



ženska soba

WOMEN'S ROOM

Center for Sexual Rights

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

- 15th anniversary of work –



The National Foundation for Civil Society Development provides support to the work of Women's Room.

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1. ABOUT WOMEN'S ROOM

1.1. General information

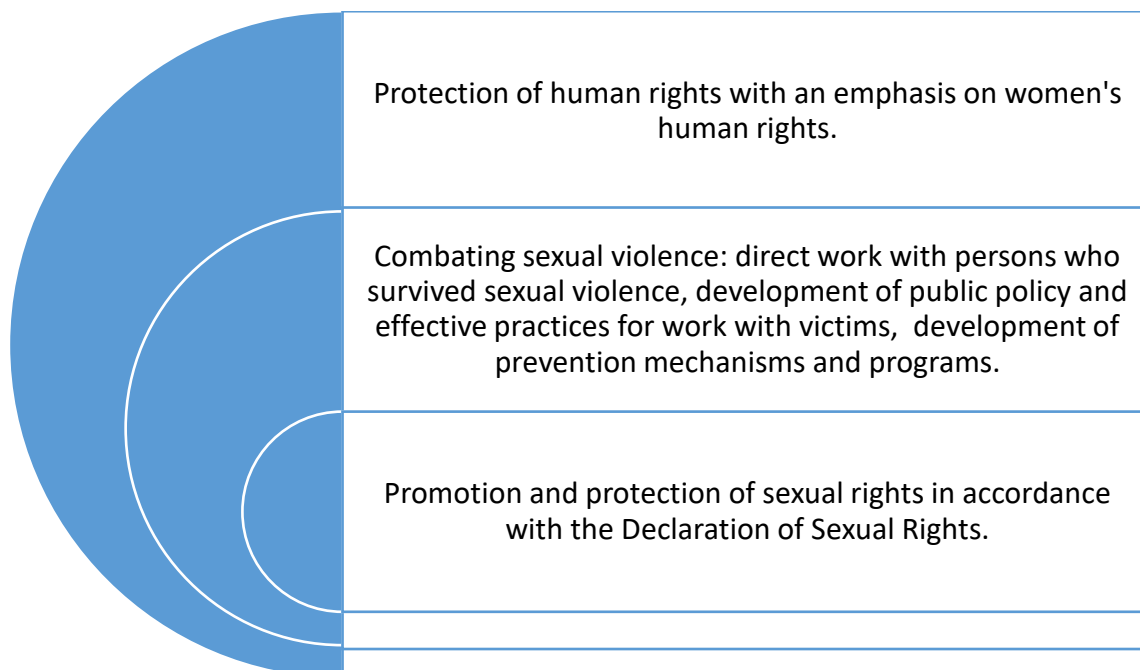
The Women's Room - Center for Sexual Rights is a feminist, non-profit, civil society organization established in 2002 with the aim of prevention and combating sexual violence, providing direct support and assistance to persons who survived sexual violence as well as promotion and protection of sexual rights.

Our vision is a society free from patriarchy, discrimination, misogyny and violence against women, where individual choice is the fundamental value.

Within the scope of the Women's Room, the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence provides direct assistance and support to persons who have survived sexual violence. We actively work on developing public policies, prevention programs, improvement of legislation, implementing specialized education as well as raising awareness about the problem of sexual violence.

The organization was founded in 2002 in Zagreb and works on local and regional levels. **In 2017, Women's Room marked 15th anniversary of work.**

AREAS OF WORK:



GOALS

Active advocacy for the promotion of gender equality based on feminist principles and values.

Empowerment of women to actively demand and protect basic women's human rights.

Active work on the prevention and combating of all forms of violence against women, with emphasis on sexual violence and violence in family, through assistance and support to victims; the design and implementation of prevention programs and specialized education; the development of mechanisms and policies for combating these forms of violence; and systematic monitoring of these mechanisms and policies in practice.

Direct work with persons who survived sexual violence through counseling (psychological counseling, legal counseling, crisis counseling, information on available services in the health system) and therapeutic work, including preparation for court proceedings and work with persons close to victims of sexual violence.

Empowerment of children and youth in combating sexual, gender and sexual discrimination.

Active work on the protection and promotion of the rights of children and youth and the prevention of sexual violence against and among children and youth.

Promotion and protection of sexual rights in accordance with the Declaration on Sexual Rights.

Active advocacy against discrimination based on sex, gender, gender expression and/or gender identity, sexual orientation and intersex characteristics.

Empowerment and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) populations in demanding and protecting their basic human rights.

Advocating non-violence and active participation in peace processes.

TARGET GROUPS

- women in general
- persons who survived sexual violence
- women who experienced any form of violence against women
- children and youth
- representatives of competent state bodies and institutions
- representatives of civil society organizations and civic initiatives
- students
- LGBTIQ persons
- citizens – general population

ACTIVITIES:

- ❖ Developing educational programs and methods;
- ❖ Organizing and conducting workshops, trainings, round tables, conferences and lectures aimed at fostering professional development and raising awareness among target groups of Women's Room;
- ❖ Familiarizing Croatian experts with various existing models and practices in the field of prevention, treatment and combating gender-based violence, with a special focus on sexual violence;
- ❖ Familiarizing Croatian experts with various existing models and practices in the field of sexual rights;
- ❖ Encouraging and conducting studies about target areas of work of Women's Room;
- ❖ Organizing and providing free expert assistance and support to victims of gender-based violence, with special focus on sexual violence, by providing medical, psychological and legal counseling and psychotherapy aimed at coping with trauma, preparing for court proceedings and counseling for those close to the victim;
- ❖ Developing new and improving existing models of operation when working with survivors of sexual violence in institutions (hospitals, police, schools, prisons, courts) and implementing them;
- ❖ Publishing activities from the field of operation of Women's Room;
- ❖ Collecting, archiving and classifying books and other materials available to members and all interested parties;
- ❖ Cooperating and networking with national, regional and international organizations, associations and institution which share similar goals;
- ❖ Monitoring and lobbying for legal harmonisations with international conventions, declarations and other legal mechanisms referring to gender-based violence, with focus on sexual violence and sexual rights;
- ❖ Monitoring and lobbying for legal harmonisations with international conventions referring to sexual and gender minorities.

1.2. Women's Room structure

Women's Room's work is shaped, managed and coordinated by the Working Team, Coordination Team, Management Committee and the Women's Room assembly (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2).

During 2017, the **Working Team** of Women's Room was comprised of:

- ❖ **Maja Mamula, PhD** (psychologist, President of the Coordination Team)
- ❖ **Maja Vukmanić Rajter** (social pedagogue, Coordinator of the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence, until 1st June of 2017)
- ❖ **Senka Sekulić Rebić** (psychologist, Coordinator of the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence, since 1st July of 2017)
- ❖ **Antonija Hojt Ilic** (social pedagogue, Coordinator of Educational Programs)
- ❖ **Anamaria Droždan Kranjčec** (legal professional, Coordinator of the legal team)
- ❖ **Josipa Tukara** (sociologist, Coordinator of Youth Programs)
- ❖ **Kristina Mihaljević** (social pedagogue, project assistant)
- ❖ **Darko** (Therapeutic Dog - chocolate labrador).



Image 1: Darko, therapeutic dog

In addition to the core of the Women's Room Team, our regular associates of the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence are **Voljana Kapelina** (medical counselor), **Ida Šamanović** (counselor and psychotherapist), **legal office Pelc** (legal counselors), **Ula Marton** (gynecologist), **Ksenija Maslo** (supervisor), **Dalibor Stanić** (accountant), **Siniša Vujić** (maintenance of computer equipment), **Nikola Strelar** (maintenance of websites) and **Petra Droždan Kranjčec** (graphic designer).

In addition to the Working Team, numerous experts from specific fields worked on our projects and programs during 2017. Furthermore, we would like to emphasize involvement of **27** regular volunteers who provided important contributions to the work of the organization with their energy, positive approach, and enthusiasm. Volunteers contributed a total of **453** hours when volunteering in our regular activities (Appendix 3).

