

Project Title: Institutionalizing Quality Rehabilitation and Reintegration Services for Violence Survivors II

Project Overview

This project enhances access to quality services for GBV survivors in the Western Balkans by strengthening professional capacities, advocating for systemic changes, and empowering civil society. Through training programs, coaching, and the provision of SOS helplines, legal aid, and psychological support, it ensures survivors receive comprehensive assistance. Advocacy initiatives promote survivors' autonomy, push for institutionalized rehabilitation services, and campaign for better state budget allocations and policy implementation. Additionally, networking, monitoring, and knowledge-sharing activities empower civil society organizations to collaborate effectively and drive sustainable change. These efforts align with the Istanbul Convention, fostering improved support systems, survivor empowerment, and long-term impact in the region.

Problem Statement

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a pervasive issue in the Western Balkans, affecting women across all demographics, with marginalized groups such as women with disabilities and Roma women facing heightened vulnerabilities. Despite existing legal protections, the implementation and coordination of services remain inadequate, leaving survivors without consistent access to essential support such as legal aid, counselling, shelter, and economic reintegration. Social services across the region are underfunded and poorly managed, with many governments relying on under-resourced civil society organizations to fill critical gaps. Case management is weak, often failing to address the complex needs of survivors, while professionals lack institutionalized training in trauma-informed and victim-centred approaches. Structural barriers, societal stigma, and inadequate policy enforcement further hinder survivors from reporting violence or accessing help. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges, intensifying service inaccessibility and deepening inequalities. Without urgent, systemic interventions, survivors will continue to face significant obstacles to safety, justice, and recovery.

Expected Impact and Results

Impact			
Achieving comprehensive access to quality services for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors in the Western Balkans (WB), in alignment with the Istanbul Convention (IC).			
Outcome			
Survivors of GBV will benefit from better-funded ¹ and improved-quality services.			
Output 1 Improve the capacities of service providers to provide quality services for survivors of GBV.	Output 2 Women who have suffered GBV become more autonomous.	Output 3 Recommendations for the institutionalization, establishment, and sufficient funding of missing rehabilitation and integration services submitted to decision-makers.	Output 4 WB Women’s Civil Society Organizations, including their local network members, are empowered, more knowledgeable, and more influential via regional networking and cooperation.

Target Audience/ Beneficiaries

- Women Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Children Witnessing or Experiencing Violence
- Local and National Decision-Makers
- Institutions Responsible for GBV Support and Local government structures (municipalities)
- Women’s Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Media

¹ While it cannot fully achieve it, this can contribute to long-term impact related to SDG indicator 5c1 on the institutionalisation of gender-responsive budgeting related to this sector.



Main activities

Capacity Building for Professionals

- **Training and Coaching** professionals in institutions and CSOs in each Western Balkans (WB) country; Providing on-the-job coaching for public and private professionals in each WB country.
- Conduct end-line analysis of beneficiary satisfaction with social work and referral mechanism services in each country.

Service Provision for GBV Survivor

- Provide SOS helpline counselling services.
- Offer free legal aid services.
- Deliver psychological support services through face-to-face sessions.

Grants and Licensing

- Implement sub-granting schemes for specialized service providers.
- Develop a regional policy brief for licensing specialized services for GBV and domestic violence (VAW/DV).
- Analyse the effectiveness of legal and psychological support and femicide cases.

Research, Monitoring, and Advocacy

- Analysis of the 2023 state budget support to service providers, especially Women’s Civil Society Organizations’ specialized services for survivors of GBV (each partner) and research costing GBV services.
- Prepare monitoring reports on the implementation of legal frameworks, GREVIO recommendations, and policy obligations.

Awareness Campaigns and Advocacy

- Launch campaigns against GBV, promoting research findings and recommendations.
- Conduct advocacy meetings with decision-makers and parliamentarians.
- Forge partnerships with media outlets to raise awareness about GBV issues and rehabilitation services.

Networking and Regional Collaboration

- Joint meetings and activities
- Facilitate support for GBV cases across borders.

Country / Region: Western Balkan (WB) countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia

Partners

- **Albania:** Gender Alliance for Development Centre (GADC)
- **Albania:** Albanian Women’s Empowerment Network (AWEN)
- **Kosovo:** Kosovo Women’s Network (KWN)
- **Serbia:** Autonomous Women’s Centre (AWC)
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Foundation United Women (FUW)
- **North Macedonia:** National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (NNVWDV)
- **Montenegro:** Women’s Rights Centre (WRC)

Planned project execution period: 01.07.2024 - 30.06.2027

Project budget (total)	Requested grant Austrian Development Agency	Contribution in cash by the applicant
100%	90 %	10%
EUR 1.756.400	EUR 1,580,760	EUR 175,640

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