

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

REACT ACT PREVENT  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
FOR BETTER COMMUNITIES



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union





## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

# "REACT ACT PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE FOR BETTER COMMUNITIES"

This publication is a product of the project entitled *React-Act-Prevent Sexual Violence Through Youth Work*, co-funded by the Erasmus+ European Programme of the European Union. K2 Strategic Partnership.

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More information on [www.reactactprevent.com](http://www.reactactprevent.com)

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Coordinated by

In Partnership with



Co-funded by the  
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of the European Union

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The Strategic Action Plan "*React Act Prevent Sexual Violence For Better Communities*" constitutes an intellectual output developed under the Project "*React-Act-Prevent Sexual Violence Through Youth Work*" coordinated by the Social Policy and Action Organization, Cyprus

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### Published Cyprus, 2020

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Mr. Yianni Yiannaki, Commissioner for Volunteering and Non-Governmental Organizations

Special thank you to all those who, under different capacities, at different moments and in different ways, have contributed to making the project possible, including all organizations and volunteers who have participated at the Round Table Discussions organized in all partner countries, the final Conference in Cyprus and Info Days in partner countries.

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# INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

## THE PROJECT

The project *React-Act-Prevent Sexual Violence Through Youth Work* is funded by the Erasmus+, Action K2 Strategic Partnership for Youth, has a duration 24 months and is being implemented in five EU countries, namely Cyprus, Greece, Poland, France (including Martinique) and Spain.

## THE NEED

The project focuses a lot on primary prevention strategies, policies, programmes, good practices.

The goal of sexual violence prevention is simple - to stop it from happening in the first place. Sexual Violence can be prevented utilizing a comprehensive primary intervention approach at multiplier level (i.e., individual, relationship, community, and societal) focusing on younger ages in a society. Prevention efforts should ultimately decrease the number of individuals who perpetrate sexual violence and the number of individuals victimized.

Organizations play a crucial role in children's developmental process. Sexual assault is a crime and sexual assault is not the victim's fault.

The project greatly supports that all (Youth) NGOs who have a direct contact with children and young people, have the obligation to adopt, apply and run effective sexual violence prevention, advocacy and support policies, protocols and programs, as part of their responsibilities for protection of the mental and physical health of children and young people, especially those with fewer opportunities. The lack of awareness, education, information, capacity related problems NGOs face and lack of professional skills, abilities and competences of staff in dealing with sexual violence, appear as obstacles to this.

## AIMS

The aim of the project is to provide (youth) NGOs with direct contact with children and young people, with innovative comprehensive tools and means, to successfully and effectively adopt, plan, and implement prevention policies, strategies, programmes and practices aiming to combating sexual violence against children, adolescents and youth, based on primary prevention approaches including information sharing, awareness raising, education, training, networking and cooperation, using non-formal learning tools and methods.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To provide knowledge on national and EU official strategies, and action plans, as well as effective programs and good practices implemented by NGOs and other stakeholders, preventing sexual violence, against children and young people.
2. To raise awareness against sexual violence, using online campaign tools, to engage the involvement of all target groups in creative ways.
3. To provide a comprehensive package of innovative e-learning and training tools, which can be adopted and applied by NGOs.
4. To support open education resources on sexual violence prevention and promote collaboration fostering also inclusion of learners with fewer opportunities, via an interactive e-learning platform.



5. To engage professionals from different EU countries, in collaboration to produce and provide (youth) NGOs with innovative products contributing to combating sexual violence.
6. To engage youth workers/leaders in meeting in an intercultural learning environment, exchange ideas and establish networks.
7. To engage stakeholders in discussions and exchange of ideas, to collaborate and develop joint future actions preventing sexual violence on a community level.
8. To raise awareness among youth, on the danger of sexual violence and ways for protection, and if they have been victimized or are at risk to seek help and support.

## TARGET GROUPS

1. NGO Board Members, Directors, Managers.
2. NGO staff, researchers, activists, practitioners, experts, specialists/professionals.
3. Youth leaders/workers/active volunteers working as coaches, mentors or coordinators.
4. Active volunteers of NGOs, providing support and assistance in youth projects and initiatives.
5. Children, adolescents and young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, facing social or financial obstacles, disabled, refugees, migrants, unemployed and others, benefiting directly from youth initiatives.
6. Public authority stakeholders, government officials, policy makers involved in the youth sector.
7. Media stakeholders.

