

ABITS REPORT FOR 2017

Annual report on services and programmes that make up the Agency for a Comprehensive Approach to Sex Work (ABITS)





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This report includes information and data on the ABITS Agency's various projects for sex work from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. The ABITS Agency is a municipal Agency affiliated with the Department of Feminism and LGBTI Affairs and the Area of Citizen Rights, Culture, Participation and Transparency of the Councillor's Office for Feminism and LGBTI Affairs.

The ABITS Agency has been developing specific analysis, assessment, direct intervention and coordination work since 2006, representing more than ten years of accumulated experience in Barcelona city's approach to sex work.

Its **fundamental aim** is to attend to cis women and trans women who carry out prostitution in Barcelona – prioritising those who work in a particularly vulnerable situation – in a comprehensive, overarching and coordinated manner, so that they can become aware of and exercise their rights under the same conditions as any other woman in the city.

It acts in accordance with six strategic intervention guidelines:

- 1. Knowledge of the situation.
- 2. Providing assistance for women who carry out sex work on public streets.
- 3. Providing assistance for women who carry out sex work in closed spaces (premises, clubs and flats).
- 4. Designing and deploying programs for social and occupational training and re-employment.
- 5. Detecting victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation with the Unit fighting against Human Trafficking for sexual exploitation.¹
- 6. Coordinating institutional and community initiatives.

¹A Municipal Unit against Human Trafficking, affiliated with the Councillor's Office for Feminism and LGBTI Affairs, was created at the end of 2016.



1. LOCAL OUTREACH ASSISTANCE ON PUBLIC STREETS FOR SEX WORKERS

1.1. Description of the Social and Educational Assistance Service (SAS)

The SAS² is the specific service that Barcelona City Council makes available to women who carry out sex work in Barcelona city, in particular for those offering and negotiating services on public streets. This is an interdisciplinary service that offers:

- Local outreach on-street assistance, mainly in the districts of Ciutat Vella, Sant Martí, Eixample, Les Corts and Sants-Montjuïc.
- Comprehensive social, psychological, legal and health assistance at the office. Moreover, it provides a free telephone line (900 722 200) for the women assisted, as well as a drop-in support service that does not require booking in advance (Thursdays, 11 am to 3 pm).

During 2017, particular attention was paid to **promoting access to sex workers' rights and to detecting possible vulnerabilities and situations of violence** they experience, which has resulted in more proactive intervention and an overall rise in the Service activity compared with the previous year. There has also been a change in register of the matters dealt with, both in the office and on public streets, given that more areas of interest have been detected by the sex workers.

1.2. Local outreach assistance on public streets

The SAS's team of professionals³ makes local contact and carries out educational interventions on public streets.

Contact is understood as a professional from the team approaching a female sex worker, which can lead to a social and educational intervention or simply to a conversation and handing over of condoms. Note that the same woman can be offered assistance in several ways. The data presented refers solely to the number of contact actions since, due to the difficulties intervention on the street entails, data on the number of different women contacted is not available.

The educational interventions focus on promoting women's rights, and are interaction spaces between one of the service's professionals and a woman who carries out sex work, with the aim of being able to boost the woman's empowerment and autonomy, as well as providing her support in accomplishing her priorities. The educational interactions can generate requests in the short-term, medium-term or longterm, for one-off assessments or emotional-support interventions, at a time when the woman needs someone to listen to her, although a request is not necessarily generated.

	TOT	ΓAL	Ciutat V	ella Day	Ciutat V Night	ella	Les (Corts	Sant I	Martí	Sants-Montjuïc	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Contact	18,762	18,222	7,870	6,884	6,510	6,672	3,119	3,039	1,263	1,617	0	10
Educational interventio n	7,608	12,891	3,680	4,547	2,180	4,671	1,220	2,460	528	1,209	0	4

² The organisation providing this service during 2017 was Surt - Fundació de Dones.

³ This is an integrated service for social education, social work, psychology, health and legal professionals.



Contact on the street remained stable during 2017, with a minor reduction of 2.6%. The districts showing an increase in contact were the following: Ciutat Vella Night, with a **3% increase**, and Sant Martí, with a **28% increase**, particularly in the Vila Olímpica area.⁴ Conversely, contact in Ciutat Vella Day fell by 12%, and remained stable in Les Corts.

Regarding the average of women contacted on each excursion, 57 contact moments were recorded in Ciutat Vella at night; in second place, we find Ciutat Vella by day and Les Corts, with 34 each in those two districts, and finally Sant Martí (including Villa Olímpica) with 17.

Educational intervention on public streets increased by 70% compared with 2016, undergoing a leap in terms of quantity and quality. This increase is, in part, due to the SAS's increased presence on the streets and, as commented above, a more proactive intervention methodology in terms of individuals and the community.

Every area is seeing an increasing number of interventions: Ciutat Vella Night stands out, bringing together 52% of educational interventions.

Requirements and requests gathered on public streets

Firstly, it should be pointed out that in 2017 during local outreach assistance on public streets, there was a 68.23% increase in issues dealt with in relation to the previous year (the number of issues addressed rose from 9,486 in 2016 to 15,958 in 2017). This rise is due to an increase in educational interventions, and because the register is being made more accurate regarding issues tackled.

Of the 15,958 requirements detected, 716 related to sons and daughters, presenting 4.7% of the total, with a slight reduction compared with the 7% of 2016.

