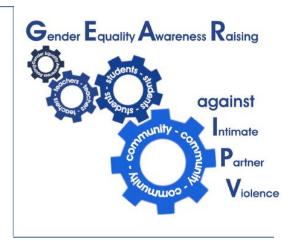
Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence II

GEAR against IPV II

Country Report

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Sexual Violence (SV) in adolescents: preventive & supportive initiatives in Croatia



CESI- Center for Education, Counselling and Research

June 2015

Credits

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Country Report

Authors

Nataša Bijelić Sanja Cesar

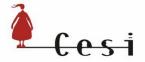
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For more information regarding this country report please contact



CESI- Center for Education, Counselling and Research

Nova cesta 4, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel.: ++38512422800 E-mail: cesi@cesi.hr Website: www.cesi.hr

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Partners

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), Cyprus

- Center for Education, Counselling and Research (CESI), Croatia
- Association for Gender Equality and Liberty (ALEG), Romania
- Plataforma Unitària contra les Violències de Gènere, Spain

• The Smile of the Child, Creece

Coordinator: European Anti-Violence Network (EAVN), Greece

External Evaluator: Prof. Carol Hagemann-White

Website: www.gear-ipv.eu

Funding: With financial support from the DAPHNE III

Programme of the European Union



More information

⇒ regarding the project's activities in partner countries, please contact with:

Croatia: Center for Education, Counselling and Research

E-mail: cesi@cesi.hr

Cyprus: Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

E-mail: info@medinstgenderstudies.org

Romania: Association for Gender Equality and Liberty

E-mail: contact@aleg-romania.eu

Spain: Plataforma Unitària contra les Violències de Gènere

E-mail: prouviolencia@pangea.org

⇒ regarding the project and its activities in Greece or for any other issue, you can visit the project's website (www.gear-ipv.eu) or contact with European Anti-Violence Network



European Anti-Violence Network (EAVN) 12, Zacharitsa str., 11742, Athens, Greece

Tel.: +30 210 92 25 491

E-mail: info@antiviolence-net.eu
Website: www.antiviolence-net.eu
Project's website: www.gear-ipv.eu

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Preface

This Country Report was developed in the context and for the purposes of the Project "Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence II" (GEAR against IPV II).

The Country Report aims to map the preventive and supportive initiatives in Croatia that have been set in place in order to prevent adolescents' abuse as well as to support and protect adolescents who have already been exposed to any of the following types of violence:

- a) abuse by their dating/romantic/intimate partner
- b) sexual abuse by any person (partner or non-partner).

The GEAR against IPV Approach

The GEAR against IPV Approach stared being implemented since 2009; more specifically it was initially implemented in 4 countries (Greece, Germany, Austria and Croatia) during 2009 – 2011 in the context of the Project "Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence" (GEAR against IPV). During 2014-2016 it was implemented in 5 countries (Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Spain) in the context of the GEAR against IPV II Project; both Projects were carried out with financial support from the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union.

The GEAR against IPV approach is a coordinated action of primary and secondary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence in adolescents' relationships through interventions in the school or in other settings, that are guided by specially designed educational material and are aimed at secondary school students' awareness raising and empowerment by specially trained teachers.

The main aim is to promote the development of **healthy and equal relationships** between the sexes and the development of **zero tolerance towards violence** by raising teens' awareness on:

- a) the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- b) the influence that gender stereotypical attitudes and socially imposed gender roles have on their relationships
- c) how power inequality between the sexes is related to psychological, physical and/or sexual abuse against women/girls and
- d) how adolescents can contribute to the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence.

Given the fact that almost all children and adolescents attend school, the **educational system**, at all levels, is the ideal setting for such an effort, where properly trained teachers can play a key role in the implementation of such interventions targeting the general population. The need for implementing in schools interventions related to gender stereotypes

and equality, as a means of primary prevention of gender-based violence it is, therefore, imperative.

The **GEAR** against **IPV** approach is a proposal for systematic intervention in the school (or other) setting, where girls and boys are invited, through a series of experiential activities, to assess but also challenge their culturally "inherited" gender stereotypes and to approach differences between sexes as individual differences rather than as characteristics of superiority of one sex over the other.

The GEAR against IPV Approach addresses

- students (12+ years old) of secondary education
- adolescents but also young people belonging to high-risk groups (e.g. have been exposed to intimate partner violence between their parents or experienced abuse and/or neglect during childhood)
- **secondary school teachers** and other **professionals** working in the school setting (e.g. psychologists, social workers)
- professionals and organizations that are active in the fields of health promotion and education, gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence, as well as to professionals who are providing services to adolescents belonging to high-risk groups
- decision-making centers, such as departments of Ministries of Education, and policy makers interested in promoting the integration of the GEAR against IPV intervention in secondary education's curricula.

The GEAR against IPV Approach

- uses exclusively experiential activities through which, adolescents are not taught, but guided to explore their personal gender stereotypical attitudes and their impact to their own lives, to "discover" and to exercise life skills that will help them to develop healthy relationships, free from any form of violence
- allows access to the general population of children/adolescents, even in remote areas
- has already been implemented and evaluated, on a pilot basis, and appears to be
 effective in increasing adolescents' knowledge and modifying their tolerant attitudes
 towards gender-based violence
- introduces gender equality in education as a violence prevention strategy, motivates and qualifies teachers with the necessary skills and the "know how" in order to implement such primary prevention interventions
- when integrated into the school curriculum, it enhances a) the preventive character
 of the intervention, as it conveys the message that schools and teachers do care
 about and take action towards gender equality and elimination of violence from
 adolescents' relationships, and b) the sustainability of such interventions, as

- teachers comprise a permanent "task force" at schools and, therefore, they can implement such interventions on a permanent basis
- consists a precise fulfilment of Article 14 of the Council of Europe (2011) Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. In this article, that concerns education, it is clearly stated that such type of "teaching material on issues such as equality between women and men, non-stereotyped gender roles, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, gender-based violence against women and the right to personal integrity, adapted to the evolving capacity of learners" should be included not only "in formal curricula and at all levels of education", but also "in informal educational facilities, as well as in sports, cultural and leisure facilities and the media".

