

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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**National Network to End Violence  
Against Women and Domestic Violence**

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## What happened to the promises of institutional support for specialized counseling centers in 2022?

The year 2022 was marked by several developments that indicate a lack of institutional understanding of the importance of having specialized services for women victims of violence.

Namely, already in the first quarter, without consulting civil society organizations that are providers of specialized services for women and children victims of violence, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) adopted a Decision on determining the prices of social services (April 2022), which foresees very little financial support for the CSOs - service providers, and does not in any way ensure the sustainability of the already existing specialized services. Furthermore, the specialized counseling centers for women and children victims of violence for the first time were excluded from the Public Call of the MLSP for financing program activities of, among others, associations to combat domestic violence. And finally, the annual budget of the City of Skopje, from which several civil society organizations (CSOs) are financed, for 2022 was cut by almost 35%, making the first specialized counseling center for women and children victims of violence - First Family Center - impossible to function fully.

Namely, the Decision of the MLSP, which regulates the prices of the services provided by CSOs, does not at all recognize the specialized services for women victims of violence, which is why the "counseling" service is evaluated as a general service for all categories of citizens. Therefore, the price of this service that has been determined is too low to meet the needs of women and child victims. In this way, MLSP can barely provide 15-20% of the annual budget of a specialized counseling center for women and children victims of violence. In addition, such support can only be provided by CSOs that are licensed under the Law on Social Protection, which in itself is a long-term process that requires a lot of investment from CSOs to meet the minimum standards for securing a license.

On the other hand, the exclusion of counseling centers for women and children victims of violence from the call for funding by MLSP is an impermissible precedent. The competent ministry decided to provide financial support for counseling centers for perpetrators of violence, without providing support primarily for the victims, who are mostly women. With that, the MLSP takes away the few available financial resources from women in favor of men who are the most perpetrators of violence.

With these developments, the state has only shown that it does not prioritize the fight to end violence against women, nor the promotion of gender equality. In this way, the access to quality services is limited for the women victims, and what is worst, the opportunity to ask for and receive free help and support when they need it most is shortened.

The Women's support centers that the National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence opened in Skopje in 2021 and Tetovo in 2022, failed to secure a license from the MLSP or any institutional support despite meeting all standards. In less than two years, these two centers provided help and support to over 500 women and 40 children living in the territory of the city of Skopje, Tetovo and the surrounding rural municipalities.

In the end, the question remains open - **Is the state really taking steps to improve the protection of women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence, or is it only making declarative commitments and making promises that it does not plan to fulfill?!**



## INTRODUCTION

The National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence implemented the following projects in 2022:

**"On the road to the EU: Prevention of violence against women in the Republic of Macedonia"** whose goal is an improved dialogue with decision-makers to improve the legal framework and system for the protection and support of women from all forms of violence, as well as increased participation and visibility of women's organizations in the EU accession process with improved access to relevant data on the various forms of gender-based violence. The project is supported by the Swedish foundation Kvina til Kvina, who have been supporting the work of the National Network since 2015.

**"Institutionalizing quality services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of women victims of domestic violence"** aimed at improving the quality of services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of women who have survived gender-based and domestic violence. The project includes activities to support women victims to leave the violent environment and achieve their greater independence; preparation of draft documents for the promotion of secondary legislation and local programs for the support of victims; improved skills of service providers working with women victims and, a strengthened and formalized regional network for dealing with violence against women in accordance with EU standards. The project is implemented in partnership with 6 organizations from the Western Balkans: Autonomous Women's Center (Serbia), Kosovo Women's Network (Kosovo), United Women Foundation (BiH), Center for Women's Rights (Montenegro), Albanian Network to End Violence Against Women and Alliance for a gender perspective (Albania), and is supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

**"Housing for women victims of domestic violence who have left the violent surroundings"** whose goal is to develop a comprehensive system for the reintegration and rehabilitation of women and children victims of violence that will enable them to leave the violent surrounding, as well as psychological support and economic empowerment. The system drives in direction of independence and full integration into society of women victims of violence without the risk of returning to the violent surrounding, preventing social risks such as poverty and homelessness. The project is supported by the City of Skopje.

**„Establishing a national counseling line for positive parenting“** whose goal is to provide support to parents/ caregivers and other persons who participate in the process of raising children in solving the dilemmas and challenges they face every day. The support is provided via telephone operators who offer counseling and referral to other institutions and organisations. The project is financially supported by UNICEF.

**"Counseling centers for women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence"** whose goal is to improve access to specialized services for women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence through the establishment of two counseling centers for help and support in the territory of the City of Skopje and Tetovo. The project includes providing a comprehensive set of services that would help the victims to overcome the consequences of violence, thereby preventing future violence. This project is supported by the Balkan Fund for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade.

**"Support for the establishment and strengthening of a regional platform of civil society organizations"** aimed at strengthening the women's voice, including women's organizations that work with and represent women from threatened marginalized groups, at the regional level. In that way, the capacities of women's organizations are strengthened as a means of supporting women's civic engagement in monitoring and reporting on the Istanbul Convention and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The platform is managed by the European Network Against Violence (WAVE), and includes organizations from Albania, Kosovo, Turkey, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and North Macedonia. The project is in partnership with the European Women Against Violence Network (WAVE) and 7 women's organizations from Albania, Kosovo, Turkey, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and North Macedonia, funded by UNWOMEN.

# ГОДИШЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ 2022

## INFLUENCE ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICIES



## Shadow report to GREVIO – an independent expert body at the Council of Europe

During April, the Platform for Gender Equality submitted a Shadow Report to the independent expert body of the Council of Europe - GREVIO, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence provided input to this Report.

The main recommendations of the report are aimed at revising the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (2018-2023) for activities that have not been implemented or have been partially implemented, as well as harmonizing the national legislation with the convention, primarily the criminal code in terms of precisely defining the



forms of violence and introducing new crimes such as stalking, psychological violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced abortion and forced sterilization, sexual harassment, as well as the concept of consent in relation to the act of "rape". Additional harmonization of the Law on free legal aid, according to all forms of gender-based violence, as well as the Law on social protection, which also covers only the form of "family violence" but not all forms of gender-based violence.

One of the recommendations is a revision of the standards for specialized services and the establishment of accessible services throughout the country that will be accessible to women with disabilities, minorities, and rural women. In accordance with this, and provision of financial resources for civil society organizations to manage specialized services in accordance with the

Convention.

The recommendations are aimed at conducting regular national surveys on the situation with gender-based and family violence, as well as ongoing data collection from all involved institutions and organizations.

The entire report can be read at the following link.



## Completed process of sub-granting to 8 women's organizations: Achieved results

During 2021 and 2022, we implemented the first sub-granting of women's civil society organizations, which was completely successful. In a period of 12 months, 9 local women's organizations, members of the National Network, were supported. All 9 organizations worked locally on several activities, above all local research and analysis on the needs of women victims of violence who left the violent environment.



 Austrian  
Development  
Cooperation



8 analyzes were made with findings, conclusions and recommendations about what women who survived some form of violence need in the process of reintegration and rehabilitation in their places of residence. The prepared recommendations were further used as tools for representation in front of local institutions, especially in front of the local self-government as the competent institution that should provide finance for the establishment and maintenance of such local services. 16 municipalities were covered, some urban and some rural, where the 9 subgrantees worked in the field: NGO Semper in Bitola, ZGI Clea in Prilep, Cortex in Tetovo, Bogovinje, Želino and

Jegunovce, Organization of Women of Sveti Nikole in Sv. Nikole, Organization of Women of Veles in Veles, Sky Plus in Strumica, Vision in Kavadarci, Women's Action in Radovish and Konche, and HZ Majka in Kumanovo, Kriva Palanka, Staro Nagoricane and Rankovce.

These are the specific results that were achieved in each of the municipalities:

In the Municipality of Bitola, financial support for the housing of women victims of violence after leaving a shelter has been institutionalized in the [Program for Social Protection](#) and the budget for 2022 in the Municipality of Bitola.

In the Municipality of Strumica, financial support has also been institutionalized for women victims of violence after leaving a shelter in the Program for Equal Opportunities and the budget for 2022 in the Municipality of Strumica, and part of the financial support (3 months) has been allocated for psychosocial counseling of women and children who deal with GBV and DV in the Equal Opportunities Program and the budget for 2022 in the municipality of Strumica.

In the Municipality of Veles, financial support for women victims of sexual assault has been institutionalized in the Social Protection Program and the budget for 2022 of the Municipality of Veles.

In the Municipality of Kumanovo, the first counseling center for women and children victims of violence has been opened, run by HZ Majka.

## Meeting with the mayors from the municipalities in the Polog planning region

In April, at the regular monthly meeting of the Development Center of the Polog Planning Region, attended by all mayors from this region, one of the items on the agenda was ensuring the sustainability of the Women's Support Center - Tetovo.

The President of Cortex, Sema Halili, and the Executive Director of the National Network, Elena



Dimushevska, shared with the participants the findings and recommendations from the document ["Analysis of the situation with accessible and available specialized services for help and support of women and children victims of gender-based and family violence"](#). The services provided in the Women's Support Center - Tetovo were also presented, as well as the importance of this center for the Polog region.

The financial framework for ensuring the sustainability of the center was presented to the mayors, through a participatory approach in which all municipalities from the Pologsk region would be involved.

The mayors emphasized that they want to improve local social services and improve the protection of women and children victims of violence, but also that they have several obstacles that prevent them from allocating sufficient financial resources for these purposes. Despite that, future steps were agreed upon, where they will review the financial frameworks that were presented to them, and at the next meeting they will discuss the joint participation of all municipalities in supporting the Center.

