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SUMMARY OF WOMEN'S ROOM'S 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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SUMMARY OF WOMEN'S ROOM'S WORK IN 2023

<p>For the purpose of the implementation of its five program areas, the WR secured financial resources through 19 projects and programs.</p>
<p>The Women's Room's Team included 12 full-time employees, 20 external associates and 25 volunteers.</p>
<p><i>Center for Victims of Sexual Violence</i> provided assistance and support to 401 people through provision of 2,843 services.</p>
<p>A total of 254 educational and prevention activities were held for 4866 participants.</p>
<p>553 media appearances were made.</p>
<p>30 different materials were developed and printed in 25,777 copies, and 1 digital leaflet and 1 TV spot were produced.</p>
<p>A conference with international participation "What Can We Do Better - Prevention of Sexual Violence against Children" was held as a part of the SVEP 2 - Junior program, with 455 participants.</p>
<p>The conference "Victims of Criminal Offences in the Croatian Criminal Justice System" was held as a part of the project "Civil Society Organizations as Key Actors in the Standardization of the System for Supporting Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences", with 81 participants.</p>
<p>A member of the Women's Room participated in the Working Group for the Improvement of the Legislative Framework for Protection against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, as well as the Preparation of Analysis and Proposals for Relevant Changes to the Criminal Procedure Act, the Penal Code, the Act on Protection from Domestic Violence, the Law on Courts, the Regulation on the Manner of Implementing Precautionary Measures and the Regulation on the Manner of implementation of individual assessment of victims.</p>
<p>A new Protocol on Conduct in Cases of Sexual Violence was adopted, in the drafting of which the members of the Women's Room actively participated.</p>

1. ABOUT WOMEN'S ROOM

The Women's Room (WR) is the feminist, non-profit civil society organization, founded in 2002 with a goal of preventing and combating sexual violence, direct service provision and assistance to survivors of sexual violence as well as promotion and protection of sexual rights.

The work of the WR is grounded in different perspectives, including the voices and experiences of survivors of sexual violence, helpers, experts, advocates, and researchers. We are committed to social justice and human rights in developing services for survivors of sexual violence that are accessible, inclusive, trauma informed and culturally sensitive.

WR integrates advocacy activities in the area of sexual violence based on human rights and a gender-sensitive approach. We recognize the strength of survivors and respect their diverse experiences, create a supportive environment for healing and developing resilience, provide services to sexual violence survivors and communities, and support activism and social change.

The **Center for Victims of Sexual Violence** operates within the WR, where we provide direct assistance and support to survivors of sexual violence and to persons close to them.

We actively work on developing public policies, prevention programs, advancements and amendments of legislation, delivering specialized educations as well as on raising public awareness on the issue of sexual violence.

The main governing bodies of the WR are **Assembly, Management Board and Coordination Team**. These bodies have different but complementary functions in designing, implementing, coordinating and monitoring the organization's work. They realize their roles in close cooperation with the **Working Team**.

Women's Room's Assembly is the highest electoral and programming body. It includes all regular members of the WR (31).

Women's Room's Management Board is the governing body which includes 5 independent persons who actively contribute to the protection of human rights as well as the president of the WR's Coordination Team. Members of the Management Board in 2023:

- ⊕ Željka Jelavić, M.Sc., ethnologist
- ⊕ Sanja Cesar, psychologist, CESI
- ⊕ Željka Barić, Ph.D., social worker, directress of Home for Children and Adults, Victims of Domestic Violence, "Duga"
- ⊕ Paula Zore, long-term member and associate of the WR, feminist and activist
- ⊕ Goran Pršle, photographer, long-term activist, supporter of the WR
- ⊕ Maja Mamula, Ph.D., psychologist, Coordinator of the WR

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Women's Room's Coordination Team is the executive body which includes 3 persons: Coordinator of the WR, Deputy Coordinator, and a member of Coordination Team.

Working Team is responsible for the implementation of programs and projects of the WR and includes all persons who participate in the work of organization such as staff members, external associates as well as volunteers.

During 2023, the Working Team included the following staff members:

- **Maja Mamula**, Ph.D. (Coordinator of the WR, Coordinator of Center for Victims of Sexual Violence)
- **Anamaria Drožđan–Kranjčec**, mag. iur. (Deputy Coordinator of the Women's Room, Coordinator of the Legal Team)
- **Jelena Čaušević**, mag. oec. (member of the Coordination Team, Coordinator of Program Finances)
- **Kristina Mihaljević**, mag. paed. soc. (Coordinator of Prevention Programs)
- **Valentina Klepec**, univ. bacc. oec. (Coordinator of Finances)
- **Marijana Senjak**, psychologist and psychotherapist (counselor in Center for Victims of Sexual Violence)
- **Lidija Al Tharwan**, spec. admin. publ. (professional program and project associate)
- **Andrea Domitrović**, mag. psych. (counselor in the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence until November 30, 2023)
- **Nives Jozić Kvastek**, mag. soc. (professional program and project associate)
- **Svea Kučinić**, mag. rehab. educ. (professional program and project associate until June 30.2023)
- **Paula Romić**, mag. educ. philol. croat. (Office Manager from April 1 through September 1, 2023)
- **Andrea Kapelina**, mag. psych. (expert assistant, intern from December 1, 2023)
- **Darko**, therapy dog.



