



Children  
First

# What young people think about GBV? - Research Results from Work Package 2

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Innovation



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# Challenging attitudes and norms towards dating violence

## Target group

Children and teenagers aged 12-18 years old, with particular focus on youngsters with fewer opportunities, who are at more risk of becoming victims of GBV.

Special attention was also given to GBV which occurs within teen relationships (romantic, friendship, family settings), especially within the school environment.



# Aim of primary and secondary research



- 1 Capture the nature, frequency and dynamics of GBV in teenage relationships and the contexts in which they occur and persist.
- 2 Capture children and young people's own understandings, attitudes and evaluations of such violence.
- 3 Capture children and young people's perceptions on the impact of violence on their wellbeing and their coping strategies.
- 4 Capture children and young people's views on prevention and how support services could best respond to preventing violence.
- 5 Capture the wider cultural and social processes that underpin experiences of exploitation of violence and, a number of real-life scenarios to be integrated into the youth-led e-game of WP2.

## Field research



**506 survey  
reponses**

UK, LT, IT, GR, CY



**77 interview  
responses**

UK, LT, IT, GR, CY



**3 focus  
groups**

UK, LT, IT

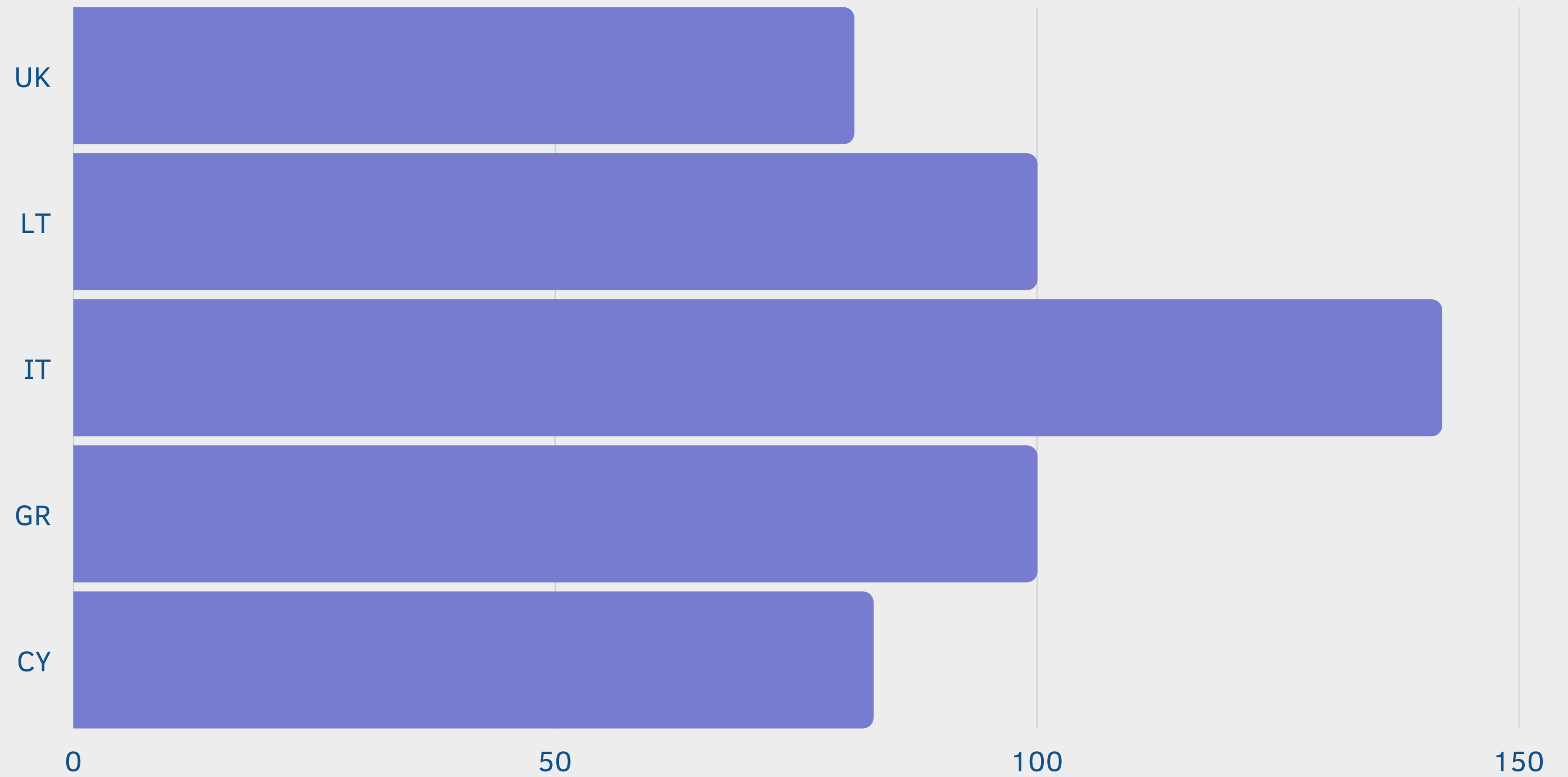
## Desk research

Collection and analysis of data from  
existing resources

Collection of existing practices and  
schemes regarding SRGBV among  
children and teenagers from all  
partner countries.

