

CHILDREN FIRST - How to prevent gender-based violence in teen relationships at school

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The *Children First* project

Children First is a EU-funded project aiming at preventing and contrasting school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) among children, with a focus on dating violence. The project is implemented by partners from the UK, Greece, Cyprus, Lithuania and Italy.

“Children First represents a shared effort to educate school children (aged 12-18) in order to prevent and address dating violence from an early age by undermining gender stereotypes, norms and roles that are the main causes of gender-based violence (GBV) among children and teenagers”.

The research phase

Did you know that a large number of children and adolescents have already experienced discriminations and limitations because of their gender before the age of 18?

This is what emerges from the **desk and field research** that we realized in the last months: with the aim of **enriching the limited information**



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available on dating violence in Europe with new statistical data, best practices and policy recommendations, we investigated the phenomenon **collecting opinions and views of more than 500 adolescents** between 12 and 18 year old, as well as **discussing with adults** living close to them (teachers, parents, key institutions) through **interviews, focus group and online questionnaires** in the **UK, Greece, Cyprus, Lithuania and Italy**. Results from this research phase are available in our National Reports – visit the **“Online Resources”** section on our website: <https://childrenfirst.info/online-resources/>. The **2 Comparative Reports** will be also published soon – follow us!

Sharing our knowledge – The “Multidisciplinary Learning Seminar

During the summer educators, teachers, parents of adolescents and other relevant experts/professionals have been invited to **discover and comment on our preliminary national results**.

In Lithuania, Cyprus, Greece and Italy, national **“Multidisciplinary Learning Seminars”** were held remotely between June and September via the ZOOM platform.

These online events, attended by more than **150 enthusiastic participants**, allowed us to further **raise awareness on GBV** among adolescents, in teen relationships and at school, and to **strengthen old and new relationships** in a way to work collaboratively to prevent such phenomena in the near future. Additionally, participants shared **useful strategies and good practices** about GBV in the field of education, based on their experience on the field.



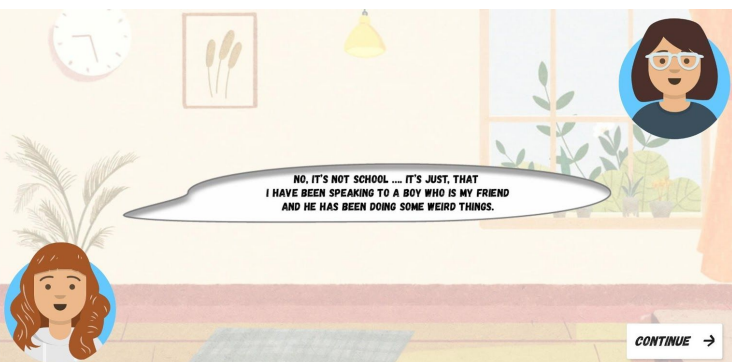
“The seminar was completely understandable, informative, it highlighted the problems that children and teenagers face in relation to GBV and ended in an optimistic way- sharing a vision of a fairer world.”

Comment of a participant from Cyprus

In the UK, the seminar will be held in the upcoming weeks by IARS.

Stay tuned!

We are applying findings from our research to the development of innovative tools aimed at filling the project’s educational needs.



Youth-led e-game - That’s how our E-game based on the *theory of behavioural change* will look like! We are preparing all the technical aspects of the game and developing real-life scenarios in which adolescents will be able to identify with, in order to be informed about GBV and dating violence.

E-Learning course for teachers - Theoretical and practical materials on dating violence will be collected and included in an **e-Learning training course for school teachers**.

Both tools will be firstly tested, then launched starting from January 2021.



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