Main Activities of the GEAR against IPV Approach are

A. **Teachers' Training Seminars** aiming to:

- theoretical and experiential training of teachers on issues related to gender stereotypical attitudes, gender equality and gender-based violence in adolescents' relationships
- capacity building and skills development for the implementation and evaluation of the adolescents' awareness raising workshops in school or other settings
- development of skills related to identifying, handling and appropriate referring of cases of abuse of children and teens they may face.

B. <u>Adolescents' Awareness Raising Workshops</u> "Building Healthy Intimate Relationships"

Adolescents are offered, via experiential activities, the opportunity a) to assess and challenge –within a safe environment- their culturally "inherited" gender stereotypes and b) to explore the influence that gender stereotypical attitudes and socially imposed gender roles have on their relationships, as well as how power inequality between the sexes is related to violence against women and girls. Moreover, adolescents are provided with the necessary skills that will enable them to recognize –at an early stage- the unhealthy or even abusive characteristics of a relationship, and also empowered in ways that will enable them to create healthy relationships.

Therefore, the ultimate goal of the workshops is young people less tolerant towards IPV, more knowledgeable of the characteristics and consequences of gender-based violence and equipped with "protection skills" against intimate partner violence and other forms of gender-based violence, for both themselves and the people they know.

The long-term objective of the workshops is adolescents' relationships to be healthy and based on equality and mutual respect as, in such a relationship, the phenomenon of gender-based violence is impossible to occur.

For the achievement of the objectives of the GEAR against IPV approach, a complete educational material has been developed in order to support the organization, preparation,

implementation and evaluation of teachers' training seminars and adolescents' awareness raising Workshops (in school or other settings), aiming to primary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence.

A Master GEAR against IPV Package -comprised of a series of 4 booklets- has been developed in such a way that it can be used by relevant organizations and professionals as a model for the development of appropriately tailored and culturally validated National Packages for any country.

During the period from 2010 to 2015, **National Packages** have been developed and evaluated **for 7 EU Member States** (Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Romania and Spain) after translation, completion and cultural adaptation of the **Master Package**.

Introduction

In Croatia, violence in teen relationships is a problem that is poorly researched and completely "invisible" in the areas of public policy, legislation and education system. Official data on violence in adolescent relationships or relationships in young people is not available; the competent authorities maintain statistics on domestic violence, sexual violence and crimes committed by minors or committed against minors. The few social studies provide insight into the scale of the problem and point to the non-recognition of different forms of violence in relationships as well as the reluctance of young people to report violence.

Also, there is no set procedure identifying adolescents in violent relationships or sexually abused young people and there is no unique system for recording data on cases of abuse and neglect of children/young people, including violence in partner relationships of young people. There are only treatment protocols related to violence among children and youth that focus on peer violence and the protocol for dealing with cases of sexual violence. Violence in intimate relationships, including adolescent relationships, is a legally completely unregulated area.

Furthermore, there is no systematic approach to the prevention of violence in intimate partner relationships, but prevention is related to sporadic implementation of programs in schools designed mostly by civil society organizations. School prevention programs designed by educational institutions are mostly focused on non-violent conflict resolution and prevention of peer violence. The organizations and institutions that young people turn for help in cases of violence in adolescent relationships report only a small number of such cases on an annual basis or do not have any cases, pointing out that they do not keep specific records on this form of violence.

Chapter 1

Magnitude of the problem: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and sexual violence (SV) in adolescents

Survey No/Name		1/Violence doesn't pass by itself- Research Report on gender-based violence in adolescent relationships in the Republic of Croatia		
Responsible for the survey		CESI- Center for Education, Counselling and Research		
		European Commission project, "National Awareness-Raising		
Context of the survey		Campaign for Prevention of Gender based Violence" (Silence is Not Golden)		
Data collection	period [dates]	November and December 2006.		
Data collection	method	Structured questionnaire (self-completed)		
		Sample and Sampling		
Method of sampling		Random sample of high-school students stratified by sex, age and type of school, geographical region and by urban/rural character		
	Country of Origin	Croatia		
	Sex	63% Female, 37% Male		
	Age range	16-19 years old, high-school students		
Respondents'		Had a relationship 87%		
characteristics	Relationship/	Had a sexual relationship 57%		
	Marital status	Currently in a relationship 48%		
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
	Geographical areas covered	Croatia		
Sample's size (i	N of individuals to	N. 4044		
be approached)		N=1014		
Response rate individuals resp		Not available		
-	•	Other		
Types of abuse measured		Experience of family violence and dating/intimate partner violence (e.g. psychological – physical – sexual) by dating/intimate partner, family members.		
Important meth				
Access (link &/or reference)		Hodžić, A. (2007): Violence doesn't pass by itself: Research report on gender based violence in adolescent relationships, CESI, Zagreb (in Croatian). (Available at: http://www.cesi.hr/attach/ n/nasilje.pdf)		
		2/Teen-dating Violence		
Responsible for the survey		Society for Psychological Assistance		
Context of the survey		Project "Prevention and Efficient Approach to Teen-dating Violence through School-system", Society for Psychological Help and Teacher Training Agency		
Data collection period [dates]		May 2010.		
Data collection method		Structured questionnaire (self-completed)		
Sample and Sampling				
Method of sampling		Convenience sample, third-grade students coming from 14 high-schools from different regions of Croatia		

	Country of Origin	Croatia	
Respondents' characteristics	Sex	44% Female, 56% Male	
	Age range	high-school students, average age 16.8	
	Relationship/ Marital status	63% in a relationship (for the last 6 months)	
	Geographical areas covered	Not available	
Sample's size (l	N of individuals to	N= 623	
Response rate individuals resp	. ,	Not available	
		Other	
Types of abuse measured		Experience of psychological, physical, sexual violence by dating/intimate partner among adolescents	
Important methodological information/ Comments		Scale of false beliefs about a quality relationship, Scale of importance of rights in a relationship, Scale of (un)willingness to establish limits, Experience of being exposed to violence, Experience of committed violence, Readiness to seek help and Readiness to provide help.	
Access (link &/or reference)		Ajduković, D., Low A., i N. Sušac (2011). Rodne razlike i prediktori partnerskog nasilja u mladenačkim vezama. Ljetopis socijalnog rada, 18(3): 527-533. (in Croatian)	