Below is the quantitative representation of addressing rights and the comparison with the previous year:

ISSUES DEALT WITH ON PUBLIC STREETS IN %	2016	2017
RIGHT TO HEALTH	44.88%	28.53%
Access to public healthcare system: assistance	29.49%	17.57%
Access to public healthcare system: individual health card procedures	12.63%	8.19%
Psychological assistance	2.76%	2.77%
RIGHT TO TRAINING	8.94%	7.09%
Training	8.94%	7.09%
ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS	18.84%	23.02%
Access to social services	4.22%	2.86%
Coverage of basic needs	3.52%	3.80%
Right to decent housing	4.53%	4.07%
Employment	6.57%	12.28%
RIGHT TO JUSTICE	10.17%	6.42%
Legal assistance	2.56%	3.31%
Legal procedures	7.61%	3.10%
RIGHTS TO CITIZENSHIP AND FREE MOVEMENT	6.20%	6.77%

⁴The streets of Vila Olímpica where the SAS offers assistance are among the districts of Ciutat Vella and Sant Martí. For ease of managing the data, all are counted as the Sant Martí district



octoria		
Registration in the municipal register	1.73%	2.61%
Document procedures	4.47%	4.16%
RIGHT TO A LIFE FREE OF GENDER VIOLENCE	2.29%	6.67%
Violence	2.29%	6.67%
RIGHT TO INFORMATION	4.83%	6.41%
Appointment at SAS	4.83%	6.41%
OTHER	3.86%	15.10%

The methodological outlook also means that the proportion of issues dealt with during the interventions with women has varied. Nevertheless, the issues most dealt with continue to be related to the **right to health** (including sexual and reproductive health): healthcare, access to public healthcare by processing the individual health card (TSI) and psychological assistance.

SAS facilitates access to the public health service by processing the TSI. **In 2017, there were requests to process** 130 TSIs, while 115 were processed in 2016, representing an increase of 13%. 56% of applications were made by women originating from Nigeria, followed by 25% by women originating from Romania.

In the specific case of Nigerian women, the main issue preventing them from accessing the healthcare system is the lack of documents to be able to prove their identity. In other words, this concerns women often not possessing a passport or any other document, making it impossible for them to be entered in the municipal registry and, consequently, they are unable to access the Catalan Healthcare System.

Regarding Romanian women, the main difficulty is the need to present a certificate issued by the authorised social security institution of their country of origin, in order to prove it is not appropriate to export the right to perform healthcare assistance.

The second issues most dealt with in the intervention in public spaces relate to **economic and employment rights**, which include issues relating to employment (it should be remembered that in 2017, matters relating to sex work such as concern regarding a fall in income due to a lack of clients were also included), the right to decent housing, basic needs being covered and access to social services.

Regarding the section '**Miscellaneous**', this includes issues not featured in any of the previous classifications, but which are a concern for the women and they address with the street educators: the current political situation, effects of terrorist attacks and related unease, future plans in the medium and long term, visits and holidays to the countries of origin, experiences with family of origin, traditional celebrations and popular culture, leisure and culture provided, conditions of the public space, satisfaction with public services, situation in the country of origin and, connected with this issue, elements that led to migrating and carrying out sex work, etc.

In relation to the **right to a life free of gender violence**, it should be noted that issues concerning violent situations are on the increase, following the trend of the previous year: LGBTI-phobia, sexual exploitation, community violence, from clients, among sex workers, institutional, from partners or ex-partners and within the family. It must be taken into account that a fact influencing this increase is that based on various interventions focused on reflecting on the right to equality and the limits of relationships, there is greater awareness among women concerning identifying violence experienced and the need to report it, and – at the same time – information is provided on the services women have access to and the mechanisms for assisting and reporting available to them in the city.



Community intervention on public streets

During the excursions on public streets, community intervention was also performed with the aim of helping improve the sex workers' quality of life, by asking them various questions relating to the rights they have as workers and as citizens.

After observing and detecting the requirements, the team prioritised the following interventions:

- **Discussion groups with women from Nigeria**, given the high incidence of voluntary pregnancy terminations, to improve specific assistance.
- Information/training pods of a short duration and adjusted to the needs of each region and in the various time slots, for working on the street. The themes dealt with concern hygiene, contraception methods and sexual health, such as requesting healthcare from the health centre, types of violence and what to do, breach of rights and reporting, etc.
- Information and dissemination for promoting community participation: resources, services, training, leisure, cultural and community activities, etc., that were thought to be of potential interest to the women.
- **Specialised assistance:** both the legal experts and psychologists of the SAS have performed excursions on public streets to provide these services to the women and respond to their specific questions.
- **Anti-rumours task:** during the excursions on public streets, the SAS team performs an important anti-rumours task, such as the Islamophobic speeches following the attacks on Barcelona, racist and transphobic speeches, etc.

1.3. Comprehensive assistance at the SAS office

A total of 440 women were assisted at the office in 2017, an increase of 24% compared with the previous year.

	2016	2017	Variatio n
Women assisted in offices	355	440	24%
Accompaniments	953	1073	13%
Therapeutic treatment	61	91	49%
Legal advice	142	162	14%

The number of women assisted for the first time at the SAS office also saw a substantial increase, rising from 94 in 2016 to 148 in 2017, marking a 57% surge. The number of women assisted for the first time and who work in clubs and flats remained stable; the increase therefore occurred with women working on public streets. A 187% rise in reopened files should also be highlighted (from 39 in 2016 to 112 in 2017), meaning that women not seen for more than six months are being assisted again.

The number of accompaniments rose slightly in 2017 compared with 2016: from 953 in 2016 to 1,073 in 2017. SAS professionals use accompaniments as a tool for approaching women in a context different to the dynamics of a street or office, to be able to broach aspects concerning their situation and the



possible vulnerabilities they have suffered or are currently suffering (these include detecting indicators of a sexual exploitation situation), as well as strengthening the link. It also allows the women to learn about new resources in the area, and make a satisfactory referral in which arriving at the service is ensured, and that the first contact moment is a positive experience.

