Kumanovo increased their capacities to use modern technologies to promote of equal opportunities, advocate for Roma women and girls’ human rights and strengthen Roma women’s leadership. In terms of awareness raising among Roma communities, 84 Roma women and girls increased their knowledge and awareness of how to recognize discrimination and how to use prevention and protection mechanisms.

Further, 72 Roma women, girls, boys and men increased their knowledge on how to recognize GBV and where to report it and ask for protection following training sessions throughout the country and conducted by NRC. Additionally, 127 Roma girls and boys increased their understanding of issues related to gender equality and gender discrimination during 12 community study circles sessions. Finally, 77 Roma women victims of discrimination or DV received free legal aid or representation.

SER Activity 3.3.1. Support CSOs to develop initiatives aiming at empowering women from marginalized groups to access services (Roma women, women with disabilities, rural women, etc.)

In terms of capacity building, 17 activists were trained on the research methodology, focus group discussion techniques, and guidelines for questionnaire data collection, to support the data collection exercise conducted by Association Sandglass – in partnership with CSO Romani Cikna – on the prevalence of violence among rural women, Roma women and women with disabilities in 3 central districts. A total of 60 women – including those living in 2 Roma settlements as well as women with

disabilities and rural women from Jablanica, Sumadija and Rasina districts– participated in the survey and provided relevant data to the researchers. Additionally, focus group discussions with Roma women were organized to provide an in-depth analysis of the specificities of VAWG in Roma communities. [According to analyses of the data collected](#), psychological violence is the most widespread form of violence, affecting more than 78% of women; about 50% of women indicated that they had experienced physical violence. However, the respondents had reservations on all questions related to sexual violence, and none of them recognized marital rape as form of violence.



Slavica Vasić, an activist working to empower Roma women in Serbia.
Photo: Courtesy of Bibija

The findings were presented at the final project event in December 2019 in front of 50 general and specialist service providers from covered districts. Awareness-raising activities conducted in the same districts enabled 85 professionals from the police, centers for social welfare, prosecution office, health sector and women CSOs to have a better understanding and knowledge on providing services to women living in isolated rural and mountainous areas, Roma women living in the settlements and women with disabilities. Based on a self-estimated questionnaire, the knowledge of training participants increased by an average of 30% in the short term. As a result of awareness raising activities conducted in partnership with Association Sandglass, the access to and provision of services for at least 2,000 women subjected to multiple

and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence was improved by building their trust in institutions through the programme of “service providers closer to women” using innovative models of service provisions, such as “women of trust” mechanism. The role of “women of trust” is to be available for women in need from the community to provide contacts of service providers and accompany women in need while addressing the institutions. Through this partnership, 8 women of trust were identified, while 193 women facing multiple discrimination were directly empowered to recognize and report violence and use available services, including ones provided by specialist women’s CSOs.

Association Sandglass also created promotional and informative material such as posters and leaflets on raising public awareness about VAWG in marginalized social groups. The promotional and informative material was printed in Serbian and Romani language and disseminated widely in the target communities. In fine, 6 women at high risk of femicide, and beneficiaries of Association Sandglass and CSO Oaza Sigurnosti legal aid, received free legal aid to file for DV protection measures in accordance with family law.

SER Activity 3.3.2. CSO advocacy/dialogue with the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Provincial Ombudsperson and the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality on gender-based discrimination and harmful stereotypes, particularly against Roma and rural communities.

The training on VAWG and harmful gender stereotypes for general and specialist service providers carried out on a needs-oriented curriculum was licensed by the Secretariat for Social Protection. A total of 60 service providers benefited from 4-day training sessions organized in Nis, Belgrade, Novi Sad and Sabac aimed to increase professionals’ theoretical knowledge and practical skills for adequately implementing existing mechanisms to protect the rights of the survivors of VAWG in practice.

The outcome of the training was an individual action plan developed by each of the participants defining their approach to women survivors of VAWG with a specific focus on women living in rural areas and Roma women. The curriculum was developed following a capacity needs assessment conducted by the Victimology Society of Serbia

among police, judiciary, centers for social welfare and health system, working with gender-based discrimination and GBV, as well as the challenges they face in this work. Victimology Society of Serbia created a [“Toolkit on the mandate of the independent government bodies working on gender equality and anti-discrimination: Provincial and National Ombudsperson and the Commissioner for Protection of Equality”](#) to provide the professionals, but also women in situation of violence, with clear information on gender equality and GBV as well as the step-by-step procedures of protection by the independent state institutions. The toolkit was endorsed by all 3 independent state institutions referenced within.

Aiming also to establish a dialogue with relevant state institutions, CSOs, and independent state agencies about gender-based discrimination and violence, the toolkit was presented and disseminated at regional meetings organized in Nis, Kragujevac, Novi Sad, and Belgrade with 80 representatives of the police, judiciary, social welfare system, healthcare institutions, local self-governance, education institutions, independent state institutions, and CSOs. Moreover, the toolkit was shared with WAVE Network during their General Assembly, to the websites of independent institutions, and on social media.

For the 10th Anniversary Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia in November 2019 a capacity building and networking workshop were organized with 22 participants from the police, judiciary, prosecution, social welfare centers, independent agencies, and CSOs that expressed interest in further cooperation and capacity-building. The workshop aimed at presenting/disseminating the project results and enabling know-how exchange, networking and establishing cooperation among professionals from different regions working with victims of gender-based discrimination and GBV, relevant for timely and adequate victim support and for facilitating referrals.

TUR Activity 3.3.1. CSO advocacy/dialogue with key local institutions related to discrimination against the refugee community

Notable progress was made towards building the capacity of women’s organizations to effectively provide services to the refugee population. Partnerships and communication between those organizations were facilitated through a mapping of women’s CSOs working in EAWG and active Syrian women’s groups, as well as through the

dissemination of 1,000 copies of informative brochures on the rights of refugee women in Turkey to women’s CSOs in 7 cities hosting the most refugees. Additionally, 1,000 copies of the first handbook targeting the needs of women’s CSOs providing support to refugee women survivors of VAWG were disseminated and uploaded on the FWS website.



Sibel Güneş Ergün, Turkey
Project Coordinator at the Capacity Development Association.
Photo: KAGED Turkey

As the result of 3 capacity building training and local collaboration workshops in the provinces of Ankara, Adana and Mardin, 45 women’s CSOs working on EAWG and 45 local actors working in the field of refugee rights, including the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, were trained by FWS on the rights of refugee women, their legal status and their specific needs. The workshops promoted collaboration among actors in the field of refugee protection; outlined the various roles and responsibilities of different actors and raised participants’ awareness on the issues experienced by Syrian refugees and the importance of a multisectoral approach to end GBV and discrimination.

In terms of awareness raising, a total of 50 muhtars (elected local headmen) in Ankara, Adana and Mardin increased their knowledge and awareness on the rights of refugee women during 3 participatory meetings organized by FWS. They also discussed issues they are facing in their districts regarding refugee women.

TUR Activity 3.3.2. Awareness raising among refugee and migrant women on how to access health services through communication campaigns.

Regarding direct awareness raising initiatives conducted by CSO Support to Life (STL), 1276 Syrian women gained a better understanding on the temporary protection regime, women's rights in Turkey in the field of marriage and its dissolution, VAWG, sexual crimes, available justice service and access to these services; participants started organizing themselves to establish a women's committee.

Training materials and curricula were developed for 2 capacity-building trainings held with 16 focal points within the refugee community in Hatay which organized more than 150 peer-to-peer women meetings to reach additional women. A [report](#) produced in English, Turkish and Arabic, systematized the community focal point approach to up-scale the approach in humanitarian context and serve as a good practice for replication. Additionally, as the result of a [ground-breaking research](#) conducted by FWS's volunteer lawyers and used as an advocacy tool, an amendment to the Civil Code, which would have placed a 5-year limit on the right to alimony following divorce, was put on hold. Based on reliable data from 140 cases of divorce across 11 provinces, the research was shared with key stakeholders, including women's organizations and members of Parliaments and contributed to an informed and evidence-based debate in the media and political arena on women's right to poverty alimony after divorce.

The amendment – based on assumptions that permanent alimony led to increased rates of divorce – was proposed with the stated intention of preventing divorce and would have replaced current legislation that grants spouses at risk of poverty the right to unlimited poverty after divorce. However, the research revealed a lack of correlation between the current practice of permanent alimony and the divorce rate in the last 30 years, that the amount is often insufficient, and that the mechanisms by which a woman could collect the alimony are not functional.

REG Activity 3.3.1. Action oriented advocacy research to inform key stakeholders' efforts to end gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Action-oriented recommendations for effective prevention, protection and prosecution of cases of violence were developed and published under the title "[Is justice failing women survivors of violence?](#)". The Centre of Women's Rights (CWR) which led the research, held 8 roundtables in all programme participating countries under the slogan "Good Practices, Obstacles and Shortcomings in the System of Protection of Women and Girls from Violence" to validate the research recommendations with representatives in from national machineries for the advancement of women, OI, in line ministries participating in multi-coordination bodies, and CSOs. The research draws recommendations from the examination of gaps and failures of the institutional response to 14 cases of violence in the region where the system failed to women subject to violence.

Recommendations and findings of the research were extensively validated and integrated to the study during 8 held round tables across the region by 140 representatives of institutions from all levels of protection and prevention.

The representatives expressed an interest for having inter-state exchange of experience, learning from good practices, as well as ways of overcoming obstacles by organizing a regional conference.

"I wanted to be a better father. When I joined the programme, I learned a lot about involved fatherhood. I learned about empathy, respect for diversity, developing positive behaviour in children, communication barriers, non-discrimination between girls and boys, and developing more egalitarian attitudes at home. The programme completely changed our family life."

Beneficiary, Turkey



IV. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The objectives set in the Communications and Visibility Plan (see Annex IV of the PA Agreement) are:

Related to programme objectives:

- Increasing the level of awareness among communities on the different forms of gender discrimination and violence women are subject to and why it is considered as gender-based violence;
- Increasing the level of awareness on multiple and intersectional discriminations and their interactions with gender equality;
- Increasing the capacity to recognize and combat discrimination and gender inequalities among the general public, key stakeholders and at the community level; and
- Increasing awareness of women's rights and on the availability of general and specialist services among women and the community at large, with a focus on women from disadvantaged groups.

Related to programme visibility:

- Raising general awareness about the programme and its activities, achievements and potential impacts in the region;
- Engaging the attention of stakeholders, policymakers and decision-makers on the programme, as an important instrument for ending discrimination and violence against women;
- Attracting potential partners' support;
- Generating increased demand for participation in programme activities;
- Demonstrating the roles and contributions of the EU and UN Women;
- Ensuring transparency in the use of public funding; and
- Ensuring that programme partners, beneficiaries, and key stakeholders receive clear and timely information about the programme.

With a view to achieving these objectives, the regional programme undertook the following activities:

Regional programme website:

Hosted on UN Women ECARO's webpage, the website is a repository of all programme-related information and resources and serves as a key advocacy and communication tool to disseminate programme news and developments. The website displays the EU emblem and acknowledges EU support to the programme.

Development and dissemination of initial communication materials:

Produced in compliance with the EU visibility guidelines and in consultation with the EU regional programme focal point, the materials created so far include:

- **Banner:** Used as a backdrop for the regional programme kick-off conference and other regional and country-level events;
- **Programme brief:** A [2-page brief](#) introducing the programme and its objectives (available for download on the regional programme website). The document has been translated into Albanian, Bosnian, Serbian and Turkish;
- **Infographics:** A set of 12 [infographics](#) was created using the findings of a multi-country study on VAW support services conducted by UN Women in partnership with the CoE. The infographics have been translated into Bosnian, Macedonian, Serbian and Turkish and disseminated on the website and through UN Women ECARO's social media channels; and
- **Video:** A 2:30 [video](#), produced in an animation format, serves as a visually appealing introduction to the regional programme. The video has been translated into Macedonian, Serbian and Turkish. It is being used at regional and country-level events and is being disseminated through the regional website and social media channels.

Programme events:

Programme-related conferences, workshops and meetings, both at the regional and country level, displayed adequate branding and visibility in line with EU guidelines. Speakers at the different events recognized the valuable support of the EU for the regional programme.