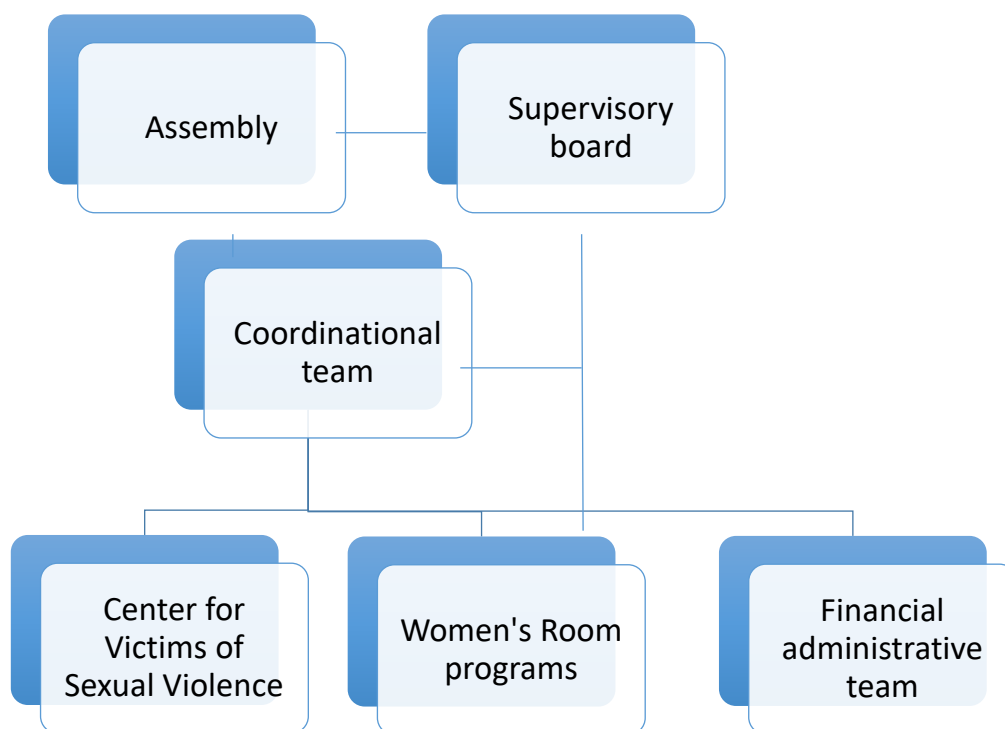


Image 2: Women`s Room Organigram

2. SUMMARY 2017

In 2017, the Women's Room had **23 programs and projects**, some were a continuation and some were initiated during the year. In addition, we have continued implementing two projects for which we received no resources but have invested goodwill and energy. This was a significant year, especially because the Women's Room marked its 15th anniversary of work.

Within the scope of **educational programs**, we held **147** different educational sessions, including **62** workshops, **45** lectures, **11** trainings (one or more days), **6** thematic sessions, **4** specialized two-day educations, **3** round tables, **3** conferences, **2** expert meetings, **1** three-day specialized education, **1** supervision meeting, **1** cross-sectoral education, **1** kick off event and **1** tribune.

Target groups comprised of representatives of civil society organizations, representatives of state bodies and institutions, university students, secondary and elementary school pupils, teachers and experts who work in educational institutions, parents, women and general public. In 2017 a total of **3.819** people participated in educational sessions.

The **Center for Victims of Sexual Violence** provided **757 counseling sessions**, and **146 individuals** received support and assistance. The most frequent problems clients identified were rape/attempt of rape/incest (**59,3%**) and **sexual harrassment (10,3%)**.

During 2017, we published **11 different materials**: **7** leaflets, poster, brochure, badges, phone cases. Many materials were created as a part of a project “#shareresponsibly”.

Women's Room members participated in **31 local conferences and/or meetings, thematic sessions or promotions** organized by local and/or international organizations or governmental bodies. We also participated in **32 meetings of different networks, teams, working groups, coalitions, coordinations and committees**.

The work of Women's Room was covered in the media **241 times** by TV, radio, web portals, newspapers.



*Image 3: Thematic session about sexual violence
(Zabok, 23rd October, 2017)*



*Image 4: Cross-sectoral education about femicide within the project
„Building more effective protection: transforming the system for
combating violence against women“ JUST/2016/RGEN/VAWA/9940
(Zagreb, November, 2017)*

THE MOST RELEVANT EVENTS FOR THE WOMEN'S ROOM IN 2017

- 1) Continuation of an implementation of "Specialized education for professionals who are working with victims of sexual violence: Modules 1 - 4" in Zagreb and Slavonski Brod
- 2) Two-day training "13th network meeting of governmental and non-governmental organizations against sexual violence cooperation" implemented
- 3) Three-day education "Specialized education for organizations of civil society who are working in a field of helping and supporting victims of criminal offences" held
- 4) The implementation of one-day cross-sectoral education about violence against women and femicide started
- 5) 6 thematic sessions and 2 round tables on the topic of sexual violence held
- 6) Developed and implemented online campaign "Share responsibly!" on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube with purpose of prevention of electronic sexual violence among and against children and youth
- 7) Three training sessions for volunteers have been organized and held.
- 8) Women's Room volunteer, Mija Rakarić, received second place on Volunteer Oscar
- 9) Co-founder of Regional Network against Sexual Assault with Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade, Association SOS Help-line for Women and Children – Victims of Violence Ljubljana and SOS Centre for Women and Children Victims of Violence Nikšić
- 10) **15 years of work anniversary**

„Build your own dreams,

or someone else will hire you to build theirs.“

Farah Gray

3. INTRODUCTION

Women's Room worked on **23 programs and projects** during 2017: 11 of which alone, 7 were held by Women`s Room and 3 in partnership with other civil society organizations within the 3 bearing areas of work: the protection of human rights with an emphasis on women`s human rights, combating sexual violence, and the promotion and protection of sexual rights pursuant to the Declaration of Sexual Rights, including the sexuality of women and sexual and gender minorities (LGBTIQ). Two projects are volunteer projects of Women's Room.

Table 1: List of projects/programs and donors of Women's Room in 2017

no.	project title and donor agency	amount
1	Institutional Support for Stabilization and/or Development of the Organization National Foundation for Civil Society Development (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017)	73.346,50 HRK
2	“Relevant institutions and civil society organization – voice for victims of sexual violence” Europska unija - IPA 2012: Building Capacities of CSOs for Ensuring Effective Implementation of the EU Standards in the Enforcement of Human Rights (November 3, 2015 – November 2, 2017)	1.095.790,34 HRK
3	“Specialized education for organizations of civil society who are working on a field of helping and supporting victims of criminal offences” The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia (January 2, 2017 – March 3, 2017)	100.802,84 HRK
4	“Building more effective protection: transforming the system for combating violence against women” JUST /2016/RGEN/AG/VAWA/9940 European Commission, Directorate – general justice and consumers Partner project with the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia (April 1, 2017 – September 30, 2019)	118.758,67 EUR
5	“The new force against violence against women” Iceland Liechtenstein Norway Eea Grants - Norway Grants (January 1, 2016. – February 28, 2017)	980,712,00 HRK

6	<p>“Education and empowerment – step closer to employment” Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia (June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2020)</p>	200.000,00 HRK
7	<p>„Center for Victims of Sexual Violence“ Mediterranean Women’s Fund (July 1, 2016 – July 30, 2017)</p>	4.000,00 EUR
8	<p>“Center for Victims of Sexual Violence” Heart and Hand (April 15, 2017 – October 15, 2017)</p>	7.862,50 \$
9	<p>“Let’s stop violence and hate speech on the Internet” Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia (October 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018)</p>	95.430,00 HRK
11	<p>“Together for safe childhood” Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia (October 15, 2017 – October 14, 2018)</p>	90.000,00 HRK
11	<p>"Turn off the Violence - improving competencies of key stakeholders on the Island of Vis to prevent various forms of violence against children" Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia Partner project with Association SVIMA (October 15, 2017 – October 14, 2018)</p>	8.080,00 HRK
12	<p>With Collaboration to Change! Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia (December 7, 2016 – August 31, 2017)</p>	60.000,00 HRK
13	<p>#shareresponsibly Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy (November 15, 2016 – November 14, 2017)</p>	112.333,00 HRK
14	<p>“Center for Victims of Sexual Violence” City of Zagreb – City Office for Social Protection and Persons with Disabilities (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017)</p>	40.000,00 HRK