The accompaniments performed by the workers and social educators mainly relate to sexual and reproductive rights (accompaniments to the 'Apropa't' gynaecology service and abortion clinic) and to healthcare rights (procedures for activating the healthcare card, first accompaniments to the health centre to ensure a proper connection, emergency medical accompaniments, medical accompaniments after suffering assault, etc.). With regard to legal assistance, the accompaniments are primarily carried out for the purpose of identifying possible violations of rights, and providing the women advice in legal proceedings they are participating in, both as defendants and prosecuted parties and as accusers/plaintiffs, and for filing reports with the police. Concerning psychological assistance, the majority of accompaniments carried out relate to the right to health, which on the one hand highlights the frequency and importance of requests relating to comprehensive health and, on the other hand, the need to work on the connection/reconnection with the public healthcare system, in particular concerning mental health.

The number of women who received therapeutic treatment rose by 49% (63 in 2016 and 91 in 2017) and those who received legal advice was 162, which represents a 14% increase of women compared with the previous year, in which 142 women were assisted.

Profile of women assisted

Concerning the profile of the 355 women with an active file at the end of 2017:⁵

- The majority were migrant women (89.59% in total, stable compared with the previous year), originating mainly from Nigeria (43.1% with a slight reduction compared with the previous year), Latin America (19.72%, with a slight reduction compared with 2016) and Eastern Europe (with 19.44%), primarily from Romania. The percentage of women originating from Romania assisted by the SAS went from 5.7% in 2016 to 14.93% in 2017. This increase is not so much due to an increase in women but to more proactive intervention which has generated increased demand. The percentage of Spanish women has remained fairly stable and has gone from 9.6% in 2016 to 10.42% in 2017.
- The age bracket most represented is that of **26 to 35** (with 32% of active women), similar to the previous year. Following this, there is the same number of women aged between 18 and 25 and between 36 and 45, with 23-24% respectively.
- 88.7% were cis gender women (315 women); 11% trans women (39 women), and 0.3% men (1 man). These figures represent a slight increase in assistance for trans women, going from 7.3% in 2016 to 11% in 2017.
- In relation to the presence of children, in contrast to the trend of the last few years we find that the number of women with children (here or in the country of origin) is slightly lower than the women without children. In 2016, the percentage of women with dependent children either in the country of origin or with them was 56.9% compared with 48.73% in 2017.

⁵ The data corresponds to women assisted during 2017 and whose files were still open on 31 December 2017, i.e. they had an active work plan and had been assisted at the SAS office during the second quarter of the year.



Lines of intervention

Comprehensive assistance the SAS offers at its office focuses on three lines of intervention:

1 Individual assistance: individualised action plans

Individual assistance of the women assisted is based on defining personal paths taking each woman's needs into account, detecting possible violations of rights or violence suffered, the resources on offer and suggested actions for guaranteeing their access to rights.

The SAS offers social assistance, psychological support and legal assistance. Furthermore, the women are provided with information on other resources and services, public and private, for breaking through their isolation, informing them of the possibilities they have for community and political participation, combating social stigma, assisting their connection to general and outreach services, and providing them tools for defending their rights and reporting violations and violence suffered. If deemed appropriate, women are referred to specialised services that can respond to their needs.

2 Networking

The other line of intervention is networking, the main purpose of which is to mediate and refer women to the system of general services, through the coordination and interactions with the network of public and private resources, and institutional and inter-professional coordination with the organisations.

Coordination with other services and professionals almost doubled in 2017: there were **8,212 cases of coordination** compared with 4,129 in 2016. This rise is due to an increase in women assisted at the office and the educational interventions on public streets, as well as a greater effort to work in a coordinated fashion with the network of public services and the third sector for guaranteeing that the women we assist access their rights.

During 2017, almost half of the coordination was carried out with third-sector bodies (47%), followed by healthcare centres (17%) and social services centres (10%). Coordination with services and organisations from other municipalities only made up 5.13% of the total, a figure very similar to the previous year's figure of 6.7%.

During 2017, the SAS made **382 referrals** to organisations part of the network of resources offering assistance to women in the various sections of their individual process. Comparing this with the previous year, we can see an increase of 70%. Of the total of referrals, 98% were made within the network of resources of the municipality of Barcelona, and only 2% (7 in total) are referrals to resources of other municipalities, figures extremely similar to those of 2016.

Lastly, the networking by means of the SAS's participation in meetings, coordination committees and circuits, training conferences, etc. should be highlighted.

3 Group and community work

Community work was focused on promoting the empowerment of women and providing information on the city and access to the resources available to citizens, so that they improve their knowledge concerning the region and the resources at their disposal, have tools to access them independently and are able to broaden their social and relational network, by means of organising leisure and community-integration activities. **Community activities were boosted in 2017**, and excursions were organised so as to reinforce the connections between the women and their children, offers spaces for community work and leisure

and, on occasion, favouring family space. With these participatory activities, the group's social learning skills were revitalised, positive experiences, motivations and common commitments were shared, and communication and dialogue, integration and constructive debate were stimulated, while they learnt to put themselves into the shoes of the other people and create a space of trust and solidarity.

Themes pods were this year created for intervening in an open environment. The pods broached various issues concerning rights, and took the women's interests and needs into account. During 2017, work mainly focused on identifying and preventing gender violence, promoting access to rights and detecting possible violations, accessing the public healthcare system, sexual and reproductive rights, the right to information, etc.

Regarding psychological assistance, attention given to community intervention focused in particular on questions such as enhancing psychological health (comprehensive health, sexual health, mental health, healthy habits, leisure, promoting sisterly relations, self-healing); preventing and intervening in violence (gender and family violence, in sex work, through human trafficking for sexual exploitation, institutional and racist); information on their rights as citizens, knowledge of the environment, services and resources, and inter-cultural work, based on collective and individual empowerment and validation, to be used as a bridge between the culture of origin and that of the host country.

Specifically, coordination has been performed with various actors in the area, work has been promoted in an interdisciplinary manner, psychological training has been provided to all SAS professionals, psychologists have made outreach excursions to bring their service closer to the women who have not yet accessed the office and to attend to one-off cases, and two group interventions were carried out, a psycho-social group and a bio-dance group.

