

**‘Empowering professional and refugee communities to detect,  
identify, address and prevent sexual and gender - based  
violence in Greece’**

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**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR MAPPING GENDER  
VIOLENCE IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES**

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## **1. Introduction**

Sexual and gender-based violence (S) GBV is a widespread public health problem and a major human rights rooted in gender and power inequalities. Asylum-seekers, migrants and refugees residing in reception facilities and urban accommodation scheme in Greece are especially vulnerable to sexual and gender - based violence. Information provided by UNHCR and NGOs working in the field suggest that the number of incidents is large, that many incidents are not reported and, most importantly, that a significant number of reported incidents are not and/or cannot be adequately managed.

Physical and/or sexual violence is an acute problem in refugee populations, where women, children and other vulnerable groups (LGBTI) are exposed to increased risks of gender-based violence (WHO). SGBV is a horizontal issue of concern both at entry points and refugee camps but also in the context of the 'new' urban accommodation structures and schemes in the course of implementation (UNHCR scheme and the EC Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodation' ESTIA programme) that supports refugees and asylum seekers and their families to rent urban accommodation.

The project 'Empowering professional and refugee communities to detect, identify, address and prevent sexual and gender based violence in Greece' (EMPOWER\_REF) aspires to contribute to the following objectives:

- To improve knowledge and understanding of the qualitative features of sexual and gender based violence within the refugee population in Greece
- To increase the capacity of 120-150 professionals and case workers in camps and the new accommodation scheme to detect, identify, address and prevent SGBV
- To improve cooperation and networking within professionals in the field to develop an integrated approach towards SGBV
- To improve awareness within the refugee community on SGBV and to empower individuals to act as multipliers

## **2. Research objectives**

Research is one of the components the EMPOWER. The research element aims at a systematic and accurate evidence on the SGBV phenomenon within the refugee camps and the ESTIA programme in Greece. More specifically, the research will map, through the experience of professionals working in the field, the current situation in terms of forms, context and available tools and remedies for identifying, managing and preventing violence. Additionally, it will identify the capacity and the needs of professionals to detect, identify, address and prevent incidents of violence in practice. The research will cover the period from 2015 until today.



### **3. Research methodology**

The research involves desktop and empirical research in accommodation camps and locations where the ESTIA project is implemented.

#### **3.1 Desktop research**

The objective of the desktop report is to collect, present and analyse available quantitative data in order to map the phenomenon on SGBV within the refugee population in Greece residing in camps and in urban accommodation schemes.

The desktop report will include:

- Quantitative and statistical data on the status of refugee population in camps, urban accommodation schemes or other hospitality providers (for example accommodation structures and hostels of the Secretariat for Gender Equality etc)
- Available data and studies on SGBV within the refugee population in camps and in other accommodation structures
- Existing protocols, manuals or other interventions aimed at detecting, identifying, addressing and preventing incidents of violence
- Existing interventions or initiatives to empower or raise awareness within the refugee community and victims or survivors of SGBV on SGBV
- Training and capacity building programmes on SGBV targeting either professionals working in the field or the refugee population
- Other national research projects that have been implemented or are still being implemented on SGBV issues

#### **3.2 Fieldwork research**

The objective of the fieldwork research is to deepen the understanding of the qualitative aspects of sexual and gender based violence in the refugee population residing in Greece as well as to examine the service providers' knowledge on gender and SGBV issues, their capacity to detect and identify relevant cases and their case management skills. Furthermore, the existence of any preventive measures along with the service providers' knowledge on such available measures will be recorded.

The fieldwork research will include a total of 30 semi-structured interviews with professionals working with refugees and migrants at local level, (i.e. entry points of Greece, mainland and urban context). More specifically, 15 interviews will be conducted with professionals working in refugee camps and 15 interviews with case workers of the ESTIA programme. All interviews will use a thematic guide and will be audio-recorded, under the consent of the interviewees. Data collection will be also utilized for preparing and conducting a tailored made set of educational modules based on identified needs.



### 3.2.1. Sample

The interviewees will be selected from service providers in the camps working closely with vulnerable groups such as women, children and young boys and will belong in the following categories: protection officers, case managers, child protection officers, case workers and health professionals (doctors, psychologists, nurses etc). Regarding the ESTIA accommodation scheme the interviews will be targeted to case workers who are in charge of providing services (such as staff of the Municipalities and of the social services of the Municipalities who are in charge of the ESTIA project). The interviewees will share their experience on the situation in these locations as of 2015 focusing mainly on population from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Sub-Saharan Africa (Nigeria, Soudan, and Democratic Republic of Congo). In order for the interviewees to be identified, the research team will inform NGOs operating in accommodation structures (PRAKSIS, ILIAHTIDA, DIOTIMA, A21, MSF, MDM, DRC, Solidarity now) relevant international organisations and institutions (IOM, UNHCR) Municipalities where the ESTIA programme is being implemented (Thessaloniki, Heraklion, Karditsa, Trikala, Ioannina, Tripoli, Chania, Lesvos) as well as national authorities (National Centre for Social Solidarity and the General Secretariat for Gender Equality).

