



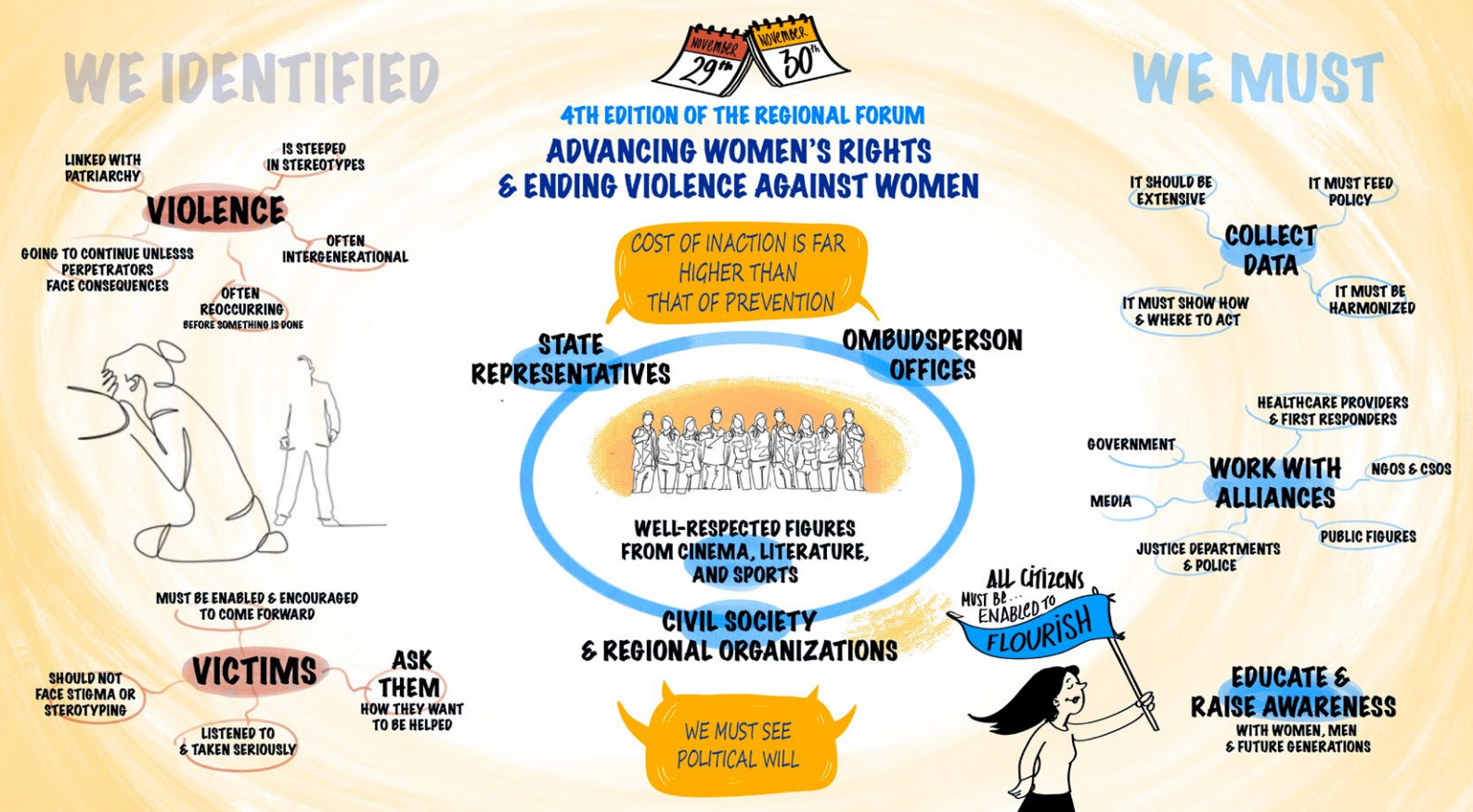
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IMPLEMENTING NORMS CHANGING MINDS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25



REGIONAL FORUM ADVOCATES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FEMICIDE MONITORING MECHANISMS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

For the fourth year in a row, the Regional Forum on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye "Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships" was hosted with an aim to advance the gender equality agenda towards preventing and responding to violence against women in the region. Organized virtually on 29-30 November 2022 within the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Forum brought together over 300 participants including state representatives, civil society and regional organizations, ombudsperson offices, and well-respected figures from cinema, literature, and sports from across the Western Balkans and beyond.

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NEW PROTOCOL FOR RESPONDING TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE CASES LAUNCHED IN KOSOVO*

The state Protocol for Treatment of Sexual Violence Cases in Kosovo was launched in December 2022 as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign activities in Kosovo. Under the “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” regional programme on ending violence against women, funded by the European Union, the UN Women provided support in drafting this important document from its initial stages.

