



## General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality

# Report

*of the Final Informational and Public Dialogue Event webinar of the project "EMPOWER\_REF: Empowering professional and refugee communities to detect, identify, address and prevent sexual and gender-based violence in Greece"*

The Final Informational and Public Dialogue Event webinar of the project “EMPOWER\_REF: Empowering professional and refugee communities to detect, identify, address and prevent sexual and gender-based violence in Greece” took place on 23 October 2020.

FINAL WEBINAR INFO & PUBLIC DIALOGUE EVENT

«Empowering professional and refugee communities to detect, identify, address and prevent **sexual and gender based violence in Greece**»



AGENDA

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2020 | 11:00 - 13:30 | <https://empowerref.gr/>

<b>11:00 - 11:15</b>	<p><b>OPENING OF EVENT AND CO-ORDINATION</b></p> <p><i>Vassiliki Saini, MSc, Officer Department of Social Protection and Facing Multiple Discriminations, General Secretariat for Gender Equality and Family Policy</i></p> <p><b>OPENING REMARKS</b></p> <p><i>Maria Syrengela, Secretary General for Family Policy and Gender Equality</i></p> <p><i>Athanasia Xepapadaku, Vice-President of the Research Centre for Gender Equality, KETHI</i></p> <p><i>Chara Tziouvara, President of Board of Directors, Doctors of the World</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Maria Mousmouti, Executive Director, Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL)</i></p>
<b>11:15 - 12:15 SESSION 1 Studying the phenomenon of sexual and gender based violence</b>	
<b>11:15 - 11:30</b>	<p><i>Beatrice Giannoglou, Project Manager, Research Associate, Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL), «Presentation of Project EMPOWER»</i></p>
<b>11:30 - 11:45</b>	<p><i>Anastasios Yfantis, Head of Research Team, Operations Director, Doctors of the World, «Study on mapping the methods for tracking, handling and preventing sexual and gender based violence in Greece. Research findings, challenges and good practices»</i></p>
<b>11:45 - 12:00</b>	<p><i>Elli Xenou, Project Coordinator, Senior Programs and Advocacy Officer, Doctors of the World, «Building the capacity of frontline professionals. Assessing / Evaluating training actions and presentation of training tools»</i></p>
<b>12:00 - 12:15</b>	<b>Q &amp; As</b>
<b>12:15 - 13:15 SESSION 2 The institutional approach on the phenomenon of sexual and gender based violence. Challenges and next steps</b>	
<b>12:15 - 12:30</b>	<p><i>Angeliki Papazoglou, Sociologist, MSc, Head of the Directorate for Social Protection and Counselling Services, General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, GSFPGE «Policies and actions of GSFPGE for the prevention and fight violence against women»</i></p>
<b>12:30 - 12:45</b>	<p><i>Eirini Kyriaki, Political Scientist, Member of the Team for the Scientific Coordination, Research Centre for Gender Equality, KETHI, «The response of GSFPGE and KETHI during Covid-19 pandemic»</i></p>
<b>12:45 - 13:00</b>	<p><b>INTERVENTIONS</b></p> <p><i>Maggie Andromachi Lazaridi, Report Person for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Gender Based Violence, International Organization for Migration (IOM)</i></p> <p><i>Anastasia (Tatiana) Papapanastasiou, Protection Partner, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</i></p>
<b>13:00 - 13:15</b>	<b>Q &amp; As</b>
<b>13:15 - 13:30</b>	<p><b>CLOSING REMARKS</b></p> <p><i>Vassiliki Saini, MSc, Officer Department of Social Protection and Facing Multiple Discriminations, General Secretariat for Gender Equality and Family Policy</i></p>



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**167** individuals registered to the webinar, from whom **114** were the active viewers, according to the Eventora platform.

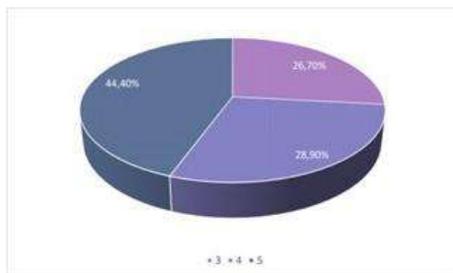
The viewers were social scientists, social workers, project managers, case workers, psychologists, lawyers, police officers, cultural mediators, legal experts, health professionals and programme coordinators.