Survey No/Name		3/ Adolescents' Dating Violence		
Responsible for the survey		Faculty of Law, Department of Social Work Zagreb; Faculty of		
		Philosophy, Department of Psychology, Osijek		
Context of the survey		Research on delinquent and risk behaviour of youth		
Data collection		2007		
Data collection	method	Structured questionnaire (self-completed)		
		Sample and Sampling		
Method of samp		Convenience sample		
	Country of Origin	Croatia		
	Sex	Female (N=866); Male (N=556)		
		13-19 years old (7 th and 8 th grade of elementary school and 1-4 th		
Respondents'	Age range	grade of secondary school)		
characteristics				
onaraotonotios	Relationship/	Not available		
	Marital status			
	Geographical	Cities of Zagreb and Osijek		
	areas covered	Office of Zagreb and Conject		
, ,	N of individuals to	N=1422		
be approached)				
Response rate [individuals resp		Not available		
marriadais resp	onacaj	Other		
Types of abuse measured		Experience of physical violence (and threats) by dating/intimate		
		partner among adolescents		
Important methodological				
information/ Comments				
Access (link &/or reference)		Ajduković, M I S. Ručević (2009). Nasilje u vezama mladih.		
Access (IIIIK O/OI Telefelice)		MEDICUS, Vol. 18, No. 2, 217 – 225 (in Croatian)		

		Croatia		
Responsible for the survey		Department of Social Work, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb		
Context of the survey		Project "Balkan Epidemiological Study on Child Abuse and Neglect" (B.E.C.A.N.)		
Data collection	period [dates]	January to May 2011		
Data collection	method	Structured questionnaire (self-completed)		
		Sample and Sampling		
Method of samp	oling	A probabilistic stratified cluster sample of 2% of children, regular school attendees, aged 11, 13 and 16 years		
	Country of Origin	Croatia		
	Sex	Female 51.13%; Male 48.87%		
Respondents'	Age range	11, 13 and 16 years of age		
characteristics	Relationship/ Marital status	Not available		
	Geographical areas covered	Not available		
Sample's size (libe approached)	N of individuals to	N=3689		
Response rate [% and (N)of individuals responded]		Average response rate of participants in this study was 70.1% in 5th, 67.1% in 7th, and 82.6% in 2nd grades of secondary schools		
		Other		
Types of abuse measured		Prevalence and incidence of psychological and physical violence, feeling of neglect, sexual violence and positive and non-violent parenting that children had experienced		
Important methodological information/ Comments		The international instruments for assessing the incidence and prevalence of CAN, that were created by ISPCAN (International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) and UNICEF, were used		
Access (link &/or reference)		http://www.becan.eu/node/29 (National report available in Croatian and English)		

Survey No/Name		5/Gender prism of sexual rights among youth		
Responsible for the survey		Women's Room- Centre for Sexual Rights		
Context of the survey		Not available		
Data collection	period [dates]	November 2006 - March 2007		
Data collection	method	Structured questionnaire (self-completed)		
		Sample and Sampling		
Method of sampling		Representative sample of University Zagreb students (3 rd and 4 th year students)		
	Country of Origin	Croatia		
	Sex	Female 53.9%; Male 45.7%		
Respondents'	Age range	University students - age range 20-39 (majority of students is 20-24 years of age). Average age is 22.4		
characteristics	Relationship/ Marital status	Not available		
	Geographical areas covered	Not available		
Sample's size (libe approached)	N of individuals to	N=852		
Response rate individuals resp		Not available		
Other				
Types of abuse measured		Experiences of sexual violence- type of sexual violence, perpetrator and place where violence occurred		
Important methodological information/ Comments		Part of the questionnaire is a scale AMORE: The Affective and Motivational Orientation Related to Erotic Arousal Questionnaire (Hill, Preston, 1996).		
Access (link &/or reference)		Research Report "Gender prism of sexual rights among youth", Women's Room- Center for Sexual Rights, 2007. (in Croatian)		

FRA survey's results (Croatia)

Table 1.1. Prevalence of women's abuse during lifetime (since the age of 15) and during past year, by type of perpetrator(s) and by type of abuse (% of women)^a

		Prevalence			
Type of		Lifetime (since 15 y/o)		last 12 months	
Perpetrator(s) Type of abuse		Croatia	EU	Croatia	EU
Partner (current &/or ex) - IPV	Physical & Sexual Violence	13	22	3	4
	Physical violence	12	20	3	4
	Sexual violence	3	7	0	1
	Psychological violence	42	43	Not measured	
Other person (non-partner)	Physical & Sexual Violence	13	22	3	5
	Physical violence	11	20	3	4
	Sexual violence	3	6	0	1
Total (partner and/or other person)	Physical & Sexual Violence	21	33	5	8
	Physical violence	19	31	5	7
	Sexual violence	5	11	1	2

^a Multiple response possible; at least one incident of physical or sexual or psychological violence occurred (N_{Croatia} = 1505, N_{EU-28} = 42,002).

Source: FRA gender-based violence against women survey dataset, 2012

Table 1.2. Prevalence of abuse experiences during childhood (before the age of 15) by adult perpetrator(s), by abuse type (% of women retrospectively reported abuse)^a

	Lifetime (before 15 y/o)	
Type of abuse	Croatia	EU-28
Psychological violence by a family member	5	10
Physical violence	28	27
Sexual violence	2	12
Any Physical or Sexual violence	30	33
Any violence (physical, sexual or psychological)	31	35

^a Multiple response possible; at least one incident of physical or sexual or psychological violence occurred ($N_{Croatia} = 1505$, $N_{EU-28} = 42,002$).

Source: FRA's Report (2014), Table 7.1

The Croatian Ministry of Interior takes statistics on domestic violence and sexual violence. Official data on violence in adolescent relationships or relationships in young people are not available. According to the official data of the Ministry of Interior on domestic violence, according to the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, passed in 2003, each year between 11500 and 17500 perpetrators are reported, and the number of victims of such acts ranges between 14500 and 22200, of which women are the victims in 64% to 71% of cases, depending on the year. Regarding domestic violence, the police official data show that every year between 1400 and almost 2000 criminal acts are reported, with the number of damaged people ranging between 1500 and 2100 people, of which women are the victims in 75% to 80% of cases. By the number of women who are murdered each year, data from the police show the worrying number of 22 to 45 women a year. Their current or former partners/husbands were the perpetrators in 20% to 65% of cases. According to official data of the Ministry of Interior on sexual violence, it can be noticed for years that there is no significant increase, but also no decrease in the number of reported criminal offenses against sexual freedom and sexual morality (Criminal Code, Chapter 14). There were 461-761 cases reported. From 2000 to 2010, a total of 6625 reported crimes of sexual violence, of which the most common is sexual misconduct 34% (2252 offenses), rape 15% (958 offenses), satisfying lust before a child or a minor 14% (921 piece), sexual intercourse with a child 10% (677 offenses). Other crimes are represented by less than 10%. From 2000 to 2010, there were a total of 1228 criminal offenses of rape reported, of which 958 completed and 270 attempted rape cases. The average number of such crimes reported annually is between 90 and 150. Domestic and sexual violence are the two main forms of gender-based violence, which means that more than 90% of the victims as women, which is confirmed by official data of the Ministry of Interior. When we talk about rape victims, they are mostly younger people from 19 to 30 years of age (43%), and minors, but when it comes to domestic violence, victims are adult women (Source: www.sigurnomjesto.hr)