Based on this community outlook, the service has also taken part in various spaces for coordinating, training and raising awareness among professionals between Barcelona's services and organisations:

- *Circuit against gender violence* in the districts of Ciutat Vella, Sant Martí, Les Corts and Eixample, with the aim of working in a coordinated manner with all of the actors involved in gender-violence situations in the city.
- Group work on indicators of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation (HTSE), for contrasting the suspicion factors used for detecting possible victims.
- Health and sex work committee, the aim of which is to establish a common framework for cooperation and action among the main management units, bodies and organisations of the authorised department concerning health regarding preventing, checking for and caring for HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and Viral Hepatitis (VH), for planning, boosting, coordinating and assessing the actions carried out in Catalonia with the aim of reducing the incidence of these infections and improving assistance for people affected.
- **Emergency committees for gender violence and sex work**, the aim of which is to guarantee coordination between the services in cases of gender violence suffered by sex workers.
- Group work of the Raval Community Health Committee, a meeting space, joint dialogue and work among various actors in the region with the aim of promoting efforts on the part of the community to increase the monitoring of causal health factors in the Raval neighbourhood, taking its population diversity into account, as well as its needs and weaknesses.



- **Subcommittees of the ABIT Agency's Expert Committee**, in the sessions of the public space and the employment subcommittee.

- The ABITS Agency's group work on sexual and reproductive health.

The SAS also presented itself to other services so as to establish a network, training sessions were carried out for people interested in the service (mainly post and undergraduate students concerning social studies and gender violence), and they received two work placement students: one studying social educational at the Facultat Pere Tarrés and the other studying a Master's in psychological intervention at the UB.

Lastly, it should be highlighted that the SAS provided advice to professionals from municipal services and organisations in relation to persons carrying out sex work. Fifty-six advice sessions were performed in 2017, up by 9.8% on 2016. Of the 56 advice sessions, 46 were in Barcelona's services (82.14%). It should be highlighted that 25% of advice sessions were performed in social services centres, and 20% in other public services.

ISSUES DEALT WITH AT THE OFFICE IN %	2016	2017
Right to health	24.06%	21.64%
Access to public healthcare system: healthcare	14.40%	12.36%
Access to public healthcare system: individual health card procedures	4.22%	3.95%
Psychological assistance	5.44%	5.33%
RIGHT TO TRAINING	10.25%	8.77%
Training	10.25%	8.77%
ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS	25.95%	32.25%
Access to social services	5.86%	8.84%
Coverage of basic needs	6.00%	8.69%
Right to decent housing	7.32%	7.72%
Employment	6.78%	7.00%
RIGHT TO JUSTICE	16.11%	14.15%
Legal assistance	7.13%	7.72%
Legal procedures	8.98%	6.43%
RIGHTS TO CITIZENSHIP AND FREE MOVEMENT	11.64%	9.94%
Registration in the municipal register	3.29%	2.77%
Document procedures	8.36%	7.17%
RIGHT TO A LIFE FREE OF GENDER VIOLENCE	2.73%	3.70%
Violence	2.73%	3.70%
RIGHT TO INFORMATION	7.97%	5.46%
Appointment at SAS	7.97%	5.46%
OTHER	1.29%	4.10%

Requirements and requests gathered at the office



Firstly, it should be highlighted that the number of requests recorded at the office in 2017 is not comparable with that of 2016, since this year the requests recorded concerning legal and psychological assistance were also gathered, which until now had not been gathered.

The issues most handled during 2017 were related to **economic and employment rights** at 32.25% in 2017. This was higher than in 2016, which was 26%. Those that increased most, proportionately, were related to access to social services and covering basic needs. This increase was due to the women's needs, who continued to be in a precarious economic situation and who, during this year, noticed a reduction in income for sex work, and also because the SAS gave special relevance to the women's link with general and outreach services for resolving their needs and guaranteeing access to rights.

The second type of requests most made were related to the right to health, at 21.64%. The third type of needs were related to access to justice and performing legal procedures, at 14.15%.

Right to health

The SAS's role is extremely important because it guarantees and facilitates the right to health to women unable to access healthcare by the usual route, and it offers them accompaniment in the process of **joining the public healthcare system**. Guaranteeing that users have an individual health card (TSI) and know how to access the health services is always a priority for accessing healthcare. Moreover, the TSI is the main entry route to the service for women who have not been assisted in any resource previously. <u>During 2017, 66.2% of women provided with the TSI had never been assisted at the SAS office, and neither had many ever attended other resources.</u> As a result, processing the TSI is of highly relevant importance, since it improves access to rights for women who have never come to the office and lets them learn about the SAS and the public healthcare system, thus opening up to them the possibility of access to other fundamental rights. **Of the women assisted up to 31 December 2017, 95% had a health card,** a proportion that has remained stable in recent years.

As mentioned above, 130 health cards were processed in 2017, mainly to women from Nigeria (56%) and Romania (25%) working primarily on the streets of the Ciutat Vella district during the night, followed by those who do so in Ciutat Vella during the day.

Lastly, it should be highlighted that the SAS also facilitates access to sexual rights, by broadening their knowledge, as well as preventing STDs, contraception, gynaecological care and abortions.

In relation to sexual health, work is performed:

- in a cross-departmental manner during specialised assistance, as well as in an open environment using specific information pods during community intervention; accompanying women requiring this to the Apropa't service (primary-care centres of Manso, Numància and Drassanes), a weekly gynaecological care space offered to sex workers and that aims to provide them access and respond to their requirements;
- accompanying women requesting this in the voluntary termination process. Specifically, the SAS performed 43 voluntary pregnancy-termination accompaniments in 2017.



