

# Conference “Building Healthy Relationships among Boys and Girls”

## FACT SHEET

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The aim of this publication is to briefly present the content and evaluation results of the National Conference “Building Healthy Relationships among Boys and Girls” that took place on June 21st, 2016 in Nicosia in the context of Project “Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence (GEAR against IPV-II)”

### The GEAR against IPV II Project

The **GEAR against IPV** approach is a coordinated action of **primary and secondary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence in adolescents’ relationships** through interventions in the school or in other settings, that are guided by specially designed educational material and are aimed at secondary school students’ awareness raising and empowerment by specially trained teachers.

The main aim is to promote the development of **healthy and equal relationships** between the sexes and the development of **zero tolerance towards violence** by raising teens’ awareness on:

- the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- the influence that gender stereotypical attitudes and socially imposed gender roles have on their relationships
- how power inequality between the sexes is related to psychological, physical and/or sexual abuse against women/girls and
- how adolescents can contribute to the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence.

Given the fact that almost all children and adolescents attend school, the **educational system**, at all levels, is the ideal setting for such an effort, where properly trained teachers can play a key role in the implementation of such interventions targeting the general population. The need for implementing in schools interventions related to gender stereotypes and equality, as a means of primary prevention of gender-based violence it is, therefore, imperative.

The **GEAR against IPV approach** is a proposal for systematic intervention in the school (or other) setting, where girls and boys are invited, through a series of experiential activities, to assess but also challenge their culturally “inherited” gender stereotypes and to approach differences between sexes as individual differences rather than as characteristics of superiority of one sex over the other.

#### Project’s Identity

<b>TITLE:</b>	Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence II (GEAR against IPV II)
<b>PROJECT NO:</b>	JUST/2013/DAP/AG/5408
<b>DURATION:</b>	01.10.2014 – 30.11.2016
<b>COORDINATOR:</b>	European Anti-Violence Network – EAVN (Greece)
<b>PARTNERS:</b>	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies - MIGS (Cyprus) Center for Education, Counselling and Research - CESI (Croatia) A.L.E.G - Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender (Romania) Plataforma unitària contra les violències de gènere (Spain) The Smile of the Child (Greece)
<b>EXTERNAL EVALUATOR:</b>	Prof. Carol Hagemann-White

#### Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies - MIGS


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The Conference took place in the context of European Project [GEAR against IPV - II](#) with financial support from the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union

 European Commission  
Directorate General Justice

 Co-funded by the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union

### Educational Material

GEAR against IPV educational material has been developed in order to support the organization, preparation, implementation and evaluation of teachers’ training seminars and adolescents’ awareness raising interventions (in school or other settings), aiming to primary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence.

**Booklet III** provides step-by-step instructions for the implementation of a series of experiential activities while **Booklet IV** includes all necessary worksheets and handouts for adolescents.

*The full text material is available free of charge at the Project’s website [www.gear-ipv.eu/download](http://www.gear-ipv.eu/download)*

*This material has been developed in the context of the two European Projects “GEAR against IPV I & II” with financial support from the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union.*





## The Conference

The Conference took place on June 21st, 2016 in Nicosia; 75 participants attended the conference where they had the opportunity to learning about the GEAR against IPV programme, and hear about the experiences of students and teachers who participated in the 8 “GEAR against IPV” workshops that were implemented in their schools in during the school year 2015-2016. Six schools participated in the “GEAR against IPV” programme in 2 areas of Cyprus.

The Conference's Programme is available [here](#).

Moreover, during the conference an exhibition took place presenting the awareness raising materials created by students for the implementation of an information and awareness raising campaign aiming to convey to their peers messages about gender equality, healthy and equal relationships, and zero tolerance to gender based violence.

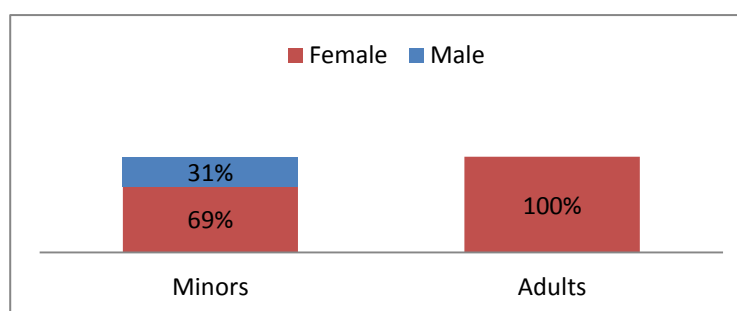
The awareness raising material created by the students are available [here](#) and featured in this [video](#).

