

I can choose to say no. Empowering youth, especially girls, to stand up against cyber sexual and gender-based violence in intimate partner relationships

Terms of Reference for External Evaluation of the Project

1. Background and Context

1.1 Description of the project

As part of efforts to contribute to the prevention of violence against women and children, the Autonomous Women's Center from Serbia, as a lead organization, together with partners - "Fundacion Privada INDERA" from Spain, "CESI – Centar za edukaciju, savjetovanje i istraživanje" from Croatia and "Nők A Nőkért Együtt Az Erőszak Ellen Egyesület (NANE)" from Hungary, is implementing the project ***"I can choose to say no. Empowering youth, especially girls, to stand up against cyber sexual and gender-based violence in intimate partner relationships"***.

The project has an international scope and is implemented in all four countries – Serbia, Spain, Croatia and Hungary. The project duration is two years, from August 1, 2019 until July 31, 2020. It is currently in its final implementation phase and ends at the end of July 2020.

The main project objective is to contribute to ending cyber sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in youth (aged 15-19) intimate partner relationships, by especially empowering girls and supporting them to stand up to violence. Expected results are as following: (1) Increased awareness of youth on cyber SGBV in partner relationships, gender stereotypes and norms that contribute to tolerance of violence; (2) Increased capacities of project partners to better address cyber SGBV; (3) Improved knowledge of teachers on cyber SGBV in youth partner relationships and access to tools for strengthened prevention; (4) Increased empowerment of youth, especially girls, in standing up to cyber SGBV.

Type and number of persons benefiting directly and indirectly from the project: 625 secondary school girls and boys; 11 representatives of project partners; 40 peer trainers; 300 secondary school teachers; 10.000 youth, general public.

Main project activities: (1) Collect evidence on awareness of secondary school youth and teachers, on their attitudes/strategies to address cyber SGBV in youth partner relationships; (2) Build project partners' capacities to better address cyber SGBV; (3) Educate and encourage youth to stand up to SGBV; (4) Raise awareness of secondary school teachers on cyber SGBV and provide them with tools to address attitudes that encourage violence; (5) Facilitate mobilization of youth on the topic of cyber SGBV, focusing on empowerment of girls to stand up to cyber SGBV.

1.2 Geographic context

The project is implemented at international level in Serbia, Spain, Croatia and Hungary within different local communities in these countries.

1.3 Total resources allocated for the intervention

The total budget for the project is 434.159,28 EUR, with 80% support from the European Union “Rights, Equality and Citizenship” Program.

1.4. Changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic

During the implementation period, global pandemic with COVID-19 occurred which deeply affected its implementation, but also the problem that the project is tackling – digital violence, as there are data from around the globe that it is increasing. Project timeframe and all its activities in all four countries, especially those related to travels and work in high schools had to be adapted. These changes should be reflected in the External Evaluation as well.

2. Purpose of the evaluation

- To assess the project in terms of effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, impact and a human rights criteria.
- To identify key lessons and promising or emerging good practices and approaches in the field of ending violence against women and girls, for learning purposes. Hence, to identify ‘good practices’ about what works in the field of elimination of violence against women and to support participating organizations to better understand the achieved results, positive effects, obstacles, opportunities overlooked and future needs in the field of prevention of and response to gender-based violence.

3. Evaluation scope and objectives

3.1 Scope of Evaluation

The evaluation should cover the entire project duration (August 2019 to July 2021). It should focus on the project impact in all four countries.

This evaluation should cover all project’s aspects and working packages (WP): Working package 1 - *Management and coordination of the project*; Working package 2 - *Empowering youth*; Working package 3 - *Teacher capacity building and awareness raising*; Working package 4 - *Stakeholder engagement*.

3.2 Objectives of Evaluation

The overall objectives of the evaluation are to:

1. Evaluate the entire project in terms of effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, impact and the cross-cutting gender equality and human rights criteria, with a strong focus on assessing the results of the project;
2. Evaluate how project partners coped with global pandemic and how it influenced the project, with examples of possible good practices;
3. Identify key lessons and promising or emerging good practices and approaches in the field of prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children, for learning purposes.

4. Evaluation Questions

The key questions that need to be answered by this evaluation include the following divided into five categories of analysis. The five overall evaluation criteria – relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact - will be applied for this evaluation.

Evaluation Criteria	Mandatory Evaluation Questions to be developed in the technical proposal
Effectiveness	To what extent were the intended project objective and results achieved?
Relevance	To what extent do achieved results continue to be relevant to the needs of women and children?
Efficiency	To what extent was the project efficiently and cost-effectively implemented?
Sustainability	To what extent will the achieved results going to be sustained after this project ends?
Impact	To what extent has the project contributed to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children?
European added value	To what extent are the insights from the project transferable to the European level?
Gender Equality and Human Rights	Cross cutting criteria: the evaluation should consider the extent to which human rights based and gender responsive approaches have been incorporated throughout the project and to what extent.

5. Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation **approach**, **process** and **methods** should be tailored according to the evaluation objectives and characteristics of target groups. Besides focusing on project objective and results, it is also important to identify examples of good practices and give recommendations for the revision of implemented and introduction of new further activities. The evaluation approach and methods must be gender responsive and disaggregated by sex.

The evaluator(s) should propose the evaluation design and methodology in their proposal.

The evaluation **process** should include the following phases: *developing evaluation design, secondary data analysis, field information, writing products.*

Evaluation **methods** should include:

- content analysis of the collected data, documents and literature (including data collected during the process of project implementation, such as Deliverables of the project, including 6-month Interim Reports of project partners and Progress report; and including WP4 electronic products);
- field visits or virtual focus groups and interviews with different groups of beneficiaries;
- case studies illustrating examples of good practices in terms of (1) working under COVID-19 restrictions and (2) using cyber space to reach youth from different communities.