Darko's 12th birthday, May 2023

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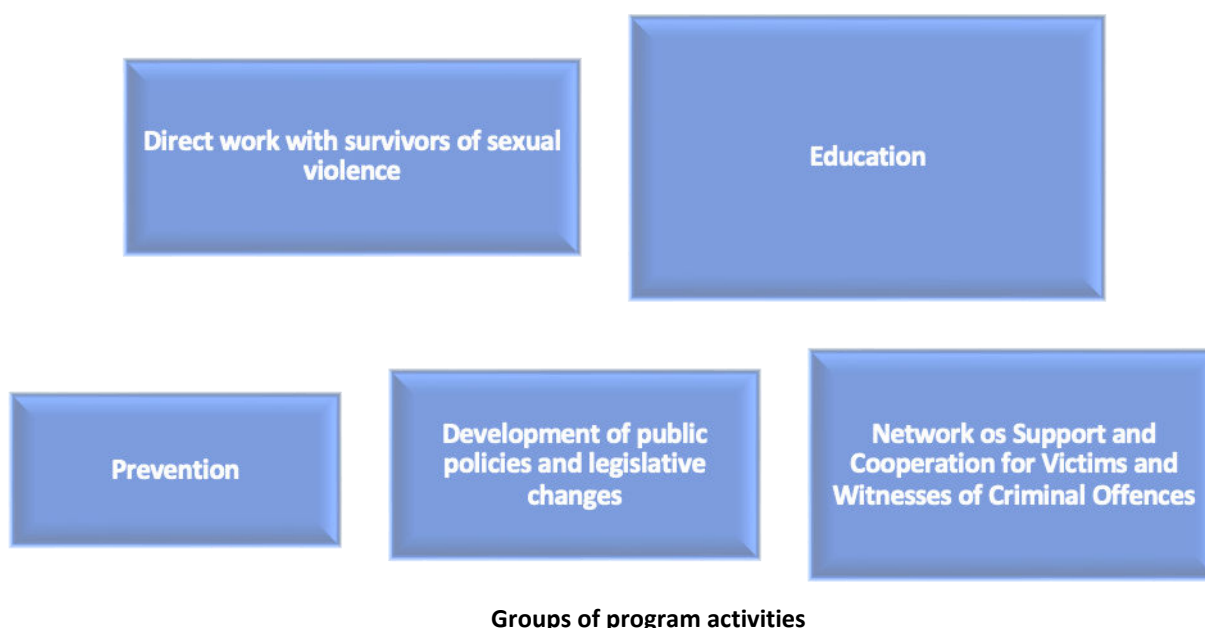
In addition to permanent employees, the Working Team also includes **external associates**, some of whom continuously cooperate with the WR and others who join through specific program activities of the organization.

Permanent external associates in 2023: **Iva Žegura** (supervisor), **Attorney-at-law office Pelc, Ulla Marton** (gynecologist), **Dalibor Stanić** (accountant), **Siniša Vujić** (system administrator), **Nikola Strelar** (website maintenance), **Petra Drožđan Kranjčec** (designer) and **Nikola Jelovečki** (promoter on social networks).

Apart from regular external associates, **12** additional associates took part in the work of the WR during 2023, mostly related to our educational activities.

In addition to the Working Team, **24** active volunteers participated in the activities of the WR, and their energy and enthusiasm contributed to the quality and visibility of the organization's work.

WR's work during 2023 was organized in **5 program areas**: direct service provision to survivors of sexual violence, education, prevention, development of public policies and legislative changes, and Network of Support and Cooperation for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences.



2. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

During 2023, the WR started, continued and/or completed implementation of **19 programs and projects**, 12 independently and 7 in partnership, out of which the WR was the main applicant in 6 of them and a partner in 1 (Table 1. List of WR programs/projects and donors who financially supported the WR's work).

Table 1. List of programs/projects, name of the donor and full amount of the program/project budget, regardless of the year when started or completed

No.	Program/project title, donor and duration	Amount in EUR
1.	Civil Society Organizations as Key Actors in Standardization of Support System for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the framework of EEA and Norwegian grants (Active Citizen Fund) (01.01.2021. – 30.06.2023.)	138.985,00 EUR (WR share = 103.158,67 EUR)
2.	Sexual Violence - Educational and Prevention Program 2 – JUNIOR - SVEP 2 – JUNIOR European Union - Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme – REC (2014. – 2020.) (1. 2. 2021. – 31. 1. 2023.)	472.090,42 EUR (max grant amount 377.672,33 EUR)
3.	Network of Support and Cooperation for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia (01.01.2021. – 31.12.2023.)	424.712,99 EUR (WR share = 93.626,91 EUR)
4.	Sexual Violence – Educational and Prevention Program (SVEP Online tool) European Union - Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV-2021-DAPHNE) (1. 3. 2022. – 28. 2. 2024.)	326.177,15 EUR (max grant amount 293.559,44 EUR) (WR share = 184.621,99 EUR)
5.	Education, Empowerment and Cooperation – My Opportunity for the Future Ministry of Labour and Pension System, Family and Social Policy (1. 6. 2020. – 31. 5. 2023.)	25.217,33 EUR

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6.	<p>Co-financing of the EU project “SVEP 2 – Junior”</p> <p>Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of Republic of Croatia (28. 7. 2021. – 31. 6. 2023.)</p>	29.381,52 EUR
7.	<p>Co-financing of the EU project “SVEP 2 – Junior”</p> <p>City of Zagreb (28. 5. 2021. – 31. 1. 2023.)</p>	33.155,51 EUR
8.	<p>Implementation of the SVEP Program</p> <p>Central State Office for Demography and Youth (1. 1. 2023. – 31. 12. 2023.)</p>	11.281,44 EUR
9.	<p>ZIP – Protect and Recognize! Protection of Children with Developmental Disabilities from Sexual Violence</p> <p>City of Zagreb, City Office for Social Protection, Health, War Veterans and People with Disabilities (1. 3. 2022. – 28. 2. 2023.)</p>	10.438,65 EUR
10.	<p>2Gether4Victims – Coordinating and Harmonizing Generic and Specialist Support Services for Victims of Gender-Based Violence</p> <p>Partners, main applicant: Victim Support Europe European Union - Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV-2022-DAPHNE) (3. 4. 2023. – 2. 4. 2025.)</p>	WR share = 96.980,71 EUR
11.	<p>Institutional Support</p> <p>Sigrid Rausing Trust (1. 11. 2022. – 31. 10. 2023.)</p>	90.000,00 GBP 102.085,43 EUR
12.	<p>Center for Victims of Sexual Violence</p> <p>Ministry of Labour and Pension System, Family and Social Policy (1. 5. 2023. – 30. 4. 2024.)</p>	25.000,00 EUR
13.	<p>Support and Empowerment of Parents of Children who are Victims of Criminal Offences of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation</p> <p>Ministry of Labour and Pension System, Family and Social Policy (1. 6. 2023. – 31. 5. 2024.)</p>	25.000,00 EUR
14.	<p>Prevention of Sexual Violence</p> <p>City of Zagreb, City Office for Social Protection, Health, War</p>	8.000,00 EUR

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	Veterans and People with Disabilities (1. 7. 2023. – 30. 6. 2024.)	
15.	Center for Victims of Sexual Violence City of Zagreb, City Office for Social Protection, Health, War Veterans and People with Disabilities (1. 1. 2023. – 31. 12. 2024.)	5.500,00 EUR
16.	Ensuring Support for Victims Sexual Violence within the Scope of the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence City of Zagreb, City Office for Social Protection, Health, War Veterans and People with Disabilities (1. 7. 2023. – 30. 6. 2026.)	13.200,00 EUR
17.	Three-year Institutional Support Sigrid Rausing Trust (1. 12. 2023. – 31. 12. 2026.)	525.164,89 EUR (175.054,96 EUR annually)
18.	Co-financing of the EU project „SVEP Online Tool“ Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of Republic of Croatia (1. 3. 2022. – 28. 2. 2024.)	14.359,49 EUR
19.	Co-financing of the EU project „2Gether4Victims – Coordinating and Harmonizing Generic and Specialist Support Services for Victims of Gender-Based Violence“ Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of Republic of Croatia (27. 11. 2023. – 2. 4. 2025.)	6.788,65 EUR

The total revenue of the WR in 2023 amounted to **927.519,01 EUR**, of which a share of **365.442,53 EUR** (39,4%) was transferred to partner organizations for the implementation of programs/projects.