## Evaluation of Conference “Building Healthy Relationships among Boys and Girls ”

### Conference Participants' Demographics Gender

A total of 75 people attended the conference. Seventy participants completed the Conference's evaluation form (30 minors and 40 adults).

The majority of the participants were women/girls compared to men/boys.



**Table 1:** Participants age per group and sex (N=70)

	Adults		Minors	
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Mean	-	37	14	14.5
Minimum age		24	13	13
Maximum age	-	50	15	16

### Age

### Identity

#### Minors

All minors that attended the conference were students; 93% of these attended junior high school and 7% senior high school.

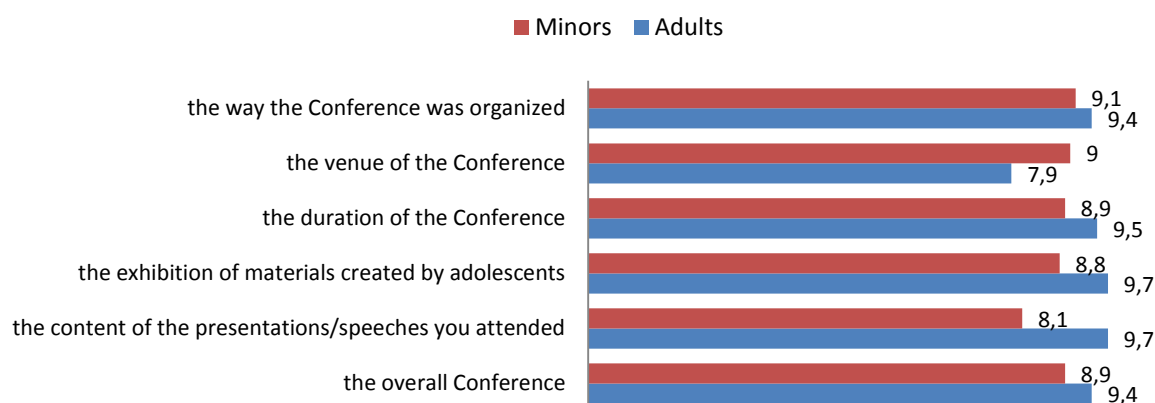
#### Adults

In their majority the adults were teachers and educators.

Apart from teachers, the conference was attended by other professionals such as social scientists (psychologists, social workers, NGO representatives, policy makers and representatives of the Ministry of Education). The professions of participating teachers were: home economics, Greek literature/ PHILOLOGISTS, Mathematicians, and physical education teachers.

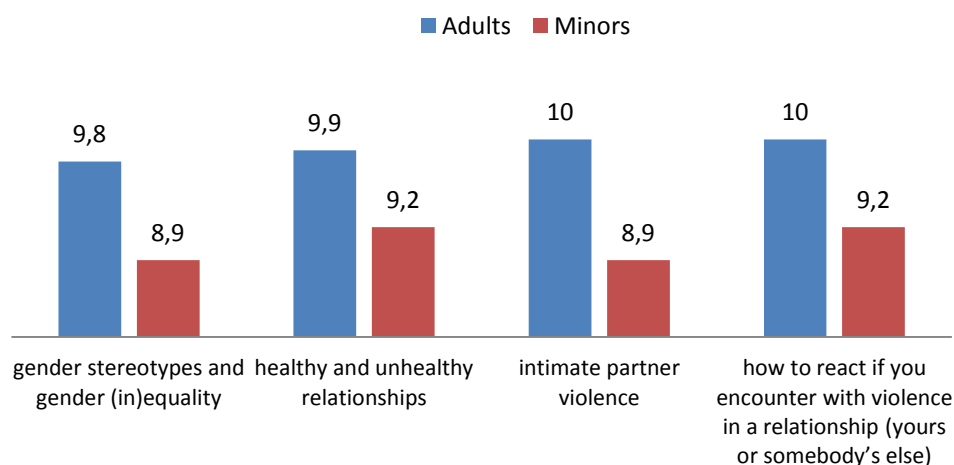
## Satisfaction from the Conference

### How satisfied are you with:



**Figure 1:** Mean score (0=Not at all ... 10=absolutely) of satisfaction for six general aspects of the conference (venue, organization, exhibition, the presentations/speeches, duration and the overall conference) per age group (N=70).