## Meeting with the Center for the Development of the Pelagonia Planning Region

In October, a regular monthly meeting of the Center for the Development of the Pelagonian Planning Region was held in the meeting hall of the municipality of Bitola, which was attended by the mayors from the municipalities in this region. At the invitation of the mayor of Bitola, representatives from the National Network team and the NGO Semper team from Bitola were also present at the meeting.



At the meeting, the findings and recommendations of the ["Analysis of access to specialized services for help and support of women and children victims of gender-based and family violence in the Pelagonian region"](#) were presented, as well as the urgent need for specialized services for women and children victims of RBN and SN, together with a detailed budget required for their establishment.

The main conclusion of this meeting was that the Municipality of Bitola remains committed to improving access to assistance and support services for women and children victims of violence. As a next step, it was agreed to review the proposed budget and the financial framework for participation of all municipalities.

## Civil organizations as licensed service providers – challenges and opportunities

On June 24 in H. City Park-Skopje a panel discussion was held on the topic: Civil organizations as licensed service providers - challenges and opportunities, where we discussed the challenges that civil organizations (CSOs) face when securing a license to provide social services, as well as emerging challenges after obtaining the license.



Namely, with the reform of the law on social protection in 2019. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) recognized CSOs as potential providers of social services, after which it began to implement the process of licensing providers of social services, for which it also prepared Regulations on the manner, scope and norms for providing various social services.

On April 29, 2022, MLSP adopted a Decision on determining the prices of social services which, in addition to victims of family and gender-based violence, also include services for other vulnerable categories:

help in the home, for non-family protection, for professional help and support, for day care, for temporary residence, counseling and postponement of family care. According to the predicted prices, several CSOs reacted to the low amounts predicted by the decision and warned of the risk of unsustainability of the services they provide. Motivated by this, we organized the panel discussion to see what the challenges are, but also opportunities to improve this situation with the ultimate goal – providing adequate financial support and sustainability to service providers for women victims of gender-based and family violence.

The conclusions of the discussion are as follows:

- ▶ Amendments to the rules for licensing social services are needed;
- ▶ Changes are needed to the methodology for calculating the cost of services;
- ▶ It is necessary to make a decision on the prices of the services that will meet the costs of the specialized services for women and children victims of GBV and DV;



## Summary monitoring report on the progress of the Republic of North Macedonia in the implementation of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention for the period from October 2018 to December 2021

On July 14, at the Resource Center for Gender Responsive Policymaking and Budgeting of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, a working meeting was held attended by representatives of institutions, international and civil society organizations, with the aim of presenting the summary monitoring report on the state's progress in implementation of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.



The summary report was prepared by the team of the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and covers the period from October 2018 to May 2022. This report was preceded by two others, for which meetings were organized for the presentation of findings and recommendations.

Like the previous reports, this one also refers to an urgent revision of the NAP with the aim of more successful implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Namely, the revision should initially cover the deadlines foreseen in

the NAP for the implementation of the planned activities, after which new realistic and feasible time frames will be set, as well as the revision of the activities themselves and the addition of new ones according to the newly emerging situations. The indicators should be supplemented with new ones that will also measure the quality of the implemented activity, instead of the existing ones that are quantitative and do not provide information about the success in implementing the activities.

One of the recommendations refers to the competent ministries/institutions, i.e. the allocation of financial resources for the implementation of the activities, because the mentioned funding sources provide only the basis, but do not show a specific amount of planned and allocated funds for the implementation of the activities. It is necessary that the financial resources that will be allocated by the ministries should be clearly visible in the overall budget of the specific ministry/institution in order to enable the monitoring of the costs related to the implementation of the activities provided for in the NAP.



## Meeting with the delegation from GREVIO - an independent expert body at the Council of Europe

After the report submitted by the State in April 2022, the Platform for Gender Equality submitted a shadow report to GREVIO – an independent expert body at the Council of Europe which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.



**GREVIO Evaluation  
visit**

independent expert body  
at the Council of Europe  
responsible for monitoring  
the implementation  
of the Istanbul Convention



**CSO Round Table**

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, several working meetings were organized with representatives from the civil sector who work to promote women's rights with a focus on women victims of gender-based and family violence. The meeting was organized by the GREVIO delegation that visited the Republic of North Macedonia. The meetings were attended by representatives from the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence who shared their knowledge and experiences in more detail with the delegates from GREVIO, which related to the situation with gender-based violence in our country, the recognition of sexual violence as well as sexual harassment through online platforms. In addition, the slowness in the amendments and adoption of appropriate legal

solutions in accordance with the foreseen National Action Plan was emphasized. At this meeting, a number of questions were raised and a discussion was developed, especially on the actions of professionals working in key institutions that should initially provide help and support to women and children victims of family and gender-based violence, such as local social centers work and police stations.

The evaluation report from GREVIO for our State is expected in September 2023.

More about the reports submitted by civil society organizations as well as the report that R. North Macedonia sent it to GREVIO you can read at the following [link](#).



## Contribution of the National Network in the process of harmonizing the Criminal Code with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention

Within the Ministry of Justice, a closed working group for amendments to the Criminal Code was established, in which no civil organization was involved. After more than a year, in July 2021, the working group submitted to the Government the first draft document with amendments and additions to the CC, which included proposed amendments for compliance with the Istanbul Convention, but there was room for improvement.



The National Network, in order to contribute to a better text proposal, organized a meeting with the organizations that are members of the National Network and the Platform for Gender Equality, where the requests for changes that the civil society organizations will represent were agreed upon. Two months later, in November 2021, we also organized a meeting with the Club of Parliamentarians at which the requested changes and additions were presented. After the detailed presentation of the proposed amendments, the present parliamentarians agreed that the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code need to be improved and supplemented.

As a conclusion of the meeting arose the need to organize a public hearing, which at the invitation of the president of the Commission for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, prof. Gordana Siljanovska, was held in December 2021. In addition to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Bojan Maricic, the representative from the National Network, legal expert Ana Avramova Nushkova, also addressed the public hearing. The prepared document with a request for amendments and additions to the proposal text prepared by the working group within the Ministry of Justice was delivered in a printed version to all those present at the public hearing, and the next day to all MPs and other relevant stakeholders. The process continued during 2022.

At the invitation of the parliamentarians, two representatives from the National Network team - executive director Elena Dimushevskva and legal expert Ana Avramoska Nushkova, worked together with them on the draft amendments for the requested changes and additions to the draft text of the CC. Although it was initially planned that the amendment to the CC would be on the agenda in the Parliament in March 2022, the process was postponed and the first reading took place in November of the same year, when some of the proposed amendments were voted on. In December, the second reading was scheduled, and the team of the National Network, together with the female parliamentarians, prepared new amendments that were submitted to the Commission for European Affairs on behalf of the Club of Women Deputies.

With the adopted amendments of the second reading, the request was accepted for the harmonization of the crime of rape with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and the inclusion of rape in marriage/by an intimate partner as a more serious form of the basic crime. Furthermore, it was voted to introduce three new criminal acts – stalking, female genital mutilation, and sexual harassment, which includes the method of committing this crime through the Internet and other means of electronic communication. The addition of the crime of murder is also very significant, in which the murder of a woman or girl under the age of 18 during gender-based violence is provided as a more serious form.

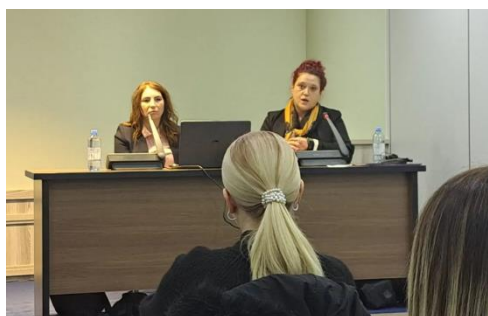
## Working meetings with women councilors from municipalities

During November and December, 5 working meetings were held with councilors from several regions or municipalities. The working meetings were held in Kavadarci and Veles, where the Vardar planning region was covered, in Bitola, where councilors from the Pelagonia planning region attended, then in Kumanovo, where the North-Eastern planning region was covered, as well as in Tetovo with councilors from the Municipality of Tetovo.

The meetings were led by representatives of the National Network as well as representatives of local women's organizations, members of the National Network: Vision - Kavadarci, Women's Organization of the Municipality of Veles, Semper - Bitola, National Roma Center and Cortex - Tetovo.

The councilors had the opportunity to hear more info about the real situation with gender-based and family violence in the field, through the presentation of findings from the analyzes conducted for the specific municipality. You can read more about the analyzes in the Analysis, Publications and Research section of this report. In addition, the recommendations from the analyzes were presented, especially for the need for the establishment and sustainability of specialized services for women victims of GBV and DV, as well as the legal possibilities for the role and obligations of the local self-government in relation to specialized services.

The team of the National Network and the teams from the partner organizations also presented the detailed budgets, i.e. the necessary financial resources for the sustainability of a counseling center for the duration of one year.



## Panel discussion on "How does the state protect victims of sexual violence and rape"

On November 25, the International Day to End Violence Against Women, we launched the campaign "16 days of activism against violence against women and girls" with a panel discussion on the topic "How does the state protect victims of sexual violence?"



The event consisted of 2 panel discussions that discussed 2 important issues:

- Do the Centers for Victims of Sexual Violence provide protection and support for victims?
- Why are urgent changes to the Criminal Code necessary?