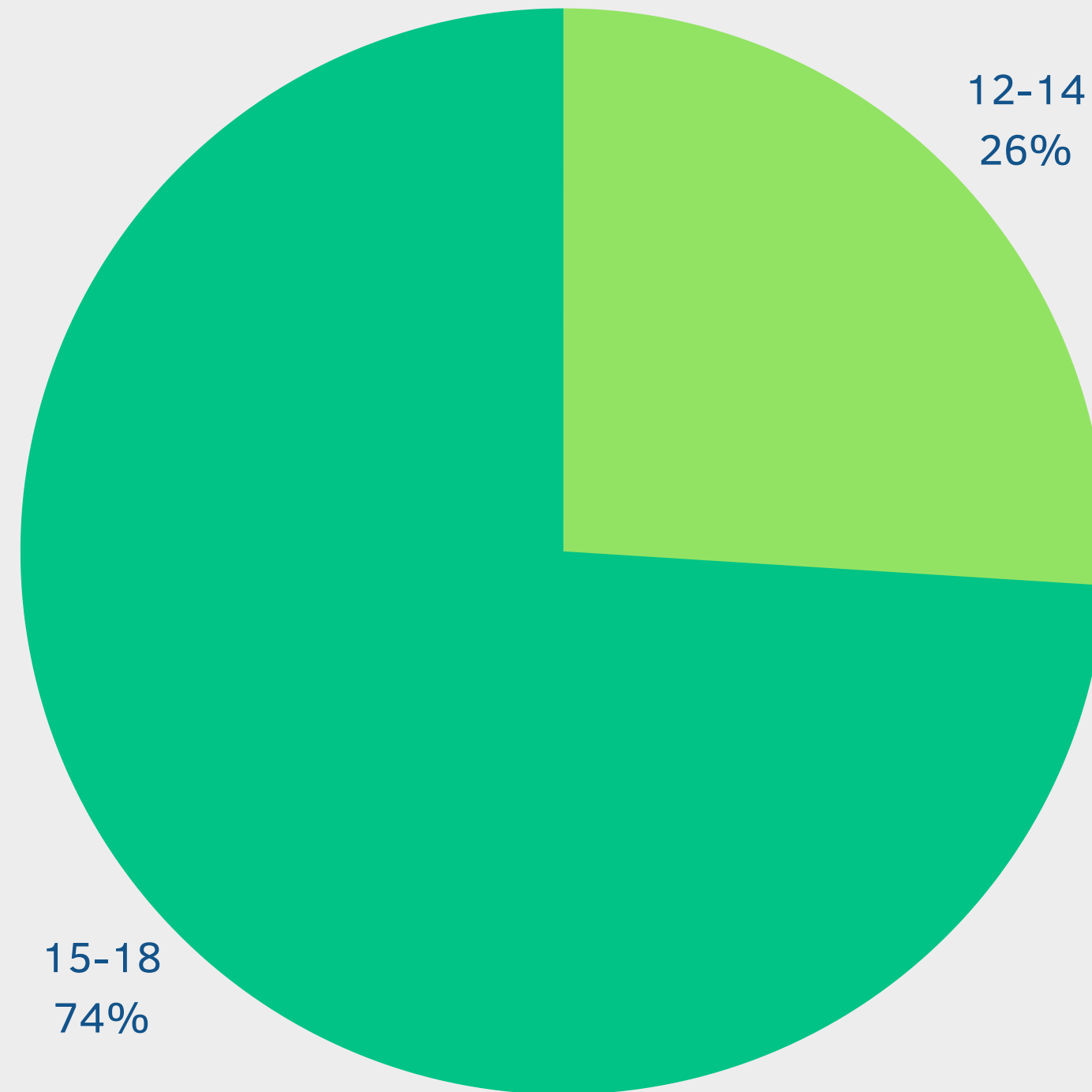
# Survey responses

per country



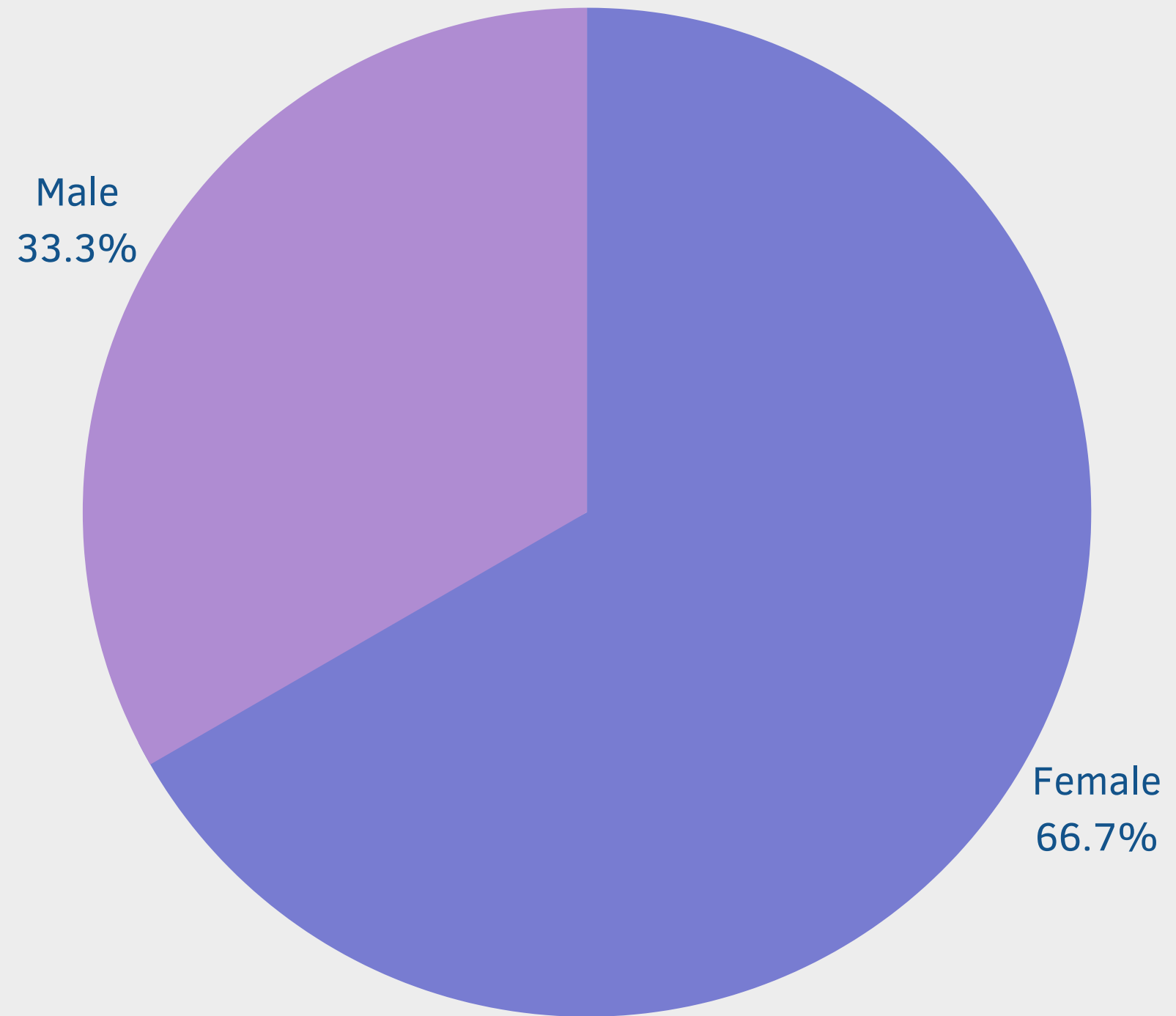
# Age Groups

overall



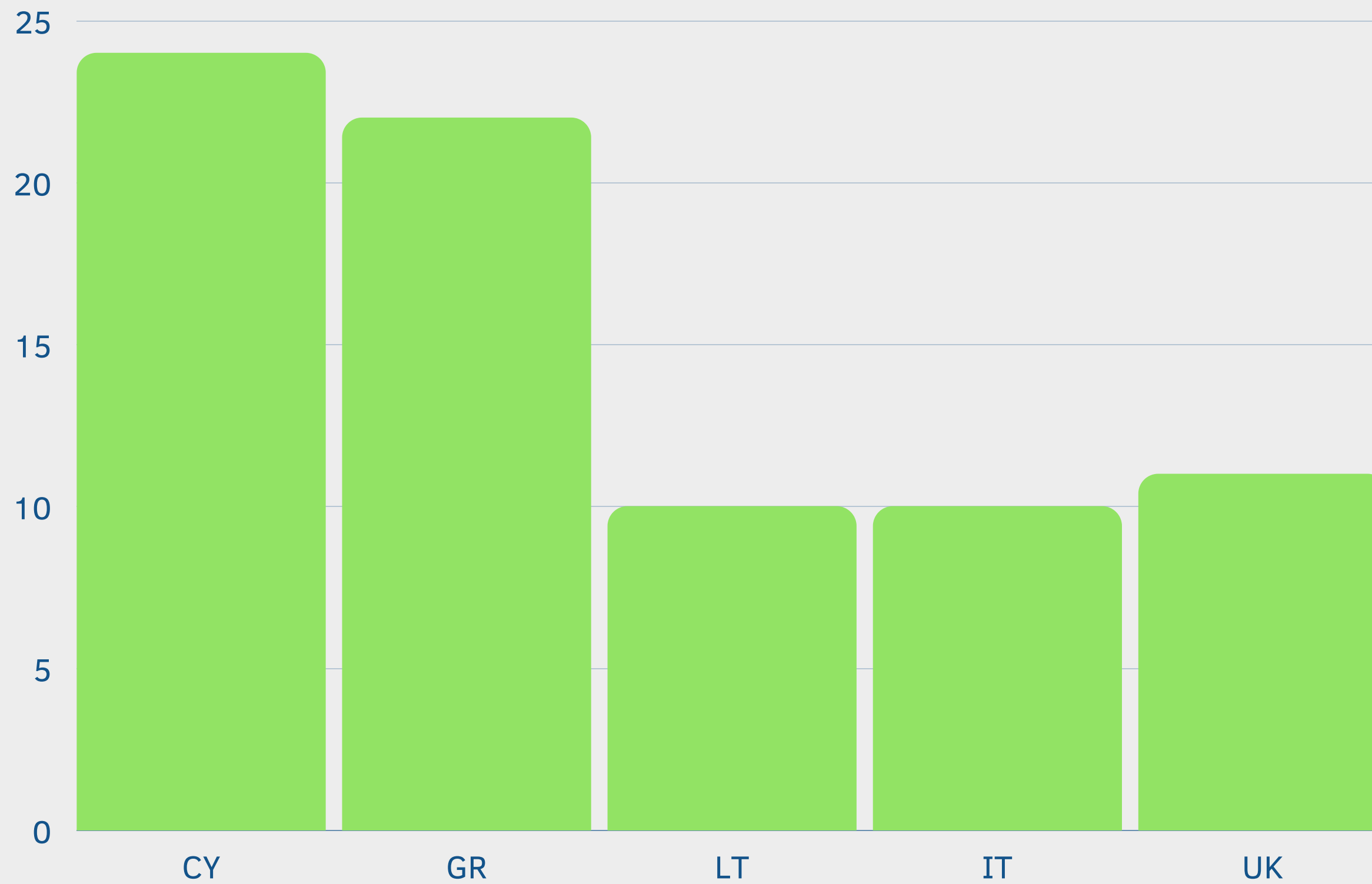
# Sex

overall



# Interview responses

per country







**CYPRUS**

## Participants' responses

- 51.8% (mostly males) have said that they never felt bad or unfair because of their gender, whereas 48.2% (mostly females) have responded positively.
- Of those who answered yes, 61% said that they experience those feelings sometimes, whereas 19.5% selected every week, 12.2% every month and 7.3% every day.
- Most of them experienced those feelings from bullying and violence that occurs within the school setting (70.7%), 19.5% within their families, 17.1% within their romantic relationships and 12.2% from friends.
- 20.5% have experienced GBV from their partners. From those, 36% experienced verbal abuse, 56% psychological/emotional abuse, 16% physical abuse, 12% online violence and 8% something else.
- Finally, on whether the participants were ever informed by their school through their lessons on GBV, 83.1% answered negatively while 16.9% answered positively.





"My ex when we were still together at 16 was jealous of where I was going and with whom because I had male friends. When I wanted to break up with him, he started stalking and threatened me that if I did, he would hurt himself."