## In the future, to what extent you would like to learn more about...



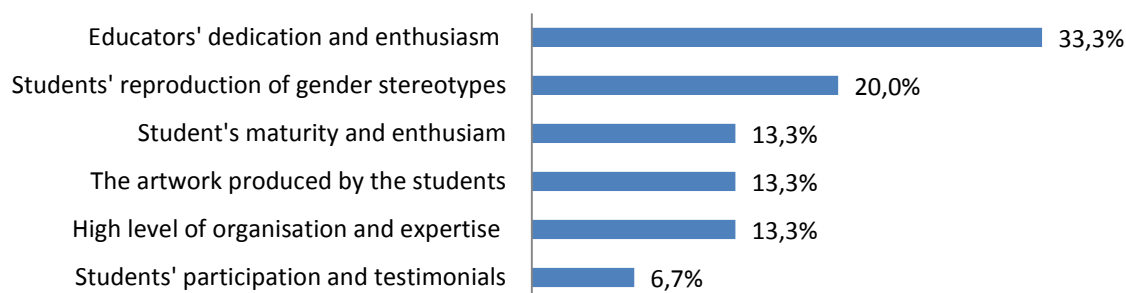
**Figure 2:** Mean scores (0=Not at all ... 10=absolutely) concerning expression of interest to obtain further information for each of the four modules of the project per age group of participants (N=70).

*Figure 1: Both teenagers and adults evaluated the conference positively. Overall, adults provided higher mean scores than children, particularly with regards to the organisation and the exhibition with the student's creations.*

*Figure 2: The interest of both the adults and the children for the four thematic categories of the programme appeared to be very high and in all cases the percentage of the minors appears to be a slightly lower compared to the adults. Minors showed increased interest in the categories "Healthy and unhealthy relationships" and "How to react if you encounter violence in a relationship". Adults showed increased interest in the thematic categories "Intimate partner violence" and "How to react if you encounter violence in a relationship".*

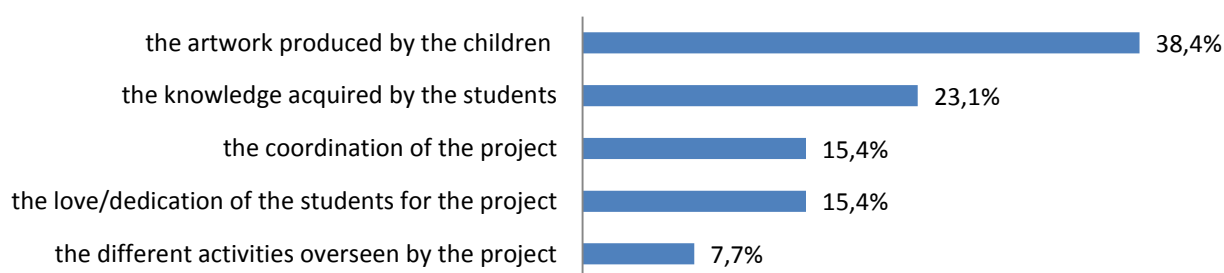
## ***In this Conference, what made the biggest impression on me, was...***

### **Adults said:**



**Figure 3:** Frequencies (%) of the most frequent responses provided by adult participants (N of replies =40).

### **Children said:**



**Figure 4:** Frequencies (%) of the most frequent responses provided by children (N of replies =30).

*In addition to the responses shown in the diagram, the adult participants gave further responses, including:*

- *The comprehensive and child-centric nature of the programme*
- *The substantive and constructive effort of schools / children in class, children's creations, material, knowledge of the children on the program.*

*Additional replies from children were:*

- *Impact of the program -the change in perceptions*
- *Excitement / pleasure of children*
- *Sharing experiences / views*
- *The friendships created among teenagers*
- *Improved relationships between teachers-students*

## Assessment of the necessity for inclusion of relevant modules in the official school curriculum of education

*In the current curricula of all education levels in the country are not included systematically sections related to the promotion of gender equality and / or the primary prevention of violence in partnerships.*

Participants (adults and children) were asked in the evaluation form **whether** according to their opinion **information and sensitization activities relevant to a) gender stereotypes and gender (in)equality, b) healthy and unhealthy relationships, c) intimate partner violence and d) ways of protection and resistance against IPV should be included in the official school curricula nationwide** (including kindergarten, elementary school, junior and senior high school).