The latest data of the **Ministry of Interior in 2014** on **domestic violence**, according to the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence indicate that a total of 15449 reported perpetrators (of which 12261 men and 3188 women) and 309 minors (232 boys and 77 girls). Criminal offenses against sexual freedom and sexual morality, and sexual abuse and exploitation of children, who belong to the group of general crimes, have increased by 10.8 percent. In the monitored period, there were 78 rapes and 21 attempted rape reported. Official statistics show that there were 49 injured people aged from 14-18 years according to the criminal offenses – sexual intercourse without consent, rape, indecent assault, and sexual harassment. Furthermore, 265 people of this age were injured, according to the criminal offenses of sexual abuse of a child, satisfying lust in front of a child, enticement of children for sexual gratification needs, procuring and child exploitation for pornography and introducing to pornography.

In 2014, there were 18.1% crimes against minors reported more than in the previous year. There are less 21% criminal offenses committed by children younger than 14, and there are over 7.4% of the criminal offenses committed by children between 14 and 18. (Statistical Review, 2014)

The latest **report of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality** points to the problem of partnership violence in general (without naming specific age groups). The Ombudsperson notes that Croatian legislation is not aligned with the Istanbul Convention and does not provide equal protection against violence to women. Women who are or were married or in a commonlaw relationship are in a much better position than women who are or were in an intimate relationship, but this relationship cannot be considered as common-law because there are no essential elements of the common-law relationship (as defined in the Family Law). Also during 2014, the Ombudsperson received complaints of citizens who felt that they were not given adequate police protection from their former partners. Regardless of the unsatisfactory legislative framework in Croatia regarding the provision of protection in a relationship, the protection from violence of persons in a relationship is carried out in two ways:

- The first is that if the police determine that this is a relationship (present or former) having elements of a common law marriage, then this relationship is equated with a common-law relationship protection and treated in accordance with the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence. However, this practice is not unique and varies from one to the other police department and police station. In this regard, the Ombudsperson's provided the police with adequate warnings and recommendations in earlier years.
- The second way is that the misdemeanor provision of Article 31 of the Gender Equality Act can be applied to cases of violence in relationships. In this regard, the Ombudsperson has repeatedly emphasized and urged the application of the previously mentioned misdemeanor provision in cases of violence in relationships.

According to the police data for the year 2014, a total of 28 misdemeanor procedures were initiated against the perpetrators of misdemeanors referred to in Article 31 of the Gender Equality Act, out of which 24 were men, and 4 were women. There was a total of 11 final court decisions, 10 against men, and 1 against a woman. The total number of imposed fines is 8, 7 for men and 1 for a woman.

The Ombudsperson considers that adequate protection of victims of relationship violence can go in two directions. The first is a case when the relationship has the characteristics or elements of a common-law relationship (lasting economic and emotional ties of the partners). In this case, the partners would be provided protection from violence, which is equated with the protection from domestic violence. The second direction is the use of misdemeanor

proceedings provided in Article 31 of the Law on Gender Equality as a legal mechanism that proved relatively effective in suppressing prohibited discriminatory behavior. The Ombudsperson also considers that imprisonment should be considered as punishment for more severe forms of the described acts of violation and appropriate protective measures. Consequently, the Ombudsman proposes:

- 1) The Croatian Parliament should as soon as possible start the process of ratification of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence of the Council of Europe, so that in the Republic of Croatia a comprehensive framework could be made, policies and measures for the protection and assistance to all victims of violence against women, including and women in partner relationships.
- 2) The introduction of legislative changes, both to the Criminal Code and the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence in a way that the those laws regard as family also persons (victims and perpetrators of partner violence) who have never lived together, but are or were in an intimate relationship. (Report for 2014, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, pp. 77-80).

The report on the work of the Ombudsperson for Children for 2013 mentioned a case of violence in adolescent relationship in the part of the report about peer violence. The office of the Ombudsperson for Children states: "A mother of a sixteen-year-old girl contacted us because her daughter's boyfriend had threatened to kill her after breaking up. Due to earlier verbal violence and fear, the girl did not want to report him to the police. We empowered the mother to report the perpetrator, and to provide full support to her daughter in a process that would follow. In communicating with children in various situations and through our Network of Young Advisors, we have unfortunately found out that the dark figure of violence in adolescent relationships is extremely high. Adolescents in such relationships are especially unprotected, which is also visible in the research data (CESI, 2007) according to which two-thirds of adolescents in peer relationships experience some form of violence and feel completely unprotected, and three-quarters of them think that violence in adolescent relationships is a serious problem. Faced with these findings, as well as with the reluctance to report this kind of violence, because of the long and exhausting process for the victim, back in 2009, we suggested that violence in intimate relationships, including adolescent ones, should have been included in the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, modeled in some other countries. We proposed that this form of relationship should be identified with family relations because it defines precisely the intimacy between two people in the private sphere. If it were listed in the law, the society could react faster and more efficiently to this kind of violence and protect victims better. Our proposal was not accepted."(Report, 2014, p. 44)

In the last report of the Ombudsperson for Children for 2014, it is stated that the Office received allegations of violence associated with relations in emotional relationships of young people. One report related to the physical violence in adolescent relationship which had happened on the street (physical abuse of boys over a girl after the termination of an emotional relationship), and it was a mother who reported it, dissatisfied with the police and the Municipal State Attorney's Office. The Ombudsperson for Children points out that because of inadequate care and unequal treatment and reaction of institutions to reports of violence against children outside the family and school, she has been indicating the need to adopt legislation that would include a separate offense proceeding, such as those in the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, and allow urgent treatment and sanctioning of all forms of violence against children, regardless of the place of the commission and the perpetrator of violence. The violence that took place outside the family and school, which does not have features of a serious criminal act, is also unacceptable and harmful behavior, and it is necessary to be characterized as a negative phenomenon and sanctioned properly. (Report, 2015, p. 43)

The report of the **Brave Phone for Children**, a non-profit and non-governmental organization that provides direct assistance and support to abused and neglected children and their families but also engages in work on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and unacceptable behavior of children and youth, does not include any specified data on violence in adolescent relationships. Instead, it is stated that the reason for calling identified as "abuse and violence" belongs to the category which includes emotional, physical, and sexual abuse; peer violence, electronic violence, physical abuse, family violence, witnessing family violence, neglect and other categories (Brave Phone for Children, Annual Report 2013).