Speakers on the first panel were Ina Dzhugumanova, author of the thematic report "Efficiency in the functioning of referral centers for victims of sexual violence", Snezhana Gjeorgieva Jankova,

Head of the Department of Reproductive Endocrinology - UGAK Skopje, and Despina Stojanovska, Systemic and Family Psychotherapist.

Ana Avramoska Nushkova - lawyer in the National Network against Violence against Women, Natasha Boshkova - lawyer, Natasha Saramandova - Public Prosecutor and Arta Biljali Zendeli - Member of Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia spoke at the second panel.

The conclusion was that an urgent revision of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Referral Centers for victims of sexual violence and rape is needed, and an urgent adoption of amendments to the Criminal Code in accordance with the Istanbul Convention, in order to better protect victims of sexual violence and rape.





# ГОДИШЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ 2022

## ACTUALIZING THE PROBLEM AND STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVELY DEALING WITH VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



## The sixth march for women's rights was marched under the slogan "Poverty has a women's face"

Hundreds of activists, on the 8th of March on the occasion of International Women's Day, gathered in front of the Government of R. North Macedonia, marking the beginning of the sixth March for Women's Rights, organized by the Platform for Gender Equality and women's rights activists.

Chanting "Poverty has a female face", the activists reminded that despite the fact that women make up an equal half of the country's population, they still do not enjoy equal rights in almost any aspect of their lives, at work or at home, in politics and social life, and a state in which women are not included as equals is a state in which there is no progress.

The participants in the march locate the responsibility in the institutions that, due to the absence of policies, strategic documents and mechanisms that support the advancement of gender equality and women's rights, allow systemic discrimination and violence, but also in the lack of gender-sensitive measures to deal with the COVID 19 pandemic and mechanisms for economic empowerment of women. They believe that this, among other things, is due to the non-involvement of women in the creation of policies and measures, as well as in making decisions that will take into account the needs of all citizens.

Finally, the activists said that there must be changes: "This fight and this day belongs to all of us, for equal access to social and health services, for equal access to public transport and information, for equal access to the market of labor, for equal care for children and older family members, for gender equality that will be visible at every step and in every household and that will bring women out of the shadows once and for all!" - they concluded.



## Workshop to strengthen intersectoral cooperation of institutions in dealing with women victims of violence in the North-Eastern region

The National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence in cooperation with the Humanitarian Association "Majka" and the Association "National Roma Center" held a two-day workshop (March 1st and 2nd), with representatives from the Centers for Social Work



in the North-East Region, representatives of SIA Kumanovo and Kriva Palanka and representatives from General Hospital Kumanovo with the aim of strengthening intersectoral cooperation in their dealings on the ground with cases of women victims of gender-based and domestic violence.

The participants shared their experiences, problems and challenges they face and had the opportunity to learn about the forms of violence and services for help, support and reintegration of women victims of violence.

## Two-day workshop with representatives from Social protection departments in the North-Eastern planning region

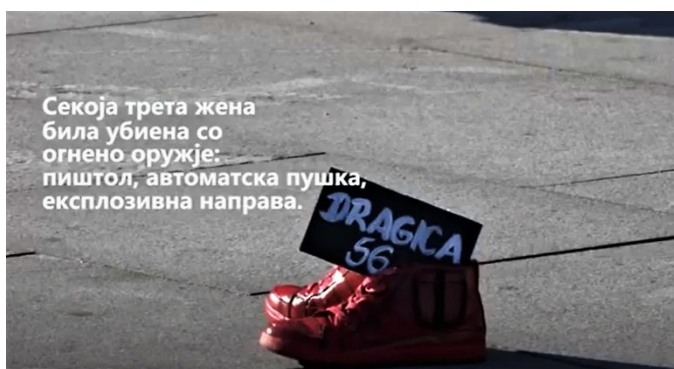
In cooperation with the Humanitarian Association Majka and the National Roma Center, we organized a two-day workshop to which representatives from the social, child and health care departments of the local self-government units from the municipalities of the North-Eastern planning region were invited. The meeting discussed the obligations of the local self-government in the direction of improving social services for women and children victims of GBV and DV in their municipality. Furthermore, the needs and possibilities for the establishment of accessible and available specialized services for help and support of the victims were considered, as well as the possibilities for ensuring their sustainability through inter-municipal cooperation and joint financing.

Positive examples from our country, for already established services of this type, which are financed by local self-government, were shared with the participants. The facilitators of the workshop also spoke about reintegration and rehabilitation services, which are new in the Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which entered into force in May 2021.



## STOP the murdering of women!

Within the framework of the regional partnership with 6 countries from the Western Balkans, the women's organizations created a video aimed at raising awareness about femicides in the Balkans. The video includes total data for the Western Balkans, i.e. North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as detailed information for each of the countries involved.



In 2020, 55 femicides were recorded by women's civil society organizations in the Western Balkans. Every second woman is killed by her partner. All the murders of women took place in the shared home. 65% of femicides occurred in urban areas, and 35% in rural areas. Every 3rd woman was killed with a firearm, in 20% of the cases violence in the institutions was previously reported. The Criminal Code

must make changes as soon as possible, which will regulate FEMICIDE as a crime, and it will be clearly recognized in criminal proceedings.

You can watch the video in its entirety at the following [link](#).

## Educational workshops with female students from Tetovo

During March, April and May 2022, in the premises of the Women's Support Center - Tetovo, 10 educational workshops were held with 12 female students from the State University in Tetovo. The workshops were led by Monika Cekalović, a social worker at the Women's Center, and Nebahat Imeri, a psychologist at the center.

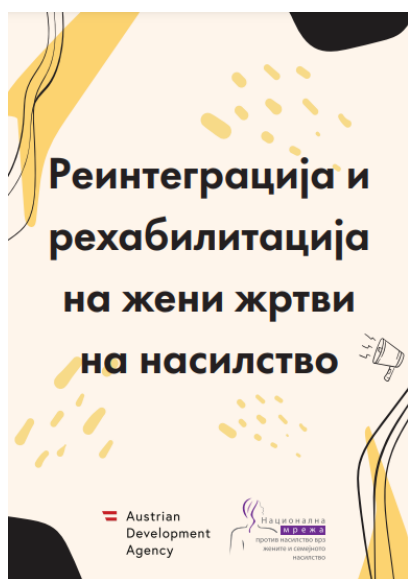
The purpose of the workshops was to educate female students on how to recognize violence and how to protect themselves from it, but also where and how to ask for help or refer their friends or family members who need help.

After completing the workshops, all participants received certificates for their participation, after which they themselves proposed an initiative for the promotion of the Women's Center for Support - Tetovo. Namely, in the center of Tetovo, female students informed the citizens about the services and work of the center and distributed informative materials to those who were interested.



## Brochure on the topic: Why is reintegration and rehabilitation of women victims of violence important?

The reintegration and rehabilitation of women victims of violence who have left the violent environment is a key process that completes the system of protection against gender-based and family violence. Namely, after the woman is provided with help and protection and her safety is ensured, she can then reintegrate and rehabilitate in all social processes where she will fully recover and become independent. This means that she will have secured a safe and permanent residence, as well as stable and profitable employment for herself and her children.



To a large extent, economic dependence and the lack of housing options influence the decision to leave the abuser. A woman who suffers violence is financially dependent on the perpetrator of violence, and cannot make the decision to leave him because it would mean potential poverty and homelessness for her and her children.

Reintegration and rehabilitation are the processes that make it easier to make the decision to leave, but also to secure a home and employment, as well as recovery from surviving violence. The ultimate goal of reintegration is a life without the risk of future violence, and without the risk of poverty and homelessness.

In order to better familiarize yourself with the process of reintegration and rehabilitation, as well as the proposal of the Reintegration Model, we have prepared an informative and educational brochure that contains detailed information about these processes.

The brochure is intended for professionals and service providers who work with women victims of gender-based and domestic violence, as well as for decision-makers who are responsible for creating policies and laws related to violence against women.

The brochure is available at this [link](#).



## Workshop on Gender-based violence and professional standards for journalistic reporting

A workshop on "Gender-based violence and professional standards for journalistic reporting" was organized by the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services, and in cooperation with the Margini Coalition and the National Network the End Violence Against Women and Family.

The workshop was intended for journalists, and was attended by representatives of national television and radio stations. The participants of the workshop had the opportunity to hear more about the intersectional approach in treating gender-based violence, the national legislation and the system of protection of women and girls victims of violence, as well as detailed guidelines for correct and gender-sensitive reporting in the media.



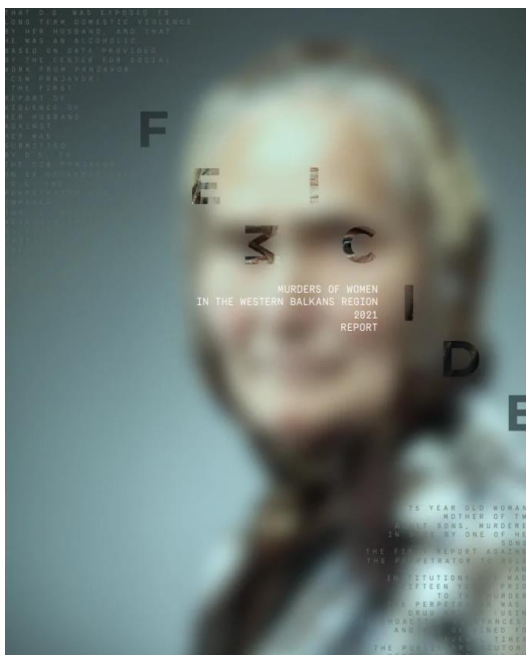
2 important publications were presented: [Manual for gender-sensitive reporting in the media](#), and AVMU's [Guide for monitoring reporting on gender-based violence](#).