Regional programme launch: The EU and UN Women launched the regional programme with a kick-off conference hosted at the Estonian Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels on 10 July 2017. The event saw the participation of national and regional key stakeholders, including representatives from the EU, the UN, governments and women's organizations from the Western Balkans and Turkey, the Council of Europe, the European Institute for Gender Equality and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Head of Civil Society and Social Inclusion for the Western Balkans at the DG NEAR, Ms. Liselotte Isaksson, and the DG NEAR Western Balkans Director, Ms. Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, participated in the event.

National programme launches: The Programme was also launched at the country level with events in [Albania](#) (held on 24 May 2017 and attended by over 30 key stakeholders), in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) (held on 29 May 2017 and attended by 26 key stakeholders), in Kosovo (held on 19 May 2017 and attended by 40 key stakeholders), in [FYR Macedonia](#) (held on 25 April 2017 and attended by representatives from the government, UN agencies, the EU and civil society), in [Montenegro](#) (held on 30 May 2017 and attended by 50 key stakeholders), and in [Serbia](#) (held on 29 May 2017 and attended by 50 key stakeholders). Each country produced a national press release that displayed the EU logo and highlighted EU support. The events received extensive media coverage.

Partner's meeting 2017: The regional programme held its first partners' meeting on 27 November 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting was attended by CSOs selected to implement different components of the programme, including Imkaan, Women against Violence Europe, Yaşama Dair Vakıf (YADA Foundation), the European Women's Lobby and UN Women staff.

With the purpose of ensuring that partners adhere to EU and UN Women communication requirements when implementing programme activities, a training session was delivered to present key visibility guidelines and

the main advocacy tools and materials produced for the regional programme. Similar sessions were conducted in programme participating countries.

16 days of activism against gender-based violence 2017: On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, the regional programme organized a collective social media action. The activity consisted of a social media package, including an animated GIF (Graphics Interchange Format), with the question, "how can we change minds to end violence against women?", and a link to a poll for citizens to cast their votes. The social media message included the EU logo and the hashtag #SayNoStopVAW, used within the context of the EU Year to End Violence against Women and Girls.

UN Women Headquarters and the United Nations Twitter accounts shared and retweeted the message. The post was shared simultaneously on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in the Albanian, Bosnian, English, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Serbian and Turkish languages. Programme focal points and EU delegations in programme participating countries took an active part in the dissemination of the campaign. In the first week, the post was shared 260 times by 230 users across multiple social media platforms reaching a total of 13,180,932 people on the Internet.

In addition, programme focal points engaged in national advocacy events including forums, media interviews and commemoration activities. Key messages and information on EAW were disseminated. EU contributions to the regional programme initiatives were highlighted.

International Women's Day 2018: on the occasion of International Women's Day, the programme created a digital map showcasing women activists working to end discrimination and violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Featuring 39 women's rights activists working under the regional programme, the map was launched on social media at national, regional and global level on International Women's Day. The original message was disseminated by UN Women HQ and shared by the DG Near. Additionally, the message was translated into local languages and disseminated by UN Women, EU delegations, CSOs and individuals across the region.

European Development Days 2018: based on the criteria of content, interactivity and communication, the programme was selected by DG NEAR to attend the European Development Days (EDD) Forum in Brussels, Belgium. The event, organized by the EU, focused this year on the

theme ‘Women and Girls at the Forefront of Sustainable Development: Protect, empower, invest’. By participating in this important event, the regional programme was able to showcase its efforts and achievements to governments, international organizations, civil society groups, donors, private sector organizations and individual development players.

[Regional Forum on the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention](#): organized within the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence, the regional forum brought together governments, regional institutions, UN and civil society representatives from the Western Balkans and Turkey to discuss the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the region.

[Side event – Translating regional commitments into actions to end violence against women and girls](#): the side event aimed at taking stock of progress made and offering solutions for the effective enforcement of the Istanbul Convention and push its agenda forward by discussing concrete actions and measures that need to be carried at the national and regional levels by governments, regional institutions and CSOs.

[Partnering to End Violence Against Women](#): over 500 civil society representatives from the Western Balkans

and Turkey met in Istanbul on 7-8 May 2019 to take stock of the main challenges, achievements and lessons learnt in the implementation of the EU-UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”.

[Second Regional Forum on the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention](#): key governmental, regional, and civil society leaders gathered in a regional forum in Tirana (9-10 October 2019) to commit their efforts and discuss progress toward the elimination of violence against women in the region and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

[16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2019](#): to mark the 16 Days of Activism, the programme produced a series of 16 short video clips featuring interviews from programme stakeholders.

The videos focused on messages related to ending the stigma for victims of sexual violence, implementing the Istanbul Convention, ensuring intersectoral cooperation for cases of VAWG, the role of civil society in ending VAWG, and sustainable funding for services for victims of violence provided by CSOs. The clips were shared daily on the UN Women Regional Office’s Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as uploaded to YouTube.



Kick-off conference of the EU-UN Women Regional Programme on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans countries and Turkey “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.” Photo: UN Women.

Production of regional programme e-newsletters:

an electronic bulletin was created to highlight the stories of women and women's organizations leading change to end violence against women in the region. The newsletter also provides the latest updates on the development of the programme. It displays the EU emblem and acknowledges EU contributions to the programme.

[Newsletter Vol 1](#), [Newsletter Vol 2](#), [Newsletter Vol 3](#), [Newsletter Vol 4](#), [Newsletter Vol 5](#), [Newsletter Vol 6](#), [Newsletter Vol 7](#), [Newsletter Vol 8](#), [Newsletter Vol 9](#), [Newsletter Vol 10](#), [Newsletter Vol 11](#), [Newsletter Vol 12](#), [Newsletter Vol 13](#).

The 13 newsletters produced include 85 stories that highlight the work of partner organizations, infographics, news briefs, publications and updates from the programme partners.

The newsletters have been widely disseminated among stakeholders, including CSOs, multilateral organizations, development partners, policymakers and government officials. Furthermore, the newsletter and its stories have been circulated through the UN Women ECARO website as well as on UN Women's national, regional and global social media channels.

Regional publications:

The programme has produced 11 regional publications:

- [DOING IT RIGHT: Making women's networks accessible with a special focus on women from minority and disadvantaged groups](#): The research report offers an overview of the current situation regarding the accessibility of women's civil society networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey and includes two case studies that provide examples of good practices. It represents an initial attempt to examine different working approaches and analyze the inclusiveness of women's networks in the region.
- ['A THOUSAND WAYS TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS': An analysis of existing Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) approaches for minoritized women and girls in the Western Balkans and Turkey](#). This report highlights the main challenges that 'by and for' women's organizations across the Western Balkans and Turkey face in incorporating an intersectional approach, as well as in monitoring and reporting on Istanbul Convention implementation, monitoring and reporting to CEDAW, and engaging with the EU accession process.
- [Integrated Policies – Integrated Approach Mapping of Policies and Legislation on Violence Against Women and the Istanbul Convention in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Executive Summary](#): This report, produced by European Women's Lobby under the regional programme, details the achievements and challenges, as well as good practices and lessons learned in the region in relation to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW.
- [Report: Regional Forum Promoting the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Western Balkans and Turkey](#): This report presents a summary of the discussions held during the first Regional Forum on Promoting the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Convened by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UN Women, the European Union (EU), and the Council of Europe (CoE), in partnership with European Women's Lobby, the regional forum reviewed progress in fulfilment of the CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul Convention. The forum took place within the framework of the EU-UN Women regional programme "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds".
- [The value of intersectionality in understanding violence against women and girls](#): This policy brief explores the concept of intersectionality as a tool to analyze and understand the intersection of gender with other inequalities/oppressions (e.g., sexuality, gender identity, ethnicity, indigeneity, immigration status, disability) in the context of violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- [Data collection 'by and for' minoritized women](#): This policy brief examines the lack of data on violence against minoritized women and highlights the importance of utilizing an intersectional approach to data collection and engaging 'by and for' in the data collection process.
- [Funding intersectional violence against women and girls \(VAWG\) services](#): This policy brief highlights the value that 'by and for' organizations bring to the fight to end violence against women and girls (VAWG)

and examines how the current funding landscape jeopardizes the existence and autonomy of these organizations.

- [Regional report on discrimination of Roma women in the area of healthcare, child marriages and support and protection in cases of domestic violence](#): The Regional Report examines the violence and discrimination faced by Roma women in the areas of health care, child marriage, and institutional protection and support in cases of domestic violence. Based on survey findings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, this violence and discrimination is analyzed in the context of states' obligations to comply with anti-discrimination frameworks, such as national legislation, CEDAW, and the Istanbul Convention.
- [Advancing the Istanbul Convention implementation: The role of women's NGOs and networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey](#): This report examines the impact of NGO networking on advocacy efforts to promote the implementation of the IC in the Western Balkans and Turkey.
- [Mapping of Sexual Violence Services in the Western Balkans and Turkey](#): The Istanbul Convention calls for adequate and accessible support services for victims of sexual violence. In the Western Balkans and Turkey, these services are often missing, and where they do exist, they tend to be poorly implemented. This mapping report identifies the existing services in the region, examines their implementation, and highlights the gaps in service provision.

Regional videos:

A total of six advocacy videos have been produced and released in connection with major events.

[Video 1 – Results](#): Using the animation format, this 2:30-minute video presents a brief summary of the achievements made by the regional programme.

[Video 2 – Testimonies](#): Featuring live-action video interviews with activists, government officials, CSO partners and service providers, this 4-minute video offers testimonies of the positive impact the programme has had in the region. For the production of the video, the regional programme deployed video production teams in all programme-implementing countries.

[Video 3 – Testimonies](#): A second documentary style video was produced to present additional testimonies of partners and participants of the regional programme. The video was released during the Regional Forum.

[Video 4 – Recap of the Regional Forum](#): a recap video featuring the voices of the participants in the Regional Forum was produced to present the highlights and key messages shared by different stakeholders during the event.

[Video 5 – Recap of the Partner's meeting](#): This video offers a brief recap of the Regional Partner's meeting including the voices and messages of some of the CSO partners.

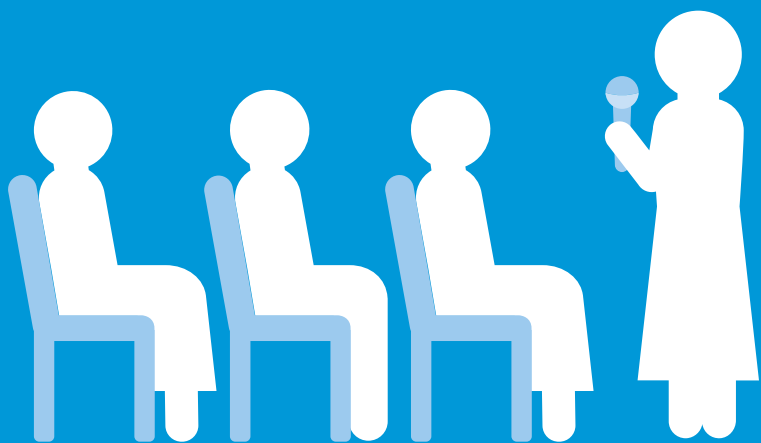
[Video 6 – Recap of the Second Regional Forum](#): This recap video features interviews with key stakeholders and highlights of the event (under preparation during reporting period).

[Infosheets](#): The “2018 Public Perceptions of Gender Equality and Violence against Women” infosheets present the key findings of a baseline survey conducted in selected communities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution - UNSCR 1244), North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. The infosheets provide insight of current and dominant attitudes and perceptions (and the factors that influence them) toward gender equality and violence against women at community level.

[Interactive report](#): An interactive digital report featuring the progress and main achievements of the regional programme. It includes hyperlinks to key elements, well as animations, GIFs, and videos showcasing the highlights of the work done to date.

The newsletters as well as the stories, publications, videos, events and milestones of the programme were widely disseminated among EU delegations, focal points, CSOs and programme stakeholders both at regional and country-level. As per the EU guidelines on communication and visibility, all communication and advocacy materials display and/or acknowledge the EU contribution to the programme with the relevant disclaimers, emblems and references.

In addition, the regional programme provided CSO partners with support and quality control on communications and visibility for the production of advocacy and promotional materials.



V. CHALLENGES
AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. Limited human resources

Challenge: Both UN Women (and UNDP in Montenegro) and CSO partners identified limited human resources as a challenge in programme implementation. This limitation was also identified in the Programme final evaluation report as an underlying factor in the length of CSO selection and assessment processes.