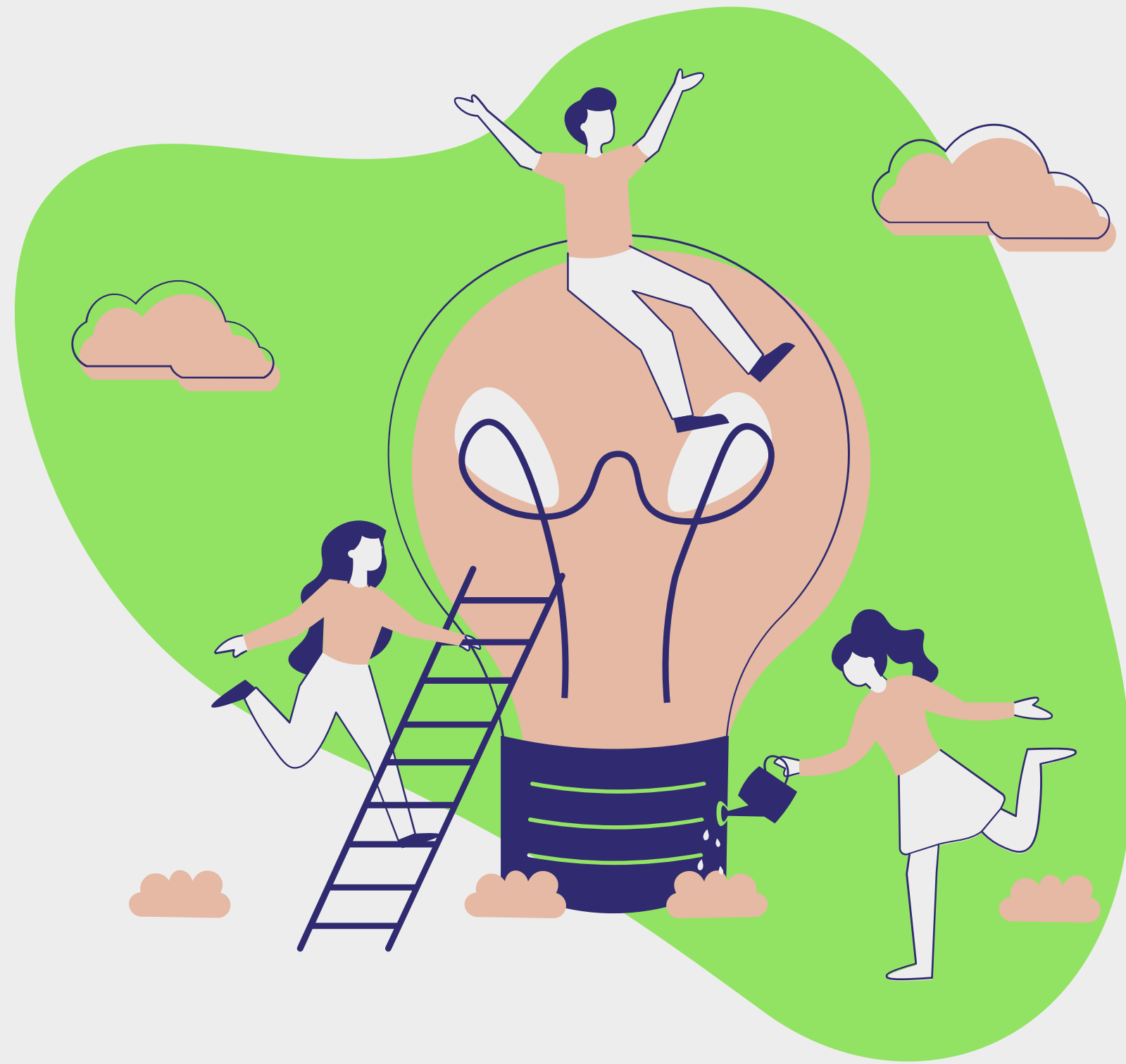


GREECE

## Participants' responses

- 56% said that they have never been discriminated against due to their gender, while the remaining 44% reported that they have had. From them, 77.1% reported having such feelings very often.
- Regarding the context in which they have experienced discrimination on the basis of their gender, the school environment prevailed (68.9%), followed by the home environment (15.6%) and romantic relationships (11.1%).
- About their awareness on gender-based violence, a small percentage (10.8%) answered that they do not understand the term or do not know what it means but they were not all aware of all its forms.
- Almost 1 out of 10 children (11.8%) reported having experienced emotional or psychological violence, threats, underestimation, offensive comments and verbal violence in a romantic relationship.
- Regarding the information they may have received on the issue of gender-based violence from their school, 38.6% answered that they haven't received any kind of information, while 24.7% reported having received some kind of relevant information on the subject.





ITALY



## Participants' responses

- Half of the participants said that they been discriminated against because of their gender, especially at school. 23% report feeling ashamed or limited by their gender, mainly for being "not enough feminine", for not being free to wear what they want or to go out without taking risks, or because of body shaming.
- Jealousy and stalking the partner are the most “acceptable” behaviours identified, which can be sometimes tolerated by 8% and 6% of respondents respectively.
- Finally, 10.6% attest to having suffered some forms of GBV within an intimate relationship. Among the stories collected, episodes of psychological violence, body shaming, non-consensual intimate touching and revenge porn emerge.
- Concerning GBV in general, all participants express negative feelings when asked how they understand and evaluate it. However, only half of them affirms to have been informed about GBV through school, media or personal researches.
- The great majority affirms to be unaware of any support mechanisms available in their environment in case of GBV.