The workshop was led by Irena Cvetkovic (Margini Coalition), Ana Avramoska Nushkova (National Network Against Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence), Marina Tuneva (Media Ethics Council) and Emilia Petreska-Kamenjarova (AVMU).



## Murders of women in the Western Balkans - Report for 2021

The partner organization "United Women" Foundation from Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) prepared a joint report for the countries of the Western Balkans, together with the partner organizations from Serbia, Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia, which contains data from the 6 countries, key findings and key recommendations for murders of women or femicides during 2021 in the region.



Key findings, or commonalities for the region, indicate that the circumstances leading to femicide cases show a higher risk of femicide in cases where female victims have left their husbands/partners or there were indications that they intended to leave them. Namely, every second woman was killed by her husband or partner in their shared house/apartment.

In addition, the findings show that women of all age groups are at risk of being victims of femicide, with an increased incidence in the 46 to 55 age group in particular. More than half of femicide cases in 2021 in the Western Balkans Region occurred in urban areas (61%), while 39% of female victims were killed in rural areas. Only (24%) of women and girls who were victims of femicide reported violence in institutions before the femicide occurred. Every

third female victim (33%) was killed with firearms (pistols, automatic rifles, explosive devices).

Men of all age groups have been identified as the perpetrators of these murders, with an increased incidence especially in the 36 to 45 age group.

The report is available at this [link](#).

## Panel discussion on "Other (un)recognized aspects of violence against women"

During 2022 The National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence together with young researchers worked on thematic reports related to gender-based violence. The first report covers economic violence as a form of gender-based and domestic violence, while the second covers anti-gender movements and their impact on violence against women. In order to present the 2 thematic reports, but also the importance of these two topics, on December 15, 2022. we organized an event with 2 panel discussions.



At the first panel discussion, we talked about the consequences of economic violence, possible solutions to promote economic (in)dependence, and the importance of the reintegration of women victims of violence as related processes. The speakers in this part were Tona Karova, who presented the thematic report on "Economic violence as a form of gender-based violence", Natasha Dimeska from the Cabinet of the Minister of Labor and

Social Policy, Maja Balsha from the National Network and Sofia Georgievska, an expert.

In the second panel discussion, we focused on anti-gender movements and their impact on violence against women in our country, as well as the influence of various social actors in dealing with anti-gender movements. Sara Milenkovska presented the thematic report on "Anti-gender movements and gender-based violence", and the panel was joined by Sanela Shkrijelj, Member of Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia, Bojan Jovanoski from HERA and Ivana Smilevska, journalist from MOF.





# ГОДИШЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ 2022

STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN'S  
ORGANIZATIONS AS SPECIALIZED  
SERVICES/ DIRECT HELP AND  
SUPPORT TO WOMEN VICTIMS



## Promotion of the services provided by the Women's Support Center - Skopje

In the period February - March 2022. The team of the Women's Center for Support - Skopje held 3 meetings for the promotion of the Women's Center, where the participants have the opportunity to learn about the specialized services that the center offers for women and children victims of gender-based and family violence.



Meetings were held with representatives of civil society organizations, then with representatives of municipalities in the territory of the City of Skopje, as well as with representatives of relevant institutions that work with cases of gender-based and domestic violence.

At all 3 meetings, the possibilities for referral to the Women's Center, the services provided by the social worker, the legal counselor, the psychologist, and the career counselor were presented. Informative and promotional materials were shared with contacts from the center for easier referral of the users.

## Strategic planning with partner organizations - subgrantees

On May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the National Network to End Violence and Domestic Violence held a strategic planning workshop with partner organizations that were sub-grantees in 2021. Representatives from the following organizations participated in the workshop: NGO Semper-Bitola, the Association of Psychologists, Counselors and Psychotherapists - Cortex, Tetovo, the Women's Organization of the Municipality of Veles, the Association for Gender Equality "Vizija" from Kavadarci, the Women's Organization of the Municipality of Sveti Nikole and Association for advancing the status of women in Macedonia "Women's Action" from Radovich.



During the two days, the organizations presented the achieved results of the implemented projects through the sub-granting process, as well as the current challenges they face after the completion of the projects. We also talked about future steps and actions that will help to deal with the challenges and improve the situation with specialized services for reintegration and rehabilitation for women victims of violence, locally in their municipalities.

## Trainings for service providers on providing support women and children victims of violence

In the period from April to June, 4 two-day trainings were held for service providers in the Women's Support Centers, as well as other counseling centers for women and children victims of gender-based and family violence. A total of 25 service providers from 7 cities participated in the trainings: Skopje, Tetovo, Kavadarci, Bitola, Veles, Radovish and Kumanovo.

Social workers, psychologists, psychotherapists and legal advisers worked on improving their knowledge and skills, above all for effective protection of the users of the centers, as well as efficient communication, teamwork, cooperation and referral to relevant institutions, direct help through crisis intervention, long-term support and assistance through counseling and psychotherapy, provision of legal assistance and support as well as guidance for the full functioning of counseling centers in terms of management and provision of quality services.

The instructor of all the training was Despina Stojanovska, psychologist and systemic family counselor.



## Promotion of the Women's Support Center – Tetovo



After the opening of the Women's Support Center - Tetovo in December 2021, in the following 6 months, ongoing promotion of the Women's Center was carried out through various activities in the territory of the City of Tetovo. 14 promotional meetings were held with local institutions and businesses, as well as educational institutions and civil society organizations, with the aim of familiarizing them with the work of the center and the possibility of referring women victims of gender-based and family violence. In addition, the center's team was a guest in several media where the available services for women and children victims of violence were also promoted.

The team of the Women's Center for Support - Tetovo held meetings with representatives of the JUM Center for Social Work - Tetovo, then the domestic violence inspectors from the SVR Tetovo, the women inspectors and counselors from the State Labor Inspectorate from Tetovo, the patronage nurses from the Health Center - Tetovo, and several meetings with representatives of the Municipality of Tetovo. In addition, on March 8th, on International Women's Day, a panel was held in the municipal hall of the Municipality of Tetovo.

In cooperation with the local educational institutions, a tribune was held with the students of the University of Southeast Europe, and later meetings were organized with students from the Department of Psychology and Sociology at the State University "Fadil Suleimani" - Tetovo. Meetings were also held with 2 local private kindergartens, "Rea" and "Kopshti Bletëzat".

Meetings were held with the gynecological office of Gynecologist Valbona Gonabajal Rustemi, which established cooperation for free gynecological services for the women beneficiaries of the Women's Support Center - Tetovo.



From this cooperation, an initiative was made for a meeting with women entrepreneurs from Tetovo and the surrounding area, where the possibilities of supporting the center from the business sector are discussed. Furthermore, meetings were held with the Civic Initiative "Better for Tetovo", the Institute for Community Development - Tetovo, the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services - Dekas, the Psychological Center Psycholab and the biochemical laboratories LAOR from Tetovo.

## Two new Women's Support Centers were opened in Kavadarci and Bitola

In September 2022, in Kavadarci, we opened the first regional counseling center for help and support of women and children who deal with gender-based and family violence under the name Women's Support Center - Kavadarci. The center was opened in partnership with the Association for Gender Equality "Vizia" - Kavadarci and with the financial support of the municipalities of the Vardar region: Kavadarci, Rosoman, Demir Kapija and Negotino. This is the first specialized counseling center for women and children victims of violence in the Tikvesh region, and it is the first regional counseling center that provides services to users from 4 municipalities.



Later, in December 2022, in Bitola we opened the first counseling center for help and support of women and children who deal with gender-based and family violence - Women's Support Center Bitola. The center was opened with the financial support of the municipality of Bitola, which allocated 1,000,000 denars from its budget for a period of one year. This is the first specialized counseling center for women and children victims of violence in the Pelagonia region, which provides services for users from the municipality of Bitola and surrounding municipalities.



These two counseling centers provide free and confidential help and support services to women and children dealing with any form of gender-based and domestic violence, regardless of whether the violence is occurring at the time the woman seeks help, or has happened in the past. , but it left consequences and challenges that the woman is currently dealing with. The centers provide counseling for the exercise of social rights, psychological counseling and psychotherapy, legal aid and support, referral and affiliation to institutions and other organizations, as well as career counseling and mentoring support for economic empowerment.



**Women's Support Center - Kavadarci**



**Women's Support Center - Bitola**

# ГОДИШЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ 2022

## INTERNATIONAL (REGIONAL) COOPERATION AND ADVOCACY



## Quality services for the reintegration of women victims of violence - Regional network meeting of organizations from the Western Balkans

In the period from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022, a regional network meeting of 6 women's organizations from the Western Balkans was held, which in the past 2 years have been working together, but also locally in their countries, to establish quality services for reintegration and rehabilitation of women victims of violence.



At the meeting, the results achieved at the level of each state were presented, and the next steps and activities to be implemented by the end of 2022 were agreed upon. At the same time, it was agreed to continue the joint actions for the establishment of protection and reintegration services in the next period in 2023. These actions at the national level are carried out by the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in North Macedonia, Autonomous Women's Center in Serbia), Center for Women's Rights in Montenegro, United Women Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Kosovo Women's Network in Kosovo and, The Albanian Women's Empowerment Network and the Gender Alliance for Development in Albania.





