

TECH-WISE, RISK-FREE

Project presentation

Cybernetic violence*, a newly recognized type of domestic violence, introduced into the Romanian legislation, stands for the core theme of the project TECH-WISE, RISK-FREE.

The project facilitates the access of the professionals working in services addressing domestic violence survivors to information and tools necessary to approach cybernetic violence and technology use challenges to achieve adequate intervention in such cases.

Accessing, without permission, e-mail and social media accounts, reading messages without consent, posting and sending messages on behalf of the victim, installing tracking applications on the mobile phone, tracking devices on vehicles or listening devices in dwellings are just a few of the techniques identified by survivors, as being used by aggressive partners to getting control within the relationships even after it is over.

Cyber abuse diversity and complexity, the lack of information on the security methods, as well as the difficulty in gathering evidence to requesting support discourage survivors from asking for help and into protecting themselves.

Safety, online included, is decisive when working with survivors of domestic violence, and professionals providing services have to assess the digital risks and to embed the responsible and safe use of internet, social media and technology into intervention.

The project will cover the following activities:

- Carrying out a quantitative and qualitative research regarding the awareness level of digital risks and the familiarity with the protection measures, both with professionals and the individuals affected;
- Two roundtable sessions with the representatives of social services and authorities involved in the prevention of and countering domestic violence, more precisely the cybernetic one;
- Eight training sessions for specialists from Bucharest, Iasi, Timisoara, Cluj, Satu Mare, Bacau, Constanta, Craiova, on the theme of digital security and intervention in case of cybernetic violence;
- Mentorship and coaching to five organizations in Romania aiming at making more efficient the procedures on preserving and operating with beneficiaries' sensitive data, and the strategies to increase their own employees' resilience against online threats and harassment;
- Publishing a best practice guide covering information on cybernetic violence, ways to increase online safety, best practices within organizations in Romania, as well as a specific intervention in technology-based violence situations.

TECH-WISE, RISK-FREE is funded through the program Voices against Violence: the GBV Global Initiative of Vital Voices Global Partnership USA, and gets implemented between November 2020 and October 2021, by a team made up of social assistants and psychotherapists with an experience of over 15 years in domestic violence intervention, having the support of a digital security consultant from the USA.

**Cybernetic violence is defined, under the law, as a type of domestic violence covering any online harassment acts, online messages instigating to gender hatred, online stalking, online threats, non-consensual publishing of information and intimate graphic content, illegal access to intercept private communications and data and any other type of abusive use of information technology and communications through computers, smart mobile phones or other similar devices using telecommunications or which can be connected to the internet and can send and use social or email platforms aiming at embarrassing, humiliating, scaring, threatening, silencing the victim. (L217/2003 on the prevention of and countering domestic violence)*



IMPLEMENTAT DE