"When I was younger, I was told that since I am a girl, I cannot always do what I want."

"I often hear various 'jokes' or derogatory comments about women and how they should behave in society.",

"I am being mocked that I am feminine because I am a boy with long hair and I am quiet and I do not like football like the other boys".





LITHUANIA

## Participants' responses

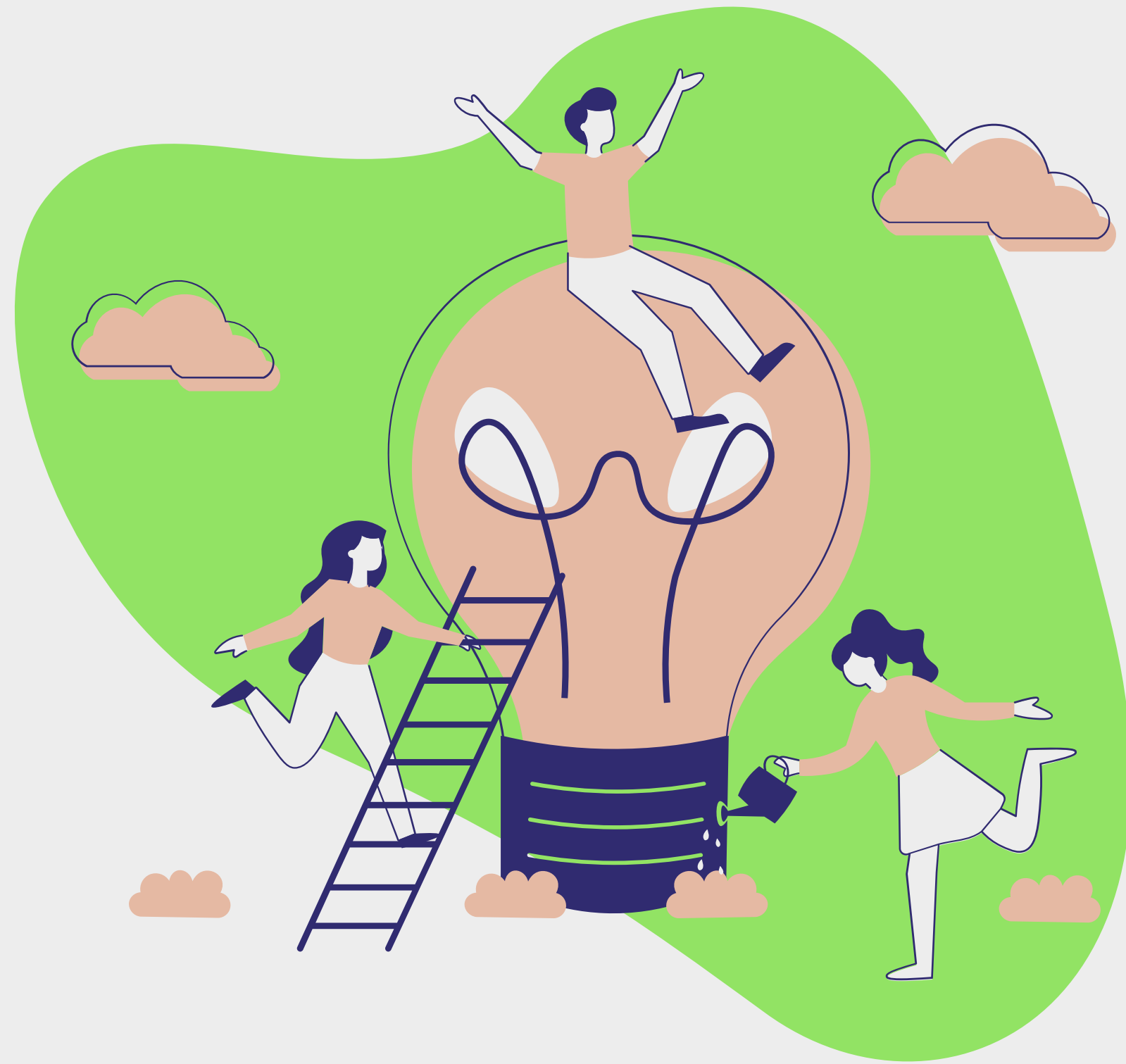
- More than half of the respondents (60%) replied that they have never been discriminated against due to their gender.
- From those who claimed the opposite, 45.6% claimed they experience gender discrimination in school.
- 10.5% faced discrimination in romantic relationships, and 8.8% at home.
- Regarding information on GBV, more than 79% claimed that it is never OK to be violent towards your significant other. Most students agreed that physical violence is unacceptable, while some had different opinions on forms of control in relationships such as jealousy: 33% of respondents claimed that rare occurrences of jealousy is OK, while 14% claimed that frequent jealousy of your significant other is acceptable.
- Respondents showed a slightly higher percentage of tolerance of violence perpetrated by girls towards boys than vice versa. Regarding what information they may have received on the issue of GBV from their schools, 65% claimed they haven't received any kind of information, while 35% had some kind of information on the subject.