Within the right to health, the SAS's psychological assistance focuses on the following lines:

The thematic line of comprehensive health, understood as physical, emotional and social health and not only as an absence of illness, has been worked on through 228 requests with a total of 78 women, representing 44.61% of the total of requests managed regarding psychological assistance. Mental health has been the most frequent request within this line. Many of the women assisted arrive to psychological assistance with considerable unease, and symptoms of anxiety disorder related to various problems are frequent. A large portion of women experience or have experienced situations leading them to develop mental disorders, such as symptoms comparable with post-traumatic stress syndrome. Other aspects dealt with within this line are health deficiencies and economic and family responsibilities, which often cause the women a high degree of anxiety and unease that visibly affects their health. In terms of psychological assistance, work is performed on offering greater capacity to manage emotions and creating spaces for self-healing and empowerment, allowing them to live their daily lives in a more satisfactory manner.

The line of gender violence has been worked on through 184 requests with a total of 63 women, representing 36% of the total of requests managed regarding psychological assistance. The majority of requests relating to violence are not explicit and the same assistance process must accompany the woman in identifying the violence she suffers. The most frequent narratives feature a high percentage of women who minimise the violence and deem it socially accepted within their employment activity. In this sense, this facilitates noticing violence and sexism in everyday life, it helps women to awaken in themselves alarms that help them to protect themselves, and to learn to ask for help when they need it and to learn about the existing reporting mechanisms.

Community violence relates to attacks and violence in the context of sex work, both in enclosed spaces and on the street. The impact of the legal processes, when they are both accusers and accused, usually cause the women severe symptoms of anxiety, accentuated by the various lines of oppression, which place them in a more vulnerable situation (poverty, sex work, race, etc.). These requests mainly refer to unease they have concerning decision-making for filing a report or to emotional support for confronting risks and the advantages the legal process provides. This area also includes the violence women suffer due to migration policies that categorise them as irregular, meaning they are unable to access basic rights such as working in the formal market, subsidised housing, free movement as citizens, etc. In these cases, psychological assistance focuses on a process of recovering their identity as a person, not as someone undocumented (which is the stigma they experience) and helps them to construct themselves lifestyles with their own resources and to reinforce their social network. The focus on rights included has led to certain women identifying cases of racism in situations in which they were involved legally.

Within SAS's psychological assistance and within the comprehensive intervention methodology offered, we can draw certain reflections concerning the mental health of the women assisted. There is considerable difficulty when it comes to identifying themselves as victims of the crime of human trafficking, and there is no explicit request for emotional assistance for repairing psychological damage or healing the damage of the traumatic experience. In general, women are overwhelmed with severe symptoms of anxiety and depression, altered states of consciousness, self-destructive personalities and clinical symptoms of mental confusion, in which people fail to relate these symptoms with the situation experienced within sexual exploitation. Crisis situations are therefore at times confronted, when the trigger is an external emergency situation due to precarious environmental conditions, because their basic needs are not covered or because their physical safety is threatened. In 2017, psychological assistance was worked on in coordination with the UTEH in cases where this was necessary.



In the **employment** line, work was performed on 59 requests out of a total of 47 women, presenting 11.54% of the total of requests managed regarding psychological assistance. The main request of the employment line was psychological assistance in the job-seeking process.

Lastly, work was performed on 45 requests relating to the **sex-work experience**, with a total of 43 women, representing 8.41% of the total of requests managed regarding psychological assistance. This line includes experiencing the stigma, which runs across all the women's narrative, affecting their health and generating difficulties in expressing it as damage suffered and inflicted socially, and which comes to represent the area of their lives most affected. In this case, with regard to the field of psychology, it can be stated that the percentage of women assisted who suffer from stigma is extremely high and present in the lives of almost all of the women who consult, since it is closely interrelated to all work lines. It is also noted that the more stigma there is, the greater the risk of the presence of addictive behaviours, both alcohol and other drugs.

Ninety-one women were assisted throughout 2017, representing a 49.1% increase compared with 2016, with issues not only related to sex work, but also to violence, addictive behaviour, mental health and a lack of basic needs; situations obliging them to be referred to specialised resources.

With regard to the profile of women assisted in psychological assistance, **the slight increase in the proportion of trans women assisted in recent years, which was 20% in 2017**, must be highlighted.

Concerning the countries of origin of the women assisted, **47% hail from Latin America**, and those coming from **African countries** (Nigeria, Morocco, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon) **represent 17.5% of the total of women assisted** in psychological assistance. These proportions are very different from those of the women originating from the countries assisted by the SAS. This change in the proportion of women originating from Latin America and African countries in psychological assistance is mainly determined by cultural and language factors and, in the case of Nigerian women, they are also considered to be influenced by the fact they are victims of HTSE (many of the women from Nigeria assisted by the SAS display indications of having been the victim of this). **Women of Spanish origin represent 19% of the population assisted**, double compared with the previous year, and **women from Eastern Europe make up 14% of the total**.

Economic and employment rights

As mentioned above, one of the issues most dealt relating to economic rights concerns basic needs being covered. To respond to this, SAS encourages the women to access social services, by means of linking the women to the basic social services of their region, since access to resources is much more direct and the woman's situation can be assisted in a comprehensive manner. The follow-up performed by the SAS, in coordination with social services, mean the women improve their living conditions, they are linked to the region and it helps the independence process they start to progress positively.

The SAS also manages economic assistance for covering basic needs until the women have joined social services centres, as well as in cases of women with difficulties in accessing social services since they don't belong to Barcelona city (because they have no document proving their identity or are unable to register in the municipal registry), or if they have some emergency.

The <u>economic aid</u> the SAS provides, processed by the ABITS Agency, is divided into two types: one-off emergency aid and nominal economic aid. One-off emergency aid is used for covering low-cost expenses, such as medication, transport, administrative taxes, registering for training, etc. Nominal aid is always non-

urgent in nature and is directly associated with the objectives and actions of its beneficiary's work plan in the SAS. It is intended for supporting long personal processes and might be for rent, transport or food, if not covered by Social Services.