The results are presented in the figures below per subject, educational level and age group of respondents.

*Figure 5 shows the degree of agreement (%) of all respondents on the possible introduction of each of the four sections in each of the educational levels.*

*As a general observation the introduction of such units is almost accepted by all respondents in the larger levels of education (gymnasium and high school), while for smaller stages (elementary and especially kindergarten) respondents seem not absolutely sure, perhaps related to the nature of the content of the specific module separately.*

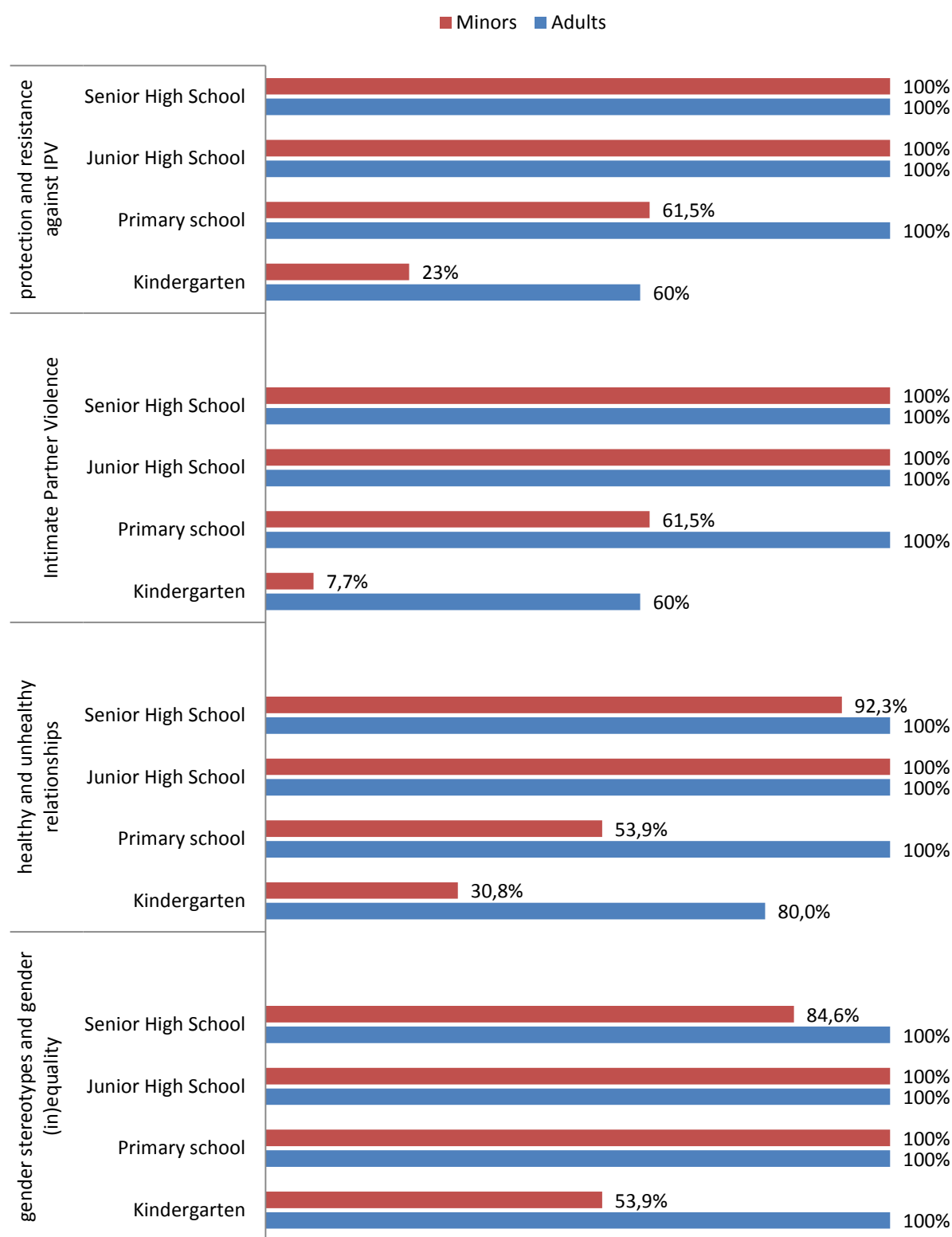
*Therefore, diversification of themes in each level of education is to some extent expected (since modules such as "violence in relationships" and "protection and resistance to intimate partner violence" do not appeal to very young children).*