Lesson learned: Proper staffing of the programme, and more specifically of the programme management unit, requires minimum one staff member to support programme financial management and provide full operational support to the entire programme. Furthermore, as in each of the programme countries, Turkey should have its own programme-dedicated staff.

2. Political context

Challenge: The political context in some programme-participating countries hindered the ability to achieve results. In the case of Turkey, the political context restricted certain activities, such as direct legal and policy advocacy. In BiH, political blockages following the election in October 2018 prevented the formation of a new government in FBiH, and the interim government lacked the political will to spearhead initiatives proposed by the programme to address shortcomings in legislation related to VAWG and DV.

Lesson learned: Flexibility in implementation strategy and approach is essential when coupled with external challenges such as political context. While certain activities may not be feasible, strong mitigation plans developed with the input of key stakeholders can be used to identify more amenable areas of focus and pivot CSO partners' efforts in that direction.

3. Changing behaviour as well as minds

Challenge: The COMBI approach utilized under the GenderLab marked a shift from the traditional information, education and communication campaigns approach commonly used by CSO partners and required significant effort from their side to understand, adopt and implement.

Lesson learned: When presenting new approaches such as COMBI, more sustained training and mentoring throughout the project design process could improve CSO partners' understanding of the approach and final results.

4. Timeliness of implementation

Challenge: In-depth capacity assessments of preselected CSOs, and lengthy engagement of CSOs through CfPs led to an average of 4-5 months to engage CSOs as responsible parties to implement selected activities of the programme plan.

Lesson learned: A longer inception phase is required to set the foundations for a smooth running of the programme. Furthermore, ToRs for CfPs could be developed as integral part of the project document to save time when launching the calls. Other modalities of engagement of CSOs should be explored, such as direct engagement or sole sourcing.

5. Partners' understanding of the programme strategic framework

Challenge: CSO partners were not always fully aware of the linkages between micro-level results and higher-level programme objectives, nor linkages between country-level results and regional objectives.

Lesson learned: The programme strategic framework should be presented more clearly and frequently to increase CSO partners' understanding of programme as a whole and how their efforts contribute to higher-level expected results.

6. Impact of research work on policy and legislative developments

Challenge: The connection between significant research products and their impact on policy, legislative developments, and changes to service provision is challenging to measure. The programme supported research as an evidence base to influence national policymakers, but currently lacks the capacity and tools to measure how research feeds into change, if at all. Informally, a positive connection is assumed, but from a causal point of view, the programme currently cannot answer with confidence. Furthermore, the time required to see the impact of programme-assisted policy and legislative change is often beyond the length of programmes.

Lesson learned: Investments are needed to capture the causal chain effect of research outputs. A rigorous understanding of these links could support the programme to 1) use existing research more effectively, 2) identify and develop new research outputs that are more influential, and 3) ensure that research outputs are connected to a logical chain of impact through dissemination and policy formulation processes.

7. Addressing DV and all forms of violence

Challenge: The programme faced challenges to engage a large number of organizations to work on forms of violence other than DV, particularly on sexual violence. For years, most development partners and IPA beneficiaries prioritized projects focused on DV, leading women's CSOs/NGOs in the region to concentrate their efforts on this form of violence while not addressing other forms of VAWG.

Lesson learned: Efforts to address all forms of violence should be doubled and equally prioritized by development partners. Sustained emphasis on addressing all forms of violence, particularly forms other than DV, will result in a realignment of women's CSO/NGO priorities.

Annex I. List of CSOs beneficiaries of the programme

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
Albania							
1	QENDRA PER NISMA LIGJORE QYTETARE (Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives – CLCI)	64 036.05	N/A	48	CLCI was established in 1997 by a group of women lawyers with the purpose of increasing access to justice for Albanian citizens, with a particular focus on women and girls from disadvantaged communities. In this context, CLCI provides free legal aid, legal education and other services to women and girls — including those who are survivors of violence. CLCI engages in strategic litigation and is also very active in lobbying and advocating for the improvement and effective implementation of gender equality standards in Albanian legislation. CLCI has extensive experience in monitoring the implementation of international human rights obligations in Albania and in preparing shadow reports, including CEDAW.	Establish a National CSO Platform for Monitoring the Implementation of CEDAW Recommendations and Istanbul Convention and increasing capacities of CSOs to prepare shadow reports	13 November 2017 – 31 December 2019
2	QENDRA ALEANCA GJINORE PER ZHVILLIM (Global Gender Alliance for Development Center – GADC)	37 236.93	Women Empowerment Network (AWEN)	10	The Gender Alliance for Development Centre (GADC), established in 1994, promotes democratic development and good governance with a special focus on gender equity and social inclusion. The organization's main areas of expertise include strengthening capacities of civil society, advancing human rights, anti-discrimination and gender equality. GADC is active in monitoring processes and contributed to shadow reports to CEDAW, based on data collected by national and local actors in the areas of gender-based violence, gender statistics and women participation in the labour market. The implementing partner, AWEN, is the only registered network of women NGOs in the country and one of the key actors in the advancement of women's human rights at the national and local levels. The network, consisting of nine organizations from all districts, works towards the social, economic, cultural and political empowerment of Albanian women, as well as combat violence against women.	Capacity building of CSOs to monitor the implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Action Plan (2016-2020) in relation to the component on gender-based violence	24 November 2017 – 31 December 2019
3	ALBANIAN DISABILITY RIGHTS FOUNDATION (ADRF)	60 115.93	Roma Women Rights Center (RWRC) Alliance against Discrimination of LGBT (LGBT Alliance)	3	The Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF) has been active in Albania since 1996 to promote equal opportunities, protect human rights and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, paying particular attention to women with disabilities. The organization has been a leader in transforming attitudes, policy and legislation and providing various services in the disability area, including women with disabilities survivors of violence. Its partner, RWRC, is a community-based organization founded in 2012 to support Roma women and girls and other women in need to promote and protect their rights, including against all forms of discrimination and exploitation. Its other partner, LGBT Alliance, is also a grass-roots organization that promotes a free, open and equal Albanian society that embraces diversity and is inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The Alliance has operated since 2009, managing the first LGBT community centre in Albania, and focuses on capacity building, awareness-raising, advocacy and lobbying.	Promoting the rights of women from disadvantaged groups to receive information about and access to services available for women survivors of all forms of violence and discrimination	29 December 2017 – 31 December 2019
4	HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEMOCRACY CENTER (HRDC)	74 691.93	Shelter for Violated Women and Girls	2	The Human Rights in Democracy Center was established in 2002 and works on the protection and promotion of human rights, and increasing awareness of the Albanian society on the rule of law. HRDC offers support services for women survivors of violence including legal aid services, capacity support to service providers and monitoring the implementation of the relevant national and international legislation. The Implementing Partner, SWAG, is a social service center, which has been active in Albania since 1998 with the mission of building a society free of discrimination, prejudice and violence. SWAG is focused on offering services to women survivors of violence and increasing capacities of service providers across different sectors. Both HRDC and SWAG are members of the Multidisciplinary Technical Team on the management of cases of domestic violence and gender-based violence in the municipality of Tirana.	Increasing capacities of providers of services for women survivors of all forms of violence in the municipalities of Kamza and Lezha	24 January 2018 – 31 December 2019
5	FORUMI GRUAS ELBASAN (Woman Forum Elbasan – WFE)	41 878.07	N/A	1	Forumi Gruas Elbasan (FGE) has been working in the Elbasan region since 1999 on gender equality issues, including empowering women and girls from disadvantaged communities, increasing capacities of relevant local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and lobbying and advocating for the protection of the rights of women and girls. FGE is very active in organizing awareness-raising activities among communities on gender-based violence and providing several services to women survivors of violence, including emergency shelters, counselling and legal services.	Awareness-raising campaigns on the effects of gender-based violence and how to address harmful gender stereotypes	November 2017 – December 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
6	OBSERVATORI PER TE DREJTAT E FEMIJEVE (Observatory for Children's Rights)	63 137.36	N/A	1	Observatory for Children's Rights was established in 2013 with the mission to contribute to the respect, dignity and well-being of children and youth from a holistic approach, paying particular attention to the well-being of the overall family, which is key to ensure a healthy environment for a child to thrive. In recent years, the Observatory has been increasingly engaged in initiatives related to gender equality and violence against women and girls. The core work of the Observatory is data collection. Through representatives at the sub-national (regional) level and in collaboration with local government units, the Observatory collects data from administrative records of health, education, social protection and other local authorities and uses data and research as evidence to influence policy-making and to improve service delivery. With a presence in 12 regions, the organization is also active in raising awareness on the protection and promotion of the rights of children and women through close collaboration with multiple stakeholders and institutions at the national and local levels.	Data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards violence against women	22 November 2017 – 31 December 2019
Sub-total		341 096.27					