One-off emergency aid

More aid was granted in 2017 than in the previous year, and in larger amounts: 231 separate grants were given (36 more than in the previous year, with a 16% increase) amounting to a total of €6,414.19, which is €420.42 more than in the previous year and a 7% increase. This data shows how the women assisted at the SAS continue to be in a situation of high vulnerability that has become more acute in recent years due to the economic crisis.

The majority of the emergency economic aid (61.87%) is intended to cover expenses relating to paying for public transport, primarily to guarantee access to education and training, as well as guaranteeing attendance to appointments and interviews the woman may have scheduled. The one-off aid for maintenance and mediation represents 13.31% and 11.87% of the total of emergency aid respectively, and this is intended for guaranteeing that the basic needs of women in situations that may arise are covered. In this sense, the aim is to guarantee that the women's economic and employment rights and the access to health are covered until other, more permanent actions are commenced, such as joining the social services centre referred to or managing nominal aid.

Nominal economic help

This aid is of an exceptional nature for covering needs that prevent or hinder the continuation of a certain process the user is undertaking, or that hinder certain minimal living conditions, and it also prevents the deterioration of extreme social situations, such as evictions. In relation to the requests for nominal economic aid, it was granted 91 times in 2017, 47 times less than in 2016, representing a 34.05% reduction in the number of times it was granted. The quantity has risen to \pounds 20,153.19, representing a 42.13% reduction compared with the previous year, when \pounds 34,931.12 was granted. Aside from the fact the aid issued by the UTEH is not counted, the main explanation for this phenomenon concerns the internal strategic line of working jointly with the general services and linking the women to the corresponding social services centre, especially when there are needs of an economic nature.

The distribution of the aid focuses primarily on aid intended for paying rent, maintenance and public transport, with the sum intended for paying rent being highlighted. The difficulties in access and retaining subsidised housing was one of the rights issues most dealt with throughout 2017, which is also reflected in the economic aid managed by the SAS. The requirements for accessing a rental agreement, the rise in prices, the lack of accommodation resources and the limitations of public resources for covering this expense were some of the main reasons that justify this percentage.

In relation to the profile of women receiving this aid, standing out are women originating from Nigeria, not just because they are the most numerous group in relation to the total of women assisted by the SAS, but also due to the special situation of vulnerability they find themselves in, accentuated by the difficulty in accessing the benefits of the social protection system (because there are not registered in the municipal registry, are in an irregular administrative situation, live outside Barcelona, etc.). Moreover, we must consider that many of the women display many of the indicators of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, which leaves them in a severe vulnerable economic situation.

To guarantee the right to subsidised housing, work is also performed in coordination with Social Services so that the women are able to take part in various processes for the awarding of officially protected housing; likewise, they are offered support for acquiring housing independently or using their social network when this is possible. Lastly, work is also performed in a coordinated manner with the network's

private organisations that have resources available. Other requests arrive from women who find themselves without a home: in these cases, work is performed in coordination with the Social Integration Service.

The issues dealt with in relation to the employment aspect include sex work (reduction in clients and, therefore, income, and the worry this causes), improving employability, access to the formal labour market, discrimination in accessing work (especially transphobia), etc. To guarantee the right to access the formal labour market and improving the employability of the women who want this, those in both a regular and an irregular situation, they are informed of the options they have, as well as the services and bodies that can assist them, and the necessary referrals and coordination is made with the network's resources, both the general services and the specific projects for sex workers.

Right to justice

Legal assistance focuses on empowering the women effectively, so that they can manage their legal and administrative disputes and use the law as a tool for improving their personal situation, and to avoid situations of discrimination or secondary victimisation. The involvement in defending their rights empowers them to break free from exclusion and to develop social and personal habits transferable to all of their everyday realities.

One of the most important functions of this legal-assistance model is to monitor that the rights of women carrying out sex work are not violated for this reason or, if they are violated, that they can identify and carry out all actions focused on repairing and restoring the rights violated, and to undertake actions for defending them through filing reports if necessary, or providing access to other specific services that can instigate public advocacy proceedings.

Another of the lawyers' objectives is the coordination carried out by the legal service with other professionals who intervene in the lives of the women assisted. This coordination is necessary, from any point of view, for guaranteeing that the women's fundamental rights are exercised or accessed. One-off accompaniments with women are also performed in this line, in which the legal experts act as observers that their rights are effectively exercised and in various fields. Once an incidence or violation has been detected, measures are taken to bring this to light and to undertake appropriate actions.

On the other hand, as practising professionals, the lawyers are internally the link bringing in everyday experience, which is applied to effectively resolve the issues raised, both on the part of users and those of other professionals. Moreover, they also provide training to the SAS team so that the educators and social workers can correctly advise the users both at the office and during excursions on public streets.

The legal service focuses on assistance, advice and accompanying women, in the following branches of law: penal, family, employment, immigration, administration and also in questions of housing. The task the lawyers perform has three branches: Management and procedures (in immigration processes and processes with other public administrative bodies: Tax Office Municipal Institute, fines by by-laws, and procedural documents with trials in which legal assistance is not mandatory); assistance and follow-up that complements, provides and reinforces the free legal service, and accompaniments, mainly to trials and to file reports with the police.

One hundred and sixty-two women were assisted in 2017, there were 368 legal-advice interviews and 72 legal accompaniments to public and private bodies. Comparing the **2017 data with that of 2016, there is a 11.4% increase in the number of women who received legal advice** and, consequently, in interviews and accompaniments conducted.



Profile of women assisted in legal matters

With regard to the profile of women assisted in the legal-assistance service in 2017:

- 45.68% were women from Nigeria (74 women); 6.17%, from Morocco (10 women); 1.85% from Equatorial Guinea (3 women) and 0.62% from Cameroon (1 woman);
- 26.54% were women from Latin America (43 women);
- 9.88% were from Spain (16 women);
- 8.02% were women from Eastern European countries (13 women);
- And 0.62% came from the Netherlands (1 woman) and another 0.62% from China (1 woman).