The viewers were called to fill an evaluation form with the following questions included:

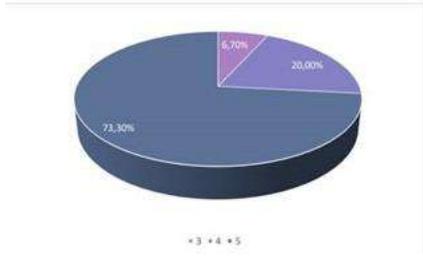
1. Generally, are you satisfied by the provided information of the event?
2. Does the particular project within your field of interest?
3. Did you find the deliverables and the content of the presentations useful?
4. Do you think that the results of the project could be useful to your work or to a potential future research of yours?
5. How much was your knowledge on the institutional framework of gender-based violence was enhanced by the event?
6. How much your understanding on the management of gender-based violence cases against refugee women by different actors was improved?
7. Was the duration of the event satisfactory?
8. Would you be interested in future relevant initiatives?

It used a scale from 1 to 5 for the scoring, where the 1=lower scoring and 5=higher scoring.

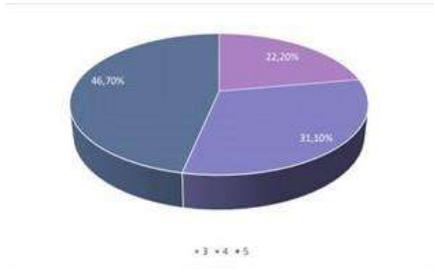
According to the results of the evaluation in the first question 44,40% declared totally satisfied.



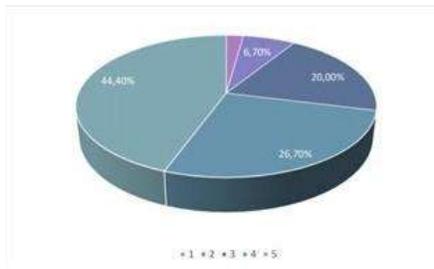
In the second question **73,30%** declared that was totally satisfied.



In the third question **46,70%** replied that was totally satisfied.



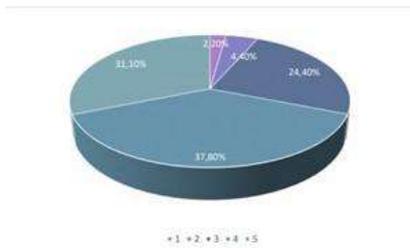
In the fourth question **44,40%** replied that was somewhat satisfied



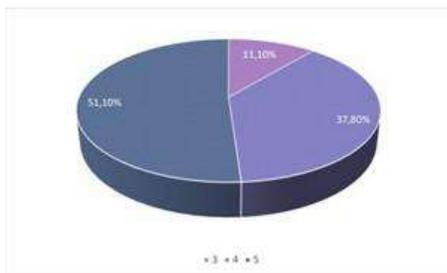
In the fifth question **35,60%** responded that was somewhat satisfied



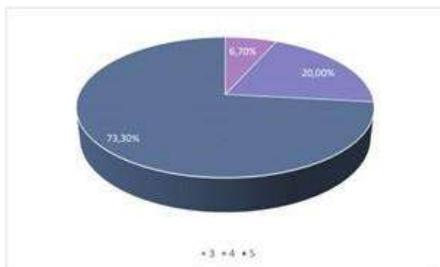
In the sixth question **37,80%** replied that was somewhat satisfied



In the seventh question **51,10%** responded that was totally satisfied.



In the eighth question **73,30%** replied that was totally satisfied.



### **Minutes of the event**

The Final Informational and Public Dialogue Event webinar of the project “EMPOWER\_REF: Empowering professional and refugee communities to detect, identify, address and prevent sexual and gender-based violence in Greece” took place on 23 October 2020.

The moderator Ms Vassiliki Saini presented the general outline to the online audience and gave them instructions on the way they could address the question through the eventora platform. Additionally, she informed the audience about the necessity to fill the evaluation form. Then she gave the floor to the General Secretary of Family Planning and Gender Equality Ms Maria Syreggela, for the opening welcome speech. Ms Syreggela spoke about the phenomenon of sexual and gender-based violence and how it negatively affects the lives of women in general and refugee women in particular, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown period. Additionally, she developed a short description of the project and the partnerships. Following her welcome speech, Ms Athanasia Xepapadakou, Vice president of the Research Center for Gender Equality-KETHI, presented the mandate and the objectives of the Centre. In the following welcome speech by Dr Chara Tziouvara, President of the NGO *Médecins du Monde* spoke about the vulnerable groups in the refugee population that are subjected to gender-based violence either

in first and second refugee facilities or during their journey, namely primarily women, and then children and LGBTQI+ persons. She also informed the public that in the premises and facilities of *Médecins du Monde* victims of gender-based violence have found refuge. The section of welcome speeches closed with the short speech by Ms Beatrice Giannoglou from the Centre for the European Constitutional Law. Ms Giannoglou came in place of Dr Maria Mousmouti, executive director from the Centre for the European Constitutional Law, who was unavailable to join the event due to personal reasons.

