



# Justice

[www.osce.org/JusticeInCombatingGBVinSEE](http://www.osce.org/JusticeInCombatingGBVinSEE)



JUSTICE IN COMBATING  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE  
in South-Eastern Europe

The project aims at strengthening the capacities of criminal justice practitioners to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, ultimately leading to increased public trust in their responses.

## Background

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most serious and pervasive human rights violations that not only affects the safety and security of victims, but also limits their freedoms and prevents their full individual and societal development. All forms of

GBV bring long-term suffering to the survivors and their families, including physical and psychological trauma.

In South-Eastern Europe, GBV is a challenge. A large percent of women in the region think that violence is “common/fairly common”; that women do not report most incidents

to the police and that they rarely seek support from other institutions; and they are not consistently accessing services due to a lack of trust in the judicial institutions.

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the levels of GBV. Factors such as being forced to stay in lockdown with abusers, potential job loss, higher levels of stress and alcohol consumption influenced the dynamics of violence, adding up to the deeply rooted causes of violence such as unequal power relations and harmful social norms and attitudes.

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## Aim

The project aims at strengthening the capacities of criminal justice practitioners to prevent and combat GBV. It will increase the level of confidence in the service providers by improving their responses and diminishing secondary victimization

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## Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of the project are the law enforcement agencies, police and judicial academies, social

## Results

01

### ENHANCED MULTI-SECTORAL CO-ORDINATION

by strengthening the work of the co-ordination bodies responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Istanbul Convention.

02

### APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO CASES

by enhancing the soft and hard skills required by law enforcement practitioners to effectively and appropriately respond to cases.

03

### REDUCED SECONDARY VICTIMIZATION

by raising the awareness of stereotypes, prejudices, causes, signs and effects of GBV among service providers.

04

### INCREASED REPORTING OF CASES

by increasing the understanding of all forms of GBV and available dedicated services among general public and vulnerable groups.

services, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

## Approaches

By including all actors dealing with GBV, the project ensures a comprehensive and victim-centred approach. Through its regional approach, the project creates a platform for dialogue,

exchange of good practices and lessons learnt, ultimately promoting a regional understanding of the issue.

## Strategy

The project touches upon two major areas of intervention: 1) efficient, co-ordinated and comprehensive responses to GBV by key institutions and civil society organizations and 2) awareness raising for practitioners and public.

## Partners

The project is implemented in co-ordination with Council of Europe, UN Agencies, ODIHR, OSCE Gender Issues Programme and local OSCE field operations. It contributes to SDG5 and SDG16.



For more on the Project go to [www.osce.org/JusticeInCombatingGBVinSEE](http://www.osce.org/JusticeInCombatingGBVinSEE) or follow our social media engagement via #JusticeNoGBVinSEE

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