

# Successful Strategies of CSOs and Joint Efforts of CSOs and the Government of Bulgaria for the implementation of CSW 58 Agreed Conclusions

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**Main areas of action and interaction during the period under review are:**

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- **Realizing the human rights of women and girls;**
- **Ensuring women's participation in decision-making;**



## Examples of success:

- **Joint work on Legal reform especially in the field of Elimination of all forms of VAW- signing the Istanbul Convention and participation of CSOs together with government institutions and academia in the elaboration of draft amendments to national legislation to align it with the Istanbul Convention – June 2016- January 2017**

# Characteristics and outcomes :

- the joint work on legal reform between NGOs and the government/ National assembly and / or ministries/ marks a continuous trend of working on legislation on gender equality and against VAW in Bulgaria
- **CSOs' initiatives brought to the concrete action and results: Campaigns of united NGOs and Ms. Mariya Gabriel- MEP, especially in the period 2015- 2016 “- in the course of the campaign “Open your eyes, Break the silence on VAW”**





Ensuring continuous legal education on international human rights law through training initiatives for lawyers and the representatives of the judiciary

- **Women's Human Rights Training Institute**- established by BGRF and partners in 2004 - it is an international educational programme for lawyers from Eastern Europe.
- **Impact:** over 100 lawyers from over 25 countries were trained, about 20 cases brought at international level by the fellows.
- Increased recognition also at national level- ex. Sofia University requested partnership with this programme of CSOs

# Women's Human Rights Training Institute 2016





# Women's Human Rights Training Institute 2016





**Establishing and conducting the Black Sea Academy for the Prevention of Violence- since 2013,by the Alliance for Protection from GBV**

- **Results: over 150 experts trained, including over 60 magistrates and legal professionals, improved practice for protection against violence according to international HR standards**
- **Recognition of the programme through support from the Ministry of Justice and interest from other institutions, like the National Institute of Justice- potential for future partnerships**



# Outcomes:


- Initiative of civil society, with the support of the government helps for filling the gap in specialized and continuous education. A Training manual created and a Platform for online training and exchange for representatives of the judiciary





# Bridging the Justice Gap

- **Ensuring Access to Justice for the most vulnerable and marginalized women by CSOs and lawyers cooperating with them- on the basis of national law, EU law and international law. Impact cases brought to the CEDAW Committee, to the European Court of Human Rights.**

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- **Enforcement of the recommendations by the UN Treaty bodies through cooperation between the Government and CSOs - breakthrough in the end of 2014 with allocation by the government of ad hoc compensation in 3 CEDAW cases where rights of women and girls were violated.**
  - **Establishment by the Government of a special mechanism for ensuring compensation when such is ruled by a decision of a UN Treaty body.**



## **Networking and Alliance building for the Protection of the Human Rights of Women**

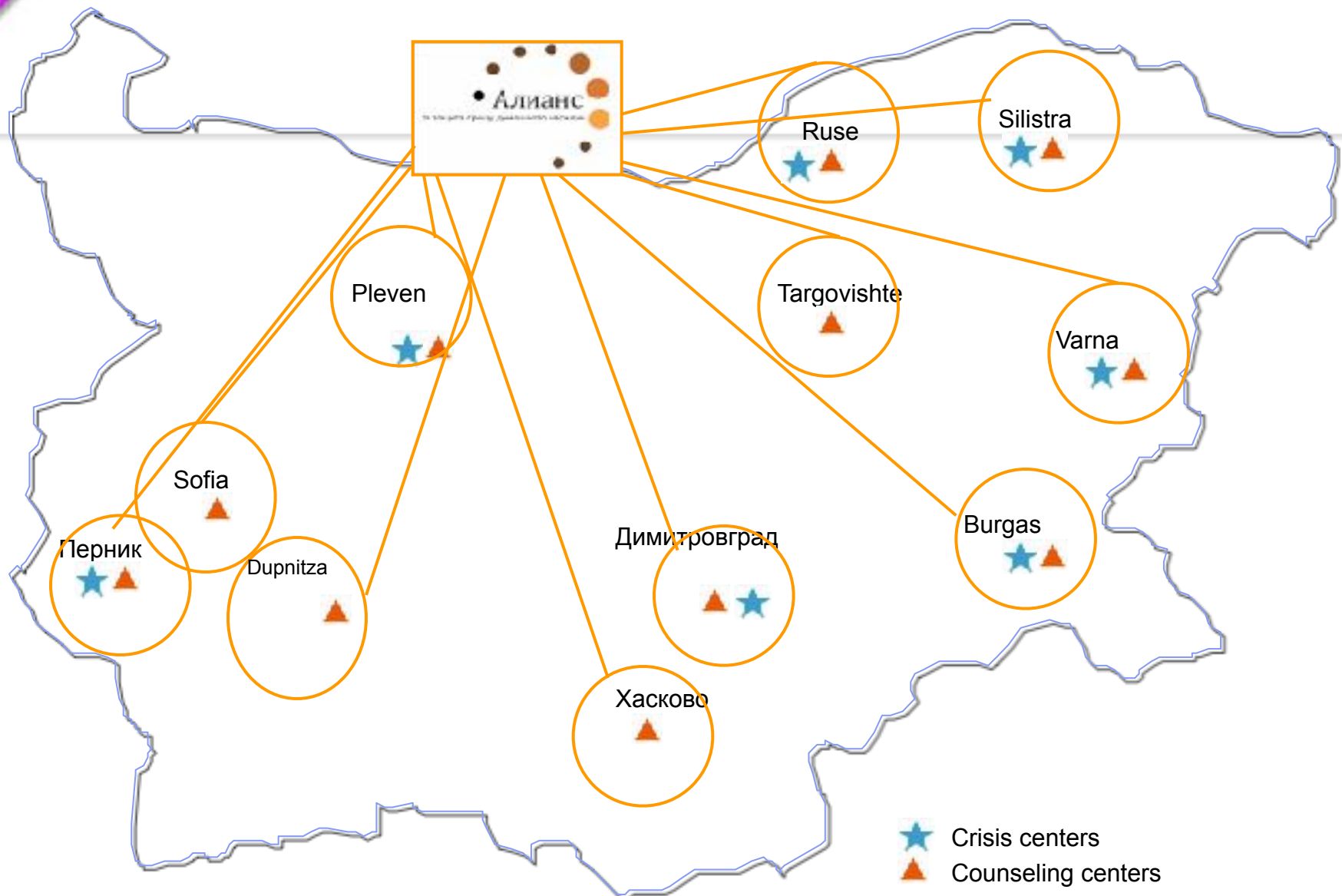
- **Establishing since 2009 of the Alliance for Protection against Gender- Based violence - the first and unique registered network of women's NGOs in Bulgaria,.**
- **11 NGOs dealing with cases and protection of women victims of all forms of violence and their children. Specific protection of women and girls from different ethnic communities, women and girls asylum seekers, migrant women and girls, women and girls with disabilities.**



**The Alliance members conduct proactive research and offer targeted services for these groups of women**

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- **Recognition of the Alliance and its members as partners by the State and by local institutions in the process of the coordinated and integrated responses to VAW**



★ Crisis centers  
▲ Counseling centers



Main characteristics of the successful initiatives presented: **sustainability, continuity, partnership, coherence**

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- **Other fields of cooperation. Challenges and Way forward towards Empowerment. Tackling together problematic areas in a consistent way- the GPG, equality in social security, in economic independence and high decision- making positions.**