The Blue phone, a help line for young people, together with the associated Counseling center Open Doors, in the latest report states only the total number of people assisted and names the most common reason for calling as "family issues" (Report of the president of the organization for the period 17.02.2012-14.02.2013).

The "Luka Ritz" counseling center, which works on prevention and providing advice and professional support in cases of violent and risky behavior of children and youth, in their statistics related to phone and online counseling list "abuse/violence", forms of abuse (physical, psychological /emotional, sexual) and type (peer, outside family and family abuse/violence). Also, there is no specified data on adolescent relationship violence (Counseling Center against Children and Youth Violence "Luka Ritz", Annual Report 2013).

Chapter 2

Identification of adolescents suffering IPV and SV

In Croatia, there is no set procedure identifying adolescents in violent relationships or young people who are or have been sexually abused. Professionals who work with young people, or come into contact with young people and who have knowledge that a young person is a victim of violence are obliged to report it.

Schools

The obligation of teachers, professional counselors and other employees is to immediately inform the principal of any breaches of law, especially concerning forms of physical or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation of students, who is then obliged to inform the social welfare center.

Each school, the center of social welfare in the area of the school and police station are obliged to appoint representatives-coordinators and set up a team that, in cases of violence, would promptly react and act in order to protect children, according to the Protocol for dealing with cases of violence among children and youth. Some schools have adopted their own protocols on handling school in crisis situations involving the procedure in cases of violence.

A recent survey showed that in Croatia there is no uniform system for recording data on cases of abuse and neglect of children/young people. The Ministry of Interior (i.e. Police), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Ministry of Family, Ombudsperson for Children and various associations are responsible for monitoring cases of child abuse and neglect. There is a need to improve the national system for monitoring child abuse and neglect based on the **analysis which found that there is no standardized database** collected in all cases of reported or confirmed violence against children, which would enable monitoring the negative effects of experienced violence and effectiveness of obtained professional assistance in their reduction or removal. Also, the methods of keeping the system of recording and documentation of reported cases of child abuse and neglect in different systems do not comply. In Croatia, there is a need for a separate system of data collection and monitoring of child abuse and neglect and improvement of the existing system of data collection on domestic violence in a way that the data are comparable within the legal, social and healthcare system (Rimac, Ajduković, Ogresta, 2012)

The report of abuse may be submitted to the competent social welfare center, the department of juvenile delinquency in the local police administration, or directly to the municipal or county

public prosecution offices. It does not matter to which body the report has been made, since these institutions are coordinated with each other and report on their part of the work done to one another. It is necessary to report a suspicion of abuse, and other services such as a social welfare center and the police should be left to carry out the actions for which they are responsible and collect the necessary facts and evidence, and the final decision about whether the prosecution will proceed is made by the State Attorney's Office, and the decision about whether the abuse has been committed is made by the court.

The report which was submitted to the center for social care or the police must be forwarded to the relevant State Attorney's Office, the authority responsible for prosecuting perpetrators of crimes, which could, if there is "reasonable doubt", request to initiate the investigation procedure against the abuser, and for certain offenses related to child abuse it could directly raise indictment to be submitted to the court, if the facts provide sufficient grounds for this.

Otherwise, if in the opinion of the State Attorney there are no sufficient facts and circumstances justifying the existence of "reasonable doubt" to initiate criminal proceedings, he/she can dismiss the charges for the reasons set forth by law (for example - there is not enough evidence, the reported act does not have characteristics of criminal activities or there are no certain procedural requirements for criminal operation, for example due to the statute of limitations). If the indictment procedure, or in certain cases, indictments, are raised against the abuser, then the criminal liability of the perpetrator is decided upon at the trial court that reaches the finally decision. In criminal proceedings, it is expected that a person (professional) who has reported abuse be summoned to court as a witness, and then it is their duty to respond and testify truthfully about everything they know about the event (Source: http://www.poliklinika-djeca.hr/publikacije/25-pitanja-i-odgovora/).

Chapter 3

Protection of adolescents suffering IPV and SV (tertiary prevention)

In Croatia, all authorities in charge proceed according to the **Protocol in cases of violence among children and youth** (2004). It lays down the obligations of relevant state bodies: educational institutions, social welfare centers and the Police Department, but also forms and aspects of cooperation between the competent state bodies and other stakeholders, as well as other activities and obligations. The protocol does not mention violence in relationships of young people, but is instead focused on peer violence, i.e. violence among children and youth, which is defined as any intentional physical or psychological bullying directed at children and young people by their peers with the intention of harming, which could differ, irrespective of the place of performance, in form, complexity, intensity and duration, and which includes the repetition of the same pattern and maintains an unequal balance of power (the strong against the weak or the group against the individual).

