



Data Collection Analysis in Greece

BRIDGE - Building Relationships through Innovative Development of Gender Based Violence Awareness in Europe

In the context of the regional project “Building Relationships through Innovative Development of Gender Based Violence Awareness in Europe – BRIDGE”, a questionnaire (mobile data collection tool) was conducted during the months of June and July 2019 to gather data on specific aspects related to gender-based violence (GBV). Children and youth on the move, as well as public and private services for social care and for the protection of minors, care professionals, social scientists, psychologists, lawyers, cultural mediators and accommodation centers’ coordinators all took part voluntarily in completing the questionnaire.

The research was conducted in the form of questionnaires containing both open-ended and multiple-choice questions. Each questionnaire was completed after an individual meeting of the data collector with the respondent.

The aim of the data collection activities as part of the BRIDGE project is to gather important information related to GBV in the context of migration, current knowledge gaps on GBV amongst professionals and levels of awareness on GBV amongst children and youth on the move.

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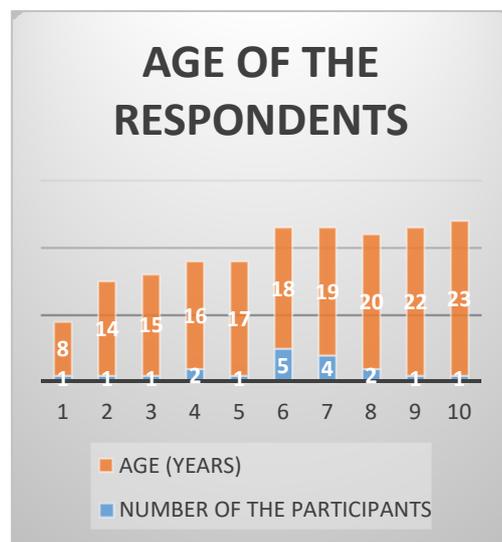
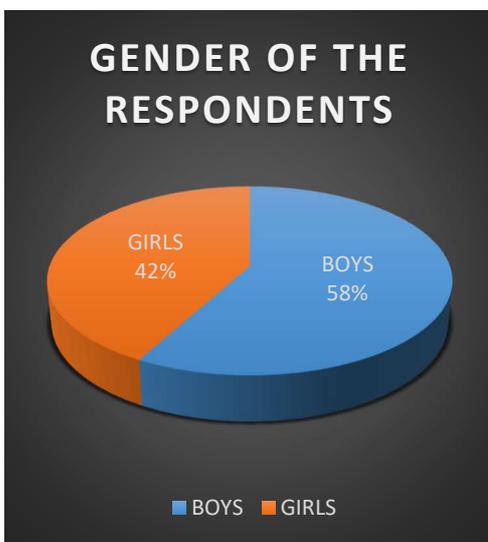


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A. According to the research data on children and youth on the move, the following results have emerged:

1. The questionnaire was completed by 19 children, 11 boys and 8 girls, aged from 8 to 23 years, coming from the following countries: Syria, Afghanistan, Mali, Iraq, Lebanon, Bulgaria, Nigeria and Greece.



2. Of the above children, 12 stated that they are in the country with at least one member of their family, 5 stated that they are unaccompanied while 2 did not answer the question.





3. Respondents were asked about their views on gender-based violence. In particular, we described to them different situations and asked what they thought about them.

One of the examples was:

“A boy at school cries because he has received a bad grade. His classmates start making fun of him and tell him mockingly: Only girls cry! What do you think about this situation?”

In the above question respondents had to choose among 6 possible answers, with the right to choose more than one answer. Of the 19 children, 14 said *“It is ok for a boy to cry in that situation”*, 10 said *“The boy should ask for the teacher’s support in this kind of situation”* and 13 that *“The boy should ask for friend’s support in this kind of situation”*.