15	“Volunteer against violence” City of Zagreb - City Office for Education, Culture and Sports (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017)	15.000,00 HRK
16	“Development of emotional and social skills with purpose of prevention of sexual violence among and against youth at risk” City of Zagreb – City Office for Social Protection and Persons with Disabilities (January 1, 2017 – January 31, 2018)	25.000,00 HRK
17	“Psychosocial help to sexual violence victims” City of Zagreb – City Office for Health (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017)	20.000,00 HRK
18	Violence against women with disabilities City of Zagreb – City Office for Social Protection and Persons with Disabilities (January 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017)	20.000,00 HRK
19	Prevention of sexual violence against and among young people City of Zagreb – City Office for Social Protection and Persons with Disabilities (January 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017)	15.000,00 HRK
20	Developing the capacity of CSOs to include human rights in public policy a partnership project with the Croatian Law Centre, the Centre for Women War Victims - ROSA, Croatian Red Cross, HOMO Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Civil Liberties Pula, the Serbian Democratic Forum Europska unija - IPA 2012: Building Capacities of CSOs for Ensuring Effective Implementation of the EU Standards in the Enforcement of Human Rights (November 04, 2015 – April 3, 2017)	2.995,00 HRK
21	Lump sum financial support City of Zagreb – City Office for Social Protection and Persons with Disabilities (June 21, 2017 – December 31, 2017)	12.500,00 HRK
22	REKOM Volunteer project of the Women's Room (since 2008 -)	Volunteer project
23	Initiative for Civic Education Volunteer project of the Women's Room (since 2009 -)	Volunteer project

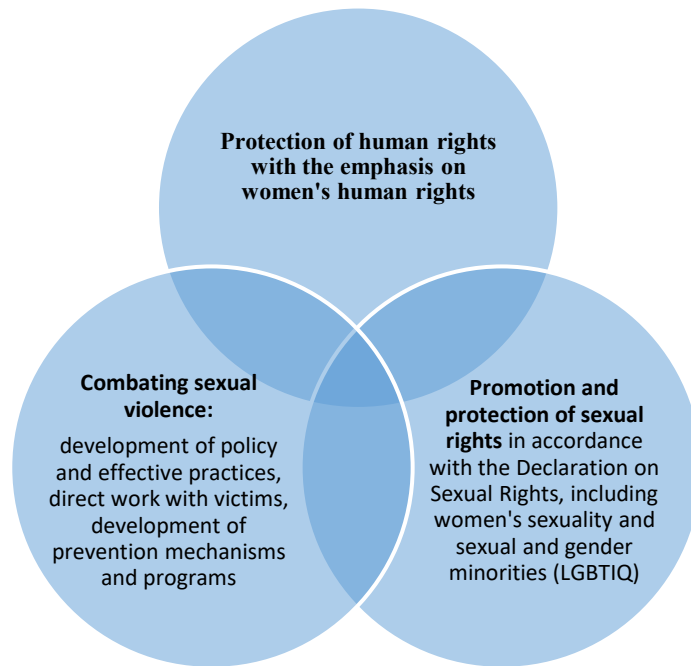


Image 5: Women's Room fields of work in 2017

Similar to the previous years, the Women's Room's work is organized in **five main clusters of activities**: direct work with victims of sexual violence, education, research, public work and publishing. Below, we outline the basic activities of Women's Room in 2017.

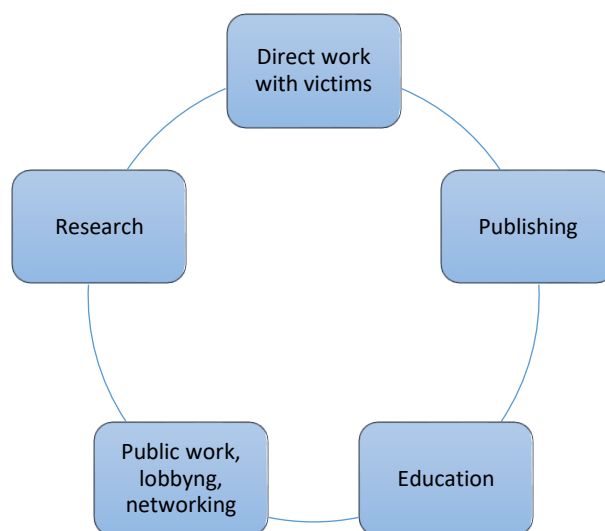


Image 6: Women's Room Activities in 2017

4. DIRECT WORK WITH VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Since its official opening in April 2008, the main objective of the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence has been improving the quality of life for survivors of any form of sexual violence. The Center is the only referral center for victims of sexual violence in Republic of Croatia and continues to expand its services and improve the quality of work. Thanks to a number of projects and donors, the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence has increased the scope of work during 2017.

The team of the Center is specialized to work with victims of sexual violence, but we provide the assistance and support to all persons who contact us either by coming into the premises of the Center, by phone, by e-mail (specially created email address) or in any manner that is available to our beneficiaries. We are available to anyone who needs assistance and/or support every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All services are completely free and anonymity is fully guaranteed. The Center's Team provides comprehensive assistance and support to survivors of sexual violence, in accordance with survivor's individual needs.

In the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence (Center), a multidisciplinary team of experts provides free assistance and support to survivors of sexual violence:

- support in the process of reporting sexual violence (accompanying to the police, hospital, State Attorney's Office, court, social welfare center);
- preparation for court proceedings;
- counseling and therapy: crisis counseling (legal and psychological, information on available services in the health system), therapeutic work for dealing with traumatic experiences;
- information and counseling for persons close to victims;
- developing and publishing of various materials intended for survivors of sexual violence.

Center's Team's member is also Darko, a therapeutic dog, chocolate Labrador whose presence and peaceful energy reduce the stress and discomfort of persons who turn to us for support, both during the first encounter and the following sessions.



Image 7: Counseling space and library in the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence

During 2017, there were a total of **757 counseling sessions**, and assistance and support was provided to **146 beneficiaries**. Although we provide services to all people, as can be seen from the statistics of the Center the most frequent beneficiaries are women who are survivors of rape, attempted rape, incest, sexual abuse, domestic violence, as well as people who need information and support in the field of sexual rights and sexual health (Table 2).

Table 2. Categories of reasons people contacted the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence in 2017

Issue	frequency	%
rape/attempted rape/incest	449	59,3%
combined problems	88	11,6%
sexual harassment	78	10,3%
domestic violence	57	7,5%
sexual abuse	34	4,5%
unclear issues	30	4%
different informations	9	1,2%
sexual problems	3	0,4%
sexual and gender minorities	2	0,3%
total	757	100 %

In 74,8% Women's Room was contacted in cases where the person had experienced some form of sexual violence. Other victims' experiences are poorly represented. (Table 3).

Table 3: Persons who contacted Women's Room for assistance and support in 2017

A person who contacted	frequencies	%
The victim/survivor of violence	566	74,8%
Representatives from government institutions	52	6,9%
Relatives of victims	43	5,7%
Other possibilities	39	5,0%
Representatives from other civil society organizations	36	4,8%
Intimate partner	12	1,6%
Friend of victim/survivor of violence	9	1,2%
total	757	100%

When it comes to types of counseling, the most frequent is telephone counseling (43,6%) followed by personal counseling (29%) and e-mail counseling (27,1%). Telephone counseling is the most frequent due to the large number of persons who are not from Zagreb but need help and support that they can only receive in our Center (Chart 1).