## Study visit to Vienna, Austria – protection and reintegration services for women victims of violence

In the period from the 18th to the 21st of October, the team of the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence within the framework of the regional project for "Institutionalization of quality services for the integration and rehabilitation of women victims of violence in the Western Balkans" made a study visit in Vienna, Austria.

The purpose of the study visit was to become familiar with the system of protection and reintegration of women victims of violence that is implemented in Austria, and locally in the City of Vienna, as well as an opportunity to learn positive practices and policies that could be applied in North Macedonia in the direction of improvement of the system of protection and reintegration in our country.

During the visit, we had meetings with several institutions and women's civil society organizations that presented part of their work regarding the financing and management of specialized services for women victims of violence. Meetings were held with the following women's civil society organizations: Association of Austrian Autonomous Women's Shelters (AÖF) and Women's Helpline, European Network Against Violence (WAVE), Vienna Center for Women's Shelters and Counseling Center, Intervention Center for Domestic Violence Interventions (Interventionsstelle Vienna); and with the following institutions: Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Federal Office – Division for Women and Equality (Bundeskanzleramt, Referat für Frauen und Gleichstellung), Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology at the University of Vienna, Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and consumer protection (Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Verbraucherschutz), and the Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).



## Study visit to organizations and foundations in Belgrade

In the period from October 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, the National Network team was on a study visit to Belgrade, Republic of Serbia. The purpose of the study visit was to exchange experiences and knowledge through getting to know the work of other organizations and foundations from the region that provide financial support to local women's organizations.

### Студиска посета на организации и фондации во Белград



During the visit, we had meetings with Reconstruction Women's Fund and Trag Foundation, which presented the programs through which they provide financial support to local women's organizations. In addition to the purpose of the programs, they also familiarized us with the criteria for approving the support, that is, which organizations are eligible for the various programs they manage.

With Trag Foundation, we discussed and exchanged experience about the ways of functioning of their Donation Fund and our Women's Intervention Fund, as well as the way of functioning of the online platform whose goal is to unify the women's movement. From the study visit, we also saw how important the exchange of information is, especially using the digital tools available to us with modern technology.

## Advocacy Week in Brussels

From November 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, an Advocacy Week was held in Brussels, where women's organizations from the Western Balkans present the challenges they face in their work and talk about the situation with gender equality and gender-based violence in their countries. More than 20 representatives from women's organizations from 6 countries in the Western Balkans (North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania) took part in this year's Advocacy Week.



One of the organized meetings was with Eviola Prifti and Victor Tilea, who work in the General Directorate for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations, and are responsible for monitoring the situation in the Republic of North Macedonia. At the meeting, the situation in the country was presented in relation to the various aspects related to gender equality, women's rights and gender-based violence.,

# ГОДИШЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ 2022

## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES



## 139,000 denars were collected for the Women's Intervention Fund at this year's Donor Circle

Our organization was part of this year's, third in a row, Donator's Circle, which was held on June 9<sup>th</sup>.



We sincerely thank the organizers of the Donor's Circle, the Association of Citizens "Connect" who this year already chose our organization to be part of this event and made it possible to collect funds in the amount of 139,000 denars which are intended for the beneficiaries of the Women's Intervention Fund.

We also thank those who donated and thus helped a larger number of women to have the opportunity to leave the violent environment.

## "United against gender-based violence" - an event in the Office of the President of the Republic of North Macedonia

On December 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 in the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of North Macedonia, under the auspices of the wife of the President, Elizabeta Gjorgievska, an event entitled "United against gender-based violence" was held today, the purpose of which was to support the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The president's wife, Elizabeta Gjorgievska, addressed the event, and Elena Dimushevska, executive director of the National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, gave a presentation about the work and challenges faced by the National Network. Social worker Bojana Lazarevska and psychologist Nebahat Imeri spoke about the services provided at the Women's Support Centers in Skopje and Tetovo.

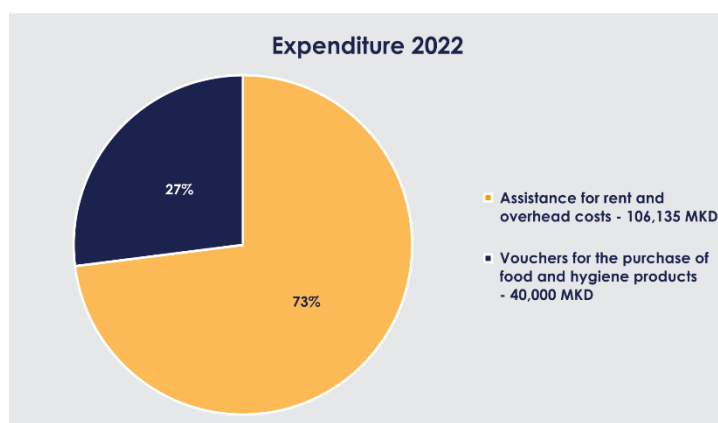
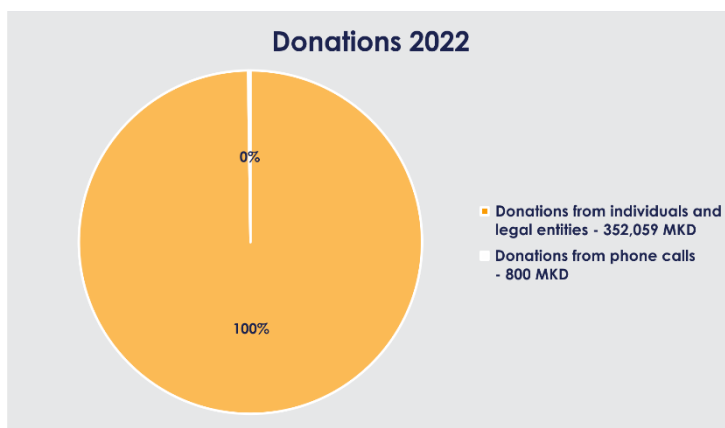


In addition to representatives from the National Network, the event was attended by representatives from the diplomatic corps, the United Nations office, the civil sector in the country, as well as representatives of the business community and socially responsible companies.

Mrs. Elizabeta Gjorgievska emphasized that women's support centers need financial sustainability in the long term, because their functioning is extremely important for the overall system of protection against gender-based violence in our society. Therefore, the purpose of the event was, above all, to give an incentive to support services for women victims to ensure sustainable help and support in the fight against gender-based violence.

## Women's Intervention Fund

In 2022 in the Women's Intervention Fund there was an inflow of 352,859 denars, of which 106,135 denars were spent on help for rent and overhead costs and 40,000 denars for the purchase of vouchers for food and hygiene products. Below is a view of the inflow and outflow for the entire year.

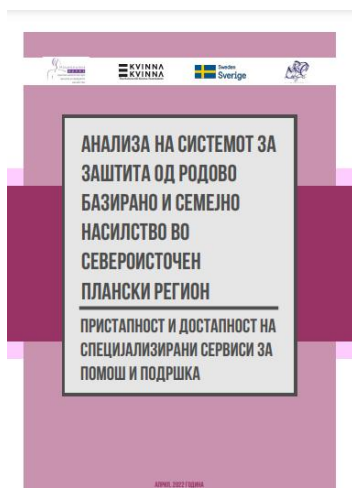


# ГОДИШЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ 2022

## ANALYSIS, PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH



## Analysis of the system for protection against gender-based and domestic violence in the Northeast region

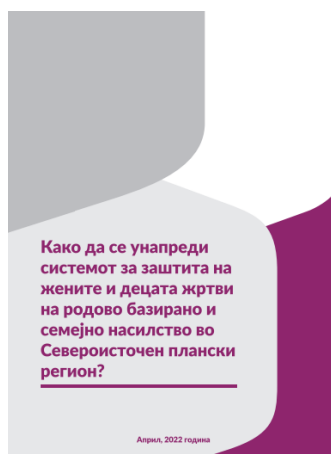


On 12.04.2022 in the premises of the Crafts House in Kumanovo, the National Roma Center Association promoted the [Analysis of the system for protection against gender-based and domestic violence in the North-Eastern region for the accessibility and availability of specialized services for help and support](#) in this region.

The event was attended by representatives of the Municipality of Kumanovo, representatives of the centers for social affairs, Kumanovo and Kratovo, the Ministry of Justice regional department Kumanovo, representatives of civil organizations from Kumanovo as well as the President of the Council of the Municipality of Kumanovo Ivana Gjeorgievska.

The findings of the conducted analysis show that there is a lack of a systemic approach in dealing with the problem of violence against women and domestic violence. In addition, the minimum standards stipulated in the Istanbul Convention for access to specialized services have not been met. No center for victims of domestic violence (shelter) has been established and no crisis center has been established for the intervention accommodation of women victims of domestic violence.

The entire analysis can be read at the following [link](#). As part of this activity, two 2-pagers were created with the most important information, available at these links: [link 1](#) and [link 2](#).

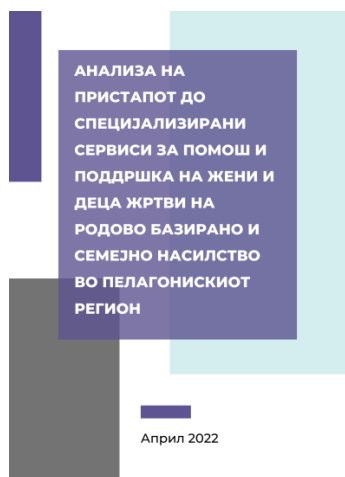


The National Roma Center from Kumanovo also prepared a policy proposal under the title "How to improve the protection system in the North-East region?"

