



Projekat finansira Evropska unija



Projekat sufinansira
Ministarstvo javne uprave

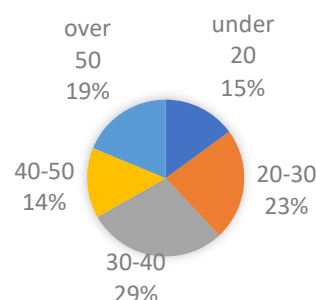
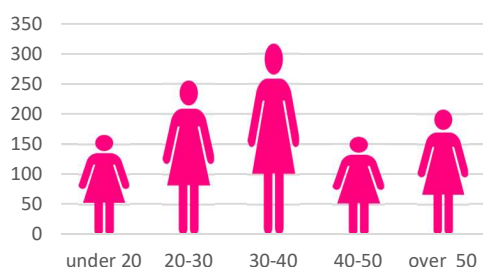


Results of the survey on knowledge and habits in the area of reproductive health

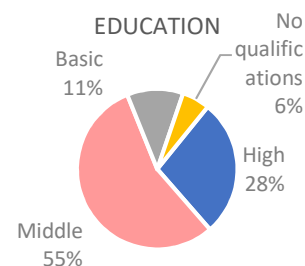
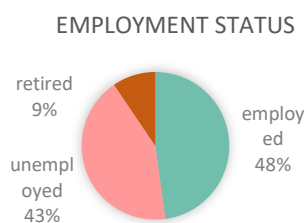
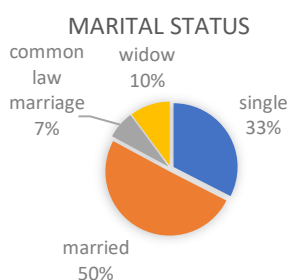
**A LARGE NUMBER OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS
NEVER HAD PREVENTIVE EXAMINATIONS**

During May and June 2019, FORS Montenegro organised a survey on reproductive health in order to get the information on knowledge of women on this topic their awareness on the importance of preventive actions and habits women have in that area. The survey was organised within the project *CARES – Cross-border Actions in the Reproductive Health Sector* and it was implemented in nine municipalities in Montenegro which are included in the target area of the project – Bijelo Polje, Berane, Plav, Rožaje, Mojkovac, Kolašin, Andrijevica, Gusinje and Petnjica. The survey sample included 1.104 participants and all target groups of the project – employed women, unemployed women, women belonging to minorities, women from urban and rural areas, older and younger women, etc. The sample equally covered employed and unemployed women with the largest number of respondents who are married and of the middle education level.

Age of respondents



The respondents showed that they are quite informed on reproductive health but they are not so willing to undergo preventive examinations and they visit their gynaecologists rarely. They usually got the information in health centres or on the internet.





Projekat finansira Evropska unija



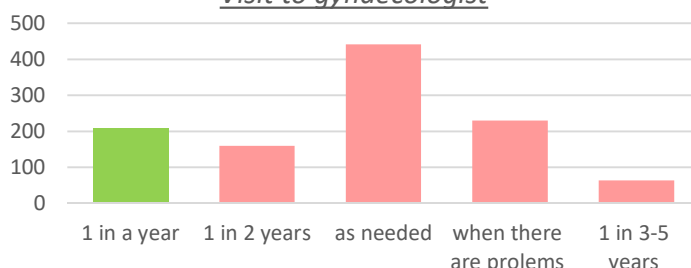
Projekat sufinansira
Ministarstvo javne uprave



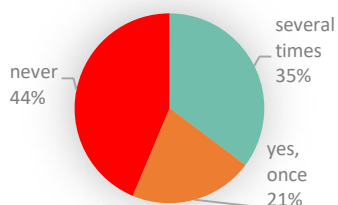
Out of all respondents, 36% have a closer relative who had already had a breast or cervical cancer, which at the same time means an increased risk of these illnesses for them. The information on the habits of survey participants are especially worrying, as even

44% of the respondents have never had a preventive examination. Furthermore, 32% have never done a self-examination – and each woman should do it once a month, 47% have never had an ultrasound breast examination which should be done once a year, 60% have never had a mammography examination which is recommended to be done once in two years for women older than 45. The information that 49% respondents have never had a PAP test is also very worrying because the recommendation of medical professionals is that all women above 20 or three years after starting sexual activities to do it once a year.

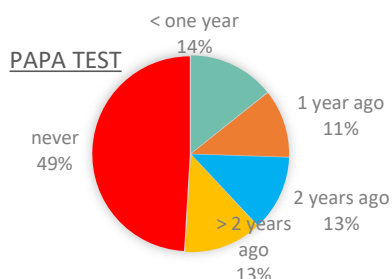
Visit to gynaecologist



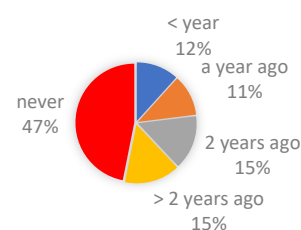
PREVENTIVE EXAMINATIONS



PAPA TEST



ULTRASOUND BREAST EXAMINATION



The survey results definitely point out a very high risk to health of this population as both breast and cervical cancers can be much more successfully treated if they are diagnosed at early stages. However, the survey participants unfortunately do not use that opportunity as they should do. When the symptoms of these illnesses are already visible, the illness is already in a more advanced stage and the treatment is more difficult and uncertain.

IMPORTANT Occurrences of breast cancer cannot be prevented but by preventive examinations it could be detected at early stages which increase the chances of successful treatment. Cervical cancer which is developed during a long period of time, 5-10 years can even be prevented by a timely preventive examination. So, it is very important to undergo regular annual examinations.



Projekat finansira Evropska unija



Projekat sufinansira
Ministarstvo javne uprave



FORS Montenegro – Foundation for the Development of Northern Montenegro started with the implementation of the *CARES - Cross-border Actions in the REproductive Health Sector*) project on 1 March 2019. The project has the aim to **improve the quality of services in the area of reproductive health** and to **inform population on the importance of prevention** in that area. The project is funded by the European Union within the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro – Kosovo* 2014-2020 and it is co-funded by the Ministry of Public Administration of Montenegro.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union and the Ministry of Public administration of Montenegro. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of FORS Montenegro – Foundation for the Development of Northern Montenegro and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union nor the Ministry of Public Administration of Montenegro.