## ACTIVITIES

Intellectual Products and Results produced during the project:

1. Publication of a Comprehensive Guide entitled *"Sexual Violence Prevention Through Youth Work: Strategies, Programmes and Good Practices in Europe"*.
2. Online Awareness Raising Youth Campaign entitled *"React-Act-Prevent Sexual Violence"*, composed by 6 different social media challenges, namely: Challenge 1: #Speak4NO, Challenge 2: #TapeltChallenge, Challenge 3: #YouthWorkChallenge, Challenge 4: #LeadTheWayChallenge, Challenge 5: #TeamUpChallenge, Challenge 6: #FlashmobChallenge
3. Development of Training Modules (42 in total) with curriculums and audio-visual material, containing tools, and methods on developing awareness and prevention programmes, policies, good practices to enhance the professional capacity of NGOs and staff on the issue of sexual violence prevention (Link: <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/M38Y6L> ).
4. E-Learning Interactive Training Platform with open access on all the training modules, publications and other related material produced during the project (Link: <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/M38Y6L> )
5. Publication of a Strategic Action Plan for Communities entitled *"React-Act-Prevent Sexual Violence for Better Communities"* with policy recommendations, legislation amendments, from different stakeholders from Round Table Discussions and the open access Online Discussion Forum
6. Operation of R.A.P.S.V. Info Centres - React-Act-Prevent Sexual Violence Info Centres) dedicated solely to primary prevention against sexual violence.

## CONSORTIUM OF PROJECT PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

### SOCIAL POLICY AND ACTION ORGANIZATION – Coordinator Organization

The Social Policy and Action Organization, a non-profitable organization was established August 2014 in Cyprus. The main goal of the Organization is to work towards the enhancement of quality of life of citizens targeting mostly vulnerable GROUP SIZES, with extra emphasis on young people, covering all social policy related areas. The Organization actively supports and promotes the five principles of quality of life, thus being Human Well Being, Health, Financial Independence, Family Status, Socialization and Social Protection. The Board of the Organization in total 6 professionals work permanently on the activities and approximately 200 volunteers offer their services on different activities.

The Organization has established different Departments for effective operation: a) Youth Department, for the design and implementation of youth related projects, also responsible for the operation of the YouthVoices Programme and Chance2Learning. b) Research and Development Department, for the implementation of academic research studies and surveys and the development of policy recommendations and c) Fundraising Department, focusing on fundraising activities to financially support humanitarian causes, also operating the programme CY Care Packages, d) Project Management Department, undertaking the implementation of projects related to promoting human rights of vulnerable groups and people with fewer opportunities, gender mainstreaming and empowerment, combating poverty and social exclusion, sexual harassment prevention and other social related projects.

The activities of the Organisation are designed under two pillars: A) Design and implementation of Actions targeting specific social problems. B) Development and promotion of social policy recommendations. Among its activities are: 1) Design and implementation of academic research and surveys; 2) Monitoring of social policy related legislations and directives; 3) Mapping of effective social policy practices and actions in other countries; 4) Design and implementation of projects contributing towards combating identified social problems, supporting vulnerable GROUP SIZES, including young people, promoting human rights, combating all kinds of discriminations in all levels of the society and promoting equal opportunities for all; 6) Provision of support, empowerment and enhancement of the quality of life of vulnerable GROUP SIZES; 7) Awareness raising, dissemination of information and organization of social campaigns; 8) Establishment of a network with national and international parties, involved in social policy issues.

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### UNITED SOCIETIES OF BALKANS

United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B.) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Thessaloniki, Greece working in the field of youth mobility, participation and facilitating youth

awareness about social issues. It was founded in 2008 by the inception of a group of active young people who wanted to address the social issues which affect the youngsters in the Balkans and Eastern Europe. The vision of the organisation is the promotion of youth mobility, youth involvement and participation, voluntarism and human rights.