At the end of 2019, WR adopted a new **Strategic Plan for the period of 2020 – 2024**, which defines our strategic goals and strategic priorities. In addition, Strategic Plan determines the strategic directions of development and the budget projection for the next five years. At the end of 2022, **Operational and Financial Plans for 2023** were drafted and adopted as key documents for development of the organization in 2023.

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3. CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Center is the only organization in Croatia specialized in providing support and assistance to persons who have survived any form of sexual violence, as well as to people close to them. Services are provided by a team of experts specializing in the topic of sexual violence. All services are completely free of charge.

The Center provides the following services:

- psychological counselling (crisis, long-term)
- psychotherapeutic work related to processing of traumatic experience
- legal counselling
- informing about rights in criminal proceedings
- providing information about available services in the health system and the social welfare system
- support in the process of reporting sexual violence
- preparation for court proceedings
- escort in the role of persons of confidence to all relevant institutions during court procedure (escort to the police, hospital, state attorney's office, court, social welfare centers)
- preparation and submission of the expert opinion at the request of the competent bodies, with consent of the victim
- informing and counselling for persons who are close to victims
- development and publication of different educational and informative materials for survivors of sexual violence

Direct work with survivors of sexual violence within the Center is based on a combination of three key approaches – understanding the gender perspective of sexual violence, a victim-centered approach and an approach based on understanding the impact of trauma.

The Center's services are available to everyone in Croatia, and we often have inquiries and requests from persons from the region as well as from other countries. Therefore, our services are available by phone, in person at the WR's premises, and by using modern technologies (Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp, etc.).

During 2023, a total of **401 people** sought assistance from the Center, which represents an **increase of 17,2%** compared to 2022 (332 persons).

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We provided a total of **2843 different services**, which represents an **increase of 9,4%** compared to 2022 (2600 services).

Out of **401 people** who sought assistance, **92% were women (369)**, and **8% were men, transgender, intersex and gender variant persons (32)**.

The largest number of **provided services** was related to the **criminal offence of rape (53,4%)**. Significant number of services was provided to persons who sought assistance related to domestic violence (17,4%) and lewd acts (**14,3%**).

The most common consultations were by **phone (38,3%)**, since we are contacted by people from entire Croatia, who do not have the opportunity to come to Zagreb.

More information about the services provided by month, methods of service provision, persons who contacted us, issues addressed as well as the number of new clients is presented in tables 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Table 2. Number of services and methods of service provision for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2023

Services (method)	Total of services <i>(number of new clients)</i>	By phone	In person in the premises of the Center	E-mail, post	Via modern technologies
Month					
January	168 <i>(26)</i>	69	42	19	38
February	291 <i>(21)</i>	113	82	47	49
March	277 <i>(34)</i>	131	83	31	31
April	258 <i>(21)</i>	125	90	15	28
May	336 <i>(19)</i>	108	105	48	75
Jun	155 <i>(17)</i>	64	50	23	18
July	138 <i>(17)</i>	50	34	25	29
August	267 <i>(27)</i>	99	74	25	69
September	242 <i>(26)</i>	84	62	58	38
October	278	78	100	36	64

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	(17)				
November	287 (28)	106	91	34	56
December	146 (16)	60	50	19	17
Total	2843 (269)	1088	863	330	512

Total number of services provided: 2843.

Total number of clients: 401 (women – 369; men, transgender, intersex and gender variant persons – 32).

Graph 1. Number of services and new clients who were provided assistance in the Center in 2023, by month

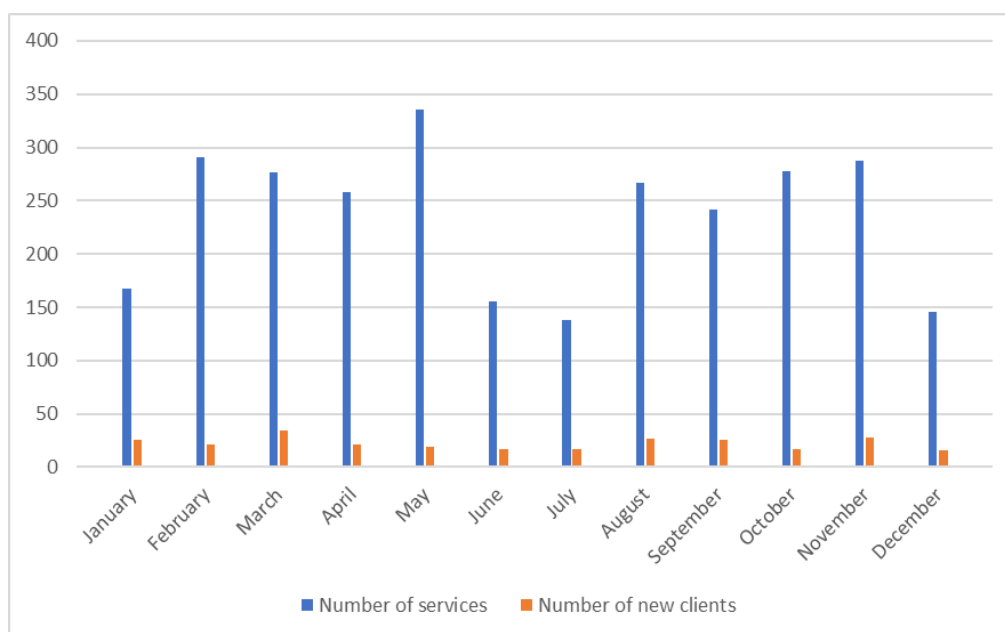


Table 3. Issues for which services were provided

Rank	Type of problem	Number	%
1	Rape/attempted rape/gang rape	1517	53,4
2	Family violence	494	17,3
3	Sexual abuse (e.g. lewd conduct, forced sexual acts)	434	15,2
4	Sexual harassment	114	4,0
5	Other forms of violence	92	3,1

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	(e.g. trafficking in women, violence against LGBTIQ+ persons)		
6	Combined issues (various forms of violence)	82	2,8
7	Family violence including sexual violence	64	2,6
8	Violence – other forms (online and other)	46	1,6
total		2843	100 %

Table 4: Number of first-time/repeated services

Rank	Provided services	Number	%
1	Repeated contact	2574	90,5
2	First-time contact (new clients)	269	9,5
total		2843	100 %

Table 5: The person who contacted the Women's Room

Rank	Contact initiated by	Number	%
1	Victim of violence/person who needed information	2199	77,4
2	Persons close to the victim (family, friends)	242	8,5
2	WR contacted the client	150	5,3
4	WR contacted institution and/or civil society organization on behalf of the client	75	2,6
5	Partner	56	1,9
6	Representative of a state institution	42	1,5
7	Representative of civil society organization	54	1,9
8	WR associate	25	0,9
total		2843	100 %

4. EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

In 2023, the WR members conducted **254 different educational and prevention activities**, such as one-day and multi-day trainings, one-day and multi-day specialized educations, workshops, and lectures for different target groups.