Bosnia and Herzegovina

7	UDRUZENE ZENE (United Women Banja Luka)	70 508.69	Association Medica Zenica	22	United Women Banja Luka (UWBL) was registered as a non-profit NGO in 1996. Since then, it has provided continuous direct assistance and support to women through two key programmes: preventing and combating violence against women and strengthening women's roles women in public and political life. UWBL has an in-house team of experienced lawyers and legal analysts, social workers and psychologists. UWBL has contributed continuously to shadow reporting on CEDAW implementation in BiH, particularly in relation to violence against women. UWBL has developed a set of shared recommendations by women's and human rights CSOs, participated in presenting the shadow CEDAW Report in front of the CEDAW Committee, prepared the baseline study on harmonization of the local legislation with the Istanbul Convention and advocated for implementation of Istanbul Convention standards in BiH.	CEDAW and Istanbul Convention monitoring. Data collection and writing up the alternative report to GREVIO	13 November 2017 – 31 December 2019
8	FONDACIJA LOKALNE DEMOKRATIJE (Foundation of Local Democracy – FLD)	59 642.10	Association Buducnost Modrica	8	FLD is a local NGO with 20 years of experience, working as a bearer of positive social change leading to a more just and responsible society. The primary focus of their work is the protection, promotion and advancement of human rights – especially the rights of gender-based violence survivors. By improving the legal framework, by implementing socioeconomic and educational programmes, FLD empowers women of BiH to participate actively in the transformation of the society in which they'll have an equal role in public and private life. FLD provides the secretariat role of the Safe network (a network of CSOs that runs shelters in BiH) and is gathering members of the Steering Board for regular consultations and strategic decision making on behalf of the network.	Review of legal and policy documents. Coming up with a proposal for sustainable solution for integrating specialist support services provided by CSOs into the system of protection from domestic violence and violence against women.	13 November 2017 – 31 December 2019
9	UDRUZENJE GRADJANA VIVE ZENE TUZLA (Association Vive Zene)	76 523.50	Local associations: "Podrinjka" Srebrenica; "Suha" Bratunac; "Cerska" Milici; "Drina" Bratunac; "Suza" Brcko	4	Vive Zene, an NGO established in 1994, focuses on psycho-social assistance and support to victims of war, torture and violence, and the strengthening capacities of other organizations and institutions. Vive Zene represents a multidisciplinary, democratic and participatory approach in working with traumatized families and individuals. Through connecting the rehabilitation programme in the Centre and the work on strengthening groups in the community, a large number of Vive Zene's beneficiaries have taken an active role in different campaigns, round tables and conferences. Vive Zene has extensive experience in working with victims of violence and professional expertise in providing direct assistance to survivors. Vive Zene has already established cooperation with governmental institutions in cantons and gained a strong and positive reputation. The Center provides comprehensive therapy and integrated rehabilitation programmes, working on individuals, community and society levels of the problem.	Innovative prevention initiatives to end violence against women. Empowering women living in remote areas who belong to disadvantaged groups (survivors of conflict related sexual violence, returnees etc.). Working with primary school children on gender transformative topics.	01 February 2018 – 31 December 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
10	FONDACIJA ANALITIKA (Center for Social Research Analitika)	8 568.06	N/A	1	The Center for Social Research Analitika is a non-profit NGO established in July 2009 and based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mission of Analitika is to enhance public policy processes by conducting socially relevant, high quality research. In its research, the organization places great importance on the application of contemporary methods, analytical capacities, competence and experience of its researchers, as well as rigorous external peer review procedures for its publications. Analitika's areas of research include good governance with a focus on transparency and accountability, rule of law, public administration reform, social policy and media and communication. So far, Analitika has published over 145 publications, has implemented over 40 projects and organized 53 events focusing on policy relevant issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region of Southeast Europe.	Data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards violence against women	13 November 2017 – 31 December 2019
11	FOUNDATION LARA (Association Lara Bijeljina)	80 287.07	Association Vive zene, Tuzla	NA (both of these are already counted above as part of other networks)	The Lara Foundation was established in 1998, as a women's NGO. The organization aims to protect women's human rights by reducing violence against women and striving for gender equality in public and private life. Lara operates at the local, state and national level in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lara has been working to increase public awareness about violence against women as a violation of human rights and as one of the key obstacles in achieving gender equality. The organization was the first women's CSOs in BiH that pointed out the issue of human trafficking as a serious problem in the country. For 10 years, the foundation systematically worked to assist victims, develop cooperation with institutions, make policy analysis and improve laws and policies for the prevention of human trafficking. As part of the programme for the prevention of gender-based violence, Lara provides direct assistance to victims of violence through various support services such as an SOS helpline for victims of violence; free legal and psychosocial counselling; and a safe house for women and children survivors of domestic violence..	Access to quality services, monitoring the work of referral mechanisms and strengthening service providers' capacities. Working with police and justice sector to strengthen their role in the multisectoral response to domestic violence, focusing on risk assessment and risk management.	13 November 2017 – 31 December 2019
12	BOLJA BUDUCNOST (Roma women's association)	62 886.64	Roma association "Romani čej" Prnjavor and Roma youth initiative "Budi mi prijatelj" Visoko	2	Roma women association (RWA) "Bolja buducnost" is a female Roma NGO which through socio-economic programs, human rights programs and advocacy programs and political participation contributes to improving the living conditions of Roma community with a focus on Roma women. Over seventeen years the organization has worked on implementing projects focused mainly on strengthening women's rights, prevention of violence against women and families, promotion of gender equality, prevention of discrimination, economic empowerment. Activities are focused on the Roma minority as the largest in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Promotion of the use of services among women from minority and disadvantaged groups. Building trust among local service providers and women from marginalized groups.	1 June 2018 – 30 September 2019
13	UDRUZENIE ZENA BIH (Association Zena BiH)	38 802.11	Association Lara Bijeljina	NA (already counted above as part of network)	ZenaBiH is a team of activists, experts and friends who demand equality of women and actively work on empowering unprivileged women to improve their position in both private and professional life. The organization has been active since 1994 and it promotes and protects women's human rights, advocates for economic independence and self-confidence and inclusion of women in all spheres of life. The organization is a part of Safe network (network of organizations running shelters), the members of which will be involved in the project and build on existing work done by the network. In partnership with another women's CSO and other members of the Safe network, Zena BiH is planning the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forming the expert group of representatives of both governmental and non-governmental sectors from targeted regions; Creation of standards for improvement of multi-sector cooperation on the level of local communities referring to case management, risk assessment and support to disabled women; Creation and signing protocols on multi-sectoral cooperation in response to domestic violence at the local level in six (6) local communities (3 from HNC and 3 from region Bijeljina); Training of signatories of protocols for application of standards on multisectoral cooperation and support in application of those standards; Summary and presentation of work results to members of Safe Network, targeted governmental services and representatives of local authorities in the regions (Canton) of the project implementation. 	Access to quality services, monitoring the work of referral mechanisms and strengthening service providers' capacities. Working with police and justice sector to strengthen their role in the multisectoral response to domestic violence, focusing on risk assessment and risk management.	01 June 2019 – 31 December 2019
Sub-total		397 218.18					

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
Kosovo							
14	QKSGJ (Kosovar Gender Studies Center)	70 704.17	NA		KGSC was founded in 2002 and has since been contributing to gender mainstreaming; KGSC continuously makes efforts to achieve gender equality in Kosovo. It has been pioneering changes to the discriminatory system, social norms and double standards, and is very active in monitoring public institutions. The KGSC mission is to integrate gender-sensitive analysis, programmes, and policies in all sectors of Kosovar society by increasing gender awareness and focus on gender issues, developing gender studies and ensuring the inclusion of gender-sensitive policies through research, policy development, advocacy and lobbying.	Data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards violence against women	21 December 2017 – 21 June 2019
15	RROGRAEK (Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women Organizations of Kosovo – NRAWEOK)	56 134.88	Number of organizations benefiting is 11: “GAGA” Mitrovica Mundesia Mitrovica ZRAM Mitrovica Raba Voca Mitrovica ATO Vushtri MWAHR Mitrovica CECD Mitrovica The Ideas Partnership Prishtina Orhideja Prishtina Women’s Alliance for Integration Lipjan “ROMANE GJUVLJA KO ANGLUNO VEKO’Gracanica	11	The Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women Organizations of Kosovo (RROGRAEK) is a network that operates in the entire region of Kosovo, mainly focused in the areas and municipalities where Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities live. The Network is committed to helping and motivating all activists and organizations that strive to improve the position of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women and the ones that strive for peace and inter-ethnic dialogue in Kosovo and abroad. RROGRAEK was established in 2000 as an informal network of organizations and activists from all areas of Kosovo, supported and assisted by OSCE and KFOS women programmes in Kosovo. Despite the will and the desire of all network members to continue their activities after a series of trainings and meetings, the network stopped its activities and operations for a certain period of time. In December 2006, with the support of the UNIFEM (now UN WOMEN) office in Kosovo, in cooperation and supervision with the Kosovar Gender Studies Center, the network restarted its activities as a non-profit NGO with a clear action strategy. After the formal registration of the network in September 2007, with the help of the KGSC, it was institutionalized as a NGO. KGSC, in the framework of its project Building Capacities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women, with the support of UNIFEM Kosovo, organized a series of activities for the capacity-building of RROGRAEK staff. Initially, with the help of KGSC, the network developed its strategic plan for the 2008–2010 period and helped the consolidation of the staff and the creation of its Board. Finally, in 2011, again with the help of KGSC, NREWOK drafted another strategic plan and the spinoff strategy that helped RROGRAEK to act as an independent institution. Today, RROGRAEK has its own offices and has permanent staff who are engaged in different projects and activities.	Support prevention of early marriages in Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo.	21 December 2017 – 21 June 2019
16	LAWYERS ASSOCIATION NORMA	58 140.72	Number of organizations benefiting is 18: NGO Ruka Ruci, NGO KRCT, Kosovo Women Network, NGO Jeta-Vita, Kosovo Gender Study Center, NGO Gruja Hyjnore, NGO Liria, NGO Merita, NGO 7 Shtatori, NGO ALMA, Center for Women Wellbeing-Shelter in Peja, HANDIKOS, MEDICA-Gjakova, Safe House-Gjakove, Rrjeti Qeliza-Gjakove	17	Lawyers Association NORMA was founded in 1998 with the aim to raise awareness among Kosovo society on women's rights, support women's empowerment and gender equality, engage in law reform and support women in realizing their rights, while providing legal assistance and advice. For almost twenty years, NORMA has been at the forefront of gender equality efforts in Kosovo. It has realized more than 70 major projects involving different activities on legal and gender rights of women and minorities, inter-ethnic reconciliation, advocacy for gender rights and protection of vulnerable groups. NORMA has offered legal aid to more than 6,500 parties, from all types of communities. Most of these activities were held with women from ethnic minority backgrounds, but also with mixed groups, men and children in Kosovo municipalities and villages. NORMA has been an implementing partner of major international actors operating in Kosovo, including UN and EU agencies (UNIFEM, UNHCR, UNICEF, EAR, IOM, USAID, KFOS, etc.).	Capacity Development of CSOs on advocating for the the implementation of the National Strategy on Domestic Violence 2016-2020	21 December 2017 – 21 October 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
17	NGO AKTIV	56 831.40	Number of organizations benefiting is 14: NGO Liria, Gnjilane NGO Youth Gnjilane NGO Kolo srpskih sestara, Zubin Potok, Radio Kolašin, Zubin Potok Radio kontakt plus, North Mitrovica, NGO Žensko Pravo, North Mitrovica NGO ACDC, North Mitrovica, NGO Domovik, North Mitrovica, NGO WBA, North Mitrovica NGO Santa Marija, Zvečan, NGO Misija Ljudi Zvečan, NGO Egrave, Dragaš, NGO Center for Integration and Development, Dragaš Radio Shar, Dragaš In addition beneficiaries are Municipal authorities, primary schools, etc.	14	NGO AKTIV was founded in the divided city of Mitrovica. Since its inception in 2009, AKTIV has successfully implemented an array of projects and has become an active part of local civil society. It has cooperated with a number of both regional and international NGOs and has played a vital role in the political and social development of N. Kosovo. With a growing presence in the local community and with an expanding network of partners, AKTIV has been able to increase the scope and scale of its projects.	Capacity development of the coordination mechanisms for protection against GBV/DV for implementation of the local action plans to end domestic violence	21 December 2017 – 21 June 2019
18	KOSOVO WOMEN'S NETWORK	44 969.90	Number of organizations benefiting is 16: Qendra për Mbrojtjen e Grave dhe Fëmijëve Qendra për Mbrojtjen e Gruas dhe Fëmijës “Raba Voca”, Qendra për Mbrojtjen e të Drejtave të Gruas dhe Fëmijës LIRIA, Qendra për Mbrojtjen e Viktimave dhe Parandalimin e Trafikimit të qenieve njerëzore, Qendra për Mirëqenien e Gruas Qendra për Strehimin e Grave dhe Fëmijëve Shpresa dhe Shtëpitë e Fëmijëve “Kosovë” Shtëpia e Sigurtë Strehimorja në Ferizaj Strehimorja në Novobërdë, Medica Kosova, Medica Gjakova Qendra Kosovare për Rehabilitimin e Viktimave të Torturës, Qendra për Promovimin e të Drejtave të Grave	16	Established in 1996, KWN was originally an informal network of women's groups and organizations from various regions in Kosovo. Since its inception, KWN has developed into a network that advocates on behalf of Kosovar women, at the local, regional and international level. Representing the interests of its 141 members, including women's organizations of all ethnic groups from throughout Kosovo, KWN is a leader among civil society organizations in Kosovo and the region. KWN cooperates regularly with other women's groups in the region both informally and formally.	Increasing access to services for disadvantaged women in close cooperation with Ombudsman	31 December 2018 – 1 December 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
19	KOSOVALIVE	67 188.99	IT Company Cactus sh.a	1	Since its inception in 2000, KosovaLive has been working on gender equality, women and girls' empowerment, awareness-raising about domestic and sexual violence at the national and local levels and promoting regional dialogue. KosovaLive works as an agent of positive societal change through the provision of information and education to the public and enhancement of the professional capacities of youth, with a focus in social entrepreneurship, economic and social empowerment of girls and women. KosovaLive engages in informing and educating the public through media; economic and social empowerment of girls and women (gender and sexual equality); developing employment skills through trainings in the creative and media industries; and development of social entrepreneurship and design thinking, specifically in the media industry.	Development of national standardized on-line data system for tracking cases of survivors of violence	21 December 2017 – 21 November 2019
20	SHTEPJA E SIGURTE (SAFE HOUSE)	48 044.41	Number of organization benefiting is 7: Center for women and children wellbeing -Prishtine- Center for Protection of Women and Child "Raba Voca" Mitrovice, Shelter "LIRIA" Gjilan, Shelter for women wellbeing – Peja Strehimorja "LIRIA" Gjilan, Strehimorja "QSGF"-Prizren	7	Safe House is a shelter in Gjakova/Djakovica, which deals with cases of domestic and gender-based violence, specifically violence against mothers and their children. Safe House was one of the first shelters in Kosovo, functional since 2000 and registered since 2002. Safe House has supported around 1,500 cases, defending women's right to live without violence and to attain empowerment. Besides sheltering, Safe House has implemented many projects regarding prevention, direct support, reintegration, lobbying and advocacy, which are meant to support women in their reintegration. The mission of Safe House – Gjakova is the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children, promotion of gender equality through education, women's participation in decision-making, awareness in communities and institutions about gender equality, and generally building a democratic society.	Capacity development of service providers/shelters through training and coaching in line with Essential Services Guidelines	21 December 2017 – 21 June 2019
Sub-total		402 014.47					