Key areas of the organization's activities concern the defence of human rights, the organization of youth related projects such as youth exchanges and training courses, which can bring young people from Balkans and Europe together, and the organization of local interventions, seminars and multimedia productions. It envisions a global and inclusive society, where citizens are equally empowered to contribute in the shaping of a world with less prejudice, discrimination and other forms of injustice.

U.S.B.'s objectives and values are actualized in the society and the needs of the youngsters

- Promoting the values of non-formal learning, voluntarism, active citizenship and democracy for the creation of a better future for the European youth;
- Promoting human rights, solidarity and respect for diversity amongst youth and the society;
- Involving minorities and immigrants into youth activities;
- Building healthy cooperation bridges between countries of the area of the Balkans and Eastern Europe with the rest of Europe;
- Using New Media and Citizens' Journalism methodologies to encourage youth expression, to raise awareness about Human Rights and to promote intercultural dialogue;
- Utilizing arts as a tool for the cultivation and expression of youth;
- Locating and multiplying the special cultural attributes of our societies;
- Breaking down prejudices and stereotypes among the European countries and amongst youth.

Networking: United Societies of Balkans has been a member organization of FERYP (Forum of European Young People), UNITED for Intercultural Action, Salto-Youth, Thess Network-regional NGO network (coordinator), Anna-Lindh Foundation (co-head of the Greek National Network), Youth for Exchange and Understanding(YEU International), Butterfly Dreamer and DYPALL (Developing Youth Participation at Local Level).

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#### **STOWARZYSZENIE PROMOCJI ZDROWIA I PROFILAKTYKI "HOPP"**

Health related Organization for Promotion and Prevention (HOPP) is an association especially for young people. The Organization operates throughout Poland, but its headquarters is in Opole. HOPP was set up in November 2012 for health promotion and prevention. Main aim is to put an effort on health education and expanding awareness of public's health topics.



The Association gives an opportunity to build new connections and relationships between people from all over the Europe. Association's objective is health, healthy lifestyle and physical activity. The HOPP already had organized many projects from the Erasmus+ Programme: youth exchanges, seminars, training courses.

The organizations has successfully organized the project entitled *"Start now!: strategic partnership for health promotion among youth"* (KA2, Erasmus+) a strategic project targeting health promotion among young people in three European countries, namely Poland, Bulgaria and Cyprus. Within a period of 21 months innovative non formal educational methods promoting health awareness among youth have been developed and applied by different youth organizations in all participating countries.

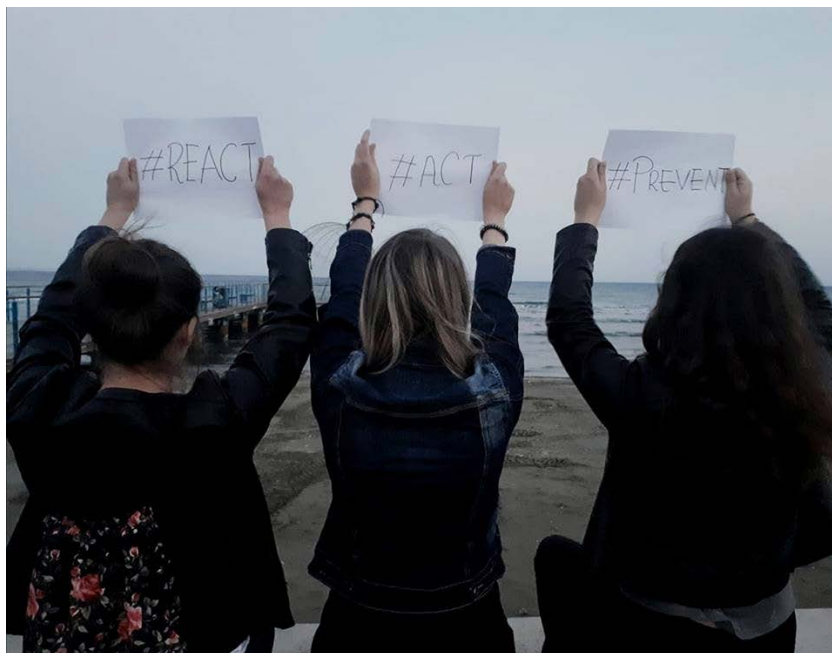
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**#Speak4No Challenge**