The first part of the online event was dedicated to the Study of the phenomenon of Sexual and Gender-based violence against refugees in Greece. All speakers acknowledged that even though sexual and gender-based violence might impinge on every gender, women are being affected disproportionately. As a result, the research and implemented interventions described in the project focused on refugee women and their children.

The first speaker represented the Leader of the project, namely the Centre for the European Constitutional Law, and it was Ms Beatrice Giannoglou, Project Manager and Research Associate of the project. Ms Giannoglou presented an overview of the project. The key objectives of the projects were

- 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 caseworkers 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.

Within the frame of capacity building of frontline professionals in refugee camps and the ESTIA programme, the Centre for the European Constitutional Law developed a training material namely a manual on integrated procedures for gender violence identification and case

management in the refugee population, which they have to disseminate. One way to fulfil this obligation is through the implementation of the provided ten training workshops on frontline professionals working with the refugee population in different areas in Greece. Nine of the workshops have already completed (four in physical space and five online, because of COVID-19 lockdown) and the trainees were social workers, psychologists, health professionals, police officers, interpreters, caseworkers, NGOs staff, lawyers and legal counsellors working with the refugee population. The last one is going to focus on the capacity building of the trainers, and it has to be completed by the end of 2020 according to the terms of the project. The total number of the nine completed workshops was 120 individuals. Another way to disseminate the developed manual is through the Centre's webpage. Evaluation of the training module is another deliverable that must have been completed by the end of 2020. Ms Giannoglou also informed the audience about the onset of pilot community empowerment work discussions. The first one will take place on 6 -11-2020. Additionally, distribution of informational leaflets on sexual and gender-based violence translated in nine languages is going to start the following period. For further or/and more detailed information, someone may visit the website of the project, namely [www.empowerref.gr](http://www.empowerref.gr) .

The following speaker was Mr Anastasios Yfantis from the *Medecins du Monde*. Mr Yfantis' presentation focused on the study of mapping the methods for tracking, handling, and preventing sexual and gender-based violence in Greece, its results, challenges and effective practices. Mr Yfantis started by introducing to the audience the methodology that was applied to conduct the research study on mapping the current status of sexual and gender-based violence against refugee women and their children in refugee facilities. The first step was the archive analysis towards the issue. The next step was to conduct structured interviews with frontline professionals, caseworkers (new accommodation scheme) in six Regions of Greece, namely the Region of Attica, Region of Central Greece, Central Macedonia, Region of Thessaly, Region of Epirus and Region of North Aegean. The results of the study were:

- Limited access to training on sexual and gender-based violence to frontline professionals,
- Systemic problems,

- Difficulty in the implementation of a holistic approach.

Regarding their educational needs, frontline professionals expressed the need to be trained in the following topics:

- On sexual and gender-based violence and on the legal and policy framework that fights this form of violence against women.
- On the cultural diversity and cultures norms and beliefs in different refugee ethnic groups relevant to sexual and gender-based violence against women.
- On the development of a network of professionals working against sexual and gender-based violence against women.
- On the development of specialised tools.

The recommendations that were drafted based on the findings were the following:

- Development of a regulatory framework in the refugee facilities.
- Regulation of cultural mediation
- Implementation of tailor-made training
- Active involvement of the refugee population in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence against refugee women.
- Participation of all genders in the dialogue on the phenomenon of sexual and gender-based violence against the refugee population.
- Development of specialised tools for the refugee population.

Mr Yfantis closed his presentation, stressing the importance of continuation of the Protocol of Cooperation of GSPLGE to protect refugee women victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

The next speaker was Ms Elli Xenou, project coordinator from the *Médecins du Monde*. Her presentation focused on the capacity building workshops of frontline professionals through the implemented tools. She started by delineating the structure of the training workshops. The basic findings and results of this process can be summarized in the following key points:

The findings from the field confirmed the literature review findings relevant to this form of violence.