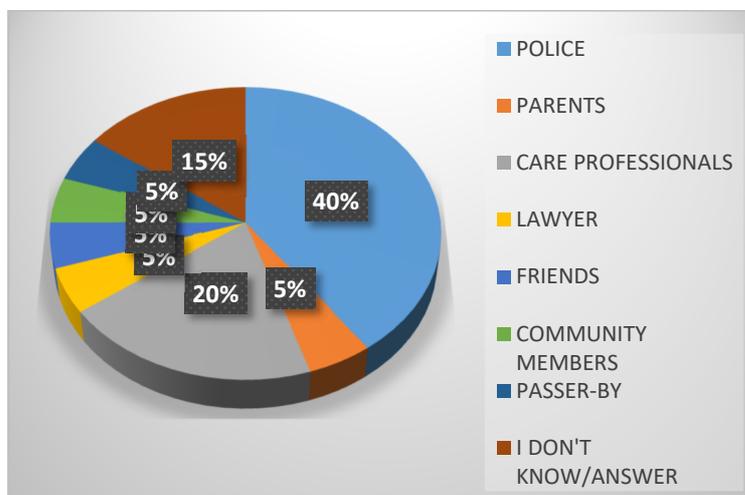
Another example that we had set was the following:

“In the street, you see a husband beating his wife. What do you think about this situation?”

In the above question respondents had to choose among 6 possible answers, with the right to choose more than one answer. Of the 19 children, 17 responded that *“It’s a form of violence”*, while 3 said *“It is just a private issue, it has nothing to do with me”*.

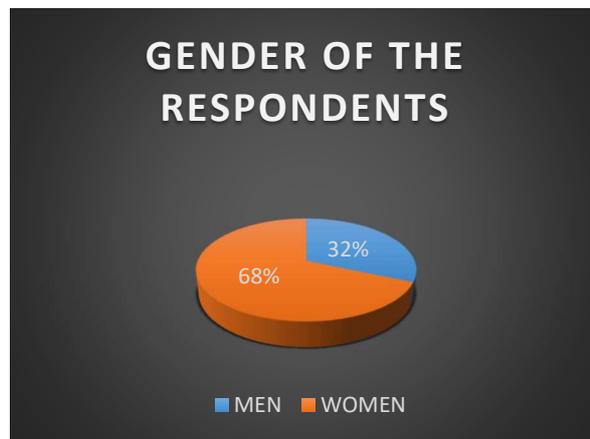
4. Respondents were asked about the possibilities for reporting incidents of gender-based violence.

“From whom would you ask for help in case you encountered any form of violence?” (Open-ended question)