## D'ANTILLES & D'AILLEURS

D'Antilles&D'Ailleurs (DA&DA) is an organization that works for the education and promotion of active and democratic participation, in particular of women and young people with fewer opportunities, promoting diversity, equality, inclusion and strengthening the fight against discrimination, by developing 4 main axes:

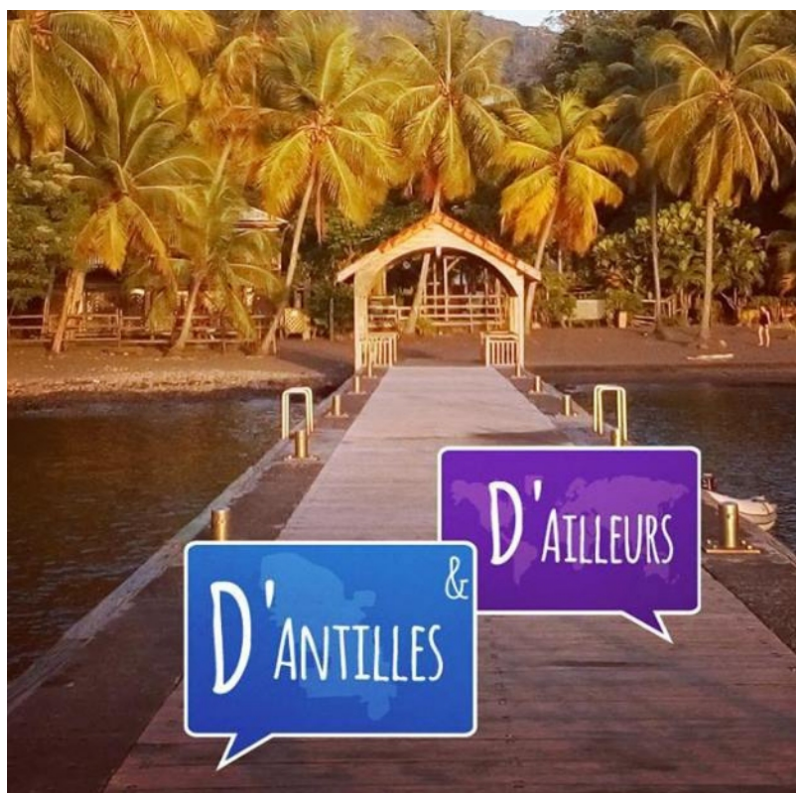
- **Training:** DA&DA organizes conferences, seminars, trainings and intercultural meetings focusing on citizenship, access to social rights and active participation of young people and women in public life.
- **Accompaniment Towards Mobility and Employment:** DA&DA implements all initiatives, prevention and public education actions to provide people with fewer opportunities access to mobility and better professional inclusion.
- **Raising Awareness:** DA&DA develops partnerships with various associations and public and private institutions to implement awareness-raising actions and strengthening the fighting against discrimination.
- **Cooperation:** DA&DA supports and develops projects of cooperation and international solidarity related to capacity building, development of disadvantaged communities, peace and human rights advocacy, and equity initiatives.

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Website: [www.dantillesetdailleurs.org](http://www.dantillesetdailleurs.org)



D'Antilles&D'Ailleurs established in Martinique, by a group of women with a mission to bridge inequalities by promoting international mobility, organizing exchanges and fostering cooperation, in order to contribute to an understanding and respectful community. As a result, the NGO believes bridging stereotypes, celebrating differences, and perceiving diversity is a wealth which will improve the world we share and live in together.

Sexual Violence Prevention is one of the strongest awareness raising programmes of the organization.

## ASOCIACION BUILDING BRIDGES

Building Bridges Cultural Association was founded in 2008 to promote a spirit and community integration and to foster European culture awareness among youth. Building Bridges is presented at local level as a tool to assist and support the implementation of non-formal education courses and improving knowledge of European labor system practices. The staff and volunteers organizes courses, visits and meetings, European events for public agencies on policies concerning youth, mobility, sports, local economic development, culture and cooperation with developing countries. Since its foundation, the association has participated in various advocacy and promotion of European mobility and its members have enough mobility experience as trainers. The organization aims:

- To build bridges and promote the social construction of Europe
- To build bridges and promote intercultural dialogue and favour understanding of foreign cultures.
- To plan bridges using European projects to promote participation.
- To bridge to support any cultural, educative and/or artistic expression based on the previous values.

