



*Abused No More: Safeguarding
Youth and Empowering
Professionals*



**Legal Literacy of Migrant Youth at Risk of Social
Exclusion in Romania
With a focus on Gender Discrimination**

Research report



Erasmus+

**The Programme is funded by Erasmus+
under 2015-1-UK01-KA205-012555**

**Warsaw
29 April, 2016**



Key objectives of the report

- assess the legal literacy of migrant youth at risk of social exclusion in Romania in relation to multiple and intersectional discrimination -> emphasis on GBD faced by young migrant women in various contexts including, access to the labour market, education, health services, housing, and family life.
- identify the gaps in existing services in relation to anti-discrimination and training needs of young migrant women in Romania in order to inform the development of a youth-led evidence-based training programme for both migrants and service providers.
- promote youth empowerment by providing migrants with an opportunity to take a leadership role in the design and implementation of the research and to inform the design of a training programme that meets their immediate needs with regard to discrimination.



Methodology



Period: December 2015- March 2016

Research team: two young migrants in Romania, multidisciplinary young members of RAS, and the project team

Stage 1: Literature review : sources in the academia, public sector (including legal framework on discrimination and integration), policy outputs and grey literature -> key concepts including: *discrimination of migrant youth in Romania (multiple, intersectional, GBD related to domestic life, housing, education, health services, employment), public legal education, gaps in service provision (in the public and private sector) with a particular focus on women subject to GBD.*



Methodology (2)



Stage 2: Fieldwork conducted with both young migrants and professionals.

- ***Twelve face-to-face vignettes-based interviews*** carried out with young migrants and refugees in order to find out what do they know about gender discrimination and how can it be addressed. -> *real-life case stories involving gender discrimination of migrant youth in employment, housing, and medical services, racial & ethnic discrimination, and domestic violence.*
- **2 focus groups were conducted with 8 service providers** in order to grasp their perspective on multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by migrant youth in Romania, available services aimed at increasing legal capability of migrants and training needs.



Findings from the literature review

- scarcity of Romanian academic literature on different forms of discrimination affecting young migrants from a gender perspective – focus on grey literature
- fundamental civil rights of immigrants are acknowledged, but there are no available PLE schemes in a language that migrants understand -> barriers to effective access to justice disempowerment
- there are no specific provisions targeted specifically at preventing and combating intersectional discrimination of immigrants from a gender-sensitive approach – policies are destined to fail (Sansonetti, 2016; Crooms, Falcón, & Haldane, 2011)
- Migrant women are extremely vulnerable to gender-specific challenges, including GBV (Sansonetti, 2016). Gender vulnerability is heightened by the intersection with other identifying characteristics such as race, colour, ethnicity, religion, age, immigration status, disability etc. (Crooms, Falcón, & Haldane, 2011; Crenshaw, 1991)



Findings from the literature review (2)

- Reasons for migration (refugee vs migrants) influence young women's risks of experiencing violence in both private and public spheres after arrival in the host country (Sansonetti, 2016; IOM, 2013) :
 - **Private sphere**: exposure to domestic violence as a result of husband or male partner's job insecurity and financial difficulties, FGM etc
 - **Public sphere** multiple and intersectional discrimination in the labour market, education, health services, and housing. In Ro 1 out of 3 migrants has experienced multiple discrimination and 33 % of migrants (both men and women) went through physical assaults (FutureLab, 2015, p. 22).
- Most victims of GBV refrain from reporting their experience
- Lack of implementation and monitoring mechanisms in place (ECRI, 2014)
- ***the need to increase migrants' public awareness and knowledge via PLE in order to help them recognise when they may need support, what sort of advice is available and where, and how to go about getting it.***



Findings from the fieldwork

- young migrants in Romania have low levels of legal literacy of GBD and related laws, responsible institutions and available services, as there are no PLE schemes in place.
- service providers and professionals in the NGOs lack adequate training on dealing with discrimination-related issues from a gender-based perspective and in a cultural-sensitive way.
- ***The need for training for professionals in the NGOs and public system was emphasized.***
- The information provided by public authorities is mostly gender –neutral, limited civil rights related to the labour market, education, housing, healthcare, welfare etc
Poor language accessibility.



Findings from the fieldwork (2)

- migrants are generally aware of their rights, but do not recognize instances of multiple or intersectional discrimination and do not know what to do when confronted in real-life situations
- housing, employment and education are the main areas in which young migrants are subject to discrimination based on gender, race, and religion
- institutionalized discrimination embedded in the operating procedures of public institutions (mainly in Employment Agencies and School Inspectorates), language barrier, absence of assigned staff, length in responding to claims etc.
- Young migrants lack trust in the public system and generally refrain from accessing public services or lodging claims
- young migrant women are extremely vulnerable to intra-group discrimination and GBV (in the form of battering, sexual violence, abuse, FGM etc.) – most fail to identify as victims and report it
- migrants rely on informal (ethnic-based or religious) networks which are often sources of misinformation and the limited services made available by the NGOs (mostly information and legal counseling, SGBV sessions, psychological assistance in Romanian)



Conclusions and recommendations

- Young migrants have limited knowledge and understanding of their rights and available services to tackle legal issues affecting their lives and report cases of discrimination and violence which leaves them disempowered in their day-to-day interactions in employment, housing, education, institutional and family contexts
- Recommendations:
 - ***PLE and training schemes*** for marginalized youth on discrimination based on a gender-sensitive approach and available in a language that they understand is critical to help recognise when they may need support, what sort of advice is available and where, and how to go about getting it;
 - educate Romanians about migrants, including refugees' rights is a practical and powerful way to ***increase public understanding about migrants rights and prevent instances of discrimination;***
 - ***build the capacity of NGOs and informal networks to recognize and tackle discrimination-related issues, including GBV in a gender and cultural sensitive way***



Conclusions and recommendations (2)



Reccomendations:

- ***build the capacity of NGOs and informal networks to recognize and tackle discrimination-related issues, including GBV in a gender and cultural sensitive way;***
- ***introduce gender mainstreaming and develop tailored programs for victims based on their specific needs (information, training, legal and psychological assistance, shelters, interpreters, financial support etc.) and closer monitoring of the phenomenon.***



Thank you!

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