Most of the women assisted were Nigerian, coinciding with the general trend found with the service. The Nigerian women are the ones who present the highest number of cases of penalties and disputes with security bodies, and are the main victims of institutional violence and re-victimisation.

Types of requests

The right to immigration assistance is what unites the majority of requests at 52.48% and, specifically, since many of the women assisted are in an irregular administrative situation – because they never had residency or because they had this but lost it, for various reasons – the regularisation of women with children was recorded as the most frequent request in 2017. The information provided from legal assistance has therefore focused on the following procedures: 'rooting', exceptional circumstances, EU residency and regularising children who are minors.

2017 also saw an increase in women wishing to initiate procedures for applying for international protection, by means of asylum. It must be highlighted that no case relating to extradition proceedings due to irregularity was dealt with in 2017. We attribute this to the fact there is less police pressure on the street in identification tasks, as well as the effect of the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights on the penalties to be imposed – fine or extradition – due to not having regularised the residence situation.

Given the irregular administrative situation of many of the women assisted, as well as due to the social exclusion they experience as a result of this and also for carrying out sex work, the women find themselves immersed in legal proceedings of various kinds when it comes to reports as victims. The difficulty they often have in understanding how our legal state operates and its system also means they suffer various forms of secondary victimisation.

The second most frequent request in legal assistance relates to **penal issues** and with consultations for proceedings for minor offences in which women are often accused of street theft when carrying out their work, mainly mobile telephones from tourists. With the amendment to the Penal code of 2015, the legal precedents of offences – which did not generate penal precedents – have been converted into minor offences, with the same functional dynamics in the legal proceedings, but with more serious consequences in cases of sentencing, since they **involve penal precedents that hinder the regularisation of the administrative situation**.

The legal experts accompany the women both in the preparation before the trial and during the legal proceedings, although not as defence but rather observing that all of the legal guarantees inherent to the proceedings are complied with, such as guaranteeing the assistance of an interpreter in proceedings or the option of requesting a public defender. Observing these trials has revealed the **institutional violence** they suffer. For instance, in many cases they are sentenced without providing them space to explain their version; since the presumed victims are tourists and they do not attend the trial, the only witness to the

events is that of the police (who is witness and accuser at the same time); scant information is given to women and there is not always a high-quality translation service.

It must also be highlighted that in the majority of cases, the women are involved as the accused in the criminal proceedings. The women are not used to exercising their rights and reporting crimes perpetrated against them, since they normalise violence, and in the case of women in an irregular administrative situation, they fear the consequences that reporting might entail for them. Nevertheless, the majority of reports filed relate to gender violence and physical aggression on public streets and in private.

An increase relating to evictions and interventions with bodies responsible for managing housing must also be highlighted. Attempts are made to halt the eviction by means of amicable agreements with the actors intervening (lawyers, property agents), once the proceedings have started in or out of court.

Another request that has also increased substantially has been information for women for applying for international protection, particularly during the second quarter. The team of legal experts has collaborated with two bodies that work as specialists in these proceedings – CEAR and ACCEM – in order to make swift and appropriate referrals for protecting the women effectively.

Rights to citizenship and free movement

One of the basic rights of citizenship and free movement is the access to the procedure for registration in the municipal register which at the same time offers women access to other rights such as health and social services, etc. Moreover, it is the first step in the process for regularising the administrative situation based on social rooting, one of the main routes used by the women assisted by the SAS.

With regard to the women living within Barcelona city, the SAS provides access to the right to citizenship by means of issuing residency knowledge reports so that the women can register without a fixed addressed in the city. During 2017, a total of 96 registrations were performed compared with 70 in 2016, representing an increase of 37.14%.

Despite this rise, up to 31 December 2017 only 69.86% of the women with an active file at the SAS had exercised this right and were registered, representing a 10% drop compared with the previous year. The main reason for not being registered on the municipal register was that many of the Nigerian women assisted in the service had no documents to identify themselves with, making registration impossible for them. Other reasons included living outside Barcelona in municipalities where registration could not be processed without a fixed addressed and sharing with other people (flats or rooms) who did not want more people registered or who charged a sum of money for allowing it. In this sense, the SAS's task is to guide these procedures being carried out through the channels stipulated in the municipality where the woman resides.

The women who received assistance with their papers in order, on 31 December 2017 was 54.62% (40.17% regular permanently, and 14.45% temporarily), a figure remaining stable compared with the 52.31% of 2016, probably because the number of Nigerian women assisted, as the highest percentage of women without their papers in order, also remained stable. The request for processing documents associated with the administrative situation represented 7.17% of the total requests the office received.

The intervention plan with women finding themselves in an irregular administrative situation entails certain specific difficulties, since certain organisations and basic resources do not attend to people in this situation. This is the reason why one of the tasks of the legal team is to advise women so that they can regularise their situation and apply for asylum in the cases where this is possible. Moreover, during this year, special attention was paid in coordination with the UTEH so that women with indicators of HTES were aware of the possibilities of regularising their situation through Article 59 bis.



This circumstance benefits women who are in a more vulnerable situation and who have considerable difficulties accessing certain rights such as subsidised housing, access to the employment market, registering in the municipal register, requesting benefits or processing the health card in the normal manner. These difficulties mean that, on occasions, the woman's process is focused on resolving the bureaucratic procedures which makes it difficult to work on the basic and structural aspects of their lives. This situation is particularly serious in the case of women without any identification documents, which is a highly common situation with women originating from Nigeria. In this case, the first step is to acquire a passport, although this is not possible in many cases, since they lack the economic resources for this procedure.