Once the evaluator is selected project partners will share the list of key beneficiaries and documents to be consulted.

6. Evaluation Ethics

The evaluator(s) must put in place specific safeguards and protocols to protect the safety (both physical and psychological) of respondents and those collecting the data as well as to prevent harm. This must ensure the rights of the individual are protected and participation in the evaluation does not result in further violation of their rights. Specific attention during all phases of evaluation should be given to children (under the age of 18) and additional risks, as well as the need for parental consent should be considered.

7. Key deliverables of evaluators and timeframe

	Deliverables	Description of Expected Deliverables	Timeline of each deliverable (date/month/year)
1	Evaluation inception report (language of report: English)	<p>The inception report provides a background and overview of the project and defines the purpose, scope and key questions of the evaluation. It also describes the methodology, key stakeholders, and data collection instruments to be used in the analysis. Interview guides and survey questionnaires (if any) are also included in this first report (max. 15 pages).</p> <p>An inception report must be prepared by the evaluators before going into the technical mission and full data collection stage. It must detail the evaluators' understanding of what is being evaluated and why, showing how each evaluation question will be answered by way of: proposed methods, proposed sources of data and data collection/analysis procedures.</p> <p>The inception report must include a proposed schedule of tasks, activities and deliverables, designating a team member with the lead responsibility for each task or product.</p>	16 th of May 2021
2	Draft evaluation report (language of report: English)	Draft evaluation report will be provided to all project partners in order to provide additional comments and suggestions.	30 th of June 2021
3	Final evaluation report (language of report: English)	Relevant comments from project partners must be well integrated in the final version.	15 th of July 2021

8. Evaluation team composition and required competencies

Evaluators must be independent from any organizations that have been involved in designing, executing, managing or advising any aspect of the project that is the subject of the evaluation and any other EC Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program projects.

8.1. Evaluation Team Composition and Roles and Responsibilities

The lead evaluator will be responsible for undertaking the evaluation from start to finish and for forming and managing the evaluation team under the supervision of the project partners, for the data collection and analysis, as well as report drafting and finalization in English. **The evaluation team** must have fluency in Serbian, Croatian, Hungarian and Spanish (Catalan optional).

The lead evaluator should provide the relevant information on the qualifications of team members. The lead evaluator is responsible for the assignment of tasks and organization of evaluation activities among team members. The lead evaluator is responsible for the end result and products of the evaluation within the defined timeframe.

The evaluation team will be responsible for the evaluation logistics: office space, administrative support, own travel within the country, telecommunications, translation and printing of documents, subsistence allowances, etc. The evaluators are also responsible for the dissemination of all methodological tools such as surveys. The project partners will provide support in communication with representatives of beneficiaries to be interviewed.

Payment to the evaluator(s) will be made in installments upon delivery of each stage of the evaluation process (1-inception, 2-draft report and 3-final report).

8.2. Required competencies

For Lead Evaluator:

- Evaluation experience at least 5 year in conducting external evaluations, with mixed-methods evaluation skills and having flexibility in using non-traditional and innovative evaluation methods,
- Expertise in gender and human-rights based approaches to evaluation and issues of violence against women and girls
- Specific evaluation experiences in the areas of ending violence against women and girls
- Experience in collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data,
- In-depth knowledge of gender equality and women's empowerment,
- A strong commitment to delivering timely and high-quality results, i.e. credible evaluation and its report that can be used,
- A strong team leadership and management track record, as well as interpersonal and communication skills to help ensure that the evaluation is understood and used. Good communication skills and ability to communicate with various stakeholders and to express concisely and clearly ideas and concepts,
- Regional/Country experience and knowledge: in-depth knowledge of the education system in Serbia and framework for protection against violence against women and social protection system is required,

- Language proficiency: fluency in English is mandatory. Fluency in Serbian, Hungarian, Croatian and Spanish is optional if any other team member holds the corresponding language skills.

For Evaluation team members:

- Evaluation experience at least 3 year in conducting external evaluations, with mixed-methods evaluation skills and having flexibility in using non-traditional and innovative evaluation methods,
- Expertise in gender and human-rights based approaches to evaluation and issues of violence against women and girls
- Specific evaluation experiences in the areas of ending violence against women and girls
- Experience in collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data,
- In-depth knowledge of gender equality and women's empowerment,
- A strong commitment to delivering timely and high-quality results, i.e. credible evaluation and its report that can be used,
- Good communication skills and ability to communicate with various stakeholders and to express concisely and clearly ideas and concepts,
- Regional/Country experience and knowledge: in-depth knowledge of the education system in Serbia and framework for protection against violence against women and social protection system is required,
- Language proficiency: fluency in English is mandatory. Fluency in Serbian, Hungarian, Croatian and Spanish is optional if any other team member holds the corresponding language skills

9. Budget

Total budget for External Evaluation is maximum 20.000 EUR including VAT.

10. Format and submission of applications

Applications should be submitted no later than April 25th, 2021 at 5pm CET, by e-mail to the Autonomous Women's Centre, Tiršova 5a, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia at the following address: dobre_prakse@azc.org.rs.

Each applicant will receive a message confirming reception of the offer.

Applicants will be notified about the final selection of the consultant/service provider within 10 days from the application deadline.

AWC is responsible for all correspondence with project partners concerning the received offers.

Application must include:

- Technical offer, including work plan and time frame;
- Financial offer based on days and daily rates;
- CVs of key experts/consultants in accordance with the above-required competencies.