In case of acquired knowledge about the bullying the **school staff** is obliged to:

- take all measures to immediately stop violent treatment of a child, and, if necessary, request the assistance of other staff member or contact the police
- assess whether a child needs medical attention and, if necessary, call the emergency or walk/monitor the child to the doctor (and await the arrival of their parents)
- **inform parents or legal guardians** of a child victim about the incident and introduce them with everything that has been done
- inform parents or legal guardians of a child victim of peer violence on the possibilities of consulting and providing technical assistance to the child in and out of school, so the child could be given adequate support while dealing with the experience of violence
- collect information talk to your children or adults who have knowledge of the circumstances of violence, its form, intensity and duration
- talk to a child who has committed violence in the presence of an expert as soon as possible
- talk to parents or legal guardians of a child who has committed violence

- **keep official records** of the undertaken activities, interviews, statements and their observations, and appropriate data that will be submitted at the request of other authorities
- immediately conduct an interview with a child who is a victim of violence and in the presence of a qualified person
- if it is a particularly severe form, intensity or duration of violence, which can cause trauma in children who have just witnessed violence, consult a competent professional or service to provide them with adequate support

In a case of reported violence, the **social welfare center** is required to investigate the case and to obtain information on all the circumstances, in particular the form, intensity, severity and duration of violence, as well as all the information about the family and other circumstances of the child who is the perpetrator of violence; then call the parents and conduct an interview with them to gain insight into the family and other circumstances. If necessary, impose appropriate measures of legal protection in case of need or oblige them to engage the child in appropriate forms of psychosocial assistance, and monitor them in the execution of the given obligations, continue to monitor the child's behavior in the educational institution or in another setting where /she is staying, and in particular monitoring whether the child is still violent and keeping records on the case and inform the other competent services.

The actions of **the Police** include establishing the facts and circumstances of reporting a crime, and take all necessary actions to assist the victim in order to prevent further violence, as well as health care for victims; conducting criminal investigations of juvenile perpetrators of violence in the presence of parents or legal guardians; then depending on the circumstances of the case, filing criminal charges to the State Attorney for the youth, and submitting a request to initiate misdemeanor proceedings proposing the appropriate protective measures; and keeping records of the case and informing other competent services.

In 2014, the **Protocol on the procedure in cases of sexual violence** was adopted, which among other things stipulates the obligations of educational institutions in dealing with victims of sexual violence. Immediately upon receiving the information, it is the duty of the educational staff to initiate a conversation with a student for their protection. It is desirable that the conversation is conducted by a professional. The educational workers who have knowledge of a possible sexual harassment or sexual violence report their findings to the principal. If it is an incident that has just occurred, the victim is required, without delay, to be provided appropriate assistance and protection, and the incident must be reported to the police immediately. The

person who conducts the interview with the student or the source of information is obliged to keep a log. The obligation of the interviewer is to inform these students about further actions. The student needs to know what comes after each procedure, about possible obstacles and difficulties, and the final goal of the proceeding. Throughout the whole process it is necessary to take care of the safety of students and those who are a source of information.

The person in charge is obliged to promptly notify the following about the incident:

- a) The parents of the student;
- b) The social welfare center in charge;
- c) In case that the parents are unavailable or are suspected abusers, the social welfare center will be notified:
- d) The police or the State Attorney's Office;
- e) If there are visible injuries or distress, take measures to provide emergency medical assistance:
- f) Inform the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of violent behavior, through the web application form as soon as possible, and no later than 7 days. The form for records on individual cases of violence in educational institutions is available on the Ministry's website;
- g) Inform the Ombudsperson for Children.

The interviewer is obliged to inform the victim and their parents about the possibilities of non-institutional and institutional assistance and support. If the perpetrator of sexual violence is a staff member of the particular educational institution, a person who has information about it is obliged to inform the police and/or the State Attorney's Office. If the perpetrator of sexual violence is a staff member of the particular educational institution or the sexual violence has happened at the educational institution's premises, regardless of who the perpetrator is, the educational institution shall promptly notify the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. In case of a particularly severe form or intensity of violent behavior which has caused or may cause trauma for the child victim or other students, the educational institution shall notify the ministry responsible for education, and if necessary, other ministries and institutions and request appropriate professional psychological or social/pedagogical/psychological support for students of the educational institution. The competent ministry will, if necessary, provide adequate professional psychological help for students of the educational institution.

Dealing with sexual harassment that happened at school premises provides that:

1. In case of sexual harassment by an adult who is an employee of the educational institution the procedure is the same as in case of sexual violence;

Another student (or more of them) at school premises - need to be sent to counseling or mediation in the educational institution or counseling.

The obligation of the person in charge is to inform of the event the parents of all students involved. The case must be reported to the social welfare center in charge.

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports adopted the Regulations on the course of action of educational staff of educational institutions to protect the rights of students and notifying any violations of these rights to the competent authorities (2013). The Regulations prescribe the manner in which educational workers and educational institutions should take measures to protect the rights of students, and compulsory report of any violation of these rights to the competent authorities. Among other things, the protection of rights includes the prevention of violence among students, among students and members of school staff, among students and other adults; the conduct of professional bodies of the educational institutions towards victims of violence; and the activities of the educational institution in cooperation with the competent authorities outside of school facilities for the victims of violence. The Regulations prescribes the steps to be taken in order to assist students who are perpetrators and victims of violence. Also, the Regulations stipulate the obligation to implement prevention programs related to the prevention of violence and evaluation of the implementation.

Police actions

According to the classification of the Ministry of Interior, the child is a person under the age of 14 - he/she is not **criminally responsible** and no proceeding could be taken against them, except what falls under the jurisdiction of the social welfare services. A minor is a person aged 14 to 18 and criminally and misdemeanor responsible. Young Adults are persons aged 18 to 21 i criminally and misdemeanor responsible. The Law on Juvenile Courts stipulates that in cases of crime of children and minor, the specialized police officers for youth (i.e. persons of higher humanistic education) take charge. Each police station/ administration has specialized police officers for youth. Every police action against a minor must be carried out in the presence of their parents. Also, in case of minors who have committed a criminal offense the police are obliged to clarify the circumstances of the person and the environment in which young people live. Punishable acts perpetrated by minors are generally resolved through teamwork, which involves cooperation with the social welfare services, health services, educational institutions, civil society organizations, etc. The police proceeding ends with filing criminal charges to the State Attorney for the youth; detention of a juvenile judge; indictment proposal for the magistrate; and report to the center of social welfare in order to take measures of family legal protection (Source: www.mup.hr/1139.aspx).

3.1. Support Services for adolescents

The following institutions and organizations provide support related to relationship and sexual violence: Child Protection Center of Zagreb; The Brave Phone for Children, The Blue Phone association; Psychological Center TESA; MODUS- Center for Children, Youth and Family; Zagreb Counselling Center for Violence against Children and Young People "Luka Ritz".