N. Macedonia

21	CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY MAKING	19 580.21	NA	12	The Center for Research and Policy Making's mission is to promote good governance and development in North Macedonia on the basis of relevant, evidence-based policy research, capacity building and trainings, evaluations, analyses and surveys, without regard to and independent from the particular interests of any group of the society, either political, social or economic. Gender Equality is one of the organization's goals defined in the Statute of the Organization. CRPM has the following Programmes: Policy analysis, Researches, Trainings, Evaluations, School of Public Policy 'Mother Teresa'. Within the Program Researches, the organization has implemented over 100 research projects.	Data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards violence against women	02 January 2018 – 01 April 2018 (I phase); 01 September 2019 – 30 November 2019 (II phase);
22	EDUKATIVNO HUMANITARNA ORGANIZACIJA (Educational Humanitarian Organization – EHO)	55 040.88	Organization of women Strumica Macedonian Young Lawyers Association	8	Since its founding in 2003, EHO has focused on promoting gender equality, encouraging active citizenship and strengthening citizen participation in public policy in order to realize and protect human rights and monitoring the work of local authorities and law enforcement at the local and national levels. Since 2013, EHO has been authorized to provide free legal aid and is recorded in the Register of Associations of Citizens for previous legal aid in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Macedonia. The organization works with its registered office in Stip and two subsidiaries-branches in Skopje and Strumica. EHO has 15 years of continuous experience in providing free legal assistance to victims of domestic violence and violence against women. EHO also advocates for the rights and interests of women through the creation and improvement of social protection and legal regulation.	Integrated approach to protect women and girl survivors of violence against women, including domestic violence	2 January 2018 – 1 September 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
23	NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GENDER EQUALITY	29 053.46	Center for knowledge management	5	The National Council for Gender Equality (NCGE) is a network of local women's organizations. It was established in 1994 and brings together women from different ethnic, religious and social backgrounds. Its vision is towards gender equality, development and peace. Its mission is the promotion of women's rights, the elimination of all forms of women's discrimination and building a society with equal opportunities. The organization's goals are eliminating all forms of violence against women, increasing participation of women in decision making, increasing participation of women in the labour market and increasing participation of women in peace building and peace protection. NCGE has programming to prevent gender-based violence and to protect survivors, raise public awareness about the problem and improve provision of services and legislation related to gender-based violence. NCGE also provides an SOS line for victims of domestic violence.	Developing system of data recording of women survivors	2 April 2018 – 1 October 2019
24	The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia (MHC)	56 438.60	Organization of women Veles Organization of women Kumanovo	12	MHC was established in 1994 and is one of the most prominent organizations in the advocacy and defence of human rights in North Macedonia. For over 20 years, MHC has substantially contributed to the promotion and protection of human rights, including women's rights and the respect of democratic principles through monitoring, reporting, advocacy and providing free legal aid. The organization has experience in representing citizens whose rights have been violated in front of the European Court for Human Rights. The organization has strong team, capacity and experience in the area of anti-discrimination, protection of rights of marginalized groups of citizens and legal representation. Within its programme for the provision of free legal aid, MHC has a consistent track record of legal counselling and court representation of survivors of gender-based discrimination and gender-based violence. Furthermore, MHC has practical experience of working with international HR bodies and reporting to UN Treaty bodies. In 2013, the Organization coordinated the process for submission of reports for the Universal Periodic Review, which was prepared by 25 national CSOs.	Human rights-complaint mechanisms to claim women's rights (Optional Protocol to CEDAW) and address gender-based discrimination	2 January 2018 – 1 July 2019
25	HEALTH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION	58 701.51	NA	14	HERA is an NGO with more than 10 years of working experience in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including women's rights and gender equality. The organization has a proven record on working on gender-related issues and in providing services to survivors of domestic violence. Within its programme focusing on gender-based violence, HERA has established and is still running the First Family Centre, which for more than four years has provided specialist care services for survivors of domestic violence and has offered counselling to perpetrators. The Family Centre operates with official permission from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and receives financial support from the City of Skopje. In 2015, HERA, with support from UN Women, piloted the standardization of procedures and services of five CSO service providers for survivors of domestic violence. The organization has long-term experience in advocacy for improving the policy environment and accessibility of domestic violence services, and particularly advocacy in state financing of domestic violence services run by CSOs, as well as in standardization of specialist services at the minimum standards, as defined by the Istanbul Convention.	Technical assistance to address the gaps in provision of services in response to violence against women	28 March 2018 – 27 March 2019
26	MACEDONIAN WOMEN'S LOBBY (MWL)	28 942.90	Center for research and policy making (CRPM)	13	MWL is an NGO established in 2001. Its mission is to achieve gender equality in all social and public spheres by advocating at the national and local level. MWL unites multi-ethnic, cross-party and inter-faith coalitions of women, representing civil society, political parties, parliament, local authorities, trade unions, the media and individuals committed to improving the position of women in North Macedonia and in society in general. Its goals include promoting women's rights through integrating the gender concept in national and local policies; harmonizing the national legislation in line with the standards set in the international documents related to gender equality; increasing the participation of women in political and public life; increasing the participation of women in the economy; and increasing women's participation in peace processes and security.	Advocacy and expert level dialogue with the government and parliament to amend existing legislation in the field of gender-based violence and gender-based discrimination, in line with international standards and human rights mechanisms' recommendations (UPR, CEDAW, CAT, CERD, CCPR, CESC), EU Directives and the Istanbul Convention	29 December 2017 – 31 December 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
27	COALITION SEXUAL AND HEALTH (Coalition "Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities")	23 750.94	Women's Forum Tetovo	2	CSHRMC's mission is to promote respect of the fundamental human rights of marginalized communities, with focus on LGBTI persons, drug users, people living with HIV, sex workers and marginalized women. The Coalition focuses on advocacy, research and analysis, inclusion of the marginalized communities in the creation and implementation of the policies, education of all the relevant actors about the rights of marginalized communities, promotion of the cultural practices of the marginalized communities, as well as networking and building alliances with civil society. The main strategic goals of the organization are: promoting policies, laws and practices that will provide fair and equal treatment of marginalized communities; promoting inclusion and full participation of marginalized communities in the creation; implementing policies and services crucial for their health and rights; and building capacities of relevant stakeholders related to fundamental human rights of marginalized communities.	Scoping Study on gender-based violence in public spaces	29 December 2017 – 31 December 2019
28	ASSOCIATION NATIONAL ROMA CENTRUM	37 926.10	NGO Romano Vilo from Kochani; NGO ORM Bela Kula Kichevo; NGO Roma Perspective from Prilep; NGO Romano Nevo Dikibe from Veles;	5	National Roma Centrum (NRC) from Kumanovo, since its establishment in 2005, works on protection and promotion of the rights of Roma population in North Macedonia, as well as of all community groups who are living in social risk, i.e. poverty, facing discrimination, segregation or are vulnerable and living on the verge of social and economic marginalization. Organization's vision is to support the development of a society where all people are equal and have equal opportunities to enjoy their freedoms and rights. Organization's mission is through mobilization of people and empowerment and using rights-based, participatory approach and advocacy to support Roma and other people living in social risk to fulfill their fundamental rights and enjoy their freedoms as equal in the society. The National Roma Centrum (NRC) is among the first civil society organization (CSO) in the country which is registered in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) as an accredited CSO provider of free legal aid. The organization has long standing experience working on research and advocacy towards promotion of Roma right to education, anti-discrimination, social inclusion. In the field of gender equality, NRC provides free legal aid to victims of domestic violence and worked towards improving the access to reproductive health, precisely and specifically, to antenatal and postnatal health services for Roma women and socially and economically vulnerable women with the aim of decreasing the infant and maternal mortality. Additionally, since 2015, the organization has organized Buvoro camp, intended for young Roma girls with the aim of their empowerment, inspire them for making social changes, and building their capacities in the field of journalists and filming and photography.	Support of Roma women to identify their needs, claim their rights and increase their access to services for survivors of violence	29 December 2017 – 31 December 2019
29	Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA)	59 294.84	Educational Humanitarian Organization (EHO)	1	The Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) is an independent, non-profit professional organization funded in 2003, which provides legal aid and strategically litigates to protect human rights. Equipped with the knowledge and innovative capacities of young lawyers, MYLA promotes the rule of law and influences policy through research and advocacy. MYLA's vision: MYLA is leading organization and reliable actor in the society, which protects human rights and advocates for rule of law using the innovativeness and the capacities of the young lawyers. MYLA's four strategic priorities are: legal strengthening and protection of human rights and needs; promotion of the rule of law principle and harmonizing the national policies with the EU legislation; improving the quality of the services that state institutions provide to the citizens, and strengthening the professionalism, expertise and integrity of the young lawyers. The organization focuses on the following three programs: 1. Legal aid (the organization provides free legal aid among others to victims of human trafficking, victims of human rights violations, victims of discrimination, victims of violence); 2. Legal education 3. Research, policy and advocacy The organization have a proven track record of work on gender equality: The organization has implemented a project with OXFAM Italy, DIFD and UN WOMEN on Rapid Emergency Teams for supporting migrants with the aspect of gender sensitive outreach, including legal assistance and psychological support to women and girl refugees. Throughout the past years, MYLA has published the following documents focusing on gender issues: Closed borders: Program report on the influence that the act of closing the borders has over the refugees and migrants with special focus on women and children; Analysis: Access to justice for women; Manual: Gender aspects of providing protection to refugees and migrants in the Republic of Macedonia; During 2018 and 2019, an exhibition "Femigracii" showing the understanding of female artists of the migration process of female migrants and refugees was organized and shown in several cities throughout North Macedonia.	Community outreach and awareness raising campaign aiming at increasing youth and public awareness about gender based violence and discrimination in six municipalities: Kichevo, Kumanovo, Shtip, Shuto Orizari, Tetovo and Karposh.	29 December 2017 – 31 December 2019
Sub-total		368 729.45					

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
Montenegro							
30	NGO Women's Rights Center	16 598.62	NA	1	NGO Women's Rights Center cover three core areas of work. The first is monitoring human rights as women's rights: reporting, advocacy and proactive communication with national and EU institutions, UN, CoE and of the relevant international agencies/bodies. Further to this, they support services for women whom have experienced gender-based violence and discrimination, including the provision of initial counselling, free psychological counselling, support of the confidential persons and free legal representation (with a particular focus on providing women's access to justice). Lastly, they provide cultural activities, with the aim of promoting women's creativity and the economic empowerment of their beneficiaries through participation in product-based creative workshops.	To advocate for stronger accountability of local and national authorities to implement Istanbul Convention and CEDAW recommendations	October 2017 – December 2018
31	NGO Women's Rights Center	3 059.23	NA (these 4 NGOs that jointly prepared the GREVIO are already listed as separate grant beneficiaries)	0	"NGO Women's Rights Center cover three core areas of work. The first is monitoring human rights as women's rights: reporting, advocacy and proactive communication with national and EU institutions, UN, CoE and of the relevant international agencies/bodies. Further to this, they support services for women whom have experienced gender-based violence and discrimination, including the provision of initial counselling, free psychological counselling, support of the confidential persons and free legal representation (with a particular focus on providing women's access to justice). Lastly, they provide cultural activities, with the aim of promoting women's creativity and the economic empowerment of their beneficiaries through participation in product-based creative workshops.	Development of GREVIO shadow report by the NGO network in Montenegro, to be considered during the process of GREVIO assessment of the progress of implementation of Istanbul Convention in Montenegro during October and November	June 2017 – November 2017
32	NGO IKRE	7 997.30	NGO Bona Fide, Pljevlja	2	NGO IKRE is local NGO from a northern Montenegrin municipality of Rozaje. They have many years of experience in provision of legal support to women in need for starting their own business, support in divorce procedures and domestic violence cases, and in general on advancing the situation of women rights, promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in their community.	To advocate for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW in the municipality of Rožaje through educational and promotional campaign, so the public awareness can be raised about the importance of the stopping violence and discrimination against women in Rožaje and Northern municipalities in Montenegro. The main activity of the project will be campaign "Let's stop violence against women in Rožaje"	15 November 2018 – 30 June 2019
33	Center for Roma Initiatives	8 305.95	RAE Women's Network-First	2	Established in September 2004, the Center for Roma Initiatives (CRI) was the first female Roma and Egyptian organization. It has a unique goal of creating opportunities for improving the social, economic, political and cultural-educational status of Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegrin society. The organization has implemented more than 70 projects in the field of domestic violence, child marriage, education of Roma and Egyptian children, health protection and economic empowerment of RE women at the national and local levels. CRI works directly with the RE community through home visits, educational workshops, forum theatre, trainings, campaigns and cooperates with other Roma and non-Roma organizations as well as with institutions to improve the position of women and children from the Roma and Egyptian populations.	Organizing and creating workshops involving Roma and women NGOs, media and human rights advocates, followed by a local community campaign on the topic of early and forced marriages.	October 2017 – June 2018