The focus of the policy proposal is of course on the recommendations, which refer to the need to include gender-based and family violence in the social plans of the municipalities in this region, the inclusion of specialized services in social protection programs, as well as the provision of budget funds for services and their sustainability. In addition, it is recommended that municipalities cooperate with each other, as well as with local civil society organizations in order to better protect victims of gender-based and family violence, in accordance with the legal regulations.

The document is available at this [link](#).

## Analysis of access to specialized services for women and children victims of violence in the Pelagonia region

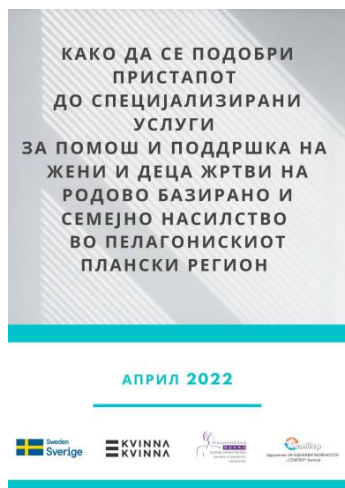


In April, "Analysis of access to specialized services for help and support of women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence in the Pelagonian region" was published. The analysis was prepared by the Association for Equal Opportunity – Semper from Bitola in cooperation with the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

The main conclusions of the analysis show that in the Pelagonian region there are 4 specialized services for gender-based and family violence, i.e. a counseling center and shelter for women and child victims located in Bitola, and a counseling center and crisis center located in Prilep. All 4 services are managed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, i.e. the local centers for social work.

The recommendations, on the other hand, indicate that, according to the recommendations of the Istanbul Convention, this region needs at least one more Center for victims of gender-based and domestic violence, that is, a shelter, as well as 2 specialized counseling centers. In addition, it is necessary to involve the local self-government in financing these services, and of course, they should be managed by women's civil society organizations.

The analysis in its entirety is available at this [link](#). From the findings and recommendations of the analysis, a 2-pager with the most important information was created, available at this [link](#).



As part of this activity, a policy proposal under the title: How to improve access to services in the Pelagonian region was developed?

The proposed policy highlights the recommendations of the analysis, in specific directions for decision-makers, especially the relevant institutions operating at the local level. Once again, the need for more specialized services in the Pelagonian region is highlighted, as well as the obligations of the local self-government in supporting civil organizations and establishing services at the local level.

The document is available at this [link](#).



## Thematic report: "Addictions, domestic violence and the temporary measure for protection against gender-based and domestic violence"

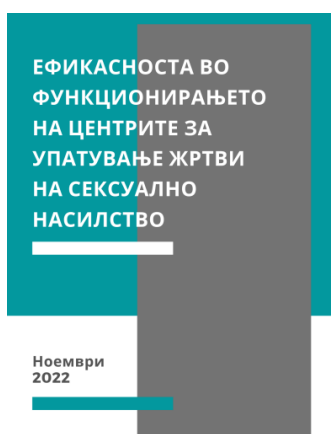
In April, an online presentation of the findings of the thematic report was held on the topic "Addictions, domestic violence and a temporary measure for protection against gender-based and domestic violence - Mandatory treatment of the perpetrator if he uses alcohol, drugs and other psychotropic substances or has a mental illness. "



The report includes an analysis of the connection between addiction diseases and gender-based violence, with a specific focus on the temporary measure of protection - mandatory treatment. The purpose of this research is to provide an insight into the situation with addiction diseases with a focus on the city of Skopje, in the past three years, to explain how the temporary measure of protection is pronounced and implemented in practice and whether it gives the expected results, but also to provide insight into the subjective perception and experiences of women victims of violence by a perpetrator - addict. The key findings show that the main deficiency in the treatment of addicts who are also perpetrators of violence is insufficient cooperation and coordination between health, local government, social work centers and courts. In addition, the fact that after the end of the treatment, the perpetrators are left "on their own", that is, there is no responsible institution or organization that follows them, is highlighted as a challenge.

You can read the report in its entirety [here](#). A summary document from the report can also be viewed at this [link](#).

## Thematic report: The efficiency in the functioning of the referral centers for victims of sexual violence



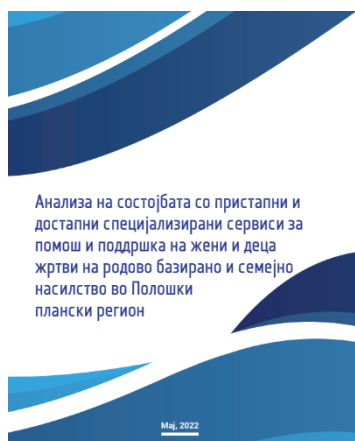
In November, the thematic report was presented in which the effectiveness of referral centers for victims of sexual violence and rape, which were opened in 2017, was investigated. The conclusions of the report indicate that these centers are not functional, do not have adequate conditions, are not financially secure, do not have enough human resources, and thus do not provide adequate protection for victims.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to amend the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which will improve the efficiency of referral centers and improve the protection of victims. In addition, the Ministry of Health must provide adequate funding for the long-term sustainability of these centers, as well as hiring the necessary staff in order to provide quality and complete services.

The report is available at this [link](#). In addition, a 2-pager was prepared where the conclusions and findings were sublimated. The 2-pager is available at this [link](#).

## Analysis of the situation with accessible and available specialized services for help and support of women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence in the Polog planning region

In May, the Association of Psychologists, Counselors and Psychologists - Cortex from Tetovo produced a local Analysis of the situation with accessible and available specialized services for help and support of women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence in the Polog region.



The analysis contains a desk analysis of the existing legislation, with a focus on local self-government and the government's obligations in establishing and ensuring sustainability of specialized services for women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence. In addition, local programs and policies as well as the situation with violence against women and children were investigated.

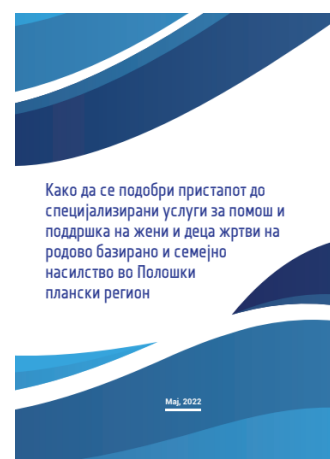
The conclusions of the analysis show that in the Polog region there is only 1 counseling center that works within the framework of the Intermunicipal Center for Social Work - Tetovo, which does not meet the minimum standards of the Istanbul Convention. Apart from free legal aid provided by a local civic organization, and the services provided by Cortex for women and children victims of violence, there are no other services in the Polog region. Hence, the recommendations indicate the urgent need to establish a shelter and crisis center for women victims of gender-based and domestic violence. In addition, the municipalities of this region must foresee activities and finances in their programs and budgets for the establishment and support of specialized services at the local level that will be managed by local civil society organizations.

The analysis in its entirety can be found at this [link](#). From the findings and recommendations of the analysis, a 2-pager with the key information was prepared. It is available at this [link](#).

From the analysis, Cortex also prepared a policy proposal entitled: How to improve access to specialized services for help and support of women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence in Polog planning region?

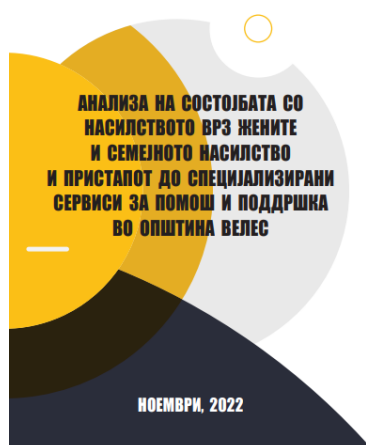
The proposed policy summarizes the key findings and conclusions, and provides guidelines or recommendations to relevant institutions for their obligations to improve access to specialized services at the local level.

The document is available at this [link](#).



## Analysis of the situation with violence against women and domestic violence and access to specialized services for help and support in the municipality of Veles

In Veles the "Analysis of the situation with violence against women and domestic violence and access to specialized services for help and support in the municipality of Veles" was promoted, which included three municipalities from the Vardar region, namely Veles, Chashka and Gradsko. It was prepared by the Women's Organization of the Municipality of Veles.



The conclusions of the analysis show that in the Municipality of Veles there is one Center for victims of gender-based and domestic violence (shelter) with 2 family places. According to the number of inhabitants in the municipality of Veles, municipality of Gradsko and municipality of ChaShka, which is 65,000, there should be a Center (shelter) with at least 7 family places, and in the entire Vardar region there is no Crisis Center for victims of sexual violence and rape.

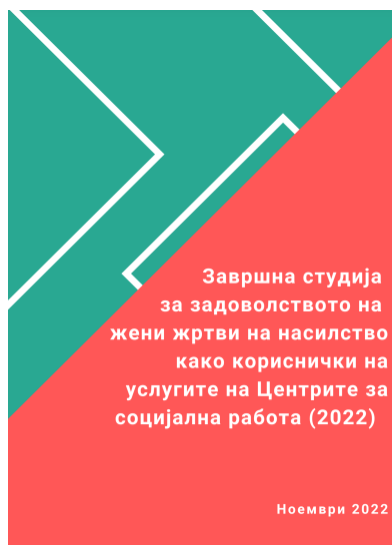
In the municipality of Veles there is 1 counseling center which has limited spatial and human resources and therefore does not provide enough services for the residents of this region.