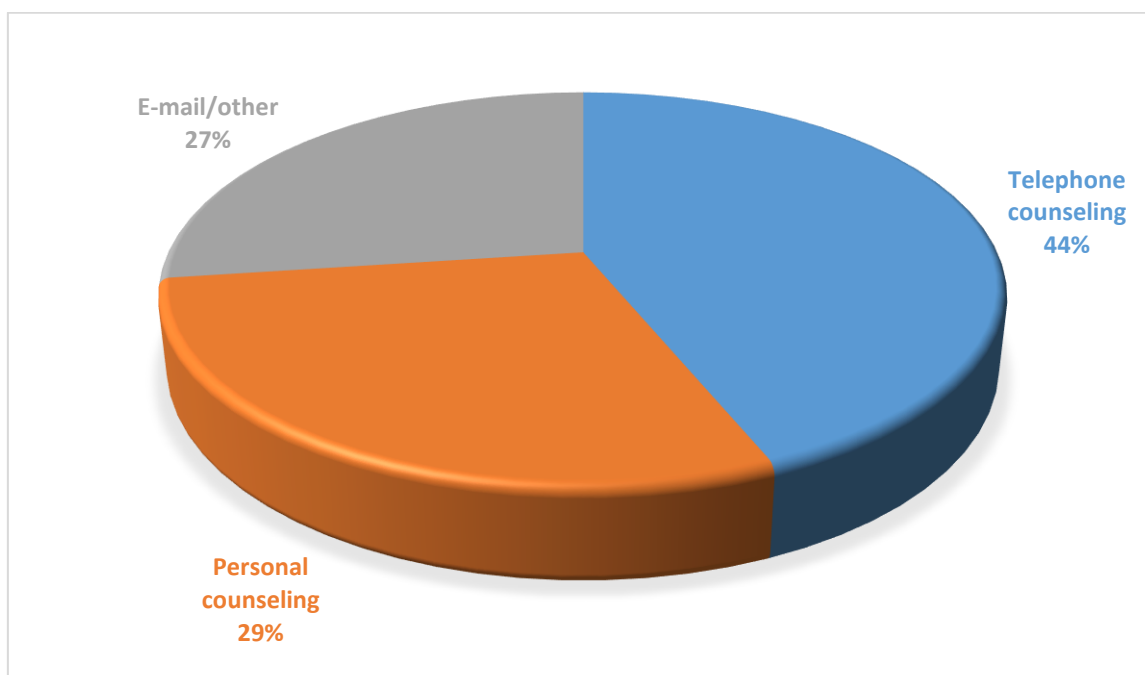


Chart 1: Types of counseling in 2017

5. EDUCATION

Educational projects and programs have become the hallmark of Women's Room. Our educational work, with emphasis on trainings, lectures and specialized educations is recognized as highly professional and high quality. Because education was a priority since our establishment, this is a result of a long, well thought out approach that has evolved over the years of our work. The importance of education provided by the Women's Room is exemplified by the fact that since 2003 until now we had more than **58.000** beneficiaries of educational activities (chart 2).

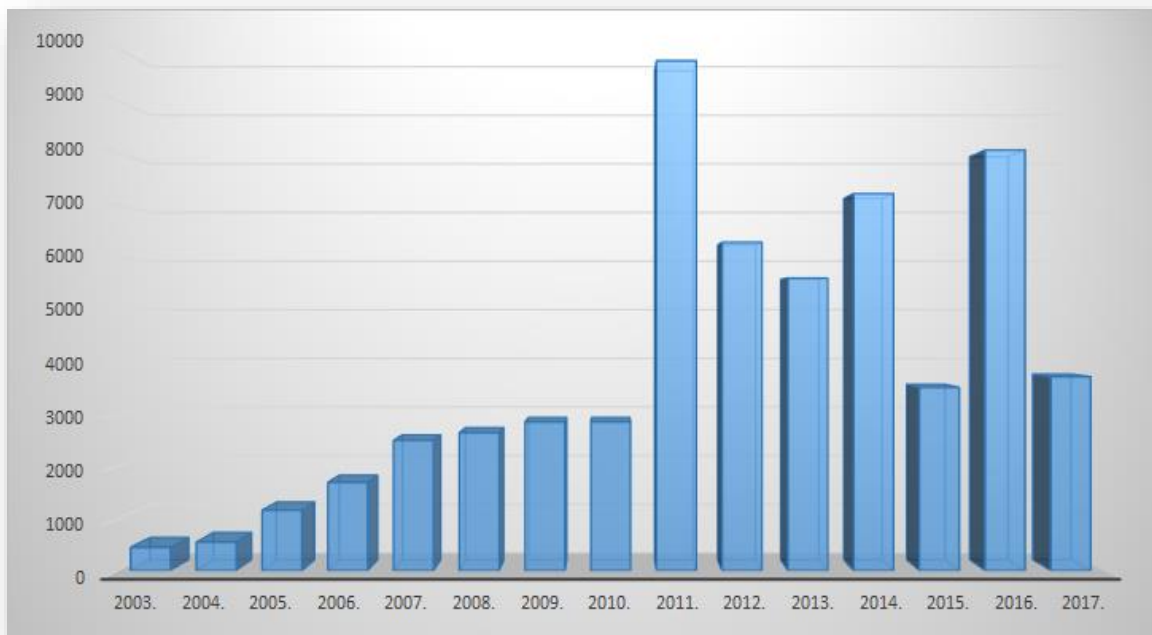


Chart 2: Participants on educational activities from 2003

Education is an integral part of every Strategic and Operational Plan of Women's Room and apart from planned activities, we often receive numerous invitations to conduct educations. These invitations come from civil society organizations, professional associations, educational institutions and/or different governmental bodies and institutions.

Main areas of education are:

- Sexual violence, violence against women;
- Sexual rights, female sexuality;
- Sexual and gender equality;
- Trafficking women for sexual exploitation,
- LGBTQ population.

Methodology of education varies, it is adjusted to beneficiaries and includes:

- Lectures;
- Workshops and trainings (one-day or several days long);
- Round tables;
- Public panels.

Main target groups of education are:

- Women in general;
- Civil society organizations in Croatia and the region;
- Children and youth;
- LGBTQ individuals;
- Relevant state institutions and bodies;
- General public.

During 2017, we held **147 different educational sessions** including **62** workshops, **45** lectures, **11** trainings (one or more days), **6** thematic sessions, **4** specialized two-day educations, **3** round tables, **3** conferences, **2** expert meetings, **1** three-day specialized education, **1** supervision meeting, **1** cross-sectoral education, **1** kick off event and **1** tribune. The total number of beneficiaries for numerous educational activities of the Women’s Room was **3.819**.

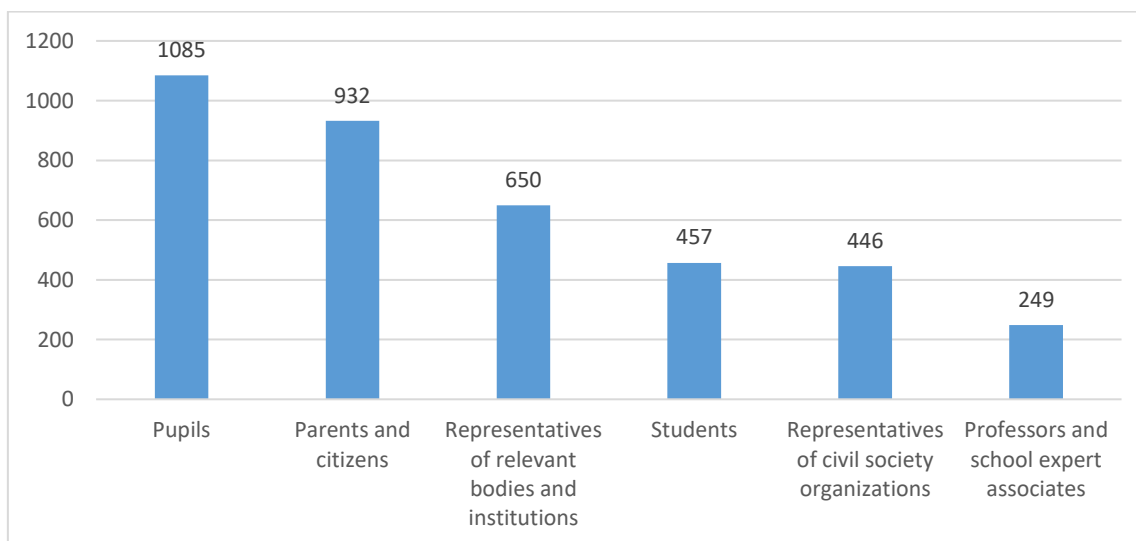


Chart 3: Educational activities beneficiaries in 2017

Topics of conducted educational activities were most frequently related to sexual violence (71%), gender equality and sexual rights (19%) and gender based violence (10%) (chart 3).

