



Romania Case study



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Aim and methodology

- Aim
 - Assess sexual assault service provision
 - Identify recommendations to improve intervention
- Methodology
 - Benchmarking tool for services
 - Questionnaire for survivors
 - Peer learning visit findings

Context

- A rape at every four hours in Romania (January – Mai 2012)
- 14% of women (6% victims) consider forced sex with partner as normal
- 1 out of 3 women was sexual aggressed during life time
- Women have a greater fear of rape than any other crime

Benchmarked services

- Emergency unit
- Police Department
- Forensic Institute
- Prosecutor's Offices attached to Courts
- Probation Service
- Services for psychological and social support

Key findings

- Waiting time for victims: between 1 and 4 hours
- Victims must recount the experience 2 to 7 times
- Free services (except psychological support)
- Services are not always provided in privacy and at a pace the client is comfortable with
- Opportunity to choose a woman or a man as counsellor
- Wide range of services available
- Most of the offenders are identified and convicted

Identified gaps

- No institution acts as focal point
- No coordination or working protocols within the services
- Lack of intervention methodology
- None of services meets the proposed standards
- Specific training is unavailable
- No clear information for victims about where to turn in case of a sexual assault
- No service dedicated to victims

Recommendations

- Development of inter-institutional and multi-sectorial groups for coordination and intervention (including integrated mechanisms for intervention)
- Development of new specialized services or specialization of existing services
- Development of a training system for the professionals