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
34	Women's Safe House	10 040.43	NA	1	Women's Safe House Montenegro work to ensure comprehensive support to women and children victims of domestic violence in Montenegro, through the provision of shelter services, counseling, psychological and legal assistance. Further to this, they work with a view to improve the status of women and children victims of domestic violence in Montenegro through working to develop the legal framework surrounding women, and monitoring its implementation. Lastly, they are continuously raising public awareness of relevant stakeholders through promotions and campaigns about the rights of women and the prospect of life without violence, raising awareness of young people on such matters through the education of young high school students.	Awareness raising through a song and video for the song UNBREAKABLE (16 days of activism campaign)	24 September 2018 – 20 December 2018
35	NGO Nova-Center for Feminist Culture	9 028.32	NA	1	NGO NOVA was founded in 2007 with goal to empower women to take part in public life, by fighting gender-stereotypes in the media, culture and education (research, publications, workshops, conferences), and creating new representations of women through contemporary cultural practice (artistic and theoretic projects, artists networking etc). Since 2013, NGO NOVA mostly implements projects relating to the initiative for founding Montenegrin Women's Museum. Since then, the organization focused its activities on the protection of women's cultural and historical heritage in line with UNESCO conventions and policies that treat this heritage as essential factor of sustainable development, but empowering women and fighting for gender equality.	Preparation of publication and digital exhibition "Women's Movement in Post-Socialism Montenegro – Map of the Road Passed Through"	15 October 2018 – June 2019
36	NGO SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Podgorica	13 016.73	NGO SOS telephone Ulcinj, NGO SOS telephone Bijelo Polje, NGO SOS telephone Plav, NGO SOS telephone Berane	5	SOS Podgorica is a national NGO that has 20 years of experience in non-formal education and gender-related programmes. The organization's main goals include eliminating all types of violence and discrimination against women and children through educational programmes, providing help and support to survivors of violence and cooperating with governmental institutions through initiation of law amendments regarding violence against women and its adequate enforcement in practice. Key areas of the organization's activities include support services to women and children survivors of violence; legal aid and legislation; programme of research and monitoring; educational programme; public policies; interdisciplinary cooperation; publishing; and public promotion.	Capacity development interventions for women's groups capacity development as service providers	16 October 2017 – 15 October 2018
37	SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic	9 006.20	NA	1	SOS Niksic is recognized as one of the leading NGOs in Montenegro in the fight for women's rights. SOS Niksic owns office space and a 570-square metre shelter facility. The organization has implemented more than 100 projects. SOS Niksic is coordinating the recently established National SOS Helpline for domestic violence in Montenegro. SOS Niksic, through Protection Programme, provides support for women survivors through a national around-the-clock helpline; food; care; free legal, psychological and attorney service; and free accommodation. The organization is a licensed organizer of adult education by the Ministry for Education for multiple groups of socially marginalized women.	Capacity development interventions for women's groups capacity development as service providers	16 October 2017 – 15 August 2018
38	NGO Montenegrin Women's Lobby	10 374.09	NGO Rose	2	Montenegrin Women's Lobby is an NGO that runs a national Shelter for victims of human trafficking, which is their central mandate. In parallel to that, their work is also focused on raising awareness about violence against women, its consequences individually and for the entire society through educational programmes and media campaigns, strengthening the personality of individuals and empowering groups that suffered or suffer violence through workshops and self-help groups; working on the prevention and gradual elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children; working with women and children from marginalized groups including Roma and Egyptians; working with women and children who have refugee status; educational and preventive programmes on sexual harassment and blackmailing in school, at university and in the workplace; working on trafficking prevention and education and providing assistance and support to survivors of sex-trafficking.	Capacity development interventions for women's groups capacity development as service providers	16 October 2017 – 15 December 2018
39	Women's Safe House	9 770.94	N/A (already reported under Objective 2)		Women's Safe House Montenegro work to ensure comprehensive support to women and children victims of domestic violence in Montenegro, through the provision of shelter services, counseling, psychological and legal assistance. Further to this, they work with a view to improve the status of women and children victims of domestic violence in Montenegro through working to develop the legal framework surrounding women, and monitoring its implementation. Lastly, they are continuously raising public awareness of relevant stakeholders through promotions and campaigns about the rights of women and the prospect of life without violence, raising awareness of young people on such matters through the education of young high school students.	Capacity development interventions for women's groups capacity development as service providers	November 2018 – June 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
40	NGO Montenegrin Women`s Lobby	9 221.45			Montenegrin Women`s Lobby is an NGO that runs a national Shelter for victims of human trafficking, which is their central mandate. In parallel to that, their work is also focused on raising awareness about violence against women, its consequences individually and for the entire society through educational programmes and media campaigns, strengthening the personality of individuals and empowering groups that suffered or suffer violence through workshops and self-help groups; working on the prevention and gradual elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children; working with women and children from marginalized groups including Roma and Egyptians; working with women and children who have refugee status; educational and preventive programmes on sexual harassment and blackmailing in school, at university and in the workplace; working on trafficking prevention and education and providing assistance and support to survivors of sex-trafficking.	Capacity development interventions for women's groups capacity development as service providers – Meeting requirements for social services licensing	14 November 2018 – 30 June 2019
41	NGO Montenegrin Women`s Lobby	23 125.53			same as above	same as above	27 May 2019 – 22 December 2019
42	NGO Center for Roma Initiatives	7 976.24			Established in September 2004, the Center for Roma Initiatives (CRI) was the first female Roma and Egyptian organization. It has a unique goal of creating opportunities for improving the social, economic, political and cultural-educational status of Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegrin society. The organization has implemented more than 70 projects in the field of domestic violence, child marriage, education of Roma and Egyptian children, health protection and economic empowerment of RE women at the national and local levels. CRI works directly with the RE community through home visits, educational workshops, forum theatre, trainings, campaigns and cooperates with other Roma and non-Roma organizations as well as with institutions to improve the position of women and children from the Roma and Egyptian populations.	Preparation and strengthening organization for opening crisis center for victims of child contracted marriages. Strengthen the capacity of women's organizations to provide specialist support services to victims of all forms of violence in accordance with the standards contained in the CEDAW and Istanbul Convention, including women from minority or vulnerable groups.	November 2018 – December 2019
43	NGO IKRE	30 225.52			NGO IKRE is local NGO from a northern Montenegrin municipality of Rožaje. They have many years of experience in provision of legal support to women in need for starting their own business, support in divorce procedures and domestic violence cases, and in general on advancing the situation of women rights, promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in their community.	Advocating for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW in the municipality of Rožaje through educational and promotional campaigns, so the public awareness can be raised about the importance of the stopping violence and discrimination against women in Rožaje and Northern municipalities in Montenegro. The main activity of the project will be campaign "Let's stop violence against women in Rožaje "	27 May 2019 – 22 December 2019
44	NGO Integritet	16 095.17			NGO "Integrity" is comprised of a group of experts in different fields dealing with gender – based violence. Their focus is on eliminating violence against women and violence in society in general by raising the awareness of residents in Albanian-inhabited areas through the organization of numerous educational meetings in cooperation with relevant municipal and educational institutions which will affect further prevention of violence in Tuz, Ulcinj and Kraje.	NGO Integritet is aiming and advocating to increase the awareness of Albanian women against violence and inform them on how they can protect themselves from the negative impact of society and focus only on the positive values of society	October 2019 – December 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
45	NGO KSENA	15 837.75			NGO KSENA is young organisation established in Herceg Novi, municipality at the border line with Croatia and the only women's group working on VAW in Boka Kotorska Bay. KSENA gathered groups teams of local feminists, social workers, young volunteers and very enthusiastically started their work on VAW in three streams of activities.	Empowerment and capacity development of the NGO KSENA was one of the important strategic goals, acknowledging that geographical spreading of support services needs to be strengthened	September 2019 – January 2020
46	NGO Regina Jelena	9 777.34			NGO Regina Jelena was formed with the goal to influence society and support creation of social environment in which women can thrive and implement initiatives that support, advance, retain and reward women's leadership is not only the right thing to do, but it is a smart and strategic approach to women's empowerment.	Advocacy and fostering a culture of women's empowerment and through examples of inspiring women in Montenegro clear the path for talented and dynamic women leaders to rise to the top	November 2019 – January 2020
47	SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic	14 165.16			SOS Niksic is recognized as one of the leading NGOs in Montenegro in the fight for women's rights. SOS Niksic owns office space and a 570-square metre shelter facility. The organization has implemented more than 100 projects. SOS Niksic is coordinating the recently established National SOS Helpline for domestic violence in Montenegro. SOS Niksic, through Protection Programme, provides support for women survivors through a national around-the-clock helpline; food; care; free legal, psychological and attorney service; and free accommodation. The organization is a licensed organizer of adult education by the Ministry for Education for multiple groups of socially marginalized women.	Capacity development interventions for women's groups capacity development as service providers	November 2018 – December 2019
48	SOS Telephone for Women and Children Victims of Violence-Plav	4 098.16			SOS Telephone for Women and Children Victims of Violence in Plav has been a non-governmental organization working on the prevention of all forms of violence in our municipality for 20 years.	Raising awareness of the population in northern region and rural areas of Montenegro and improving the protection and empowerment of women victims of violence	August 2019 – December 2019
49	NGO SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Podgorica	15 449.74			SOS Podgorica is a national NGO that has 20 years of experience in non-formal education and gender-related programmes. The organization's main goals include eliminating all types of violence and discrimination against women and children through educational programmes, providing help and support to survivors of violence and cooperating with governmental institutions through initiation of law amendments regarding violence against women and its adequate enforcement in practice. Key areas of the organization's activities include support services to women and children survivors of violence; legal aid and legislation; programme of research and monitoring; educational programme; public policies; interdisciplinary cooperation; publishing; and public promotion.	Creating a favorable environment for women's CSOs to provide sustainable social services and to effect on the development of customer-oriented services	January 2019 – October 2019
50	NGO Women's Rights Center	10 869.80			NGO Women's Rights Center cover three core areas of work. The first is monitoring human rights as women's rights: reporting, advocacy and proactive communication with national and EU institutions, UN, CoE and of the relevant international agencies/bodies. Further to this, they support services for women whom have experienced gender-based violence and discrimination, including the provision of initial counselling, free psychological counselling, support of the confidential persons and free legal representation (with a particular focus on providing women's access to justice). Lastly, they provide cultural activities, with the aim of promoting women's creativity and the economic empowerment of their beneficiaries through participation in product-based creative workshops.	Capacity development interventions for women's groups capacity development as service providers	February 2019 – October 2019
Sub-total		254 039.65					