### 3.2.2. Geographical coverage

The research will cover both the mainland and the islands of Greece. Namely, research will be conducted in Refugee and Migrant Hosting and Reception Facilities in the following areas:

- Inofita
- Malakasa
- Thiva
- Schisto
- Ritsona
- Eleonas
- Koutsochero
- Thermopiles
- Kavala
- Drama
- Serres
- Katsikas
- Kara Tepe
- Diavata
- Chios

Furthermore, the research will be conducted in 9 of the Municipalities where the ESTIA accommodation project is implemented and specifically in the following cities:

- Athens
- Piraeus
- Thessaloniki
- Tripoli
- Karditsa
- Irakleio



#### 4. Structure of the mapping report

- I. Introduction
- II. Status of refugee population in camps, urban accommodation schemes or other hospitality providers
- III. Sexual and gender-based violence within the refugee population in camps and in other accommodation structures (statistic data, existing protocols, training programmes, research projects etc)
- IV. The view of the professionals in the camps
  - a. Experience on SGBV
  - b. Identification of SGBV incidents
  - c. Management of the phenomenon
  - d. Prevention mechanisms and measures
  - e. Training needs
- V. The view of the professionals in the ESTIA programme
  - a. Experience on SGBV
  - b. Identification of SGBV incidents
  - c. Management of the phenomenon
  - d. Prevention mechanisms and measures
  - e. Training needs
- VI. Synthesis: good practices, gaps and challenges

#### 5. Timetable

The data collection and analysis will be implemented during the first semester of the project implementation. Specifically, during the first month the methodology will be developed, then the desktop research and fieldwork research will take place (months 2 to 5) and finally the results and main findings will be mapped in the report which will be finalized during month 6. The time framework of the above mentioned activities are presented in the table below.

<b>Workpackage 2: - Mapping the current status of gender violence in refugee camps and new accommodation scheme</b>									
<b>Activities</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEPT</b>
A2.1: Development of methodology									
A2.2: Collect and analyse qualitative data									
A2.3 Report on mapping results and recommendations									



## ANNEX I

### INTERVIEW GUIDE



## INTERVIEW GUIDE

### **PROJECT TITLE: Empower Refugees, - “Empowering professional and refugee communities to detect, identify, address and prevent sexual and gender - based violence in Greece”**

*This survey is conducted by the Centre for European Constitutional Law – Themistokles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation (CECL), Medecins du Monde – Greek Delegation (MdM) and General Secretariat for Gender Equity (GSGE) as part of the project ‘Empower Refugees’. The project aims to map and to enhance local and national capacities to assist and support survivors of gender based violence within accommodation and reception structures for refugees and asylum seekers.*

*The survey aims to collect information on the ways in which gender based violence is identified, managed and prevented by frontline professionals. Based on this information appropriate tools and capacity building seminars will be designed and implemented. The information will be collected through semi-structured interviews with 30 frontline professionals working in different locations around the country.*

*The present interview guide aims to collect information on qualitative aspects of SGBV in the refugee accommodation sites and in UNHCR’s ESTIA -rented housing- project in Greece. IN particular the questionnaire aims to map the lived experience of professionals in:*

- *Experience and incidents of GBV (sexual harassment and abuse, domestic violence & intimate partner violence (IPV).*
- *Ways to identify GBV cases*
- *GBV case management*
- *Needs for Training on GBV issues*

*You have been invited to participate in this research because you have been identified as a professional that may involved with several ways in the assistance of GBV survivors and mitigation of GBV in the aforementioned facilities. Your participation in this research is voluntary and you may choose not to participate.*

#### Profile of the interviewees:

The group of the interviewees will be composed of professionals working in reception camps and whose job description involves dealing with GBV cases (case workers, social workers, psychologists, GBV focal points assigned as such by the several actors) as well as with the professionals working in ESTIA project.

Date of the interview :

Place of the interview :

Name of interviewer :

#### **Demographic Data**

##### **PART 1: EXPERIENCE ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

1.1 Please introduce yourself and explain your background, work post and experience

- Name:



- Gender:
- Age:
- Organisation where he/she works :
- Position in the Organisation :
- Background (ειδικότητα):
- Years of experience:

1.2 Have you encountered violence (sexual violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence) in your work with the refugee population?