"Victims of domestic violence are included in the program for the activities of the Municipality of Veles in the field of social protection by providing one-time financial assistance. However, in 2020 and 2021, the municipality has set aside minimal budget funds for the protection of victims of domestic violence, and has not provided any financial support for providers of specialized services for victims of domestic violence, which are mostly women's civil society organizations.

The recommendations indicate that the municipalities of Veles, Gradsko and Chashka must develop a local strategy for dealing with gender-based and domestic violence, which will include preventive activities, but also financial resources for providing specialized services that will be managed by local civil society organizations.

The entire analysis can be read at the following [link](#). Additionally, the Veles Women's Organization has produced a 2-pager that can be viewed at this [link](#).

## A final study on the satisfaction of women victims of GBV and DV as users of services in the Centers of Social Work

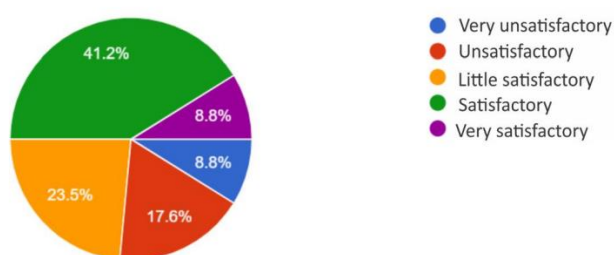


During 2022 the team of the National Network prepared a ["Final study on the satisfaction of women victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence as users of services in Social Work Centers"](#). The final study was conducted 2 years after the implementation of the [Basic Study](#) on the same topic, in order to see or compare the possible changes in the satisfaction with the services provided to women victims of GBV and DV.

The treatment of women victims in social work centers was rated by 8.8% as very unsatisfactory, 17.6% as unsatisfactory, 23.5% as somewhat satisfactory, 41.2% as satisfactory and 8.8% as very satisfactory. **Compared to the baseline study, there was an increase in satisfaction with CSW services from 31% to 41% as "satisfactory", and a further 8.8% as "very satisfactory"**.

The conclusions of the final study indicate that there is an improvement in the conduct of CSW, especially in the area of risk assessment and creation of individual work plans. However, the focus is still on the risk of violence, and there is a lack of assessment of the social risks among the victims. CSWs adequately informed and referred to psychosocial counseling, as well as services for temporary residence, but in those cities where such services do not exist, CSWs were not able to refer the beneficiaries. There was no information about long-term housing and financial support for the beneficiaries, due to the lack of appropriate local services for reintegration. There has also been an improvement in the attitudes of the CSW employees, who showed support for the victims, without condemning or justifying the violence.

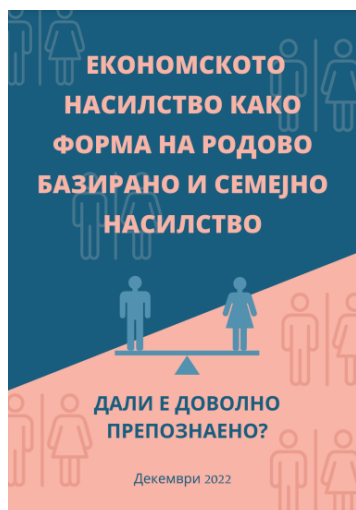
How do you assess the reaction of the CSW to your needs:



The final study provides further recommendations for improving the work of the Centers for Social Work and in general the system for the protection and reintegration of women victims of RBN and SN.

You can read the study in its entirety at this [link](#).

## Thematic report: Economic violence as a form of gender-based violence



In December 2022 the thematic report on the topic: Economic violence as a form of gender-based violence was promoted. The report includes an overview of national legislation, research and a report related to this issue, then findings on the recognition of economic violence and its types, as well as the experience of the institutions in dealing with such cases. In addition, the relevant institutions that act in cases of gender-based violence and their experience and practices for registered cases of economic violence and imposed measures are covered.

The conclusions of the report indicate that economic violence is one of the least reported forms of violence, and on the other hand, it is one of the most common forms. As a form of gender-based violence, it is almost unrecognized by institutions, and accordingly, institutional support for victims of economic violence is almost non-existent. Hence, the recommendations are aimed at improving the understanding of economic violence and the consequences it leaves for the victims first of all, but also for society as a whole, namely the risk of homelessness and poverty.

The report can be read in its entirety at this [link](#).

## Thematic report: Anti-gender movements and gender-based violence



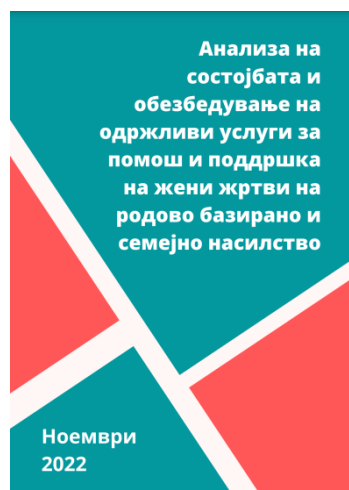
The thematic report on the topic: Anti-gender movements and gender-based violence is the 4th thematic report that was produced during 2022 and promoted in December. The report includes a global framework of the feminist struggle, as well as a local framework, that is, a framework in R. North Macedonia. The report defines anti-gender movements through the tools they use, as well as their strategies of action.

This report reminds that the fight for gender equality is far from over, and that the rights of women and other minorities are still not accepted by the majority of society. Related to gender-based violence, such movements refer to non-reporting and non-processing of violence against women, and normalization of gender-based violence. Hence, properly dealing with anti-gender movements is crucial in the fight against violence against women, both nationally and globally.

The entire report can be viewed at this [link](#).

## Analysis of the situation and provision of sustainable services for help and support to women victims of gender-based violence in the Tikvesh region

In December, in the premises of the municipality of Kavadarci, "Analysis of the situation and provision of sustainable services for help and support to women victims of gender-based violence" was promoted, which covers 4 municipalities - Kavadarci, Rosoman, Negotino and Demir Kapija. The analysis was prepared by the Association for Gender Equality "Vizia" - Kavadarci.



The findings of the analysis show that there is a lack of a systemic approach in dealing with the problem of violence against women and domestic violence. Victims of gender-based and domestic violence are not recognized as a special vulnerable category in social protection programs in these municipalities, and no measures are foreseen for their protection and support. The only provision is financial assistance for victims of domestic violence, which is not used due to the lack of requests for this type of support.

In this region, there is only one specialized service, the Kavadarci Women's Support Center, which is actually the first regional counseling center for help and support for women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence. There is no shelter - center for caring for women and children victims of gender-based and domestic violence, and according to the minimum standards of the Council of Europe recommended by the Istanbul Convention, there should be a shelter with at least 7 family places according to the number of inhabitants (one family place includes a mother with an average number of children).

Furthermore, there is no center for victims of sexual violence and rape in the region, the establishment and management of which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health.

The entire analysis can be read at the following [link](#). In addition, a 2-pager with the key information has been prepared, and it can be viewed at the following [link](#).

# ГОДИШЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ 2022

PROVIDED SERVICES FOR  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED  
AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



## Women's Support Center - Skopje



Within the framework of the Women's Support Center - Skopje, during 2022 a total of 1225 services were provided for 355 women victims of violence and 27 children. Of the services provided, 752 services were provided by social workers, which include: counseling for social rights, referral, accompaniment and representation before relevant institutions and other civil organizations. 168 services were provided by a psychologist/psychotherapist, which were in the form of individual and group counseling. In terms of legal assistance and support, the legal adviser provided 305 services that include legal information, referral to another institution and written submissions. In addition, 14 lawyer services have been provided in the competent courts. During 2022, the career counseling service was also provided, where the career counselor provided 66 services to 32 female users.

## Women's Support Center - Tetovo

Within the framework of the Women's Support Center - Tetovo, during 2022 a total of 618 services were provided for 172 women victims of violence and 14 children. Of the services provided, 432 services were provided by a social worker, which include: counseling for social rights, referral, accompaniment and representation before relevant institutions and other civil organizations. 186 services were provided by a psychologist/psychotherapist, which were in the form of individual and group counseling. During 2022, the career counseling service was also provided, where the career counselor provided 23 services to 11 female users. In addition, 10 trainings on soft skills and economic lambing were conducted for 15 women from Tetovo.





## Supported housing for women victims who have left a violent surrounding

In 2022 with the support of the City of Skopje, we piloted the Supported housing service for women victims of gender-based and domestic violence who left the violent environment in a new model, i.e. *supported housing in individual residences*. This model differs from the previous one, i.e. the House for Open Housing, where more female users were housed in a community, i.e. a house with separate sleeping rooms, and common rooms for living, kitchen and bathroom. The model of supported housing in individual residences provides housing in separate units that are rented, most often individual apartments. For the user and her children (if any) the costs of rent, overhead costs, as well as the costs of food and hygiene products are covered. In addition, within the Women's Support Centers, beneficiaries receive all services such as social rights counseling, legal aid and support, accompaniment, psychological counseling/psychotherapy and career counseling.

During 2022 supported housing is provided for 4 women and 9 children. Vouchers for food and hygiene products are provided for all of them.

## Parent Helpline

During 2022 the Parent Helpline received 479 calls from parents and persons who take care of minor children. Of these, 50 were parents who requested psychosocial and mental health support for children with disabilities.

The services of the telephone line were provided by 15 operators, who participated in 2 trainings during the year. The first training was held on May 14, on the topic: Application of the principles and techniques of positive parenting in the advisory work of the Parent Line. At this training, the trainer was Daria Petrovich Bambur, who held sessions to refresh the operators' knowledge on the principles and techniques of positive parenting, as well as the principles and techniques of conducting a counseling conversation.