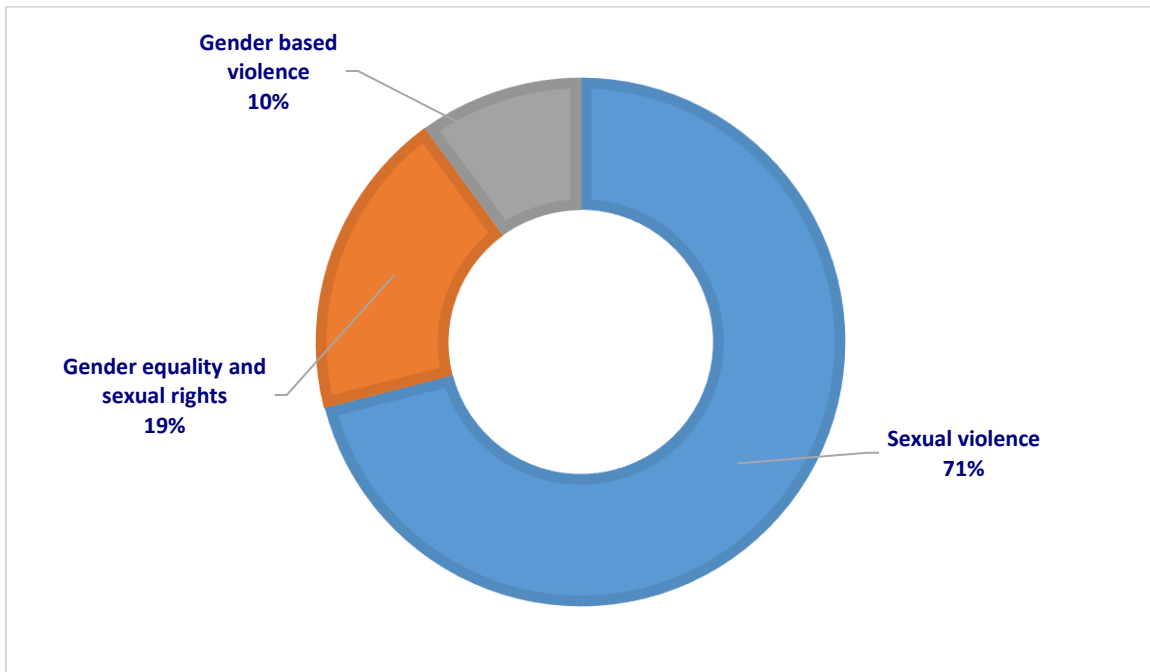


Chart 4: Themes of educational activities in 2017

5.1. Sexual violence including trafficking women for the purpose of sexual exploitation

This area includes the development of prevention programs and projects against sexual violence, as well as raising awareness about the problems of target groups through a variety of activities, such as workshops, round tables, training sessions, lectures, panel discussions and theatrical performances. Target groups are the same for all other forms of education, with an emphasis on youth.

There was a total of **104 different educational activities** organized about sexual violence, which included **58** workshops, **5** thematic sessions, **4** specialized educations, **4** trainings, **4** public actions, **2** round tables, **1** partner meeting with education which were attended by a total of **2.403 people**, which included:

- ✚ **1.025** elementary and high school pupils
- ✚ **862** citizens and parents
- ✚ **280** representatives of relevant governmental bodies and institutions, professors and experts from educational system
- ✚ **147** representatives of civil society organizations
- ✚ **89** students

Themes of education varied: from definitions, forms and prevalence of sexual violence and trafficking in women, its consequences, traumatization, rape trauma syndrome and direct protection of victims to need for legislative changes in regards to sexual violence and the need for standardized Code of Conduct in Case of Sexual Violence and other.

On April 26th and 27th of 2017 Women's Room – Center for Sexual Rights organized "**Specialized training for expert personnel working with victims of sexual violence**", namely Module 3: Sexual Violence Victims at Risk and Module 4: Victim Protection and Cross-sectoral cooperation in Zagreb. The same modules were held in Slavonski Brod on May 25th and 26th.

Participants in the education were expert staff from the police, educational system, judicial system, healthcare system and representatives of civil society organizations. Training featured lectures from psychologist and coordinator of Women's Room, Maja Mamula, Ph.D.; psychologist and Coordinator of the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence, Senka Sekulić Rebić; Coordinator of the legal team of Women's Room, Anamaria Drožđan Kranjčec; Ella Selak Bagarić, Child and Youth Protection Center of Zagreb; Nikica Hamer Vidmar, Ministry of Justice of Republic of

Croatia, Service for Victim and Witnesses Support; Goran Arbanas, Psychiatric Hospital Vrapče; Ida Šamanović, Clinical Hospital Zagreb, Clinic for psychological medicine.

Specialized training was a constituent part of the project “Relevant institutions and Civil Society Organization – Voice for Victims of Sexual violence” implemented by Women’s Room – Center for Sexual Rights, Association Brod – Women’s Human Rights Group and partner organization Grad from Slavonski Brod. Project is financed by the European Union and co-financed by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs.



Image 8: Specialized education, Modules 3 and 4 (Slavonski Brod. May 25th and 26th of 2017)

As a part of abovementioned project, 5 thematic sessions and 2 round tables were held.



Image 9: Thematic session and round table on the sexual violence topic held in October in Zabok

During this year, we held a large number of workshops for children and youth. Workshops were implemented by Women's Room team, volunteers, professors and school expert associates. The model of education for volunteers used by the Women's Room consists of one-day or multi-day training for students where the participants gain information and knowledge on issues of sexual violence, gender equality and feminism and on the methodology of the direct work with children and young people. For professors and expert associates one or multiple-day trainings on a topic of sexual violence are implemented.

One of the **volunteer trainings** was held on March 3rd and 4th of 2017. The training was a combination of workshops and lectures. During the training, seven volunteers were educated about sexual violence, sexual harassment, electronic sexual violence and methods of working directly with children and young people. The training was conducted by Women's Room employees Maja Vukmanić Rajter and Anamaria Droždanan - Kranjčec, trainers with many years of experience working in the field of sexual violence and gender discrimination. Volunteers held a total of 14 workshops for more than 300 pupils. Training was an integral part of the project #shareresponsibly which was financially supported by the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia. The project is implemented by the Women's Room - the Center for Sexual Rights in partnership with the Economic and Tourism School Daruvar, Novska High School and the First Gymnasium Zagreb.

On March 27th of 2017, as a part of #shareresponsibly project, training for pupils of partner schools was held. The training was a combination of workshops and lectures and during the training pupils from three high schools were educated about sexual violence, sexual harassment, electronic and electronic sexual violence. Training was conducted by Josipa Tukara Komoljenović (sociologist) and Kristina Mihaljević (social pedagogue). The goal of this training was to educate pupils so they can actively participate in implementation of online campaign Share responsibly!

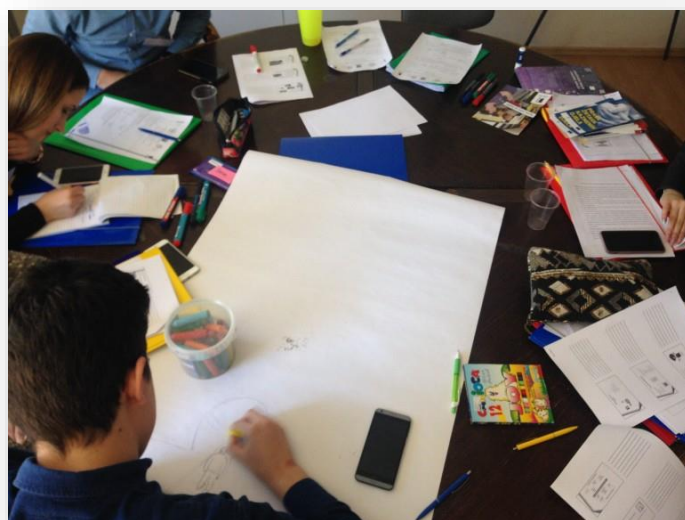


Image 10: Training for pupils, project #shareresponsibly

Online campaign started on 15th of September, 2017 and it was implemented on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. Key campaign word was #REACT and the purpose of campaign was to inform and sensitise children, youth, parents, professors and general public about electronic and electronic sexual violence. More than 2.100 persons followed campaign on Facebook, 250 on Instagram, and there was more than 2.650 views on YouTube channel. Campaign will be continued during 2018 because it had big success and impact when it comes to informing people about electronic sexual violence.



Image 11: campaign unique visual, profile photo



Image 12: campaign unique visual, cover photo

5.2. Gender equality, sexual rights, sexuality, sexual and gender minorities

For years, Women's Room has been systematically working on the promotion of gender equality through organizing various educational activities. We organize them with the aim of educating all target groups about basic concepts in order to contribute to improvement of human rights in our society that are related to sexual rights, sexuality, gender and sexual minorities.

During 2017, **28 different educational activities** were delivered within the scope of this field, including: **16** lectures, **5** trainings, **3** workshops, **2** conferences, **1** tribune. There were **612 participants** which included:

- ✚ **340** students
- ✚ **97** relevant bodies and institutions representatives
- ✚ **60** elementary and high school pupils
- ✚ **67** representatives of civil society organizations
- ✚ **50** citizens

In the field of gender equality education we continued with the implementation of workshops on this topic. During 2017, Women's Room volunteers conducted **workshops** on gender equality in Primary School Pantovčak in which 60 pupils participated.