“All the boys received worse grades than the girls as the teacher said boys are worse singers. She did not evaluate our individual abilities”.

“When I told my parents I wanted to start practicing weightlifting, they said they would not allow it because it is not feminine”.



UK

## Participants' responses

- 67% stated that they had encountered GBV every now then in comparison to 16.3% marking every day and 6.1% saying never.
- Despite, these differences, there were three environments in which they young people felt GBV was prominent, 50% said schools. 11.9% said work and 23.8% mentioned that they have experienced GBV at home. Some of the examples mentioned covered a wide range of themes including gender norms, stereotypes and discrimination.
- 72.5% of participants said they did not feel protected by society with 32.5% saying do not feel protected by their families. This lack of access and support young people have support services with 67% saying that they are not sure who to contact and where to get support.



“I am pigeonholed into the housewife role”

“I get called a female when I am not”, and “I get called a sket because of how many boys I talk to”.



# Overall research conclusions



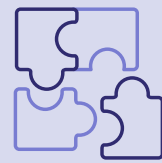


High numbers of GBV amongst children and teenagers are recorded in all partner countries.



GBV affects disproportionately girls or adolescents coming from ethnic/religious minorities or have sexual orientations that are not aligned with the patriarchal norms.

The most frequent cases are those of emotional and psychological abuse. Gender stereotypes are still deeply rooted in all partner countries and affect youngsters perceptions and relationships.



Young people are able to recognize what is healthy or unhealthy in a relationship but they claim to be not sufficiently informed on the phenomenon of GBV nor trained on how to react or report it, especially within their school environment.

*A large number of children and teenagers have already experienced discrimination and violence because of their gender, before the age of 18.*





# Children First Policy Recommendations



On an EU level based upon shared conclusions in all partner countries.

**01**

Awareness raising on the prevalence of gender- based violence through an intersectional lens

**02**

Inclusion of sex education, gender equality and human rights education in national programmes. Promotion of curricular and extracurricular activities for children and teenagers.

**03**

Training of teachers and educators and support them in developing/offering educational tools



**THERE IS A  
NEED FOR  
CHANGE**



# TO PREVENT GBV FROM AN EARLY AGE



04

Enhance national and European research on gender-based violence among children and teenagers.

05

Encourage cooperation between NGOs working on GBV issues and educational institutions as well as between parents and students.

06

Youth-focused policies and programmes to ensure the active participation of children and promote a bottom up approach.



# Contact Us

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