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INTERVIEW: “WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS NEED TO COOPERATE DIRECTLY WITH LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO ENSURE SURVIVORS ARE ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED”

Léa Dudouet is a project and network coordinator at the Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE). For more than two years, Ms. Dudouet has been responsible for managing WAVE’s ongoing projects and coordinating network-related activities. In this interview, Léa Dudouet highlights some of the key findings of the regional assessment “[Cooperation between women’s NGOs and healthcare providers: A comparative study in the Western Balkans and Türkiye](#),” developed by WAVE with the support of the EU-funded programme

on ending violence against women “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#),” with a view to spotlight promising practices of cooperation between women civil society organizations and healthcare professionals.

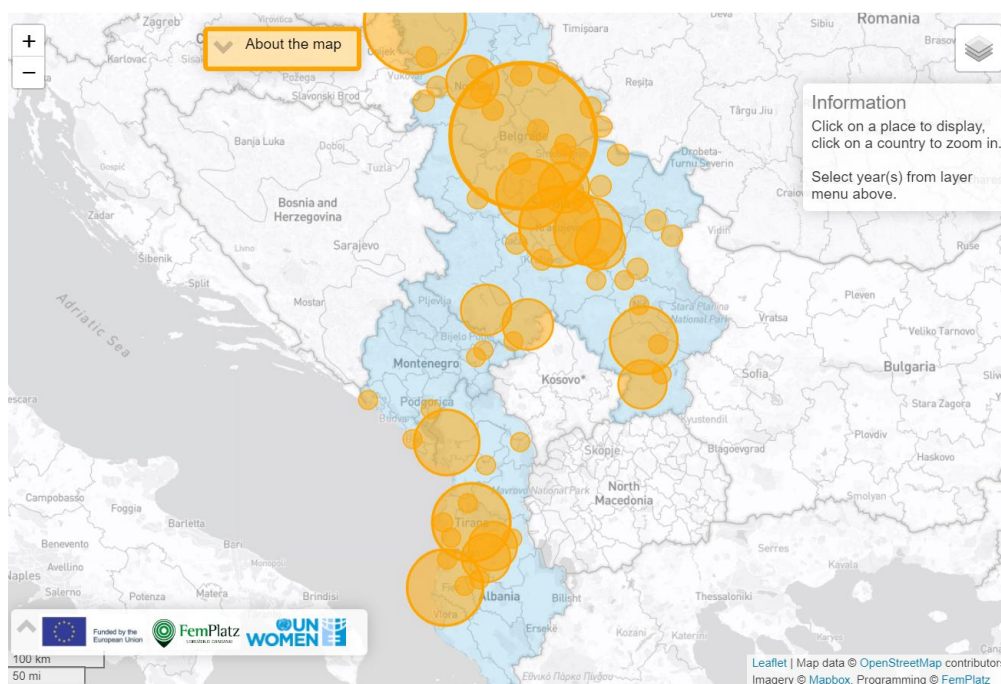
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INTERVIEW: “ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REQUIRES LONG-TERM COMMITMENT, CAPACITIES, AND HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES”

Anjeza Bojaxhiu is the local coordinator of the domestic violence referral mechanism – a dedicated mechanism that aims to protect and support survivors of violence, composed of a team of community professionals in Tirana, Albania. With extensive experience in good local governance and social services for women and girls from disadvantaged groups, Ms. Bojaxhiu shares the most promising practices related to establishing and operating local referral systems as well as ways to address challenges that may arise. Anjeza Bojaxhiu previously shared her expertise as a key speaker during the [Fourth Regional Forum on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye “Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships,”](#) held on 29-30 November 2022.

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* For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. For UN Women, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).



FIRST FEMICIDE INTERACTIVE MAP FOR ALBANIA, MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA LAUNCHED

An interactive map listing femicides committed since 2019 in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia was launched within the framework of the [Fourth Regional Forum: Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye](#)

on 29-30 November 2022. Femicide is the killing of a woman because she is a woman, committed on the grounds of her sex or gender, and is rooted in unequal power relations between men and women. Developed by the organization FemPlatz with the support of the regional programme on ending violence against women “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#),” funded by the European Union, the interactive map aims to track data on femicides in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia as well as to serve as a model for a tool that can be used by prospective femicide watches – mechanisms to monitor femicide – in the region.

[Read more](#)

INTERVIEW: “WE WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR IN ORDER TO ADVANCE WOMEN’S RIGHTS, PROMOTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION”

For the last five years, Svetlana Cvetkovska has been the head of Department for Equal Opportunities within the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy from the Republic of North Macedonia. Throughout her professional career, she has made significant contributions to advancing gender equality policies and practices, as well as preventing and protecting women from all forms of violence and discrimination. In this interview, Ms. Cvetkovska reflects on the achievements in building networks and alliances to advance the gender equality agenda, a topic which she also tackled during the Fourth Regional Forum on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye “[Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships](#),” organized within the EU-funded regional programme “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#).”