This year, the members of the Women's Room hosted numerous **lectures** for students from various faculties of the University of Zagreb on gender issues, sexual rights, sexuality and so on. We would like to highlight participation of Josipa Tukara Komljenovic, a member of the Women's Room as a guest speaker on the tribune "Everything which is not yours" which discussed the basic concepts of feminism and the current problems of women in Croatia.



Image 13: tribune „Everything which is not yours“

5.3. Gender-based violence

Violence against women is one of the most serious forms of violation of women human rights, which causes horrendous consequences, not only for women, but for the whole society. Violence against women stems from the unequal power between women and men. Despite the fact that the emphasis of Women's Room's work is focused on sexual violence, we recognize the importance of assessing the entire context and prevalence of gender-based violence. For these reasons, gender-based violence or violence against women constitutes a significant portion of our educational activities.

During 2017, we organized **15 educational activities**, **3** lectures, **2** educations, **2** trainings (one or more days), **2** expert meetings, **1** supervision meeting, **1** workshop, **1** thematic session and **1** conference for **804 participants** which included:

- ✚ **524** representatives of relevant governmental bodies and institutions
- ✚ **232** representatives of civil society organizations
- ✚ **28** students of different faculties
- ✚ **20** citizens and parents

Within the scope of delivered lectures, we covered numerous topics including: definitions of gender-based violence, its forms and prevalence, data on reported cases in Croatia, role of civil society organizations in combating gender-based violence and information about civil society organizations that provide specialized services for support and assistance to women as victims of violence to mechanisms of protection, establishing and coordinating SOS phone lines and counseling services.

The Women's Room organized **"Specialized Education for Civil Society Organizations who are providing Help and Support to Victims of Criminal Offenses"** from 26th to 28th January of 2017 in Donja Stubica, Terme Jezerčica. During the education, the Women's Room Coordinator, Dr. Maja Mamula, presented the specifics of providing assistance and support to people who have survived gender-based violence.



Image 14: Specialized Education for Civil Society Organizations who are providing Help and Support to Victims of Criminal Offenses"

In April of 2017 Women's Room started with the implementation of the project **“Building more effective protection: transforming the system for combating violence against women”** - No. JUST/2016/RGEN/AG/VAWA/9940. The project coordinator is the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality. Associated partners are the Judicial Academy, the Police Academy and the Croatian Journalists Association. The project aims to identify, empirically describe and focus on the existing legal practices that represent obstacles to effective legal persecution and punishment for violence against women. The project is funded under the European Commission program dealing with the role of the judiciary and the media in cases of violence against women, with special emphasis on cases of femicide. The project is co-financed by the Office for cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. As a part of this project, Women's Room held one-day cross-sectoral education on 23rd November, 2017 in Zagreb on the topic of violence against women and femicide. Participants on education were representatives of welfare centres, courts, public attorney office, police and health institutions. The main goal of mentioned education is to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation on issues of violence against women, especially about the problem of femicide, as well as to open discussions about positive changes and upcoming steps on this field. Education will continue to be implemented during 2018 in 3 more towns in Croatia.



Image 15: One-day cross-sectoral education on on the topic of violence against women and femicide (Zagreb, November 27th)

During 2017, we continued with improvement and development of website **“Safe Zone”**. The aim of this site is to help women, victims of any form of violence in finding help and support in order to leave and report violence. More than 466 377 unique persons visited website from 2012 until the end of 2017.

6. RESEARCH

One of the main goals of the Women's Room is the development and implementation of scientific research for the purpose of raising public awareness, educating representatives of institutions, developing important documents and reports, as well as lobbying for changes in legislation.

Since 2003, the Women's Room has implemented and published 13 research projects: Attitudes of Political Parties about LGBT Rights before Elections in Croatia in 2003 (2003); Attitudes and Knowledge of University Seniors of Relevant Universities about Sexual Violence (2004); Status of Women's Sexual Rights in Croatia (2005); Experiences of LGBTIQ Population with Psycho-social Providers in Croatia (2005); Gender Prism of Sexual Rights of Youth (2008) and research on issues regarding trafficking of persons in Croatia (2006 - 2008); Civil Society Organizations that Provide Specialized Services to Women Victims of Violence as Key Actors in the Process of Democratization of the Society (2010); Protection of Rights and Provision of Support to Victims/Witnesses of Domestic Violence (2010); Report "Sexual violence in Croatia in 2000 - 2010" (2011); "Gender, gender roles, sexuality, violence" (2011); "Analysis of the role, capacity and sustainability of civil society organizations working to combat violence against women" (2016).

In 2017, we started the preparation of the **research on the use of the Internet and social networks** within the project "Stop Violence and Hate speech on the Internet", whose general aim is to prevent sexual violence and hate speech on the Internet and social networks among and against children and youth. The research will be carried out at the beginning of 2018 in two primary schools in Zagreb, Dr Vinko Žganac and Matka Laginje.

Within the project 'Building more effective protection: transforming the system for combating violence against women' - No. JUST/2016/RGEN/AG/VAWA/9940 we began with **analyzing the content of media coverage of femicide** (murders of women by intimate partner or close family member) in the Republic of Croatia (from January 1st, 2012 to December 31st, 2016). Analysis will be done in order to establish problematic aspect of media coverage when it comes to femicide and violence against women such as sensationalism, retraumatization of victims, focus on personal relationship between victim and perpetrator, justification of violence. Based on this analysis and others that are part of this project, Media codex for professional and sensitizing reporting in cases of violence against women will be developed.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY THROUGH PUBLIC WORK, ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

In 2017, Women`s Room continued to work in the field of networking and advocacy, as one of our many activities. Over the years we have dedicated time and attention to the systematic public work through our daily activities and presence in the media.

In March of 2017, Incest Trauma Center from Belgrade initiated the establishment of the **Regional Network Against Sexual Assault**. The Women's Room, along with Association SOS Help-line for Women and Children – Victims of Violence Ljubljana and SOS Centre for Women and Children Victims of Violence Nikšić, is one of co-founders of this Network. The Regional Network Against Sexual Assault is the feminist and anti-fascist network that promotes child and adult survivor-centered perspective and healing related to sexual trauma.

Within the Network, members of the Women's Room participated in one meeting and three training sessions (Workshop “Writing Techniques” - Laura Davis, “Public Presentation and Media Apperance” - Ciceron d.o.o communications, “How to conduct national campaigns against sexual violence” - Incest Trauma Center). The Regional Network regularly publishes news about its activities on its website (<http://reactagainstsexualviolence.org/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/regionalnetwork/>).



Image 16: Regional Network Against Sexual Assault logo

In December of 2017, the Women's Room became a member of **Victim Support Europe** (VSE). Victim Support Europe is the leading European umbrella organisation advocating on behalf of all victims of crime, no matter what the crime, no matter who the victim is. VSE represents 47 national member organisations, providing support and information services to more than 2 million people affected by crime every year in 27 countries.

Women`s Room members participated in **31** international and local conferences and/or meetings, thematic sessions, public events or promotions organized by local and international organizations and governmental institutions.

In addition, members of Womens`s Room participated in **18** meetings of different networks, teams, work groups, coalitions, coordination teams and councils.

Women`s Room is active in several **networks**: ASTRA Network - The network of women's organizations from Central and Eastern Europe for sexual health and reproductive rights, ACTA Anti corruption anti trafficking action, Euro-Mediterranean Foundation Anne Lindh, Trans* Gender Europe, ILGA – International Gay and Lesbian Association, The Platform 112 Croatia, PETRA Network – CSO network for the prevention and elimination of trafficking in women, RECOM – Regional Commission for Establishing Facts about War Crimes and Other Serious Violations of Human Rights in the Former Yugoslavia, WAVE – Women Against Violence Europe and Victim Support Europe.

Members of Women`s Room are also actively involved in various **committees** (Commission for Gender Equality of Zagreb City Assembly, the Commission for Protection against Domestic Violence of City of Zagreb) **working groups, initiatives** and **teams** (National Team for Combating Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of the Rules of conduct in sexual violence cases, organization committee One Billion Rising Croatia, the Initiative for systematic and quality introduction of civic education in schools, the Croatian initiative for the introduction of health education in the educational system, Platform 112 and Legal Platform Platform 112, Platform for Women's Reproductive Rights, “Femicide Watch” – observatory body for comprehensive monitoring, data gathering, murder analysis and reporting on killing of women and femicide).