Counseling center for victims of violence SOS phone - Rijeka reports that in previous work (since July 2014) they have not directly met with victims of violence in adolescent relationships. Some clients say that their relationship with the abuser started in adolescence or today recognize that some of their relationships in adolescence had traits of violent relationships. The association is implementing the project "Ljubav voli, a ne boli" (Love loves and does not hurt), where they hold workshops with children and youth on the topic of teen dating violence and where previous experiences show that a large number of young people have either personally or indirect experience of violence in adolescent relationship. Although they do not have direct experience of working with victims of violence in adolescent relationships, through the implementation of the project they encourage the youth to come forward to them.

Counseling center for the youth of the Association HERA conducts educational workshops aimed at preventing violence in relationships and works with young people of unacceptable behavior who seek counseling through a social welfare center.

The Blue Phone – helpline for young people together with the associated Counseling center Open Doors reports that in their work they encounter cases of violence in adolescent relationships, roughly about 15 cases annually. The practice that they follow is that they seek for approval/consent of the parents for all actions, as well as for assisting young people who have experienced some form of violence in relationships. The Blue Phone professionals point out that is the procedure of reporting relationship violence is the same as for peer violence. They report the violence to the center for social welfare and the police, and competent institutions act according to their treatment protocols.

MODUS- Centre for Children, Youth and Family conducts trainings for school staff on the prevention of violence in adolescent relationships. However, in their work within the counselling center, they do not face this problem, because no adolescents refer to them with this problem. Additionally, MODUS implements the program "Psychosocial treatment of children and underage perpetrators of violence". The target group are children and minors, aged 12-16, who were recognized by the school, their parents, social welfare center and/or the court as prone to violent behavior, having poor emotional regulation and showing distinct and frequent

aggression or are already committed for some sort of peer violence and/or violent behavior. The second target group of the program consists of parents of children and minor perpetrators of violence to be worked with individually or in the form of short-term family therapy.

The "Luka Ritz" Counselling Center has no experience dealing with cases of adolescent intimate relationship violence.

Child Protection Center of Zagreb states that in their practice they encounter cases of violence in adolescent relationships. However, their records of cases are conducted on the basis of categories such as e.g. peer violence, so that the accurate data on the number of cases on an annual basis is not available. Regarding the reporting procedure for this form of violence, it remains the same as with peer violence.

3.2. Legal Measures

In cases where a relationship is considered **common-law** (that lasts at least 3 years or that a child is born in it), under **the Law on protection from domestic violence**, relationship violence (physical, psychological, sexual, economic) is considered a misdemeanor. If it is a more severe form of violence, protection may be provided under the Criminal Code. In this case, the violence in a relationship can qualify as a series of crimes, such as for example: bodily injury, coercion, threat, intrusive behavior, sexual harassment, rape, murder, (etc.). Many criminal acts have a more severe form if they are committed against a close person, and they are accordingly punished more severly. A criminal act in a relationship can be considered as criminal act against a close person. However, violence in relationships that are considered common-law are not punished as such, and is not a separate criminal act, but only if it can be subsumed under some other criminal act. Furthermore, violence in relationships can be subsumed under the offense on the basis of the **Law on gender equality** and the protection can be provided also according to that law.

In cases where a **relationship is not considered common-law**, i.e. it does not meet the legal requirements for a common-law relationship, it is not considered a misdemeanor under the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, and cannot be penalized under this. Depending on its severity, it could be qualified as a criminal act and punished according to the Criminal Code. However, violence in relationships that are not considered as common-law is neither regarded as misdemeanor nor criminal act, and as such is not penalized, but only if it can be subsumed under some other criminal act. It may also be punishable under the Law on Gender Equality, but there is no such practice. Also, this kind of violence can be penalized as a misdemeanor according to the Misdemeanor Act.

On the basis of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, the care is provided through protective measures, imprisonment and fines. The protective measures include obligatory psychosocial treatment, measure of restraining from victims of domestic violence, measures prohibiting harassment or stalking of persons exposed to violence, precautionary measure of removal from the apartment, house or other dwelling, a measure of mandatory treatment of addiction, and the measure of forfeiture intended or used in the commission of misdemeanor. The purpose of protective measure is that their implementation prevents domestic violence (and relationship violence is considered to be domestic violence, if the relationship corresponds to the assumptions of common-law unions), ensure the necessary protection of the health and safety of persons exposed to violence and eliminate the circumstances that are favorable or encourage the perpetration of a new offense. Thus, the primary purpose is the prevention of violence and there is no provision of law which regulates explicitly and protects adolescents.

On the basis of the **Criminal Code**, protection is provided through penalties and security measures. The penalties are fines, imprisonment and long-term imprisonment. The purpose of punishment is to primarily impose social condemnation and affect the perpetrators, but also others not to commit crimes. Security measures are mandatory psychiatric treatment, mandatory treatment of addiction, mandatory psychosocial treatment, ban on performing certain duties or activities, ban on driving a motor vehicle, restraining, removal from common household, ban on the Internet access and protective supervision. The purpose is also to prevent new criminal acts. The Criminal Code does not standardize the special protection of adolescents besides the prescription of a more serious form of crime, if it is committed against a person particularly vulnerable because of their age. A minor could be considered as such, and then the act committed against a minor is more severely punished.

The laws do not stipulate the establishment or operation of services designed to support abused adolescents or victims of violence in relationships. Such regulation is the responsibility of government bodies and bodies of local and regional government, which adopted a policy and strategy related to suppressing violence and protecting victims. For example, there is the National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence (2011-2016), and the Protocol on the Protection Against Domestic Violence, which then standardize operation of the institutions in charge in situations of violence.

Chapter 4

Primary and secondary prevention of IPV, DV and SV in adolescents

CESI and its partner organizations conducted the analysis and mapping of the situation related to the prevention of violence in relationships of young people at the national level and at the level of 5 counties in Croatia in 2012. chapter is based on the results of the analysis published in the publication "For Relationships without Violence - Research and Analysis of Strategies and Programs for Prevention of Violence in Relationships of Young People", CESI, 2012.

Practices and programs of institutions and organizations in the prevention of violence in relationships

Various institutions in their work directly or indirectly touch upon the topics of teen dating violence. Usually, these are counseling centers, public health institutes, Child Protection Center of Zagreb, and ministries who are carriers of international campaigns, for example "1 of 5" of the Council of Europe to stop sexual violence against children.