A total of **4,866 participants** took part in the educational activities, including representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), representatives of state bodies and public institutions, students, primary and secondary school pupils and the general public (Table 6).

Table 6. Number of educational and prevention activities and the number of participants

TARGET AUDIENCE	NUMBER OF EDUCATIONS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Civil society organizations	10	194
Teachers and professional associates	10	308
Representatives of institutions	7	121
Students	8	259
Primary school pupils (implemented by members of the WR and teachers within the SVEP 2 - Junior project)	19	146
Secondary school pupils (implemented by members of the WR, teachers, and professional associates of the SVEP ONLINE program)	155	1742
Lectures, trainings, conferences, and public events organized by the WR	27	1090
Lectures, trainings, conferences, and public events where members of the WR were invited as speakers	18	1006
TOTAL	254	4866

The Women's Room delivered **3 multi-day and 4 one-day** educations for **CSOs**, which were attended by a total of **194** participants. As an example, we emphasize multi-day education on sexual violence and family violence for the Association for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights – Humanum with more than 100 participants.

In 2023, a total of **13 educations** for **416 primary and secondary school teachers and professional associates** from throughout Croatia were delivered, three of which lasted several days.

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Furthermore, **31 trainings were held for 1103 representatives** of various state bodies, institutions and agencies. An example is three educations at the Judicial Academy on the subject of *Trauma and Its Impact on the Victim*, as a part of the education "Taking the victim's statement and examining the victim with special emphasis on vulnerable groups, especially victims of domestic violence, violence against children and women, and sexual violence".

During 2023, **8 educations** were held for **259 students** of different Faculties with the aim of informing and gaining understanding about the issue of sexual violence, as well as the prevention of sexual violence.

In continuation of work on the SVEP 2 - Junior program, **18 workshops** were held for **120 elementary school pupils**.

As a part of the implementation of the project "**Sexual violence - Educational and Prevention Online Program (SVEP Online Tool)**", **60 workshops were held for 515 pupils** from 16 secondary schools and student dormitories from across Croatia.

In 2023, the WR organized **27 public lectures, conferences, round tables and panels**, attended by **1090 participants**.

In 2023, the WR members were invited as **speakers, presenters and/or lecturers** to **18 public lectures, conferences, round tables, and panels**, which were attended by **1006 participants**.

We highlight the **conference with international participation "What Can We Do Better - Prevention of Sexual Violence against Children"** held on June 29, 2023 in a hybrid format - in Zagreb, Hotel Dubrovnik and via the Zoom platform. The conference was part of the project "Sexual Violence - Educational and Prevention Program 2 – Junior" (SVEP Program 2 – Junior). During the Conference, SVEP 2 - Junior Program (including all the activities of the project), the issue of sexual violence in the Republic of Croatia and arguments regarding the necessity of implementing a program to prevent sexual violence in schools were presented. Presentations were held by **19 relevant experts**, representatives of competent institutions and civil society organizations from Croatia and abroad, and conference was attended by **455 persons**.

A recording of the Conference is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zj1OIHfCebI>.

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Conference with international participation

„What Can We Do Better - Prevention of Sexual Violence against Children“

Another important **conference "Victims of Criminal Offences in the Croatian Criminal Justice System"** was held at the end of the implementation of the project "Civil Society Organizations as Key Actors in the Standardization of the System for Supporting Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences". The conference was held on June 14, 2023, at the Academia Hotel, with 81 participants. The conference consisted of introductory speeches and 4 panels where presentations were given by eminent experts dealing with the protection and improvement of the position of victims of criminal offences. During the conference, the results of 7 studies published in the publication "Victims of Criminal Offences in the Croatian Criminal Justice System - research results and practical experience" were presented. These studies provided relevant data on informing victims of criminal offences about their rights, application of law, referral to support services, implementation of individual assessment of victims and the general position and treatment of victims of criminal offences in Croatia.



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WR continuously works on additional improvement of the Working Team with the aim of increasing the quality work in the field of educational and prevention programs, as well as within the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence. During 2023, the WR members participated in **12 additional professional trainings and educations.**

Educational and prevention programs of the WR are recognized as extremely important, both by professionals and the general public. From 2002 until the end of 2023, more than **83 834 persons** took part in various educational and prevention activities of the WR.

5. RESEARCH

One of the main goals of WR is the development and implementation of scientific research with the aim of raising public awareness, improving education, developing important documents and reports, but also as a key tool for lobbying for legislative changes and the development of relevant public policies in the area of sexual violence.

In the framework of the project "Civil Society Organizations as Key Actors in the Standardization of the System for the Support of Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences", which is implemented by the WR with the financial support of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the framework of the EEA and Norwegian grants, during 2022 we conducted research whose key indicators were presented in our last annual report. In January 2023, the research results were published in the publication "Victims of Criminal Offences in the Croatian Criminal Justice System - research results and practical experience".

The results of all conducted research are available at the following [link](#).

During 2023, preparations began for the development of the analysis "Sexual Violence in Croatia 2013 - 2023". This will be the third analysis of this type developed by the WR. The goal of the analysis is to gather in one place all the data on the changes made in the area of combating sexual violence in Croatia in the aforementioned 11 years: official police data on the number of reported cases, legislative changes, development of public policies, development of prevention programs, direct work with persons who survived sexual violence, problems that have been identified through everyday work and practice.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES THROUGH ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

One of the main strategic goals of the WR is active lobbying for the improvement of legislation in the area of violence against women and children, with special emphasis on sexual violence, as well as the development of public policies in the area of sexual violence.