With regard to the specific areas covered by the Women's Room, it's important to inform as many people as possible about our activities and issues that we deal with, with a focus on women's human rights, the status of women in society, gender equality, the problem of sexual violence and victims' rights sexual violence, sexual rights and discrimination against sexual minorities.

We are trying to achieve **systematic media apperance** through maintaining contacts with representatives in media, but also through the Women`s Room web page (www.zenskasoba.hr). Women`s Room also launched its official Facebook page (www.facebook.com/zenska.soba) which currently has more than 2.800 members. Through web page "Safe Zone" (www.sigurnomjesto.hr) we ensure availability and enable the exchange of information on the activities carried out in the area of violence against women. Thereby we are improving the collaboration between all services that provide support and assistance to women victims of violence.

During 2017, the work of Women's Room was covered **211 times** in different media. Our texts, comments and interviews were published 9 times in **newspapers**; we were guests on **18 TV shows/programs** and **25 radio shows**. Information about the activities in Women`s Room was published in **159** different articles and could be found on a number of **web portals**.

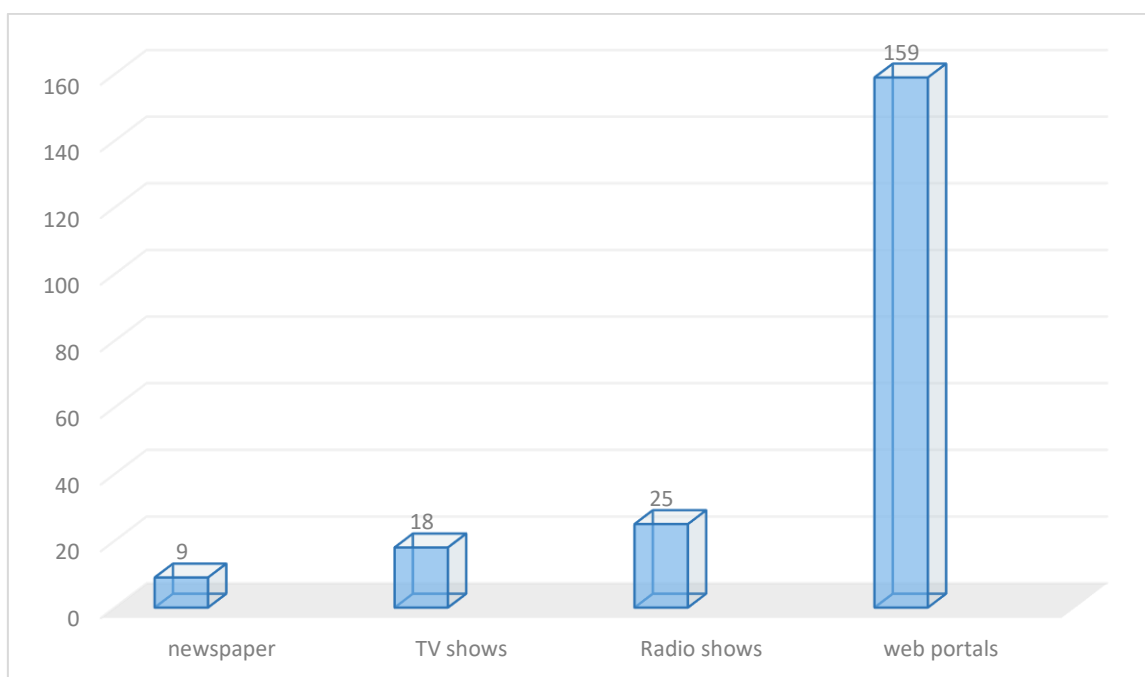


Chart 5: Media apperance in 2017

On Women`s Room website we have published **92** articles about our regular activites, projects and programs. Women`s Room annual reports are available on our website (www.zenskasoba.hr).

8. PUBLISHING

Publishing is also an important area of Women`s Room work which includes: publishing brochures, text books and books on sexual violence, sexual rights and sexuality; producing leaflets, posters, postcards, stickers, bookmarks, planners, organizers, menstrual calendars and other promotional materials; translating and publishing landmark publications from the field of sexual violence and sexual rights.

During 2017, we published **15 different materials in 23.564 copies**:

- Leaflets: “Share responsibly”, “Share non-violence”, “Center for victims of sexual violence”, “Center for sexual rights”, “Women`s Room”
- Poster “Share non-violence”
- Brochure “Share responsibly”
- Badge “Share responsibly”
- Phone case “Share responsibly”
- Publications “Sexual violence in schools”, “Civil society organizations as key actors in combating VAW in Croatia”



Image 17: leaflet „Share responsibly!“

9. WOMEN'S ROOM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2017

During 2017, Women's Room implemented **23 programs and projects**.

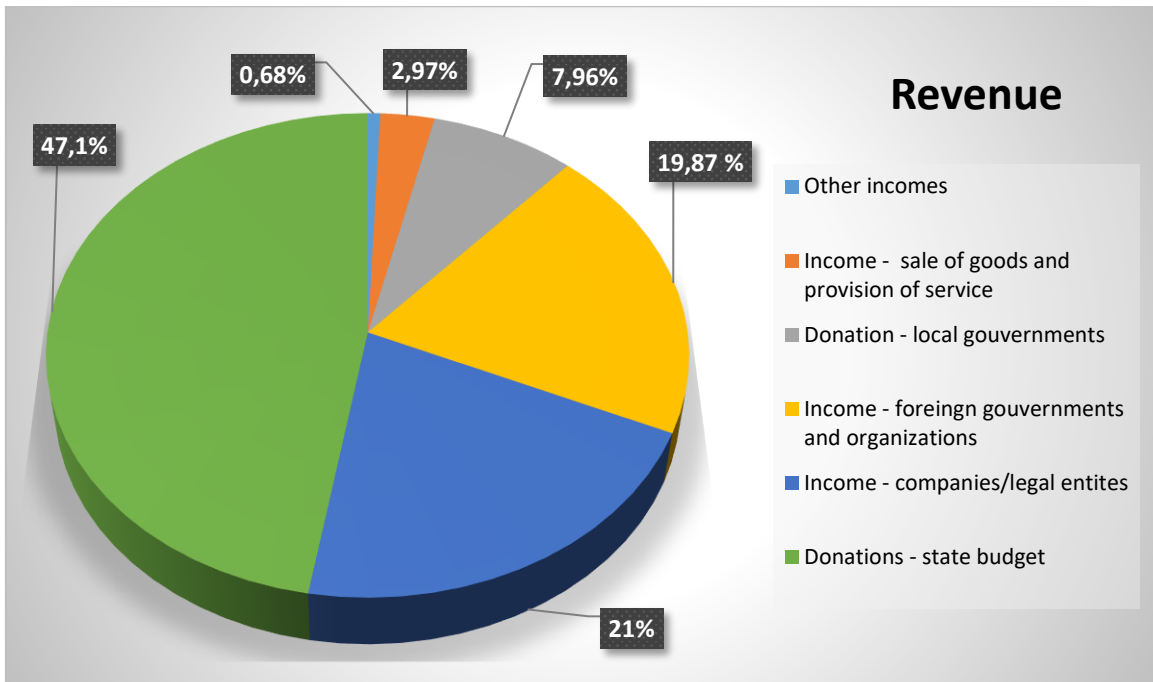
Donors of the Women's Room were: National Foundation for Civil Society Development; European Union – IPA 2012 : Building Capacities of CSOs for Ensuring Effective Implementation of the EU Standards in the Enforcement of Human Rights; Ministry of Justice of Republic of Croatia, European Commission Directorate – general justice and consumers, Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of Republic of Croatia; Ministry of Science and Education of Republic of Croatia; Iceland Liechtenstein Norway Eas Grants – Norway Grants; Mediterranean Women's Fund; Heart and Hand; City of Zagreb - City Office for Health; City of Zagreb - City Office for Social Protection and Persons with Disabilities; City of Zagreb - City Office for Youth.

Women's Room's revenues and expenditures for 2017 are presented in tables 4 and graphs 6 and 7 below.

