

## Project Outcomes in Brief

In the timeframe 1 Nov. 2014- 14 Nov. 2015, **the Caravan „My Body My Own” reached 902** students from 11 different urban and rural communities at risk of violence from Sibiu, Mureș, Brașov and Vrancea counties, during 17 educational sessions for prevention of sexual violence which included screening of the educational film *My Body My Own*. In Brașov and Vrancea the sessions had a demonstrative purpose in order to facilitate replication by local NGOs and schools. Vrancea county was added to the project dissemination activities as a result of statistics published in 2015 which placed this county in the top 4 counties in Romania in terms of prevalence of sexual crimes.

All the students received the guideline for teenagers „*Sexual Violence – recognise, avoid, discourage and help out*” and the flier of the specialized support service for survivors offered by A.L.E.G.. The schools received the DVD with the educational films and other project material including the lesson plans to facilitate replication of the prevention sessions.

In each local community the caravan organized meetings for local professionals in order to raise awareness on ways to pro-actively identify cases of sexual violence, ensure a gender-sensitive approach, prevent secondary victimisation and emphasized the importance of ensuring the access of survivors to specialised support services. All professionals received the Infopackage (containing *I. What is sexual violence II. Victims’s Rights III. Support and prevention of re-victimization IV. Role of Support Groups*) and the flier of the A.L.E.G. pilot center. Although some organizations were reluctant to attend the meetings (especially those from the justice and the medical sectors), 106 professionals were involved in total in the 4 counties, most of them from public and NGO social service providers, child protection, police, school councilors and principals but also preasts.

During this timeframe, the **pilot counseling center** for survivors of sexual violence was used by 135 beneficiaries, of which over 90% women and girls. Of them, 78 chose the option of online counseling services, 51 requested information over the phone and 6 individual counselling. All the persons who contacted us received information and counseling in order to recognize if they are in an abusive situation, understand the specific forms, causes and effects of sexual violence, learn about victims’rights and how to access these rights. We were able to help 5 survivors with legal aid (of which 3 with free legal representation in court), and 3 with re-imbusement of the costs of forensic certificates as proofs in court. 6 survivors accessed long term psychological counseling. We also helped 5 women with reimbursement of costs with medical services not covered by medical insurance. The services were in no way conditioned by the reporting of a crime by the victim (a key principle introduced by the Directive for the Protection of Victims of Crime). As far as we know, the pilot center continues to be the only service of this kind specialized for victims of sexual violence, while other existing services are either limited to violence within the family (excluding victims when the perpetrator is not a family member) or to child sexual abuse (excluding victims over 18 including vulnerable groups like university students and young adults out of the child protection system).

The project outcomes, working methods and key conclusions and recommendations were presented in a **dissemination workshop** which took place in 23-24 April 2015, involved best practice sharing by experts from Icelandic partner Stigamot and was attended 42 participants from 5 counties and Bucharest from public and private social service providers, including the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, central authority in the field of combating violence. The outcomes were also disseminated in the national working group initiated by A.L.E.G. and the NGOs in the network *Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence* hosted by the Superior Council of Magistrates, but also in other local level meetings and international conferences. The project received intense media coverage in national printed media and specialised magazines like *Psychologies*, national and local TV and radio interviews, online articles. 7 partner sites include a link to the A.L.E.G. pilot center.