1.3 Can you give us 1-2 typical examples?

1.4. From your experience, how frequent or common are incidents of sexual violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence in the place where you work?

1.5. What are their characteristics?

1.6. What circumstances play an important role for incidents of violence?

1.7. How important are in your opinion

- The structure of the accommodation facility?
- The structure of the rooms/containers?
- The closeness of sleeping and sanitary facilities?
- Lighting?
- Security?
- Do the people feel safe/comfortable going to the toilets during the night?

1.8. What are the features of the perpetrators? (gender, age, relation to the GBV survivor victim, residence status, he/she acted alone or in group)

1.9. What are the features of the GBV survivors?

## **PART 2: IDENTIFICATION OF GBV CASES**

2.1 How do you identify incidents of violence? Can you please describe what you do and give an example?

2.2. What kind of behaviors may indicate the occurrence of violence in potential GBV survivors or potential perpetrators?

2.3. What other indicators (beyond individual behavior) do you take into account?

2.4. What kind of action do you take if you suspect the occurrence of violence?

2.5. What kind of challenges do you encounter?

2.6. How do you deal with them?

## **PART 3: MANAGEMENT OF GBV CASES**

3.1 If an incident of violence is positively identified, what do you do? How did you manage the case? Can you give an example?



3.2 Who do you collaborate with?

3.3. How do you document the incident?

3.4. How do you approach/deal with the GBV survivor?

3.5. How do you deal with the perpetrator?

3.6. What challenges/problems do you face (eg - other actors, the GBV survivors, the community etc)

3.7. How do you deal with them?

3.8. What kind of tools or support do you have when dealing with such incidents?

#### **PART 4: PREVENTION OF GBV**

4.1. Is prevention of incidents of violence possible in your opinion? How? Please name the three factors that you consider most important.

4.2. Which is, in your opinion, your role in the prevention of GBV cases?

4.3. How can the refugee community contribute to preventing GBV? What kind of actions would be necessary?

4.4 Do you think that awareness raising of the community regarding GBV is an issue? What can be done towards this direction?

#### **PART 5: TRAINING NEEDS ON GBV**

5.1 Have you received any training regarding GBV? Please describe the nature, scope and content of the training

5.2. What are the skills you consider most essential for identifying, managing and preventing BGV?

5.3. Do you think that you/your colleagues have the appropriate **skills** to deal with GBV? What skills do you need?

5.4. What kind of **tools or guidance** do you have when dealing with GBV? Please describe the nature and scope of the available tools (provide copies or samples if available)

5.5. How do you evaluate the available tools? Are they adequate? What works well? What is missing? What could be done better?

5.6. What would be helpful to improve your capacity to identify, manage or revert incidents of GBV?

**Thank you very much for your collaboration!**



ANNEX II

CONSENT FORM



## CONSENT FORM

I agree to participate in the interview carried out by ..... for the purpose of conducting research on “**Empower Refugees, - “Empowering professional and refugee communities to detect, identify, address and prevent sexual and gender - based violence in Greece”**”. The project is implemented by the Centre for European Constitutional Law in cooperation the Doctors of the World (Mdm Greece) and the General Secretariat for Gender Equality- Hellenic Ministry of Interior with the financial support of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union.

I understand that statements from this interview may be used, referencing my general characteristics, occupation and country, but not my name or any other personal information (including my specific title), in publications of this research project.

I also understand that I have the right to refuse to participate in this interview, that I have the right to access, rectify and to request the deletion of any of my personal data that I have provided during this interview at any time.

I understand that the information I provide in this interview will only be used by the ..... (name of organisation) for the above purpose, and is being collected today by [NAME OF INTERVIEWER and responsible organisation]. I also understand that [NAME OF INTERVIEWER and responsible organisation] will transmit this information to the EU confidentially and will not copy, store or transmit it for any other purpose than this.

I agree to audio record the interview. The recording is only made for the purpose of data collection presented above. The information, as below and the (audio recorded) information you will provide through your participation in this research project, will be kept by the responsible organisation for a maximum of 48 months from this date. The information will be kept in a secure environment according to national and Community legislation in force. After this period, the information will be destroyed.

### **Researcher**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place (including country): \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature and date, agreeing to the above personal data being will be used as set out above:**

\_\_\_\_\_ --/ --/ --

### **Participant**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place (including country): \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature and date, agreeing to the above personal data being will be used as set out above:**

\_\_\_\_\_ --/ --/ --