The second training took place on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and was a training for supervisors to monitor the services provided by the Parent Helpline. The trainer was Daria Petrovich Bambur again, who this time covered the sessions on the basics of early childhood development (0-3 years) and the challenges of the adolescent period.



## Workshops and trainings for personal growth and development and professional development

Within the framework of the Women's Support Centers in Skopje and Tetovo, since their opening, the service for career counseling and trainings and workshops for economic strengthening and soft skills has been provided to the users of the centers.



In the first half of 2022 apart from the individual sessions for career counseling, 17 trainings were conducted for 94 women from Skopje and 10 trainings for 15 women from Tetovo. The trainings were on different topics, which were organized in cycles of workshops from related fields.

The first cycle of workshops was about Personal Growth and Development and consisted of 3 workshops on the following topics: self-awareness, communication and effective communication with others. These workshops were conducted in Skopje, where the facilitator was

career counselor Katerina Zlatanovska Popova.

The next cycle for Personal growth and development was conducted in Tetovo and was led by psychologists Sema Halili and Biljana Radichevska, and consisted of the following topics: self-awareness, partner relationship styles, self-sabotage, self-support and self-confidence.

Furthermore, several professional development trainings were organized by career counselor Katerina Zlatanovska Popova, which covered the following topics: adaptability and coping with changes, emotional intelligence and female entrepreneurship. A new cycle of workshops for personal growth and development on the aforementioned topics was also organized.

In the further work, trainings on Critical thinking and problem solving were also organized.

**ПОВИК ЗА УЧЕСТВО ВО ЦИКЛУС РАБОТИЛНИЦИ ЗА ЛИЧЕН РАСТ И РАЗВОЈ**

**THIRRJE PËR PJESËMARRJE NË NJË CИКËЛ PUNËTORISH**

**RITJA DHE ZHVILLIMI PERSONAL**

Пријавување на: [konkurs@glasprotivnasilstvo.org.mk](mailto:konkurs@glasprotivnasilstvo.org.mk)  
најдоцна до 25.03.2022г.со назнака:  
Учество во работилници за личен раст и развој - Tetovo

Regjistrimi në: [konkurs@glasprotivnasilstvo.org.mk](mailto:konkurs@glasprotivnasilstvo.org.mk)  
jo më vonë se 25.03.2022. me shënimin:  
Pjesëmarrje në cikël punëtorish për rritje dhe zhvillim personal - Tetovë

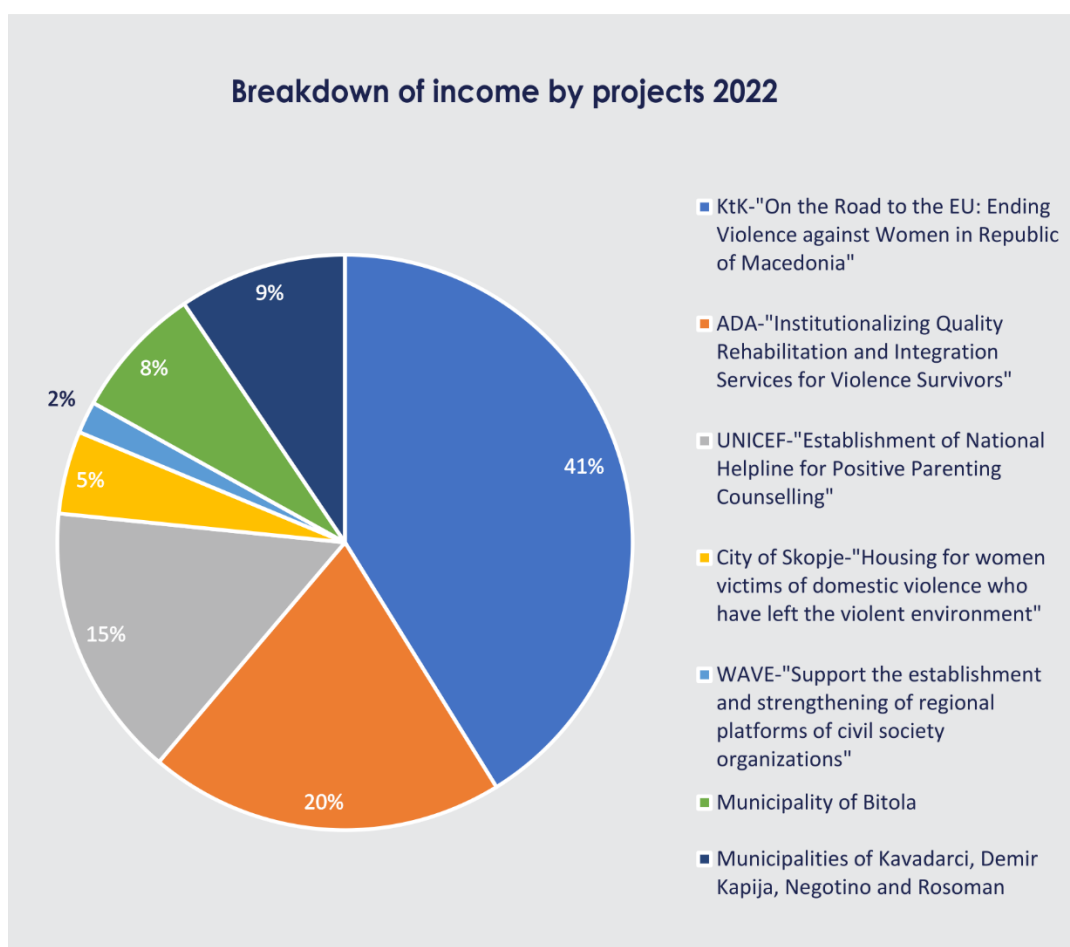
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**075/344 - 770**

RIT D, Norway, and other logos.

# Financial report 2022

## Breakdown of revenues by projects for 2022

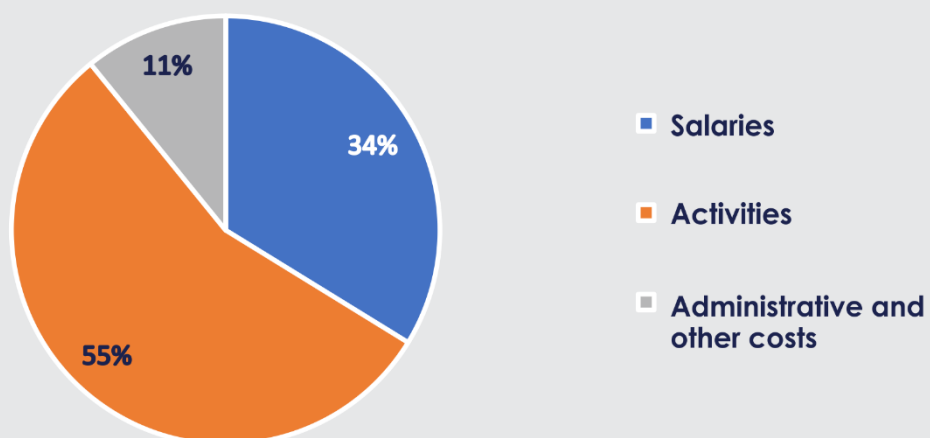
Donor	Name of project	Income by projects	%
Kvinna til Kvinna	On the road to the EU: Prevention of violence against women in the Republic of Macedonia	5,487,312 MKD	41%
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)	Institutionalizing quality services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of women victims of domestic violence	2,667,594 MKD	20%
UNICEF	Establishing a national counseling line for positive parenting	2,054,765 MKD	15%
City of Skopje	Housing for women victims of domestic violence who have left the violent surroundings	620,222 MKD	5%
WAVE	Support for the establishment and strengthening of a regional platform of civil society organizations	239,019 MKD	2%
Municipality of Bitola	Women's Support Center - Bitola	1,000,000 MKD	8%
Municipalities of Kavadarci, Demir Kapija, Negotino and Rosoman	Women's Support Center - Kavadarci	1,324,640 MKD	9%



## Breakdown of total costs for 2022

Category	Breakdown of total expenses	%
Salaries	5,185,921 MKD	34%
Activities	8,252,543 MKD	55%
Administrative and other costs	1,718,817 MKD	11%

### Breakdown of total costs for 2022



# The Team of the Network

## Executive Office

Elena Dimushevska – Executive Director  
Silvana Ivanovska – Finance Manager  
Ana Avramoska Nushkova – Project Coordinator  
Maja Balshikjevska – Project Coordinator  
Sandra Dukovska Novkovska – Project Assistant  
Maja Kuzmanovska – Finance Assistant  
Paula Kostadinovska – Communications Officer

## Service providers

### **Womens' Support Center - Skopje:**

Cvetanka Zlateva Kamcheva – Social Worker  
Bojana Lazarevska – Social Worker  
Frosina Ivanovska – Psychologist  
Irena Zhungulova - Psychologist  
Aleksandra Stojanovska - Psychologist  
Natasha Petrovska – legal Advisor  
Katerina Zlatanovska Popova – Career Counselor

### **Women's Support Center - Tetovo:**

Monika Chekalovikj – Social Worker  
Nebahat Imeri - Psychologist  
Arita Shakiri – Legal Advisor

### **Women's Support Center - Kavadarci:**

Florida Ilievska – Social Worker  
Blagorodna Dimova - Psychologist  
Biljana Tasheva – Legal Advisor

## Donors



The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation



ГРАД СКОПЈЕ



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