In order for the advocacy activities to be as comprehensive as possible, the experiences of survivors of sexual violence, helpers, experts, advocates and researchers are crucial for us. Consequently, the WR is a member of many networks and initiatives, and our members participate in the work of numerous committees, working groups and teams dedicated to this strategic goal of the organization.

6.1. NETWORK OF SUPPORT AND COOPERATION FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES

WR is the coordinator of the new cycle of the three-year program "**Network of Support and Cooperation for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences**" (Network of Support and Cooperation), which is financially supported by the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia, and which additionally contributes to the improvement of the position of victims and witnesses.

The program is implemented for the sixth year in a row in partnership with the following 10 civil society organizations: Association for Support of Victims and Witnesses, Center for Civic Initiatives Poreč, Center for Support and Development of Civil Society DELFIN, DEŠA - Dubrovnik, Association HERA Križevci - for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, Informative Legal Center, Women's Group Karlovac KORAK, S.O.S. Virovitica - Counseling, Empowerment, Cooperation, SOS Telephone for Women Victims of Violence in the Krapina-Zagorje County, Zagorje and the Zvonimir Association.

The following are the highlights of the work of Network of Support and Cooperation during 2023:

- **4934 consultations were provided for 1298 clients** (1086 new clients, 212 existing clients, 10802 individual services). Compared to 2022, there were 24,2% more consultations, 18,1% more clients, and the number of services has increased by 27,9%.
- A total of **1047 psychological and legal counseling services** were provided (of which 539 legal counseling services and 508 psychological counseling services).
- A total of **253 court escorts** were provided with the aim of reducing stress and the risk of secondary victimization of the victims. **115 escorts** were made to other institutions.

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The implementation of this program continuously improves cooperation with all competent bodies and institutions, both in the field of direct work and in the field of public policy development, primarily by improving the implementation of existing laws in accordance with EU standards. Special emphasis was placed on promoting key international documents such as the EU Council Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Directive 2012/29/EU on the Establishment of Minimum Standards for the Rights, Support and Protection of Victims of Crime.

For more information about the work of the Network of Support and Cooperation see <http://mrezapodrskeisuradnje.com/>.

6.2. NETWORKS, COALITIONS AND CIVIC INITIATIVES

WR is a member of **12 national, regional and European** networks, coalitions and civil initiatives through which we strengthen our capacities, exchange experiences and advocate for changes at different levels. These include:

1. European Women's Network against Sexual Violence (co-founders and two members of the Governing Board)
2. VICTIM SUPPORT EUROPE
3. GOOD Initiative – Civic Upbringing and Education
4. PLATFORM 112 – for Croatia Governed by the Rule of Law
5. Platform for Reproductive Justice
6. PETRA Network – Network of NGOs for Prevention and Elimination of Trafficking in Women
7. WAVE – WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE, Feminist Network Promoting Human Rights of Women and Children (members of the Network and members of Working Group for Combating Sexual Violence)
8. Organizational Committee of the One Billion Rising
9. ASTRA – Central and Eastern European Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
10. Anna Lindh Euro–Mediterranean Foundation
11. Coalition REKOM – Regional Commission tasked with establishing facts on war crimes and other serious human rights violations committed on the territory of the Former Yugoslavia
12. Initiative for introduction of sex education in primary and secondary schools in the City of Zagreb.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S NETWORK AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In March 2017, WR became the co-founder and a member of the *Regional Women's Network against Sexual Violence*, and its founding and activities were coordinated by the Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade (Serbia), in cooperation with other co-founders, WR, Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children Victims of Violence (Slovenia), and SOS Center for Women and Children Victims of Violence (Montenegro).

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In 2019, the Network was officially registered in Croatia and changed its name to the **European Women's Network against Sexual Violence**.



Logotype of the European Women's Network against Sexual Violence

Two members of the WR (Maja Mamula and Anamaria Drožđan-Kranjčec are also members of the Governing Board of this Network). Kristina Mihaljević, a member of the WR, oversees managing Network's:

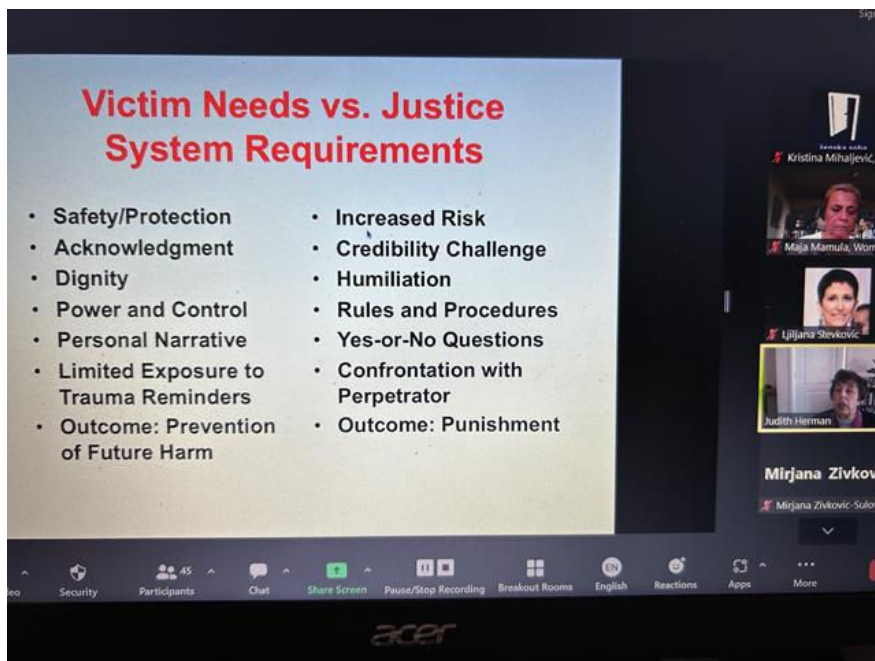
- web page (<http://reactagainstsexualviolence.org/>),
- Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/europeanwomensnetwork/>)
- Instagram profile (https://www.instagram.com/react_against_sexual_violence/).

In 2023, within the scope of this Network, in addition to regular organizational activities (assembly, meetings of the Management Board, etc.), a series of professional trainings was started for members of the Network, as well as for interested professionals. **5 lectures** were held, of which we highlight the lecture by **Judith Lewis Herman**, professor of Psychiatry at Harvard University Medical School and Director of Training at the Victims of Violence Program at Cambridge Hospital. The topic of the lecture was how trauma survivors envision justice ("Truth and Repair - How trauma survivors envision justice"). The lecture was held via Zoom, for 45 participants.