Building Bridges works with organizations in the fields of culture, education and youth. In general, the organization focuses on anyone interested in art, culture, and heritage and Europe issues, especially those looking for an experience abroad and in need of a grant or funding. This group involves people of all ages and backgrounds with emphasis on youth: most of the users are long term unemployed people, with very few opportunities to get funding for developing studying and working activities in Spain or abroad. All activities pursue are implemented according to the following principles:

- Promote intercultural dialogue and favour understanding of foreign cultures.
- Educate young people towards an active European citizenship.
- Support any cultural, educative and/or artistic expression based on the previous values.
- Promote the social construction of Europe

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*Activism in Spain. Marchers protesting the verdict in the Manada gang-rape case.*

# **STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

## **"REACT ACT PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE FOR BETTER COMMUNITIES"**

The Strategic Action Plan "*React Act Prevent Sexual Violence For Better Communities*" constitutes an intellectual output developed under the Project "React-Act-Prevent Sexual Violence Through Youth Work". The Strategic Action Plan includes conclusions, policy recommendations and good practices, based on proposals, suggestions, ideas and views on prevention actions, which will contribute towards combating sexual violence and safeguarding communities.

The Strategic Plan was developed taking into consideration proposals, suggestions, ideas and views on prevention actions, expressed by policy-makers, academicians, government officials, other NGO representatives, media representatives, parents, and young people with fewer opportunities, from all partner countries, who participated in different activities organized within the project especially the Round Table Discussions and the Open Discussion Forum.

### **ACTIVITIES**

The following activities were organized and implemented by all partner organizations:

#### **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS**

Each partner organization organized a Round Table Discussion with the aims of presenting the project, its aims and objectives and discussing produced intellectual outputs, to exchange views, ideas, opinions on effective sexual violence prevention tools, methods and practices, which may be planned and implemented jointly by all interested stakeholders in the future and safeguard communities. In particular the Round Table Discussions were organized as following:

Cyprus: organized on 31st October 2019, by the Social Policy and Action Organization, with 10 participants, representing different core community stakeholders.

Martinique, France: organized on 30th September 2019, by the D'Antilles et D'Ailleurs with 13 participants, representing different core community stakeholders.

Spain: organized on 9th October 2019, by the Association Building Bridges, with 5 participants, representing different core community stakeholders.

Greece: organized on 24th September 2019, by the United Societies of Balkans, with 13 participants, representing different core community stakeholders

Poland: organized on 13th November 2019, by HOPP, with 14 participants, representing different core community stakeholders.

#### **ONLINE OPEN DISCUSSION FORUM**

An online Open Discussion Forum was launched and operated for 2 months approximately immediately after the Round Table Discussions, where any interested person from any of the partner countries, and any other European country, provided views, opinions and suggestions for review and inclusion in the Strategic Action Plan.



## YOUTH SEXUAL VIOLENCE AROUND EUROPE

Sexual violence is considered among the most serious social problems, occurring against any person, regardless gender, age, race at any place, at any time. Unfortunately, sexual violence against children and young people, is taking dangerous dimensions around the world.

In Europe 10%-20% of children and adolescents are sexually assaulted during their childhood, as stated by the European Commission. Based on a Council of Europe study, about 1 in 5 children in Europe are victims of some form of sexual violence. WHO study (2004) showed that the global prevalence of childhood sexual victimization was 27% among girls and 14% among boys. UNICEF studies in 21 countries (2014), showed that 150 million girls and 73 million boys under the age of 18, had experienced forced forms of sexual violence. Victimization rates are increasing rigorously, with lasting harmful effects on victims, families, communities and societies.

The Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS N°201), also known as “the Lanzarote Convention”, states that in “Europe and beyond shall adopt specific legislation and take measures for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and to prosecute perpetrators”. The Council of Europe Convention was adopted and opened for signature on 25 October 2007 in Lanzarote, Spain. The Lanzarote Convention entered into force on 1 July 2010. To date, it has been signed by all 47 Council of Europe member states and ratified by 44: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey and Ukraine. The 3 States which have not ratified yet are: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ireland.

