



TECH-WISE, RISK-FREE

Bucharest, November 11th, 2020

With the financial support of Vital Voices Global Partnership SUA

SENSIBLU FOUNDATION WILL IMPLEMENT THE TECH-WISE, RISK-FREE PROJECT

- **The project tackles cybernetic violence and digital security in case of domestic violence**
- **130 specialists will benefit from training on the topic of digital security intervention in cases of domestic violence**

Bucharest, November 11th, 2020 – Sensiblu Foundation got a USD 70,000 financing within Voices against Violence programme: the GBV Global Initiative of Vital Voices Global Partnership SUA for the implementation of the project TECH-WISE, RISK-FREE. The project facilitates the access of professionals from specialised services for survivors of domestic violence to information and tools necessary to approaching the challenges of technology use, and to reducing the cybernetic violence risk in order to achieve proper intervention in such cases.

TECH-WISE, RISK-FREE comes up at a moment where the Romanian legislation acknowledges cybernetic violence as a type of domestic violence, covering any acts of harassment, stalking, violence and threatening, which occur in the online environment, as well as publishing intimate images.

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.



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TECH-WISE, RISK-FREE

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.

"We aim at creating a community of specialists trained to meet the needs of the survivors who are facing abuse through technology, placing both the safety of beneficiaries and their own – as professionals and individuals - in the center of the intervention. The funding obtained allows us to pursue with our mission, which is to contribute to the increase of social services addressing domestic violence survivors.", stated **Cristina Horia, President of Sensiblu Foundation and coordinator of project TECH-WISE, RISK-FREE.**

Within the project, a quantitative and qualitative research will be carried out regarding the awareness level of digital risks and the familiarity with the protection measures, both with professionals and the individuals affected. In 2021, specialists from Bucharest, Iași, Timișoara, Cluj, Satu Mare, Bacău, Constanța, Craiova will have the opportunity to attend eight training sessions concerning digital security and intervention in case of cybernetic violence, in a training room or online, subject to the pandemic development.

The organizations wishing a greater security of preserving beneficiaries' data and a change of work procedures and intervention manners in case of cybernetic violence may benefit from customized assistance and coaching from the project team of Sensiblu Foundation. The most relevant examples will be included into a best practice guide for field professionals.

The project gets implemented from November 2020 to 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.

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Sensiblu Foundation is a corporate foundation established in 2002 by Sensiblu. From the very beginning, the Foundation has got involved in supporting women and children who are victims of domestic violence, by means of free of charge services covering social, psychological and legal counselling and offering accommodation in the temporary shelter. Since 2002, over 6 000 women and children – victims of domestic violence, have benefited from counselling services, and over 200 persons have been hosted by the shelter. Sensiblu Foundation is certified according to the law as a social services provider.

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That information is also available on the webpage of Sensiblu Foundation: <http://www.fundatiasensiblu.ro>



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