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The image shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main content is a presentation slide with the title "Victim Needs vs. Justice System Requirements" in red. The slide lists two columns of bullet points:

- Victim Needs:**
 - Safety/Protection
 - Acknowledgment
 - Dignity
 - Power and Control
 - Personal Narrative
 - Limited Exposure to Trauma Reminders
 - Outcome: Prevention of Future Harm
- Justice System Requirements:**
 - Increased Risk
 - Credibility Challenge
 - Humiliation
 - Rules and Procedures
 - Yes-or-No Questions
 - Confrontation with Perpetrator
 - Outcome: Punishment

The Zoom interface includes a toolbar at the bottom with icons for Security, Participants (45), Chat, Share Screen, Pause/Stop Recording, Breakout Rooms, English, Reactions, Apps, and More. On the right side, there is a vertical list of participant video thumbnails, including Kristina Mihaljević, Maja Mamula, Ljiljana Steković, Judith Herman, and Mirjana Zivković.

Lecture by Judith Lewis Herman

6.3. COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, TEAMS AND COUNCILS

As in previous years, a special attention was devoted to systematic active work on the development of public policies against sexual violence through membership in **committees, working groups, teams and councils**. WR members are actively involved in **12 such bodies**.

Committees, working groups, teams and committees in which members of the WR participate:

1. National Team for Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence and Violence against Women
2. Gender Equality Committee of the City of Zagreb Assembly
3. City of Zagreb Committee for Protection from Domestic Violence
4. Working group for the improvement of the legislative framework for protection against violence against women and domestic violence and the preparation of analysis and proposals for relevant changes to the Criminal Procedure Act, the Criminal Code, the Act on Protection from Domestic Violence, the Law on Courts, the Regulation on the Manner of Implementing Precautionary Measures and the Regulation on the Manner of implementation of individual assessment of victims.

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5. Working group for drafting the National Plan for Combating Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
6. Working group for the development of the National Plan for Gender Equality 2019 – 2022
7. Working group for the development of the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination 2019 - 2024
8. Working group of civil society organizations concerned with monitoring hate speech
9. Working group for changes to the Rules of Procedure in Cases of Sexual Violence
10. Committee concerned with monitoring and advancing support system for victims and witnesses (Ministry of Justice)
11. Council for monetary compensation to victims of criminal offences
12. Femicide Watch.

We actively participate in monitoring needs and **proposing changes to the legislative framework** related to sexual violence in order to protect the rights of survivors of sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence.

It is important to emphasize that the Coordinator of the WR's Legal Team, Anamaria Droždan-Kranjčec, participated in the ***Working Group for the improvement of the legislative framework for protection against violence against women and domestic violence and the preparation of analysis and proposals for relevant changes to the Criminal Procedure Act, the Criminal Code, the Act on Protection from Domestic Violence, the Law on Courts, the Regulation on the Manner of Implementing Precautionary Measures and the Regulation on the Manner of implementation of individual assessment of victims.***

In September 2023, on the occasion of the presentation of measures to combat violence against women and protect the rights of children, Prime Minister Andrej Plenković held a meeting with representatives of institutions, associations and initiatives dealing with this issue. During the meetings, he announced changes to several laws that would strengthen the rights of victims - the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Act, the Act on Protection Against Domestic Violence, the Courts Act and the Family Act. Among other things, a new criminal offence will be introduced - aggravated murder of a woman, pre-trial detention for violation of precautionary measures, informing the victim about the perpetrator's release and increasing the penalty for rape. The Government plans to send the mentioned changes to the Parliament at the beginning of 2024.

A new **Protocol on Conduct in Cases of Sexual Violence** (Protocol) was adopted at the Government session held on September 7, 2023. WR actively participated in the Working Group for the amendment of the Protocol of the Office for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. Due to important legislative changes, as well as the development of the National Plan for Combating Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment for the period from 2022 to 2027, it was crucial to introduce a whole series of changes to the existing Protocol. The working

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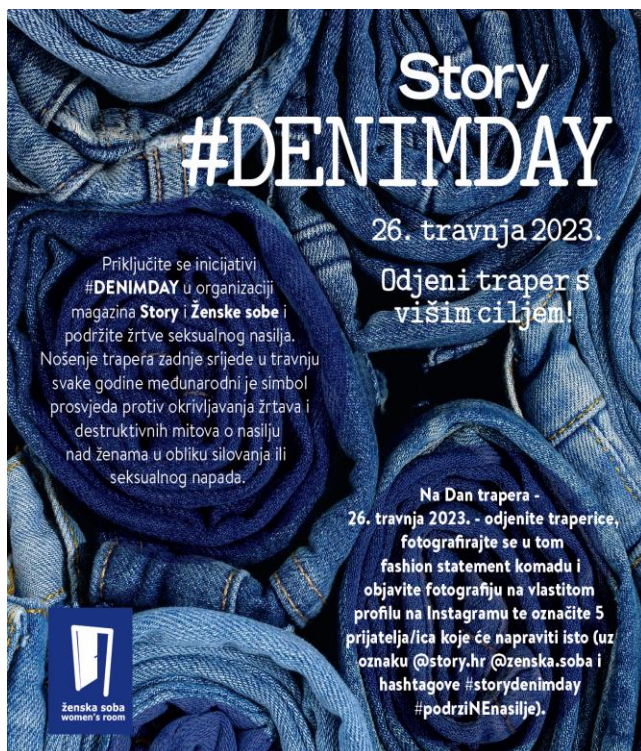
group included representatives of competent state bodies, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children and civil society organizations. The new Protocol determines obligations for all institutions that provide services or implement programs for children, in which children are housed, that is, for all organizers of activities for children in the case of sexual violence. According to the Protocol, in addition to the necessary sensitization and education of employees about sexual violence experienced by children and the implementation of prevention programs, the importance of taking appropriate measures to enable detection and reporting of sexual violence to relevant institutions is emphasized.

During 2023, the WR continued the cooperation established with at the time Elle magazine and joined the **global Denim Day Campaign**. This year, the collaboration continued with the Story magazine. Wearing denim on the last Wednesday in April has become an international symbol of protest against attitudes about sexual violence that blame the victims for the experienced violence. For over two decades, more than 12 million people around the world participate every year in this global campaign and an international event. In Croatia, Denim Day has been celebrated since 2021, organized by the magazine Elle Croatia and WR, with a socially responsible campaign on digital platforms under the motto *Wear denim with a higher purpose!*, with the involvement of numerous people from public life and the general public. On International Denim Day, April 26, 2023, an invitation was sent to public figures, people from political and cultural life, and citizens to "Wear denim with a higher purpose!", take a photo and publish that "fashion statement" piece on their profiles on Instagram and tag 5 friends who would do the same with certain *hashtags* (such as #storydenimday #podrziNEnasilje). Additionally, all persons who survived some form of sexual violence were invited through the campaign to seek assistance at the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence.