To date, the Lanzarote Convention is considered as the most comprehensive international legal instrument on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It covers all possible kinds of sexual offences against children (including sexual abuse of a child, exploitation of children through prostitution, grooming and corruption of children through exposure to sexual content and activities and offences related to child abuse material).

The infographic is divided into several sections. The top left section has a grey background and contains the text: "215 000 violent sexual crimes 90% of the victims were girls & women Eurostat 2015". To the right of this is a photograph of a young woman covering her mouth with her hand, with the word "Silence" written on her hand. Below the top left section is a photograph of a child's face with a red stop sign over it that says "child abuse". To the right of this is the text "#Speak4NO Against Sexual Violence". Below the child's face is the European Union flag and the text "Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union". To the right of the EU flag is a logo for "REACT ACT PREVENT". The bottom right section has a grey background and contains the text: "1 in 5 children victimized 70-85% the perpetrator was known to the victim Council of Europe 2011".

215 000  
violent sexual crimes  
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Silence

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REACT  
ACT  
PREVENT



## IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTION AT COMMUNITY LEVEL



SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE  
CAN BE  
PREVENTED

UTILIZING A COMPREHENSIVE  
PRIMARY INTERVENTION  
APPROACH AT MULTIPLIER  
LEVEL IN THE SOCIETY

Learn more at  
[www.reactactprevent.com](http://www.reactactprevent.com)

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During the research conducted at the beginning of the project, one of the conclusions reached is the lack of close collaboration of different stakeholders in joint actions combating sexual violence. This was supported Sarah DeGue et al “The lack of community- and societal-level prevention approaches for sexual violence perpetration also remains a critical gap in this field”(2014)<sup>i</sup>.

Sexual violence can be prevented, utilizing a comprehensive primary prevention approach at multiplier level in the society. This has been one of the strongest messages sent throughout the project, especially when approaching key community stakeholders and government representatives in all participating countries.

Primary prevention strategies developed and implemented jointly by different community stakeholders, are urgent in societies, especially those addressing “risk and protective factors at multiple levels of the social ecology. Sexual violence is a complex problem with social, structural, cultural, and individual roots.....By designing prevention efforts that are equally complex, multifaceted, and embedded within our lives and environments we can enhance their effectiveness.” <sup>ii</sup> (Kathleen C. Basile,2015).

## COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICES AND PROGRAMMES IN SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION WITH EFFECTIVE RESULTS

There are several effective good practices and programmes promoting sexual violence prevention, which have proven effective and with positive impact on young people especially.



### COACHING BOYS INTO MEN

“Athletic coaches play an extremely influential and unique role in the lives of young men. Because of these relationships, coaches are poised to positively influence how young men think and behave, both on and off the field. Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) is an evidence-based prevention program that trains and motivates high school coaches to teach their young male athletes healthy relationship skills and that violence never equals strength”.

**Website:** <https://www.coachescorner.org/>

“Social norms theory and utilizes high school coaches to engage male athletes in 11 brief, structured discussions about dating violence through the sports season. At one-year follow-up the program showed positive effects on a general measure of dating violence perpetration, but effects on sexual violence specifically were not measured” (Miller et al., 2012b).

### BRINGING IN THE BYSTANDER®

Bringing in the Bystander® is an evidence-based bystander intervention program. Rather than focusing strictly on the roles of perpetrator and victim, the highly interactive Bringing in the Bystander® curriculum uses a community responsibility approach. It teaches bystanders how to safely intervene in instances where sexual violence, relationship violence or stalking may be occurring or where there may be risk that it will occur. **Authors: Soteria Solutions** (<https://www.soteriasolutions.org/college/>)





InterACT is a nationally recognized social justice performance troupe based out of California State University, Long Beach. Since it began in 2000, the troupe has reached tens of thousands of audience members through its “proactive” (highest level of audience involvement) shows. During performances audience members are literally invited on stage to become active participants, rather than passive observers. The performances allow audience members a space to rehearse assertive communication strategies and safely and creatively intervene to prevent violence. Programs have been proven effective in multiple quantitative, qualitative, and longitudinal published studies.