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INTERVIEW: “NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS REMAIN THE VITAL FORCE THAT DRIVES ALL ACTION TOWARDS ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”

Fabiola Laço Egro is the founder and leader of the “Today for the Future” Community Center as well as a member of National Council of Civil Society in Albania/Monitoring Network against Gender-Based Violence. One of the most prominent civil society activists in Albania, Ms. Laço Egro shares her perspectives and lessons learned on building networks and alliances to advance the gender equality agenda, a topic which she also tackled during the [Fourth Regional Forum on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye “Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships,”](#) organized on 29-30 November, organized within the EU-funded regional programme on ending violence against women “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.](#)”


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INTERVIEW: “WITHOUT SERVICES, WE CANNOT TALK ABOUT THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM VIOLENCE”

specialized services for violence against women. Additionally, she has been involved in various national and international advocacy initiatives for advancing sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality and violence against women prevention and protection, particularly for vulnerable groups. Ms. Bozinoska participated in the [Fourth Regional Forum on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye “Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships,”](#) organized within the EU-funded regional programme “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.](#)”

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INTERVIEW:

“SOCIAL NORMS ARE HARDEST TO CHANGE WHEN SOLVING A SEXUAL VIOLENCE CASE”

Bergita Curri is a forensic medicine specialist at the Kosovo Institute of Forensics and associate professor at the Prishtina University of Medicine. Previously, Ms. Curri worked as a Forensic Death Investigator and Medical Inspector at the Ministry of Health. In her professional experience, she has led and implemented many awareness raising projects, including the most recent “Speak up on time” campaign on the importance of preservation of biological evidence in cases of sexual violence. In this interview, Ms. Bergita Curri speaks in detail about the [new](#)

[protocol for responding to sexual violence cases](#), launched in Kosovo in December 2022, as well as about the further needed measures to offer protection to women and girls victims of sexual violence.

[Read more](#)

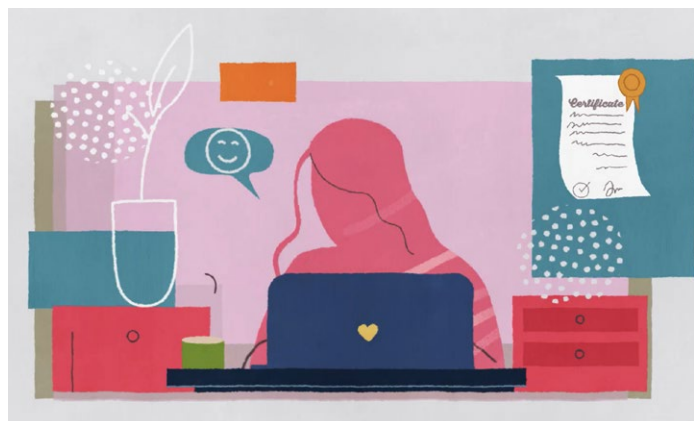
IN THE WORDS OF LINDITA KOZMAQI PIRAJ: “DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NO LONGER A TABOO TOPIC IN OUR TOWN”

For the last 14 years, Lindita Kozmaqi Piraj has been the gender equality and non-discrimination officer in the municipality of Dragash, located 83 kilometers from Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. For the last decade, Ms. Piraj has also been the chair of the Local Coordination Mechanism against Domestic Violence, a mechanism that serves as a cross-agency platform to prevent and address cases of domestic violence with a coordinated approach. In this interview, Lindita Kozmaqi Piraj shares her insights on establishing and maintaining a functional local coordination mechanism, a topic which she also tackled during the [Fourth Regional Forum on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye “Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships,”](#) organized on 29-30 November, within the EU-funded regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.”


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ANIMATED TESTIMONIAL VIDEO: CHANGING MINDS, CHANGING LIVES

In 2017, the European Union, UN Women and women's rights organizations embarked on a journey together – a journey to change mindsets and social norms to end violence against women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye. The animated testimonial video “Changing minds, changing lives” features the real stories of seven people from the Western Balkans and Türkiye who were part of this journey and who underwent a transformative change in the last five years, thanks to the EU-funded regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.” This video was funded by the European Union and its contents are the sole responsibility of and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



[Watch here](#)



VIDEO SYNOPSIS OF THE FOURTH REGIONAL FORUM ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TÜRKİYE

This timelapse video captures the essence of discussions held and the main outcomes of the Fourth Regional Forum on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye “Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships,” held online on the 29th and 30th of November 2022. The event was organized by UN Women and co-convened by the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Albania, the Ministry of Justice of Kosovo, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of North Macedonia, and the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[Watch here](#)

INFOGRAPHICS AND GUIDELINES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



The regional EVAW programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” in partnership with WAVE Network, launches a series of infographics and guidelines for healthcare providers in responding to disclosures of violence against women and domestic violence. The materials stem from the regional assessment “[Cooperation between women's NGOs and healthcare providers: a comparative study in the Western Balkans and Türkiye](#)” and are available in English, Albanian (Albania & Kosovo), Bosnian, Montenegrin, Serbian and Turkish right [here](#).



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The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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