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Members of WR marking the Denim Day

Numerous celebrities from political and public life joined the marking of the Denim Day.

In the Croatian Parliament, a meeting was organized with the Vice-President of the Parliament, Mrs. Sabina Glasovac, who supported the idea of the Members of Parliament taking pictures in denim in the Croatian Parliament as an act of support for victims of sexual violence and against victim blaming.

The campaign was also joined by Members of the Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality, members of the European Parliament, the Mayor of the City of Zagreb, Tomislav Tomašević, the Commission for Gender Equality of the City of Zagreb, and the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, Mrs. Višnja Ljubičić.



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7. MEDIA PRESENCE

During 2023, the WR continued to have a significant **presence in the media**, one of our main methods of communication with the general public. In total, there were **553 appearances** in the media, including TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, and portals.

WR members participated in television shows of the leading **TV companies in Croatia 28 times**, of which 7 times in the prime time of the most important television broadcasting companies (e.g. Maja Mamula, Ph.D., on April 18, RTL DIREKT, topic of SVEP 2 – JUNIOR; Anamaria Drožđan-Kranjčec, on November 24, central news HRT 1, topic of , topic of sexual violence in Croatia on the occasion of the International Day against Violence against Women and presentation of the Protocol, Maja Mamula, Ph.D., on November 25, central news HRT 1, topic of sexual violence in Croatia on the occasion of the International Day against Violence against Women).



In addition, WR members gave **8 interviews** to newspapers and magazines (Jutarnji list, Večernji list).

Also, we participated in **17 national and local radio shows** (e.g. HRT 1, Yammatt FM, Radio Bravo, Media Servis, Soundset Dubrovnik). During guest appearances on radio shows, we presented the work of WR and the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence, the Network of Support and Cooperation for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences, publication „Victims of Criminal Offences in the Croatian Criminal Justice System“, National Campaign against Sexual Violence

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against Children, and gave statements on the occasions of National and International Day of Combating Violence Against Women

During 2023, **138 posts** were published on **multimedia journalist portals**, which concerned the activities carried out by the WR, including posts about the Center's work.

WR's **radio jingles** were broadcasted **362** times, of which the jingle about the work of the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence was aired 92 times, and the jingle SVEP 2 – Junior 135 times.

There were several other events that contributed to the visibility of the work of the WR.

WR, in cooperation with CESI and other partner organizations organized in April a **kick-off event** where the **National Campaign against Sexual Violence against Children** was presented, which was an integral part of the EU project "Sexual Violence - education and prevention program 2 - Junior" (SVEP 2 – Junior).

The development and implementation of the National Campaign consisted of numerous activities that contributed to raising awareness of sexual violence and the need to prevent sexual violence against children, and thus the need to implement the SVEP 2 - Junior Program in elementary schools.

Through the visuals and key messages of the campaign, the goal was to send **a strong and clear message** that sexual violence against children is a reality and that adults have the responsibility to report any form of sexual violence and protect children.

The national campaign against sexual violence consisted of various materials and channels of communication, including: radio jingle, TV spot, billboards and city lights distributed in 24 cities throughout the Republic of Croatia, newspapers and internet ads, the online campaign #ovonijefilm (#thisisnotamovie) which included numerous famous people.



Visual of the campaign

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We organized a round table in February as a part of the project "Civil Society Organizations as Key Actors in the Standardization of the System for the Support of Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences" on the occasion of the European Day of Victims of Criminal Offences and started the **online campaign with the launch of the Facebook page: Victims of Criminal Offences**. The goal of the campaign and the FB page was the continuous publication of content on the rights of victims of criminal offences and their position within the framework of criminal proceedings, as well as the presentation of the results of research conducted on the rights and position of victims of criminal offences.

For the purposes of communication on the FB page and announcements, a unique visual was created that was used to announce all the key messages of the campaign, i.e. research results.



Visual of the campaign (*Connect the dots and create a whole picture!*)

Also, during 2023, cooperation with the City Center One was established through the implementation of the **humanitarian campaign #ŽelimSveMoguSve**. This action was organized by City Center One for the 3rd year in a row, and in 2023 the goal was to raise public awareness of the frequency of sexual violence and sexual harassment. A humanitarian action was held on November 11 and 12 in City Centers One East and West, where one could buy a hoodie with an inspirational message, and the amount collected was donated to WR for the renovation of the premises of the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence.

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The action was supported by singer, influencer and activist Ida Prester, who is also the face of the campaign. As part of the campaign, a live event was held on the Instagram profile of Ida Prester on the topic of sexual violence, in which the coordinator of WR, Ph.D. Maja Mamula participated.

Also, as part of the campaign, a podcast was recorded on the topic of sexual violence against children, with the Coordinator of the WR, Ph.D. Maja Mamula and Coordinator of the WR's Legal Team, Anamaria Drožđan-Kranjčec, which was published on the Supermame portal.



WR members and Ida Prester, City Center One West

On the International Day against Violence Against Women, on November 25, in the European House, the presentation of the "**SHIELD**" campaign was held, the aim of which was to encourage women victims of violence to seek legal and psychological help, as well as to encourage institutions to better protect women from violence. The campaign started on the initiative of Ida Prester, who recorded the song "Štit" ("Shield"). Together with the organization Arterarij, she recorded a video for the song, in which 45 public figures and activists from Croatia and the region took part, including the Coordinator of the WR, Ph.D. Maja Mamula. Many public figures, activists and experts were involved in the implementation of the campaign on social networks, which contributed to the high visibility of the campaign and the topic of violence against women.

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Campaign „SHIELD“

In addition to the listed media presence, WR maintains contacts and communication with representatives of the media, citizens and all interested parties through 3 websites ((**WR website** (www.zenskasoba.hr); **„Sigurno mjesto“** (www.sigurnomjesto.hr); **Network of Support and Cooperation for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences** (<https://mrezapodrskeisuradnje.com/hr/>)), **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/zenska.soba), and **Instagram** (<https://www.instagram.com/zenska.soba/>).

8. PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER MATERIALS

During 2023, WR developed and published **30 different materials in 25777 copies, 1 digital leaflet and 1 TV spot:**

- ✚ Book "Victims of Criminal Offences in the Croatian Criminal Justice System - research results and practical experience" (Civil Society Organizations as Key Actors in the Standardization of the System for the Support of Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences) (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the EEA and Norwegian grants)
- ✚ Book „Sexual Violence against Children – SVEP 2 – JUNIOR“ (EU)
- ✚ Brochure „Network of Support and Cooperation for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences“ (Ministry of Justice and Public Administration)
- ✚ Brochure „Person of trust“ (Ministry of Justice and Public Administration)
- ✚ Brochure „Guide for Survivors of Sexual Violence“, additional print (Ministry of Labour and Pension System, Family and Social Policy)
- ✚ Brochure „Read, Recognize, Report“ (City of Zagreb)
- ✚ Leaflet „Trust Yourself and Your Inner Voice“ VEP 2 – JUNIOR (EU)
- ✚ Leaflet „Talk To Us!“ SVEP 2 – JUNIOR (EU)
- ✚ Poster „Talk To Us!“ SVEP 2 – JUNIOR (EU)
- ✚ *City light teaser and reveal* „No! This is Not a Movie!“ SVEP 2 – JUNIOR (EU)
- ✚ *Billboard teaser and reveal* „No! This is Not a Movie!“ SVEP 2 – JUNIOR (EU)
- ✚ TV Spot „No! This is Not a Movie!“ SVEP 2 – JUNIOR (EU)
- ✚ Leaflet „Network of Support and Cooperation for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences“ (Ministry of Justice and Public Administration)
- ✚ Posters and leaflets of partner organizations within the Network of Support and Cooperation for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences (Ministry of Justice and Public Administration)
- ✚ Stickers „Network of Support and Cooperation for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences“ (Ministry of Justice and Public Administration)
- ✚ Leaflet about the WR (EU)
- ✚ Bags, notebooks, USB, water bottles, pens, thermoses, notebooks, SVEP 2 – JUNIOR (EU)
- ✚ Work cards (4), SVEP 2 – JUNIOR (EU)
- ✚ Digital leaflet, Center for Victims of Sexual Violence (Ministry of Labour and Pension System, Family and Social Policy)
- ✚ Leaflet for parents, „Support and empowerment of parents whose children are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation“ (Ministry of Labour and Pension System, Family and Social Policy).

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Below are examples of some of the printed materials:



Leaflet for parents „Support and empowerment of parents whose children are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation”

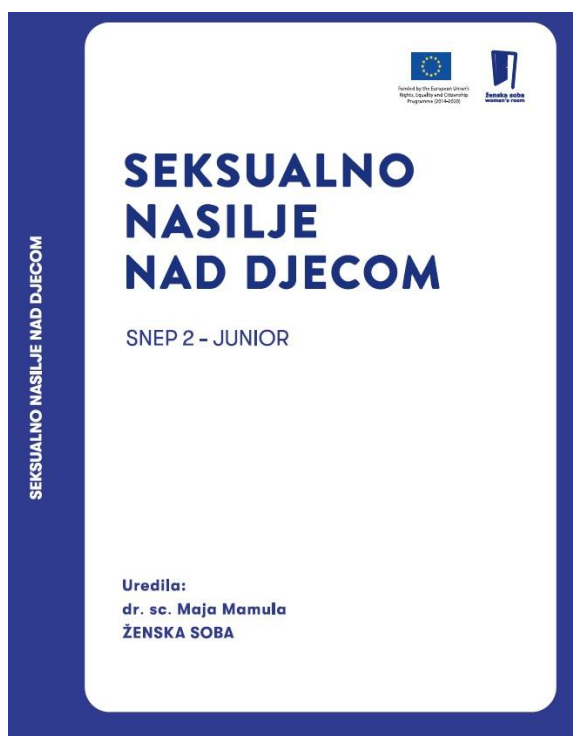


Publication „Victims of Criminal Offences in the Croatian Criminal Justice System - research results and practical experience”

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**Publication „Sexual Violence against Children –
SVEP 2 – JUNIOR“ (EU)**

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9. FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2023, WR secured financial resources for the implementation of its program areas of work through **19 programs and projects**.

The total revenue of WR in 2023 amounted to **927.519,01 EUR**, of which a share of **365.442,53 EUR** (39,40 %) was transferred to partner organizations for the implementation of programs/projects.

Donors of the WR included: EU Funds, The Sigrid Rausing Trust; Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the EEA and Norwegian grants; Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia; Ministry of Labor, Pension System, Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia; Central State Office for Demography and Youth; The City of Zagreb and the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Tables 7 and 8 show the revenue and expenditures of WR in 2023.

Table 7. WR's Revenue in 2023

Source of revenue	Amount in EUR
Service provision	11.242,88
Financial assets	268,09
Donations from the state budget	518.252,15
Donations from local and regional self-government budgets	15.706,66
Foreign governments and international organizations	175.643,64
EU institutions and bodies	181.337,28
Companies and other legal entities (foundations, companies, associations)	8.743,00
Citizens	16.287,34
Other	37,97
TOTAL:	927.519,01

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Table 8. WR's expenditures in 2023

Type of expenditure	Amount in EUR
Staff members	235.319,03
Material (fees, services)	296.631,80
Depreciation	4.971,60
Financial	3.143,48
Donations (transfer of funds to partner organizations, smaller donations to other organizations and initiatives)	365.712,90
Other	165,90
TOTAL:	905.944,71

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ✚ We thank **all the donors** who, through the funding of programs and projects, as well as through donations, made it possible for the Women's Room to operate and provide services to survivors of sexual violence within the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence!
- ✚ We thank **all the lecturers, as well as the participants**, who shared their knowledge and experience at education and prevention activities!
- ✚ We thank **Diani De Vegh** for many years of support and faith in our work!
- ✚ We thank all **external associates** for continuing their cooperation with us this year!
- ✚ We thank all **our members, the Management Board and the volunteers** who participated in our numerous activities and supported our work!
- ✚ We thank **Story Magazine** for the support provided to the Women's Room and the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence by implementing the #DENIMDAY campaign!
- ✚ We thank **Agency Aplauz, City Center One and Ida Prester** for their support and engagement in implementing the humanitarian campaign #ŽelimSveMoguSve!
- ✚ We thank all **primary and secondary schools, teachers and professional associates** who joined our programs for the prevention of sexual violence against children and youth!
- ✚ We would like to thank all **civil society organizations** that are part of the *Network of Support for Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Offences* for their significant contribution to improving the position of victims and witnesses in the Republic of Croatia!
- ✚ We thank all **partners** in projects and programs for their invested energy, will, knowledge, effort and time!

We would also like to extend our gratitude to everyone who is not mentioned, but whose work and energy were precious to us in 2023.

On behalf of the Women's Room:
Maja Mamula, Ph. D., Coordinator