**Information at [marc.rich@csulb.edu](mailto:marc.rich@csulb.edu)**



#### **GREEN DOT ETC.**

“The Green Dot etc. strategy aims to shift campus culture and increase proactive preventative behavior by targeting influential members from across a community with basic education, skill practice, and reactive interventions to high-risk situations. Every choice to be proactive as a bystander is categorized as a “new behavior” and thus a “Green Dot.” Individual decisions (green dots) group together to create larger change”. Dorothy Edwards, President of Alteristic

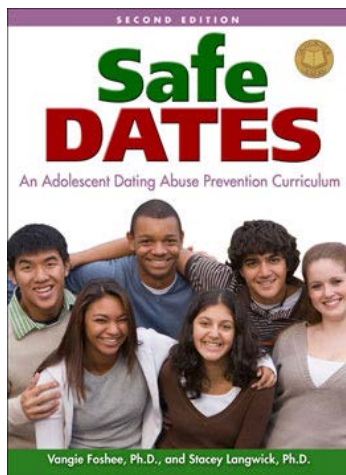
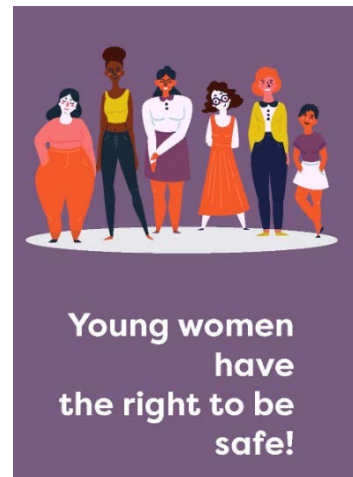
**Website: <https://alteristic.org/services/green-dot>**



### ENHANCED ACCESS, ACKNOWLEDGE, ACT (EAAA) SEXUAL ASSAULT RESISTANCE

The EAAA program is a 12 hour, small-group, educational program designed to help college women resist acquaintance sexual assault. Rigorous program evaluation has demonstrated that the program reduces the risk of victimization for at least two years.

**SARE Centre. Website: <http://sarecentre.org/>**



### SAFE DATES

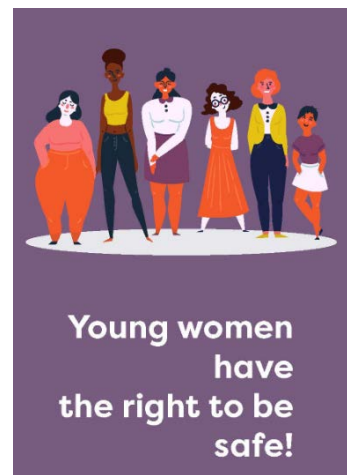
Evidence-based program. *Safe Dates*, is a curriculum that educates youth and adolescents on how to identify and prevent dating violence. Through ten engaging sessions, students learn and discuss the causes of dating violence, how they can help a friend in an abusive relationship, common gender stereotypes regarding dating violence, and important prevention techniques.

**Author: Vangie Foshee, Ph.D., Stacey Langwick, Ph.D.**

### ENHANCED ACCESS, ACKNOWLEDGE, ACT (EAAA) SEXUAL ASSAULT RESISTANCE

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**SARE Centre. Website: <http://sarecentre.org/>**





## **SUGGESTIONS FOR PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIONS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL TO COMBAT SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

The following ideas, views and suggestions were expressed by different professionals and experts in the field of sexual violence prevention, representing government, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders, originating from Cyprus, Greece, Poland, France and Spain.



### **SUGGESTION**

#### **Conduct Research Studies and Surveys**

Innovative and well methodically designed and well-directed research studies and surveys, on issues related to effective strategies of combating sexual violence at community level will provide up-to-date and validated primary data and information. This information will support prevention professionals design more effective, practical strategies in the field.