- Lack of clarity on the procedures followed by NGO in the field.
- Communication with state authorities faces challenges.
- Sexist stereotypes are deep-rooted.
- Sexist bias is not easy to be distinguished.
- Gap from knowledge to action.
- Survivors have their own stories to tell.
- Security always comes first.

After the completion of Ms Xenou presentation, the moderator Vasiliki Saini posed the questions of the audience. The questions were the following:

- What is the contribution of the project to the social inclusion of the refugees?
- Which refugee ethnicities will participate in the focus groups? Will, the cultural diversity of these populations regarding the beliefs toward sexual and gender-based violence, will be taken into account?
- How can someone access the training material?
- If an individual from Crete can take place in discussions/focus groups?

Ms Giannoglou informed the viewers that the material is available on the project's website.

As to the second question, there was not any clarification on grouping together different ethnic refugee groups by the speakers of the first part. What was shared by the speakers was that in discussions/focus groups will participate individuals with refugee background that have been occupied as volunteers in the past, like cultural mediators. The meetings will take place online.

Regarding the social inclusion question, it was clarified that the target population is still in transition, and he suggested that the substantial inclusion of refugee women victims of sexual and gender-based violence are part of another project.

As to question about potential participants from Crete, the speakers informed that whoever is interested may send an email to the project website.

In the meanwhile, Ms Syreggela asked to intervene. In her intervention, she presented case management examples of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 lockdown and how the public sector organizations were co-ordinated.

Moving to the second part of the online event, which was dedicated to the institutional response to sexual and gender-based violence. Ms Angeliki Papazoglou Head of the Directorate for Social Protection and Counselling Services of the GSFPGE took the floor as the first speaker. Ms Papazoglou presented a general overview of the activities implemented by the GSFPGE towards the refugee crisis and the period that followed. More specifically, she referred to the Protocol of Cooperation among the organization of the public sector and civil society organization, an initiative of GSFPGE, to ensure the protection of refugee women victims of gender-based violence. She also made an extent of reference to the newest legal framework against gender-based violence. The newest legal developments include the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, better known as the Istanbul Convention, in the Law 4531/2018, and the amendments that followed in several articles of Greek Penal Code. She also mentioned the Law 4604/2019 on the promotion of substantial gender equality and the prevention and combat of gender-based violence. Additionally, she informed the viewers about the National Network of Structures against domestic violence and multiple discrimination which GSFPGE supervises, and how refugee women and their children victims of gender-based violence can address.

The following speaker was Ms Irini Kiriaki Political Scientist in KETHI, whose presentation focused on the response of GSFPGE and KETHI regarding gender-based violence during the COVID-19 lockdown. She underlined the importance of effective coordination among different organizations and bodies from the public sector with organizations from civil society, to provide safe refuge/shelter to refugee women victims of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 lockdown. One service that was valuable during this period and KETHI provides it is the occupation of interpreters that are skilled to communicate with refugee women in 20 different languages.

The next speaker was Ms Maggie Andromachi Lazaridi, report person for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of the International Organisation of Migration (IOM). Ms Lazaridi informed the viewers about a similar project that the IOM implements, and which physical meetings ceased in February 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Within this project, they grouped their population in separate groups of women and men. They approached each group differently. They presented gender-based violence to men as a part of their social integration process in the host country, so they have to comply with the national legal framework against gender-based violence. Regarding the women's group, they informed them about their rights and about the services that operate against gender-based violence in Greece. One of the important findings from these meetings was the profile of the perpetrator. In case the husband was absent, it was not strange for the perpetrator to be the son of the family.

The last speaker was from the UNHCR and was Ms Anastasia Papanastasiou. Ms Papanastasiou informed the audience about the action of UNHCR with particular reference to the interventions of the organization in Greece through the ESTIA programme, and cooperation with relevant stakeholders from the public sector that operate against gender-based violence. She also mentioned several trainings to Refugee Committees regarding sexual and gender-based violence.

After the completion of the second part of the online event, questions of the viewers were collected via the eventora platform by the moderator and posed to the speakers. The questions were the following:

- Has there been any usage of the collected data from the database to study women's characteristics and women's needs?
- How is it possible for an organisation to operate in the field when there is a lack of interpreters?
- Which is the contribution of the National Public Health Organisation in the coordination mechanisms and which is the process and management of the cases of gender-based violence in refugees camps?

- Is there any project focused on the LGBTQ+ refugees in refugee camps?
- Does a trans refugee woman have access to shelters against gender-based violence?

The event closed following the closing remarks of the moderator Ms Saini.