*On the other hand, however, although the module on stereotypes and gender (in)equality can be implemented in kindergarten and primary schools in the promotion of gender equality and primary prevention of intimate partner violence a proportion of the respondents seem not to agree.*

*Looking at the results by age group, for both greater levels of education (gymnasium and high school) the degree of agreement with the introduction of each of the sections in the respective study programs is very high (> 90%) and does not differentiate between adults and children.*

*In the case of primary school, however, children agree to a lesser degree than the adults to import all the modules except that relating to the "protection and resistance to intimate partner violence", for which the results are similar to those in adults. In the case of the kindergarten, the degree of agreement of children is lower than that of adults for all modules.*

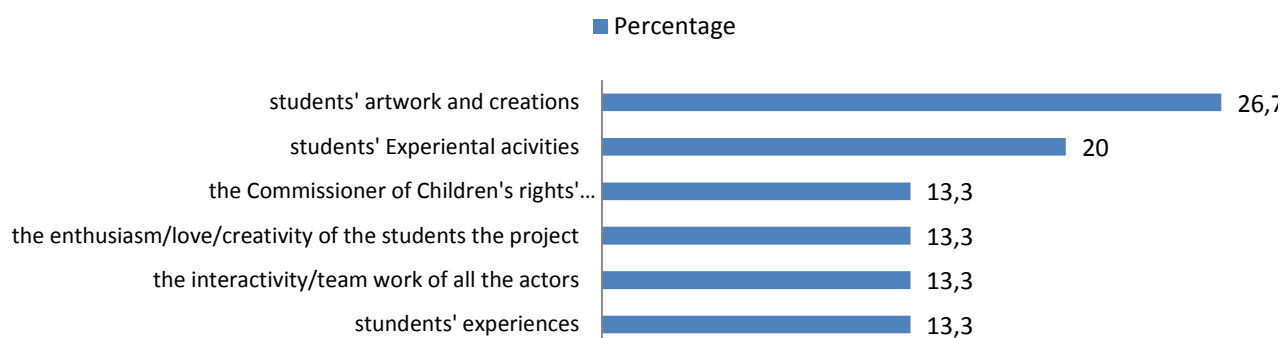
### Assessment of the necessity for inclusion of relevant modules in the official school curriculum of education



**Figure 5:** Extent of agreement (%) of participants concerning potential inclusion of each of the four modules of the GEAR against IPV Project into school curricula of each educational level (kindergarten, elementary, junior & senior high school) (N=70).

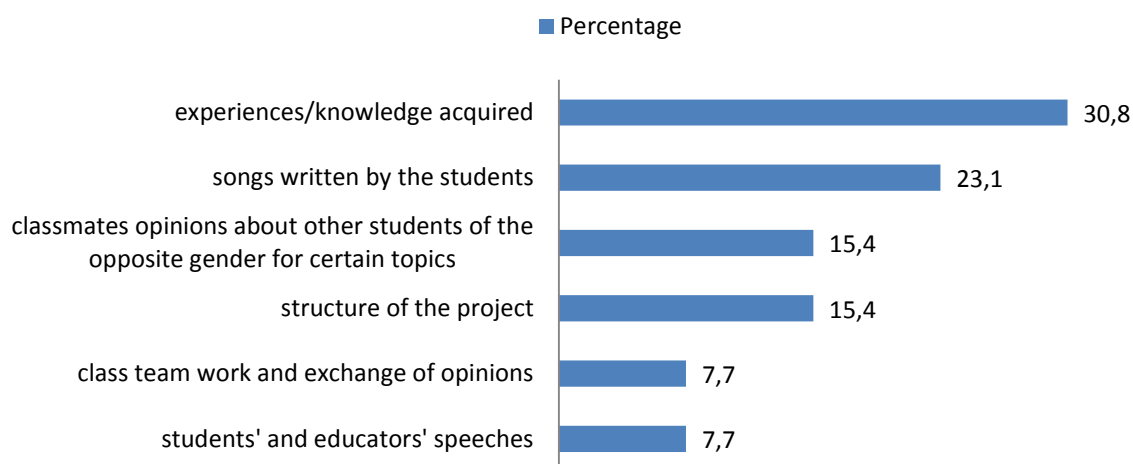
## ***What I liked most of all in this Conference was....***