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
Serbia							
51	FENOMENA UDRUZENJE (Association Fenomena)	43 772.84	NA	1	Association Fenomena is established in 2003 and formally registered in 2006. Since the establishment, the organization works continuously towards reduction of gender-based discrimination and domestic violence. CSO Fenomena is focused on providing social and legal support services for women survivors and introduced innovative service providers' capacity building programs. Over years, CSO enabled gender equality policy improvements and supported work of Women against Violence Network, by being the regional coordinating organization for South-Western Serbia and representative in European anti-violence network as a focal point for Serbia in WAVE. Fenomena's representative is also WAVE Advisory board expert and founding member of 'Urgent action' group.	Development and Implementation of a Strategic Communication Programme for Achieving Specific Behavioral Results with regard to reducing Violence against Women in Serbia	26 December 2018 – 25 December 2019
52	VIKTIMOLOSKO DRUSTVO SRBIJE VDS (Victimology Society of Serbia)	27 864.24	NA	1	The Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental membership organization established in 1997, that aims to contribute to the field of victimology, improving the position of victims of crime, war and human rights violations, and increasing the protection of victims' rights regardless of their gender, religion, ethnicity, and other factors. VDS's mandate includes policy-oriented and feminist researches, drafting of laws and advocacy, victim support, awareness raising, and educational activities. VDS aims to use its research to create viable policy solutions for Serbian law makers in the field of victim's rights. It uses its research for evidence-based advocacy for reforms of legislation, policy and practice regarding victims of gender-based violence and discrimination, and to better promote and protect their rights.	Advocacy/dialogue with the relevant government institutions and independent government bodies mandated to work on gender equality and anti-discrimination, on gender-based discrimination and harmful stereotypes, particularly against Roma and rural communities	18 December 2018 – 18 December 2019
53	UDRUZENJE ZENA PESCANIK (Association of Women Sandglass – Pescanik)	29 727.17	Oaza Sigurnosti (Kragujevac), Women for Peace (Leskovac), Romani cikna (Krusevac), W as woman (Aleksandrovac) Kaliopa (Brus), Una (Cicevac)	7	Association of Women Sandglass (Pescanik) is established in 2000 as an activist organization that aims to contribute to the improvement of the situation of women. The work of the association is twofold: 1) empowerment of women and 2) public advocacy for social changes. CSO initiated the establishment of the network of women's rights defenders in the Rasina district (central Serbia). Through the networks of Women Against Violence and Women in Black, the organization is active at the national level in Serbia.	Development of initiatives aiming at empowering women living in rural areas and other women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination	18 December 2018 – 18 December 2019
54	SECONS Development Group Initiative	17 050.45	NA	1	SeConS Development Initiative Group is an independent think-tank organization, established with the aim of contributing to long-term socioeconomic development and the improvement of living conditions of individuals and social groups in Serbia and the region. To date, SeConS has conducted more than 50 research projects (both quantitative and qualitative) and published 49 publications, identifying necessary policy improvements in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment, socio-economic development, poverty reduction and social inclusion of vulnerable groups, youth, human security, local development, employment and migration. SeConS has a long-lasting engagement in the field of gender equality and has cooperated with numerous organizations (governmental and non-governmental) in Serbia and in the region. Most notably, SeConS has worked on development of integrated mechanisms on both local and national level for gender mainstreaming and gender equality. Furthermore, SeConS has also been involved in research on violence against women. Both in Serbia and BiH, SeConS was the first to map violence against women on representative samples. On the policy level, SeConS experts have participated in the preparation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for economic empowerment of rural women in AP Vojvodina and in Montenegro, as well as in the preparation of plans for strengthening particularly vulnerable groups by for instance developing the Action Plan for economic strengthening of Roma women in Pirot.	Data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards violence against women	21 December 2017 – 21 March 2018 (I phase) 1 October 2019 – 30 November 2019 (II phase)
55	GENDER KNOWLEDGE HUB	33 941.27	Association FemPlatz (Pancevo), Women Research Center (Nis)	3	Gender Knowledge Hub (GKH), as a lead organization, is established in 2016, and works on ending discrimination and violence against women through gender mainstreaming of programmes and targeted actions. Members of GKH are recognized as national experts in the field of gender equality and are actively involved in the work of Women's Platform for Development of Serbia, informal network aimed at fostering development from gender perspective. Partner organization to the project are: 1. NGO FemPlatz, grounded on the principles of protection against discrimination and realization of women's rights, with a special focus on the marginalized groups, and 2. Women's Research Center for Education and Communication (WRC) with proven record in conducting research on practice of the police and judiciary in processing criminal acts of gender-based violence.	Introduction of the Femicide Review Investigation, an internal state investigation of the Institutions and Service Providers for Women Victims of Violence	18 June 2018 – 17 June 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
56	MREZA SOS VOJVODINA (SOS Network of Vojvodina)	59 739.47	Center for Support to Women (Kikinda) ...iz kruga Vojvodina (Novi Sad), 3. SOS Women's center (Novi Sad) Women's alternative (Sombor); Association of Roma (Novi Becej) Zrenjanin Educational Center (Zrenjanin)	6	SOS Network Vojvodina consists of five women's organizations from the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina: Centre for Support of Women (Kikinda), as a lead organization, ...iz kruga – Vojvodina (Novi Sad), SOS Women's Center (Novi Sad), Roma Association of Novi Becej – SOS telephone in national minority languages (Novi Becej) and Zrenjanin Educational Center (Zrenjanin). All member organizations have extensive experience in the field of gender equality, women's human rights and gender-based violence. The Network was established in 2012 and officially registered in the Serbian Business Registry since 2016. Also, SOS Vojvodina Network is a member and participates in the work of Women Against Violence Network, other networks and alliances in this field and has very good cooperation and communication with other organizations from Serbia, the region and the EU. Apart from a well-developed associate CSO network, the Network has established cooperation with institutions relevant in the field from local, to provincial and finally national levels, as well as successful communication and cooperation with international organizations working in Serbia and the EU. A thing that specifically emphasizes the strength of this network is the fact that two member organizations are specialized in rights of women with disabilities and Roma women's rights.	Support CSOs/networks of women's civil society organizations to monitor and report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW through GREVIO Shadow Report and CEDAW Shadow Report	21 December 2017 – 20 May 2019
57	IZ KRUGA – VOJVODINA	58 698.37	NA	1	...iz kruga – Vojvodina is a women's NGO, founded with the missions to provide professional services and information about the status and rights of women with disabilities in Vojvodina and to create equal opportunities for their participation in society. ...iz kruga – Vojvodina is a member of the regional Balkan Independent Network of Persons with Disabilities, the Serbia Network of Women against Violence, the Provincial Alliance of the Association 'SOS Vojvodina Network' and the Novi Sad local Operative Network for the Protection of Women and Children against Domestic Violence – ZORA. The goal of the organization is to make violence and discrimination against women with disabilities visible; to raise social awareness about the needs and multiple discriminations against women with disabilities and the relations between gender and disability; and to ensure that basic civil and human rights of women with disabilities are implemented. IZ KRUGA – VOJVODINA has developed cooperation with people with disabilities NGOs as well as with women's NGOs providing services to women experiencing violence as organization is recognized member of women's and person with disabilities' movements in Serbia. Also, organization actively cooperate with local government, mechanism for gender equality and institutions dealing with gender based violence in Novi Sad which can be a good starting point for developing equally good cooperation with institutions in other municipalities. IZ KRUGA – VOJVODINA also have a solid cooperation with relevant provincial and national governmental bodies.	Strengthening the provision of services to women and girls survivors of violence, specifically to marginalized groups of women, such as women with disabilities and to survivors of rape and sexual assault	21 December 2017 – 20 November 2019
58	ZENSKI PROSTOR (Women Space)	34 994.09	NGO Women Center Bibija	2	Women Space is an activist organization that aims to empower women from marginalized social groups and contribute to a society of social justice and equality. Since its 1998 establishment, Women Space has been working mostly on empowerment of Roma women at the local, national and international levels. Moreover, Women Space is an initiator and co-founder of the Roma Women Network in Serbia and member of Roma Women Network steering committee. In the previous decade, they initiated a variety of projects that enabled Roma women organizations to report to CEDAW Committee on specific positions of Roma women, organized advocacy initiatives to monitor implementation of the CEDAW Committee recommendations and implemented programmes to increase capacities of grass-root Roma organizations to become agents of change in their local communities and strengthen the position of Roma women in the settlements.	Capacity Development Programme for the Roma Women Network in Serbia	21 December 2017 – 20 February 2019
59	CENTAR MODERNIH VESTINA – UDRUZENJE GRADA (Center for Modern Skills)	17 544.82	NA	1	Center for Modern Skills is working on changing the society by investing in socially engaged women and men through programs of non-formal education and public advocacy. The organization is focused on improving communication-based knowledge and skills and the special attention is given to adoption of social democratic values and policies. Throughout years, CMS is one of the leading organizations in the area of communications and advocacy and constantly raises cross-cutting issues of gender equality and women's rights. The organization is well recognized for implementing many important programmes and campaigns which main goals were enhancing women's participation in decision-making processes, greater involvement of women in political processes, combating violence against women and raising women's capacities to engage in public affairs and hold jobs outside of homes.	Development and Implementation of a Strategic Communication Programme for Achieving Specific Behavioral Results with regard to reducing Violence against Women in Serbia	5 April 2019 – 31 December 2019
Sub-total		323 332.73					

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
Turkey							
60	HAYATA DESTEK DERNEGI (Support to Life)	48 003.47	NA	1	<p>Support to Life (STL) is a humanitarian aid agency founded with the principal objective of working with communities to help them meet their basic needs and rights. STL is involved in humanitarian assistance, protection of displaced populations and the resilience of disaster-affected communities, concentrating on the needs of children, youth, women and the most vulnerable. The main programme areas of STL include relief aid, cash assistance, food security, psycho-social support, education, capacity building, livelihoods support and the overall promotion of participatory approaches to humanitarian assistance and protection work.</p> <p>STL has been carrying out operations for Syrian refugees since 2012. It currently manages three Community Centres (in Hatay, Sanliurfa and Istanbul) and eight case offices (in Istanbul, Diyarbakir, Mardin, Hatay, Sanliurfa, Adana, Mersin, Kayseri). STL carries out its work in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence and accountability. STL protection teams provide information on rights, obligations, national legislation and procedures. Its services are available in languages understood by the beneficiaries. STL Project teams also support information campaigns run by the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of National Education (MoNE), and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) through activities including the provision of translation, logistics and the dissemination of brochures.</p>	Awareness-raising among refugee and migrant women on how to access justice services	7 February 2018 – 6 August 2018
61	KADAV-KADINLARLA DAYANISMA VAKFI (Women's Solidary Foundation)	41 177.91	NA	1	<p>KADAV is a women's NGO that aims to contribute to the struggle for gender equality in two key areas: combating gender-based violence and supporting women's economic empowerment in Turkey. It was founded in 1999 (officially in 2001) in Istanbul with the aim of supporting women and children affected by the Marmara Earthquake that happened in northwest of Turkey in August 1999. KADAV provided both psychosocial and economic empowerment activities. As of September 2017, KADAV is UNHCR Turkey's implementing partner for protection activities addressing Syrian refugee needs in the scope of gender-based violence.</p>	Capacity Development Programme for Women's Civil Society Organizations in Turkey	18 December 2017– 17 April 2019
62	KADIN CALISMALARI DERNEGI (Women's Studies Association – WSA)	58 170.10	NA	1	<p>The Women Studies Association (WSA) was founded on 11 December 2011 in Ankara with a broad mandate, including advocacy and empowerment of women occupying relatively disadvantaged positions in Turkey. WSA is member of Women's Coalition, Women's Labour and Employment Initiative Platform, and Checks and Balances Network.</p>	Communication and outreach initiatives to change gender discriminatory social norms and attitudes towards and among the refugee population in Turkey	15 December 2017 – 28 February 2019
63	KADIN DAYANISMA VAKFI (Foundation for Women's Solidarity – FWS)	62 824.85	Mardin Women Cooperation Association (MOKID) Adana Women's Solidarity Centre (AKDAM)	3	<p>The Foundation for Women's Solidarity (FWS) is an independent women's organization dedicated to fighting all types of violence against women, especially domestic violence and trafficking of women, since 1991. The FWS opened Turkey's first independent Women's Counselling Centre (WCC) in 1991 in cooperation with Altındağ Municipality in Ankara. In 1993, it opened Turkey's first independent violence against women shelter in cooperation with the same municipality. The WCC supports survivors of violence against women by providing them with free social, legal and psychological counselling. FWS is the only women's CSO that operates such a centre in Ankara. In 2005, FWS opened a shelter for trafficked women in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality. Their shelter was one of the three shelters that served trafficked women in Turkey between 2005 and 2016.</p>	Foster civil society organizations' dialogue with key local institutions to address gender-based discrimination and violence against women among refugee populations	18 December 2017 – 17 April 2019
64	KADIN DAYANISMA VAKFI (Foundation for Women's Solidarity – FWS)	61 961.33	NA	1	<p>The Foundation for Women's Solidarity (FWS) is an independent women's organization dedicated to fighting all types of violence against women, especially domestic violence and trafficking of women, since 1991. The FWS opened Turkey's first independent Women's Counselling Centre (WCC) in 1991 in cooperation with Altındağ Municipality in Ankara. In 1993, it opened Turkey's first independent violence against women shelter in cooperation with the same municipality. The WCC supports survivors of violence against women by providing them with free social, legal and psychological counselling. FWS is the only women's CSO that operates such a centre in Ankara. In 2005, FWS opened a shelter for trafficked women in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality. Their shelter was one of the three shelters that served trafficked women in Turkey between 2005 and 2016.</p>	Promoting the right of women to receive information about general and specialist support services available for women victims of violence and discrimination, as well as their right to access these services	7 May 2019 – 31 December 2019