Family centers that are part of the centers for social welfare mainly implement prevention programs which main topics are partnerships and quality relationships that can be seen as an indirect contribution to the prevention of teen dating violence. The Police Department and the Ministry of Interior are also active in the area of prevention by conducting campaigns ("Living Life Free of Violence") and various activities related to domestic violence, violence against women, violence in youth relationships and bullying aimed mainly at students in primary and secondary schools and the general population.

Civil society organizations are particularly active in preventing teen dating violence.

CESI was the first association that systematically started to address the prevention of violence in adolescent relationships in 2004 through research, awareness, educational and sensibilization programs aimed at working with young people. A good example of the potentially sustainable project represents the project on prevention of violence in adolescent relationships of the **Society for Psychological Assistance**, which among other things includes this topic

through an elective course on seven university studies and allows students additional training and conducting workshops in high schools.

SOS phone-City of Rijeka, the Association for assistance to victims of violence has been dealing with the prevention of violence in adolescent relationships through sensibilization and information for young people and the general public since 2008.

The Association ZORA (Čakovec) has specialized in prevention of gender-based violence and prevention of violence in adolescent relationships, primarily in the Međimurje County.

The Blue Phone (Zagreb) implements prevention program where young people acquire the knowledge and skills needed to develop and maintain quality relationships.

Women's Room (Zagreb) focuses on prevention of gender-based violence, and more specifically, of sexual violence among youth.

Status M (Zagreb) primarily works with young men and implements the educational program "Young Men Initiative: promotion of gender equality norms, healthy lifestyles and non-violent behavior of young people" where gender-based violence is one of the key components of the program.

Other organizations, through various programs and activities have continuously worked on the prevention of teen violence, neglect and child abuse, domestic violence and prevention of risky behavior or provided direct assistance and support to children and young victims of various forms of violence. Some organizations implement, at national level, preventive programs aimed at preventing violence and abuse in primary schools. Here we emphasize the UNICEF program "For a safe and encouraging environment in schools" which is implemented to prevent teen violence and CAP program for the prevention of child abuse from preschool to adolescence conducted by the Association of Parents "Step by Step".

School prevention programs

All schools are required to implement prevention programs and report their activities report to the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, and send their curricula to their units of regional self-government. Although the Ministry in charge collects data, they are not adequately documented or available to the public. The information on prevention programs implemented in secondary schools, which comprise as component or module violence in adolescent relationships/youth relationships, gender-based violence, violence in partner relationships are mostly available on the website of the school.

Schools that implement programs for the prevention of violence in relationships usually carry out a program that was designed by civil society organizations and a small part of educational programs have been developed within the schools themselves. Some schools deal with issues of violence in adolescent relationships as part of other programs conducted in schools. Most schools implement violence prevention programs, the most common programs aimed at peaceful conflict resolution and prevention of peer violence. Workshops and lectures are taught by instructors, professional advisors, students or civil society organizations' staff and are usually carried out in the third grade.

Since 2012, the **Health Education** has been introduced in the curricula of primary and secondary schools. The implementation of the class is planned as part of the homeroom hours, and the number of classes per school year has been prescribed separately for each year of primary and secondary school up to 12 classes. The curriculum of health education consists of 4 modules of which one module relates to the prevention of violence, where content is mainly related to peer violence. Monitoring and external evaluation of health education in the past two years indicates the shortcomings of the content and implementation of the Health Education classes and the need for continuous professional empowerment of teachers.

Primary and secondary school teachers and coordinators of **school prevention programs** play an important role in the implementation of various preventive activities at the level of the educational institutions. At the level of local and regional government, these include county coordinators and county committees. The Education and Teacher Training Agency appoints the coordinator of the County council for prevention programs for primary and secondary schools and pupils' homes.

Recommendations - suggestions

- 1. The problem of violence in relationships of young people requires a systematic approach to prevention in the Republic of Croatia. Prevention of violence in intimate partner relationships must begin as early as possible, and it is clear that the school system is the one in which these topics can worked on progressively, starting from kindergarten, all the way to college, or even further, in the system lifelong learning. It is necessary to confront the attitudes, behaviors, assumptions and language that contribute to a culture of violence against women and to help young people begin to develop a thoughtful and strategic ways of opposing it. It is important to encourage young people themselves to devise and implement activities and cooperation of the school with the local community. It is necessary to develop a long term strategy for the prevention of violence, which will include the systematic gathering of information on the implementation of prevention programs and those programs funded by civil society organizations and the evaluation of the effects of the program on the users. Also needed is a continuous funding of programs that have proven effective and encouragement of cross-sectoral cooperation. A better coordination of institutions and civil society organizations working on prevention and a catalog list of recommended programs that would be available to all stakeholders is also needed.
- In education and prevention work on the problem of violence among adolescents, it is necessary to focus on:
 - Recognition and awareness of psychological / emotional forms of violence;
 - Changing attitudes about violence and gender stereotypes;
 - Raising awareness of the myths about violence;
 - Understanding the dynamics of power and control in relationships;
 - Develop and strengthen self-esteem and self-confidence, communication skills, negotiation skills and conflict resolution skills as aspects of quality and non-violent relationships;
 - Enticing and raising awareness of issues of sex/gender equality and the right to a life free of violence as basic human rights;
 - Raising awareness about the influence of peer groups and the media;
 - Additional training of all those involved;

- Anonymity, confidentiality and expertise; encouragement, advice and support and protection for victims povjerljivost i stručnost; ohrabrivanje, savjetovanje i davanje podrške i zaštite žrtvama:
- Information on existing mechanisms and resources for reporting violence;
- And psychological and social work with violent people.
- 3. For prevention to be effective, it is necessary that it is accompanied by adequate legislation and public policies. The inclusion of gender based violence in the strategy aimed towards young people, the provision of funds, the identification and dissemination of good practice can have long-term positive results.
- 4. Civil society organizations stand out in the process of preventing violence. They have been recognized as partners/collaborators to other institutions and facilities, such as schools which largely rely on CSOs and implement their programs, user manuals, participate in training and projects of CSOs. In order to ensure continuous work in the prevention of violence, it is necessary to ensure the cooperation of local authorities and relevant institutions with CSOs, the communication and mechanisms of involvement and consultation.
- 5. The improvement of the national **tracking system** of child/youth abuse youth through the creation of a standardized database on cases of violence, including violence in partner relationships of young people.
- 6. The need for **sanctioning violence in partner relationships of young people** similar to domestic violence. It is therefore necessary to include the violence in intimate partner relationships, including the adolescent, in the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence.

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