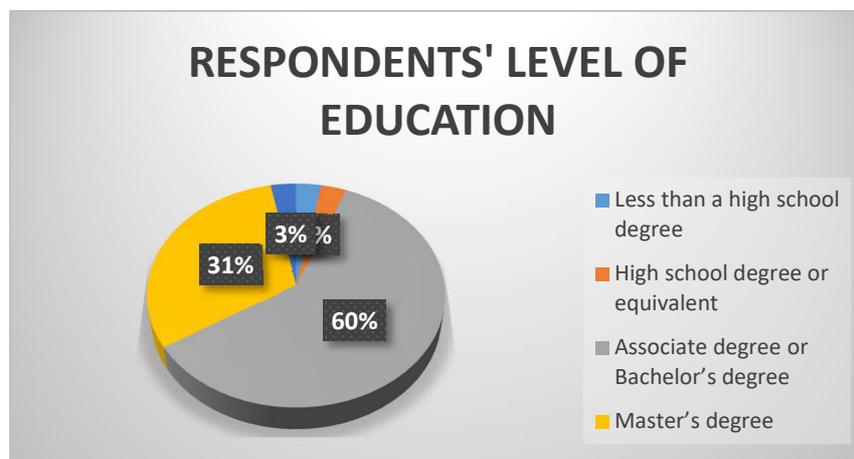


B. According to the research data on care professionals, the following results have emerged:

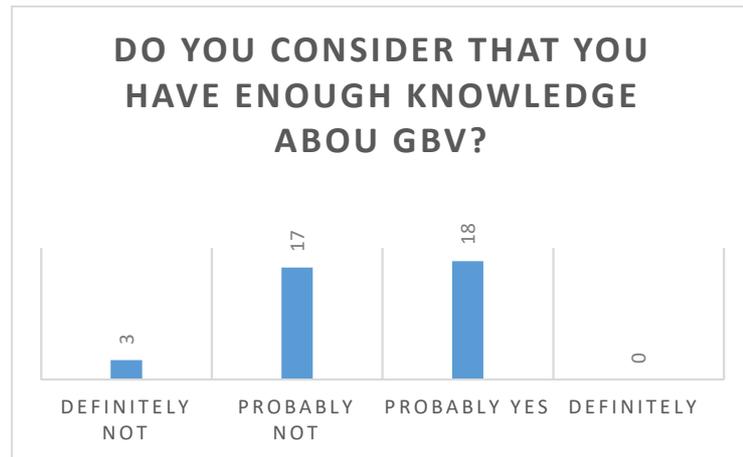
1. A total of 38 professionals completed the questionnaire. 68% of the respondents were female and 32% were male.



2. 21 of the professionals work in accommodation centers for minors, families or abused women or in safe zones for unaccompanied minors. The remainder of the respondents are social workers, psychologists, lawyers, educators and street workers working in private or public institutions for social care and child protection.



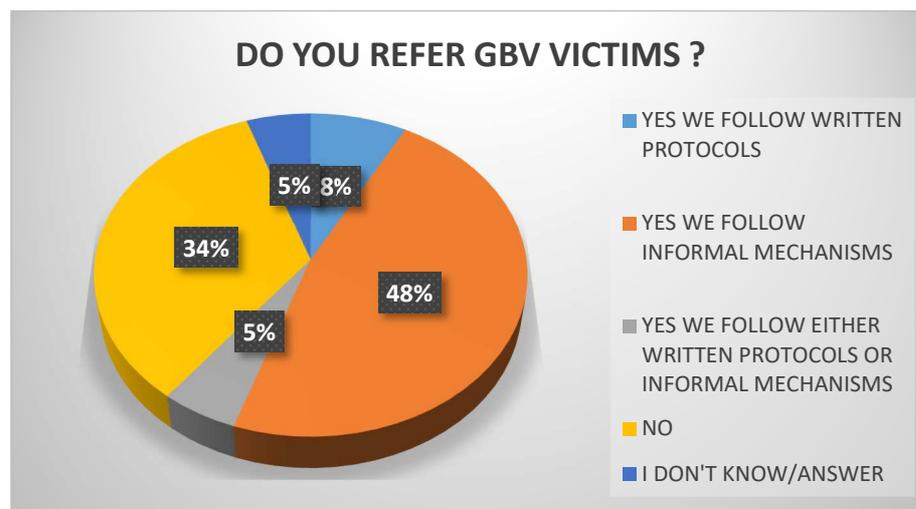
3. Respondents were asked if they consider that they have enough knowledge about GBV for the position they hold. An overview of the answers is present in the graph below:



4. Concerning the GBV survivor identification procedures, the professionals were asked if the institution at which they work has formal/informal procedures for identifying GBV survivors.

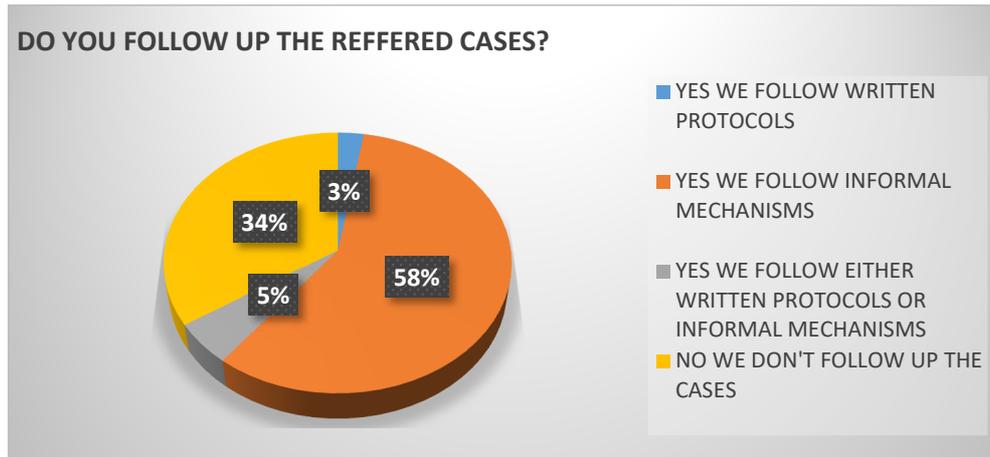


5. The questionnaire also focused on the issue of referral procedures for victims / survivors of GBV between minors and young adults. Respondents were asked if their center/institution has formal/informal procedures for referring a child or young person identified as a GBV survivor.

