



Project Unroot is an Erasmus+ funded project bringing together partners from five European countries: AIS from Austria, SYNTHESIS from Cyprus, Stichting Vrouw en Welzijn from the Netherlands, SYMPLEXIS from Greece, and Welcome Home International from Belgium. Together they are implementing the project: Unrooting Violence: tackling social norms for the prevention of gender-based violence.

UNROOT has been designed to intervene at the individual, collective and societal level in rural communities in order to:

- Sensitize and advocate for raising awareness on various aspects of GBV and their negative consequences for women, men, families, and the community at large
- Strengthen participants' knowledge through training and support; -Help
- participants to reduce harmful traditional practices, behaviours, and customs contributing to GBV; -Create an open dialogue with community members about GBV issues and gender stereotypes
- Design bystander intervention strategies
- to go deeper into the stereotypes and prejudices that pertain to GBV and empower people to find their own voice beyond social norms
- Bring together stakeholders at local, regional, and national levels through advocacy practices and exploration of policy solutions.

The UNROOT project addresses specific needs and adopts a holistic approach to the primary prevention of GBV by designing a training programme which lies at the heart of the UNROOT project because it aims to extend and improve the supply of high-quality learning opportunities for low-qualified and marginalized adults, such as women, men, and families who live in rural communities. Another important target group of the UNROOT project is adult support workers and trainers that work closely with the topic of GBV and support women in non-urban localities.

The project began in November 2021 and will run for 30 months. The consortium held its first in-person, transnational project meeting in Maastricht in June 2022, where they planned the first result of the project, the preparatory phase, in which rural community service providers will be invited to join the project by participating in focus groups to research the on-the-ground situation with GBV education in their vicinities. This will accompany desk research of GBV situations and statistics in each of the partner countries and together with the focus group results will form the basis of the training programme.