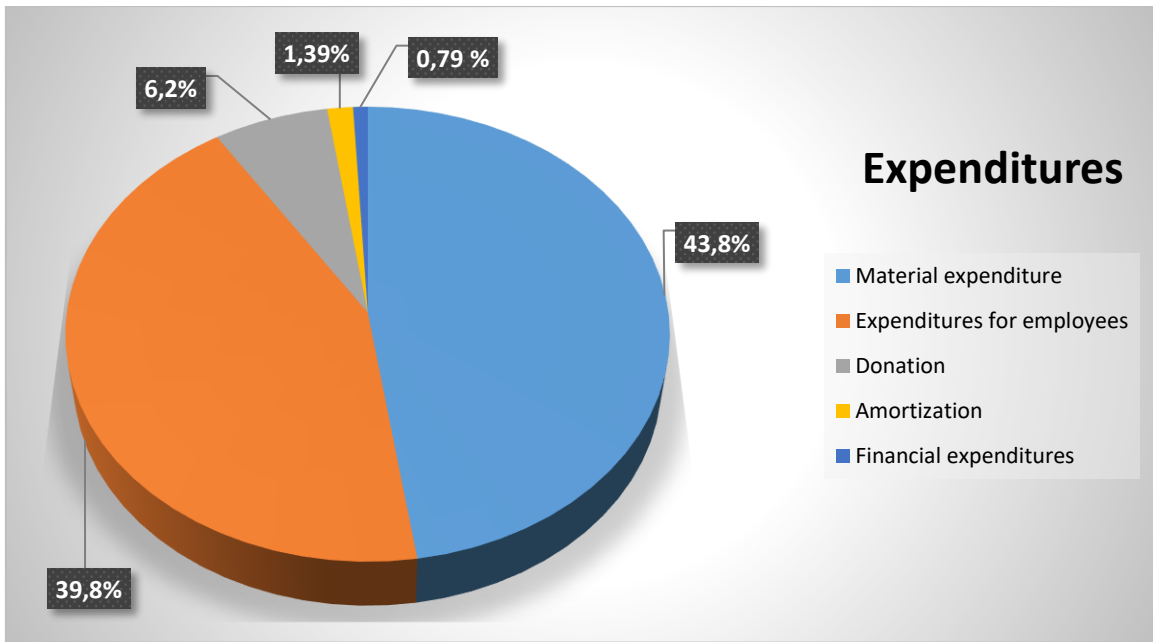
Table 4: Women's Room's Revenue and Expenditures 2017

Account	Description	Amount in HRK	Total in HRK
52	OUTCOME 2016		-4.894,74
522211	Deficit from the last year	-4.894,74	
3 REVENUE			
31	Revenue from sales of products and services		48.513,33
33	Revenues under special regulations		6.460,71
3312	Revenues from special regulations from other sources (Croatian Employment Service)	6.460,71	
34	Income from assets		52,08
341	Income from financial assets (interest and exchange rate gains)	52,08	
35	Incomes from donations		1.569.208,72
351	Incomes from donations from the public budgets	900.208,36	
3511	Income from donations from the state budgets	770.135,92	
3512	Income from donations from the budgets of local (regional) governments	130.072,44	

352	Income from foreign governments and international organizations	324.813,69	
353	Income from companies and other legal entities	343.686,67	
354	Income from citizens donations	500,00	
36	Other income		10.605,77
4	EXPENDITURES		1.805.721,31
41	Expenditures for employees		718.572,43
411	Salaries	613.774,00	
413	Social security contributions	104.798,43	
42	Material expenses		791.169,91
421	Workers compensation costs (travel, transport and professional education)	45.920,84	
423	Compensations for volunteers costs	9.935,84	
424	Compensation for persons not employed in organization	261.214,19	
425	Expenses for services	339.677,57	
426	Expenses for materials and energy	50.341,68	
429	Other unspecified material expenditure (representation, insurance, dues and registration fees)	84.079,79	
43	Amortization		25.066,92
44	Financial expenses		14.413,67
443	Other financial expense (banking services, payment services, foreign exchange losses and interest on arrears)	14.413,67	
45	Donations		111.228,95
46	Other expenditures		231,25
52	Lack of revenues over expenditures		-30.737,26



Graph 6: Women's Room revenue in 2017



Graph 7: The Women's Room expenditures in 2017

10. SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 15 YEARS OF WORK

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• over 1520 educational sessions held
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• over 58 000 participants of educational sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the first <i>Center for Victims of Sexual Violence</i> opened in Croatia
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• over 4310 counseling sessions held with 1250 individuals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 pioneer research projects implemented
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• over 120 different materials published related to our areas of work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the first media campaign on sexual violence „STOP Sexual Violence” (2009, 2010)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the blog „Women's Room – Women's Voice“ on the webpage of Večernji list (2009-2016)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinator of the organization, Maja Mamula, PhD, elected the Zagreb Woman of the Year for protection of women's rights (2010)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women's Room's member Antonija Hojt received the Volunteer Oscar for her volunteer work with the Women's Room (2010)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• initiating the development of the <i>Protocol of Conduct in Cases of Sexual Violence</i> and active participation in its development with the Working Group of the Governmental Office for Gender Equality, which was adopted by the Government of Croatia in November 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• website “Safe Zone”, intended for women who experienced any form of violence and representatives of institutions and civil society organizations who work on this problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• national campaign against violence against women “In Three Clicks Choose Life without Violence!” (2012)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the first International conference about sexual violence in Croatia „System of Public Policies and Support for Victims of Sexual Violence ” (2015)

„I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear.”

Rosa Parks

11. APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Structure of Womens Room in 2017

Structure of Women's Room includes:

Assembly of the Women's Room, which is the highest electoral and program body and includes regular members of the Women's Room;

The Management Board is the governing body that consists of five independent persons who work in the field of human rights and the president of the Coordination Team;

Coordination Team is an executive body which includes coordinators of Women's Room;

Working Team that works on programs and projects of the Women's Room, and includes all members that participate in the Women's Room, including volunteers. List of State and members of the Women's Room is visible in Appendix 2.

Appendix 2: List of members of the Women`s Room, a member of the Committee and Coordination Team in 2017

Women's Room members (regular):

Maja Mamula, Nera Komarić, Jelena Poštić, Boris Krstinić, Jelena Levak, Petra Ćus, Slobodanka Poštić, Maja Kolega, Dunja Bonacci Skenderović, Lada Bonacci, Vanja Oštrić, Koraljka Vlajo, Maja Vukmanić Rajter, Paula Zore, Ivana Lončar, Antonija Hojt Ilić, Anamaria Drožđan – Kranjčec, Josipa Tukara Komljenović, Laura Marković, Irena Špoljarić, Silva Mežnarić, Ana Ergović Kuzmanović, Andrea Kapelina, Sanda Malbaša, Jelena Čaušević, Senka Sekulić Rebić, Kristina Mihaljević

Members of the Women's Room (associate):

Amir Hodžić, Iva Žegura, Ingrid Marton, Sanja Milojević, Asja Zenko, Ulla Marton.

Board members of the Women's Room:

- ❖ MA Željka Jelavić, ethnologist, Ethnographic Museum
- ❖ Sanja Cesar, psychologist, CESI
- ❖ Neda Pavić, lawyer, Deputy County Prosecutors Office in Zagreb (until October 19th, 2017)
- ❖ Rada Borić, Croatian language and comparative literature professor, co-founder of Center for Women`s Studies Zagreb
- ❖ Goran Pršle (from October 19th, 2017)
- ❖ Željka Barić, director of the Home for children and adults - victims of domestic violence "Rainbow"
- ❖ Ph.D. Maja Mamula, psychologist, coordinator of the Women's Room

Members of the Coordination Team of Women's Room:

1. Maja Mamula, president of the Coordination Team (authorized representative)
2. Anamaria Drožđan Kranjčec, Head of legal team (authorized representative)
2. Antonia Hojt Ilić, Head of the educational program (authorized representative)

Appendix 3: List of volunteers in 2017

	Name
1	Mija Rakarić
2	Sara Zoretić
3	Kristina Košutić
4	Hana Mutka
5	Elena Palčić
6	Kristina Bušljeta
7	Paula Zore
8	Isabelle Skillen
9	Stephanie Stelko
10	Lorena Herceg
11	Marion Trcol
12	Iva Samboled
13	Blanka Hlad
14	Lucija Šutić
15	Anđela Krsnik
16	Tajana Tissauer
17	Lora Pivac
18	Senka Sekulić
19	Mateja Meštrović
20	Ivana Andrijašević
21	Doris Beganović
22	Klara May Saluzzo
23	Maja Bošnjak
24	Daria Sfeci
25	Lucija Brekalo
26	Ivana Kesić
27	Jasmina Terezić
TOTAL = 27	

We also want to thank all of those who have not been mentioned here but who have supported us in our many activities and projects and selflessly have given us their time, good will and energy!