### **Adults said:**



**Figure 6:** Frequencies (%) of the most frequent replies provided by adult participants (N of replies=40).

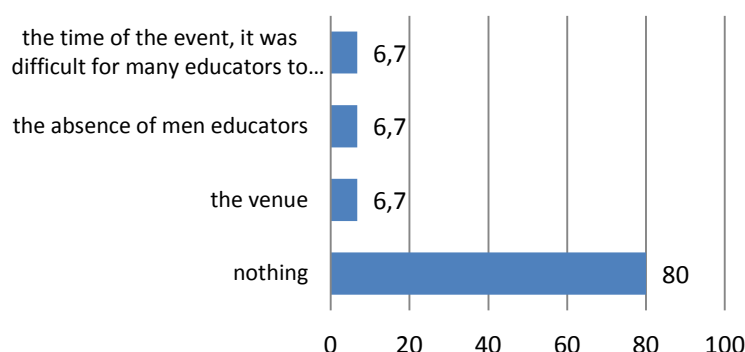
### **Children said:**



**Figure 7:** Frequencies (%) of the most frequent replies provided by children (N of replies=30).

## Something that I didn't like was...

### Adults said:

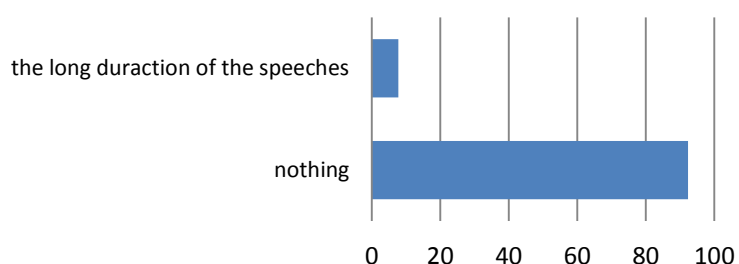


*The majority of adults expressed that there was nothing they did not like in the conference.*

*Additional comments related to their expectation to see more workshops, conferences and events addressing intimate partner violence like GEAR against IPV II, carried out more systematically in schools.*

**Figure 8:** Frequencies (%) of the most frequent replies provided by adult participants (N of replies=40)

### Children said:



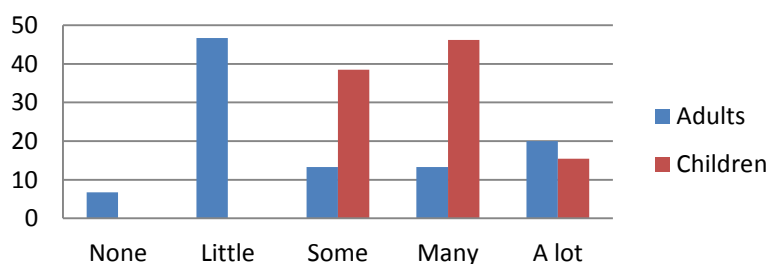
*The vast majority of the children were very satisfied by the conference.*

*Some of the children expressed that what they did not like was the long duration of the speeches and the long questionnaires.*

**Figure 9:** Frequencies (%) of the most frequent replies provided by children (N of replies=30)

## Awareness of participants for the "GEAR against IPV" Workshops

Before this conference, what amount of information did you know about the GEAR against IPV Workshop



*47% of the adults who participated in the Conference answered that they knew at least some information about the program before attending the conference.*

**Figure 10:** Frequencies (%) of replies per age group (N=70).



## Adults said...

If you would like to **describe** to another person the GEAR against IPV workshop "Building Healthy Relationships among Boys and Girls" by **using one single word**, which would that be?

The majority of the adults described the programme as essential, comprehensive, fruitful, empowering, constructive, excellent and child-centered.



## Children said...

If you would like to **describe** to a friend of yours the GEAR against IPV Workshop "Building Healthy Relationships among Boys and Girls" by **using one single word**, which would that be?

The majority of the children described the programme with words such as playful, interesting, important, fun, beneficial, perfect and equality.