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
65	KAPASITE GELISTIRME DERNEGI (KAGED) (Capacity Development Association)	49 273.06	Foundation for Women's Solidarity	1	KAGED was set up in 2006 as a legal entity of the Human Rights Joint Platform (IHOP), a network of human rights organizations in Turkey. Since its establishment in 2006, KAGED/IHOP has continued its work towards the realization of four fundamental goals: consolidating the culture of collaborative work and solidarity among civil society organizations active in the field of human rights; facilitating access to the universal knowledge produced in the field of human rights; contributing to the consolidation of the knowledge and ability of human rights defenders and organizations; and contributing to strengthening an environment that is respectful to principles of human rights and the rule of law in Turkey. In collaboration with member organizations and rights-based organizations, KAGED works towards institutionalizing human rights in Turkey (the National Human Rights Institution, Equality Institution, etc.). KAGED has also carried out various educational, reporting, analysis and defence activities in many human rights fields, including children's rights, disability rights, gender equality, justice, impunity and the protection of human rights' defenders. With regards to violence against women, between 2010 and 2015 KAGED has worked with Bar Associations to strengthen the capacities of the Women Rights Commissions in Şanlıurfa, Batman, Van and Mardin.	Strengthening the capacities of providers of services for women survivors of violence	15 December 2017 – 30 March 2019
66	MOTHER CHILD EDUCATION FOUNDATION (ACEV)	57 491.41	NA	1	AÇEV has an expertise in the field of men and boys engagement. AÇEV recognizes that gender inequality and poverty are among the most prominent obstacles to ensure that every child deserves an equal start in life. In 2010, AÇEV began to integrate gender equality in all its programs. Based on the premise that healthy child development, father involvement and gender equality are fundamentally linked, AÇEV maintains its strong commitment to address these issues in a holistic manner. Through fatherhood intervention, ACEV follows a strategy of using fatherhood as an accessible and transformational period in men's lives where multi-layered change can happen starting in the home environment. Besides of interventions aiming changes on the individual level through Father Support Program, in the recent years AÇEV has started to concentrate its advocacy efforts on the creation of an enabling environment to alter gender stereotyped attitudes and unequal gender roles.	Implementing innovative strategies that contribute to communities' greater understanding of favourable attitudes and behaviours towards gender equality and ending violence against women	5 April 2019 – 31 December 2019
67	TURK KADINLAR BIRLIGI (Turkish Women Union -TWU)	52 864.51	The Executive Committee for CSO Forum on CEDAW: The Association for Supporting Women Candidates – Ankara Branch, Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association, Foundation for Women's Solidarity, Women's Labor and Initiative Platform, Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation, Association for Monitoring Gender Equality, Association for Women with Disabilities, Home-based Working Women's Group, Women's Studies Association, Women for Women's Human Rights – New Ways Association, Independent Women's Newspaper (KAZETE), Turkish Association of University Women, Capital City Women's Platform	14	The Turkish Women's Union (TWU – Türk Kadınlar Birliği), established in 1924, is Turkey's oldest women's organization, with branches in 80 provinces around the country. The Union focuses on areas of education, legislation, violence against women and awareness-raising to promote gender equality. Over the years, TWU has played an active role in many different programmes and committees, both for advocacy and in collaboration with various government bodies. Some of the most recent innovative and impactful contributions to legislative change have led to an amendment to Article 10 of the Turkish Constitution regarding the equality of men and women (2004) and Law No: 6284 on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence against Women (2012). Since 2005, TWU has been acting as the secretariat of the Executive Committee for CSO Forums on CEDAW, which has been preparing shadow reports for presentation to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Executive Committee is a coalition of 14 independent and gender equality-focused women's CSOs and LGBT organizations working regionally and nationally. The Executive Committee is the only national platform working with the CEDAW Convention as a main tool for change in Turkey.	Follow-up by CSOs networks/ platforms for the implementation of Istanbul Convention and CEDAW Concluding Observations on the Seventh Periodic Report of Turkey	1 November 2017 – 31 August 2018

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
68	UCAN SUPURGE KADIN ILETISIM VE ARASTIRMA (Flying Broom Women's Communication and Research Association)	68 220.30	NA	1	The Flying Broom Women's Communication and Research Association has been one of the leading organizations working in the field of women and gender studies in Turkey over the last 20 years. Flying Broom's experience in the field of data collection and research includes the project Child Brides: Destructive Traditions and Victims of Patriarchal Social Heritage undertaken from 2010 to 2012 with the support of Sabancı Foundation in 54 cities.	Data collection on gender stereotypes and public perceptions of gender roles and attitudes towards violence against women	24 January 2018 – 30 December 2019
Sub-total		499 986.95					

Regional

69	IMKAAN	121 891.58	NA	40	Imkaan is a London based Black and 'minority ethnic' women's (BME) organization. As a second-tier human rights organization, with national membership, Imkaan provides a coordinated strategic voice for thirty-eight BME specialist services that work to prevent and respond to violence against Black and 'minority ethnic' women and girls. The organization holds nearly two decades of experience of working around issues such as domestic violence, forced marriage and 'honour-based' violence. Imkaan works on intersectionality at the local, national and international levels within a clear rights-based agenda and in partnership with a range of organizations to improve policy and practice responses to minoritized women and girls. Imkaan also delivers a unique package of support that includes: quality assurance; accredited training and peer education; sustainability support to frontline BME organizations; and facilitation of space for community engagement and development. Our research activities support the ongoing development of a robust evidence base around the needs and aspirations of BME women and girls, as well as promising practice approaches to addressing violence.	Establishment of Regional Expert Working Group on Intersectional and Multiple Forms of Discrimination in the context of violence against women in six Western Balkan countries and Turkey	30 August 2017 – 30 April 2018
70	BIBIJA ROMSKI ZENSKI CENTAR (Bibija Roma Women's Centre)	98 389.51	NGO Otaharin, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Roma Women and Youth Association "LULUDI", FYR Macedonia; and NGO Young Roma, Montenegro	4	BIBIJA Roma Women's Centre was established in 1998 and is composed of Roma and non-Roma women activists. BIBIJA wrote alternative and shadow reports regarding conventions ratified by the Republic of Serbia on Roma and minority women's rights, such as the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia, and in partnership with other NGOs BIBIJA submitted shadow reports to CEDAW Committee in 2007 and 2013 regarding Roma women's rights. BIBIJA also provided data on the health of Roma women in Serbia and on violations of health care in the framework of these shadow reports. By using the data provided, CEDAW Committee recommended Serbian government that Roma women's living and health conditions shall be improved. BIBIJA is also involved in the implementation of the 2005-2015 Decade of Roma Inclusion.	Support the establishment and or strengthening of Roma and pro-Roma women's rights civil society networks and platforms	6 July 2018 – 5 July 2019
71	WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE (WAVE)	171 703.97	Albania: Albanian Women Empowerment Network, Gender Alliance for Development Centre, Woman to Woman. Bosnia & Herzegovina: Foundation United Women Banja Luka. Kosovo: Women's Wellness Centre. Macedonia: National Network to end VAW and DV – Voice against Violence. Montenegro: SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic. Serbia: Association Fenomena/SOS Kraljevo. TURKEY: Kadin Dayanisma Vakfi-The Foundation for Women's Solidarity	10	The WAVE Network reaches out to over 1,000 organizations (many of which are national and regional networks) in both EU and non-EU countries in order to strengthen the cause for eliminating violence against women — particularly vulnerable groups of women — and to support women's specialist support services. In addition to formal membership, WAVE also cooperates closely with European networks and organizations that support survivors of violence, such as the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), European Family Justice Centre Alliance (EFJCA), UN Women, Work with Perpetrators European Network (WWP EN) and European Women's Lobby (EWL). For over twenty years, WAVE has been actively involved in lobbying, networking and building the capacities of specialist women's support services, including promoting the development of regional and local networks of women's organizations for enhanced data collection and policy change. The Istanbul Convention and CEDAW are placed at the centre of most of WAVE's work. In May 2017, WAVE hosted a training with WAVE Members from countries that have ratified the Istanbul Convention in order to train women's organizations on how to write GREVIO shadow reports and support the effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Furthermore, WAVE joined the European Coalition with civil society organizations to lobby for the EU signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention.	Support the establishment and strengthening of regional platforms of civil society organizations (with special focus on organizations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups) to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention	2 October 2017 – 1 October 2018

No	CSO	Budget (EUR)	Partner organization(s)	Organisations covered	Field of expertise	Activity/Project	Period/Duration
72	European Women's Lobby (EWL)	59 036.37	NA	25	The European Women's Lobby (EWL) brings together the women's movement in Europe to influence the general public and European institutions in support of women's human rights and equality between women and men. The EWL is the largest European umbrella network of women's associations representing a total of more than 2,000 organizations in all EU Member States and three Candidate Countries (North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey), as well as 19 European-wide organizations representing the diversity of women and girls in Europe. The EWL is a credible source of expertise and experience on equality between women and men and women's rights, representing the diversity of the women's movement across the European Union. EWL represents an inclusive, confident, loud, independent feminist voice and brings real women's voices into the EU political arena. EWL acts as a catalyst connecting different actors and organizations to bring change at EU level.	Regional Forum for the Promotion and Monitoring Progress of the Implementation of Istanbul Convention in six Western Balkan countries and Turkey	20 December 2017 – 19 December 2018
73	CENTER OF WOMEN'S RIGHT (CWR)	109 807.23	Center for Social Research Analitika	2	Center of Women's Rights (CWR) was established in 1996 in Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide assistance to women in the post war. Over the last 20 years, over 40,000 women have received free legal aid. Center for Women's Rights has extensive experience in monitoring of the judiciary – courts and prosecutors – in the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence cases. Since 2011, Center for Women's rights has been active in trial monitoring of criminal proceedings of sexual and gender-based violence. The organization has also been active in legislation monitoring related to gender equality, non-discrimination of women and the fight against violence. The Center also conducted research and produced a study in the domain of the formal education at five faculties of law. Center for Women's Rights is the first Bosnian organization that has received the trust of the highest judicial body in Bosnia and Herzegovina to monitor the work of judicial institutions, to contribute to justice system reform, and to strengthen cooperation between civil society and state institutions to restore public confidence in the justice system.	Action oriented advocacy research to inform key stakeholders efforts to end gender-based discrimination and violence against women	1 July 2018 – 28 February 2019
74	YASAMA DAIR VAKFI (YADA FOUNDATION)	59 905.27	NA	1	The YADA Foundation was established by a group of social scientists, project management and implementation specialists in 2005 with the mission of designing and implementing projects to minimize the gap between 'theory' and 'actual life'. It aims to produce knowledge regarding the various aspects of social life and convert this knowledge into sustainable and applicable projects. Since 2005, YADA has designed and conducted research, implemented and monitored evaluation projects, focusing on civil society, environment, youth, active living, development, culture and agriculture. The Research Department is experienced in developing, designing, and conducting desk and field research. YADA has completed over 50 researches and studies in 10 years all over Turkey and has prepared guidebooks, reports, white papers, tool kits, etc. to contribute to policy and strategy development of NGOs, governmental and international organizations, and corporations. YADA has proven capability and capacity in the processes of research (designing, data collection, analysis and reporting) and use of qualitative, quantitative and hybrid methodologies, content and/or discourse analysis, comparative and relational techniques, cognitive mapping, monitoring methods, etc. YADA applies various implementing techniques while managing projects such as workshops, conferences, stakeholder analysis, activity developing, discussion and negotiation setting, strategic planning, trainings, consultancy, risk and crisis management, etc. Also, YADA's projects within the last 10 years prove that the Foundation has conducted several projects on women's economic empowerment and capacity development with UN Women and other reputable parties such as Swedish Consulate, EU Delegation, AÇEV, UNICEF etc.	Assessment of Advocacy Initiatives and Tools for Changing Gender Discriminatory Social Norms and Attitudes	15 October 2017 – 14 April 2018
Sub-total		620 733.93					
GRAND TOTAL – PCAs		3 207 151.61					