

SafeHut inaugurates national Friendly Spaces for women and girls, enhancing female empowerment

As a key strategy for the protection and empowerment of women and girls who are Victims of Trafficking (VoT) it is crucial to support social and labour inclusion. This can be achieved by establishing Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS), i.e. collaborative environments created with and for women and girls survivors of trafficking, who are supported through processes of empowerment. To respond to this need the SAFE HUT project involves 7 experienced partners from 6 EU countries (Italy, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Romania, and Bulgaria) and aims to the building of 4 new WGSSs in Greece, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria, utilizing the successful WGSS model developed by the International Rescue Committee and proven results at Centro PENC in Palermo. The main target of the project is third-country national women and adolescent girls who were exposed to trafficking with a special focus on women and girls' survivors of trafficking due to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

What are the objectives of a Safe Space?

- To provide a place where women and girls affected by trafficking are encouraged to voice their needs and collectively raise attention to their rights and specific needs.
- To facilitate access for women and girls affected by trafficking to knowledge, skills and information, as well as receive psychosocial support, at the same time strengthening their labor inclusion opportunities.
- To ensure long-term assistance and support to women and girls affected by trafficking and violence through mutually empowering partnerships serving as a key entry point for specialized services for them.



The Safe Space will be open to third-country national women and it is conceived as a place where women can participate in different empowering activities (personal empowerment activities, cognitive empowerment activities, psychosocial empowerment activities, socio-civic empowerment activities) in an atmosphere of trust, confidentiality, safety, solidarity and inclusion. The space will also provide counseling and psychosocial support, access to knowledge and resources, and serve as a referral point for safe and tailored services dedicated to migrant women in vulnerable conditions.

The aim is for women to feel safe and supported and to use their voices to raise attention to their needs and rights. Through participation in the WGSS third-country national women and girls will have the opportunity to empower themselves and be guided towards their personal development.

What's happening in partner countries?

Romania

The AIDRom Safe Space, launched by the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania on January 22, 2024, aims to combat gender -based violence and human trafficking. This initiative, marked by a workshop attended by various national stakeholders and civil society, seeks to foster understanding and support for victims. Located in Bucharest, the Safe Space offers empowering activities for women and girls, including sewing, art workshops, discussions, and training sessions, GBV training, cohabitation lessons, and other activities in line with the needs and desires of women and girls.

Lithuania

We opened our SAFE HUT Lithuania on February 19th 2024. It is located at the Youth Center in Kaunas city center. The place is easily reachable for the beneficiaries. We officially launched Safe space for Women and girls on March 5, participants came from other organizations (Caritas, Redcross, Employee center, Migration and Social services





and etc). WGSS will be held every Monday and Wednesday from 5 till 7 p.m. Beneficiaries are from Kenya, Pakistan, Ukraine, Togo, Colombia, Venezuela.

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Greece

In Greece, KMOP inaugurated the Safe Space for Women and Girls on January 29th, 2024 with representatives from civil society organizations. The space is open to third-country national women and girls and operates every Wednesdays and Fridays from 15:00 to 17:00. If you are interested in joining the activities in the WGSS or you would like to get more information on the WGSS find more information [here](#).

Bulgaria

On the 1st of March officially opened its doors WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACE. It is located at the Complex for Social Services for Children and Families which belongs to Sofia Municipality, but is run By Animus Association. At the celebration with us were colleagues and partners from the State Agency for Refugees, the National Commission for Combating THB, IOM, Caritas, Council of Refugee Women In Bulgaria, UNHCR, Bulgarian Red Cross, Dignita Foundation. We will collaborate with them to empower women and girls to find acceptance, peace and security in Bulgaria and Europe.

Briefly about the programme

The initiative is implemented within the European AMIF project SAFE HUT – Holding safe spaces for women and girls' empowerment, aiming to facilitate the social and labour integration of vulnerable women and girls from third countries.

To get more information or to support the newly launched Women and Girls SAFE Space we invite you to contact our team.



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Safe Hut Project
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