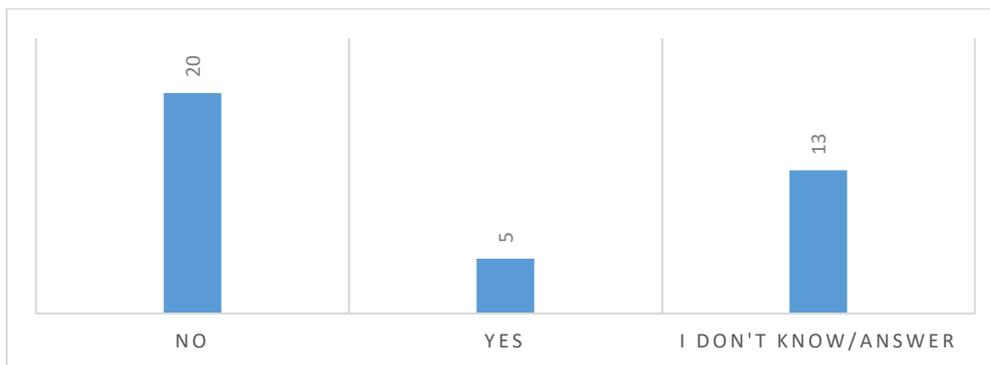


Depending on each incident and the specific assistance that the victim of gender-based violence may need (e.g. psychosocial support, health care, legal support, child protection program, interpretation service) professionals report the incidents to the following public and private authorities: Police, Public Prosecutor's Office, Minors' Prosecutor's Office, Hospitals, ARSIS, METADRASI, SOLIDARITY NOW, DIOTIMA, GREEK COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES, INTERVOVLVE.

6. The research continued with follow-up procedures on the progress of cases referred by professionals to other authorities. We asked respondents whether their center / institution has practices for following up referred GBV cases.



7. Finally, respondents were asked whether the institution where they work has specialized tools for managing gender-based violence cases.





C. Recommendations

Taking into consideration the above data, it can be discerned that there are different gaps in knowledge both among the care professionals and children and youth on the move. For example, it is crucial to notice that almost half of the professionals consider that their knowledge on GBV issues is not adequate. Such a perception probably creates severe problems to the professional reality of the caregivers and also could create bigger problems to children who decide to disclose a GBV incident. In order to address these barriers, the following actions are recommended:

- Professionals working with children and youth on the move **should have become acquainted with the right methods of preventing and following up on GBV cases** in order to provide the appropriate care to the survivors. For that reason, it is recommended for the professionals **to attend ongoing trainings before their recruitment and during their employment.**
- **Employers should set out and budget training programs** for their employees to guarantee that they operate according to the indicative methods.
- Care professionals need to be in a fit mental and physical state to work with GBV survivors, so **access to proper psychological support** need to be foreseen when staff is debriefed on a GBV situation.
- One of the current gaps concerns the referral procedure, so it would be important to create **a common referral system** that will be binding and implemented by the whole child protection system, authorities, civil society and the accommodation institutions.
- Children and youth on the move need **specific psychosocial support, tailored to the special needs of GBV**, in order to feel safe and ready to disclose a GBV incident that they have experienced.
- Children and youth on the move need **clear information** about the professionals and the authorities, to whom they can report a GBV incident. They also need to be well informed about the procedures that will follow after their disclosure.
- Into the residential centers, the care professionals could organize **thematic group sessions** on a regular basis, in order to inform children about the special aspects of GBV.
- **Peer to peer education** at schools will be helpful to the pupils and teachers in order to deal effectively with GBV issues.