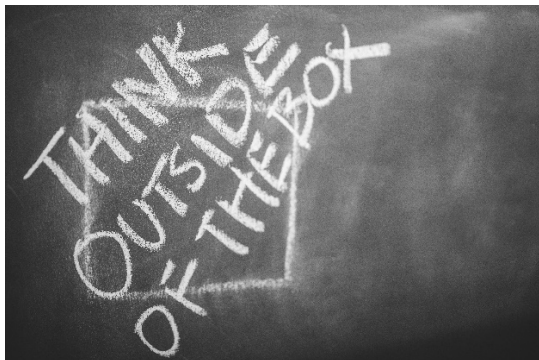
### **SUGGESTION**

#### **Train and Educate Professionals in the Field of Sexual Violence Prevention**

Training and education of professionals in the field of sexual violence prevention, must be non-stop and ongoing. Interactive and practical tools and methods (based on non-formal educational systems) must be incorporated regularly in the work programme of such professionals. Training and educational opportunities help people think about things different and acquire or enhance knowledge, skills, abilities, thus increase effectiveness of professionalism. No training and no education is ever enough. "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of minds to think." (Albert Einstein)







## SUGGESTION

### Design and Implement Innovative Community Bystander Programmes

“Primary Prevention works on changing the state of human minds, in changing cultures, thus effectiveness of results may be proven in the long-term” (Ifigenia Katchie). Bystander interventions rely on the knowledge, character, skills and abilities of people witnessing sexual violence incidents. Whether a person intervenes or not depends on a lot of factors. Designing and implementing community programmes raising awareness on sexual violence issues and training people on how to respond in incidents as bystanders are considered important.

## SUGGESTION

### Develop Community Strategic Action Plans to Combat Sexual Violence

It is important for every Community to identify and write down the needs regarding combating the phenomenon of sexual violence. Then to organise a series of round table discussions and personal meetings with key stakeholders in the field to exchanges ideas, views and suggestions on what actions and practices to adopt and apply to contribute towards decreasing the sexual violence incidents and make communities safer.



## SUGGESTION

### Give the Voice to Young People to Develop Prevention Programmes

Design innovative youth programmes, giving the voice to young people to develop sexual violence prevention programmes and specific activities. Young people “have their own language” and they know what the needs. Therefore, they represent a good source of getting information and formulating acts.

## **SUGGESTION**

### **Invest on Awareness Raising Campaigns Among Students and Young People**

Communities must invest time and funding to develop awareness raising campaigns to sensitize students and young people. The earlier the education the more possibilities to cultivate “No Sexual Violence Cultures”.



## **SUGGESTION**

### **Peer-To-Peer Support**

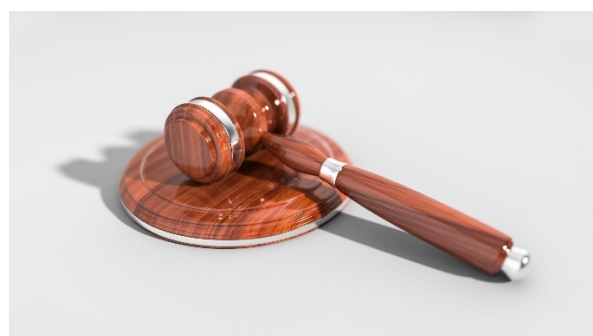
Communities need to establish and operate safe spaces for young people to spend time and relax with other people their own age, attending different activities. Within these safe spaces it is important to regularly organize programmes providing peer-to-peer support on issues of sexual violence and prevention and how to protect selves. Collaboration with student unions and organizations and organization of specialized themed youth events to provide platforms for networking.



## **SUGGESTION**

### **Amend Legislation and Force NGOs to Adopt and Apply Sexual Violence Prevention Programmes**

Country legislations need to be amended to force all NGOs, to run effective sexual violence prevention, advocacy and support policies, protocols and programs, as part of their responsibilities for protection of the mental and physical health of children and young people, especially those with fewer opportunities.





## SUGGESTION

### **Sensitize Parents and Raise Awareness for Prevention**

Primary prevention is important throughout the life of a person. Parents have to be sensitized and become more aware on the importance of getting the necessary knowledge and information related to practical tools on how to protect their children from sexual violence.

## SUGGESTION

### **Organization of Innovative Community Awareness Raising Campaigns**

Communities need to regularly collaborate with other stakeholders and organize large nation-wide awareness raising campaigns against sexual violence to sensitize young people.



## SUGGESTION

### **Create Multipliers**

Organize programmes with multipliers, with volunteers who will be interested to share information, raise awareness and support primary prevention actions in communities.

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