Right to a life free of gender violence

As explained in the sections above, the SAS works on promoting access to rights for the women assisted, so that they can identify possible violations and gender violence they have suffered. This task is particularly important, since due to the intersectionality of the discrimination they suffer on account of gender, race, class, stigma of prostitution, etc. and the violence this entails, they often normalise the situations of injustice they experience without identifying them and, therefore, without being able to defend their rights. Moreover, these experiences very often result in feelings of guilt and isolation arising.

2017 saw work carried out in detecting, identifying and intervening in cases of violence suffered by women in various spheres of their lives, with the aim of guaranteeing basic rights and preventing these being violated. In the office context, there was a focus on preventing new episodes and initiating internal and external resources, both for protection and for comprehensive recovery, economic health resources and physical and emotional well-being; the Legal Service focused on the women being able to receive information on their legal rights and on the options for reporting (both legally and through organisations such as the 'Non-Discrimination Office'), and the psychological assistance service worked on the detection, evaluation and awareness of risks, the methods of self-protection and reducing psychological damage based on group work, as well as activating the 'non-contributory job seeker's allowance' (RAI) for providing autonomy in the change process. In all of these cases, value is placed on the suitability of referring to specific assistance resources for violence, or working on this in a coordinated manner.

Specifically, in the work carried out in the office by psychologists (see rights to health: psychological assistance) and the educators and social workers, gender violence on the part of the sexual/emotional partner features most prominently in the intervention. Work has been carried out on various levels in different areas, in which the initial elements were active listening, emotional containment, accompaniment and creating a link of trust in order to start the process of identification and recovery on the part of the woman, as well as using – in 22 cases – the 'Risk of Violence toward Women' protocol (RVD-Bcn). Coordination with specific resources in the case of violence has been carried out, mainly with the 'Service for Assistance, Recovery and Care for Gender Violence' (SARA) and with the 'Espai Adriana', for addressing cases in a joint manner and for referring them. Fifteen social benefits have also been processed for victims of the crimes of gender violence (RAI).

However, in the legal sphere, the two forms of violence most identified are institutional and community violence. During 2017, cases of transphobia and community gender violence were also detected in the area of sex work, both physical (abuse and aggression) or employment-related (precarious working conditions) and psychological.



1.4. Approach of the Social and Educational Assistance Service (SAS) when women are victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation (HTSE)

As a team with a presence in the open environment, the SAS is responsible for detecting possible victims of HTSE. It is therefore a team that obtains information on the situation of the women such as the areas where they suspect forced sex work is carried out. All of this information is shared with the 'Anti-Human Trafficking Unit' (UTEH) of Barcelona City Council, and how to intervene is decided in a coordinated manner.

On 31 December 2017, there were 147 women with an active file⁶ at the service who presented indicators of being possible victims of HTSE, in other words **41.41% of the total.** It must be taken into account that this situation may be current, although it might also have been experienced in the past.

Social and educational intervention with possible victims of sexual exploitation is characterised by being complex intervention depending not only on dialogue maintained with the person throughout normal educational intervention, but also on other specific, observable indicators. Establishing a relationship of trust with women displaying indicators of being victims of HTSE enables these indicators to be demonstrated more clearly, in cases in which the person is unable or unwilling to express the situation they are in, and at the same time encourages easier dialogue between this person and the professionals.

We can establish the following as objectives of the SAS's intervention with possible victims of HTSE:

- Identifying HTSE indicators or sexual exploitation;
- Informing users who display these indicators of their rights as possible victims;
- Accompanying users displaying indicators of being HTSE victims, but don't identify this, in making them aware of this reality through social, educational and psychological monitoring.
- Jointly with the UTEH, accompanying and assisting users who are possible victims of HTSE until it is deemed appropriate to refer to the UTEH.

⁶ These data only include women assisted at the office, since there are no details of the women who are only assisted on the street.



2. <u>SERVICE FOR WOMEN PERFORMING SEX WORK IN ENCLOSED SPACES</u> (PREMISES, CLUBS AND FLATS)

Three of the city's organisations are providing assistance for sex workers who carry out their work in private spaces: **Lloc de la Dona** (which visits premises in the districts of Sants-Montjuïc, Les Corts, Eixample, Sant Andreu and Gràcia), **Creu Roja** (in the districts of Eixample, Sarrià - Sant Gervasi, Les Corts, Gràcia and Sant Martí) and **Genera** (which visits in the districts of Eixample, Sants-Montjuïc, Les Corts, Sarrià - Sant Gervasi and Horta-Guinardó), **in collaboration with the Barcelona City Council through subsidies.**The aim of this line of intervention is to provide comprehensive assistance to sex workers working in closed spaces with comprehensive attention (in terms of health, social, legal, psychological, etc.), promote their empowerment, and help them to effectively exercise their rights so that they can make progress in controlling their lives independently by accessing their rights and detecting and preventing any violence they may be experiencing.

The information provided below only refers to the visited places, but it cannot be extrapolated as significant at city scale, or for all the city's closed spaces or the women working there.

2.1. Spaces visited

ENCLOSED SPACES VISITED REGULARLY ACCORDING TO DISTRICT	2015 Number	2016 Number	2017 Number
Sarrià - Sant Gervasi	9	9	14
Sants-Montjuïc	32	32	9
Les Corts	24	25	14
Eixample	74	82	79
Sant Martí	0	1	1
Sant Andreu	0	0	1
Gràcia	0	0	3
Horta-Guinardó	3	6	3
TOTAL	142	155	124

The regularly visited private places in 2017 offering sexual services were as follows:

As for types of places visited, in 2017 they were as follows:

ENCLOSED SPACES REGULARLY VISITED ACCORDING TO TYPE	2015 Number	2016 Number	2017 Number
Clubs ⁷	13	11	23
Flats	94	96	68
Sex clubs	20	29	20
Massage or relax parlours	15	17	12
Other	0	2	1
TOTAL	142	155	124



During 2017, there was a significant drop in spaces visited regularly in the districts of Sants-Montjuïc and Les Corts. According to the Lloc de la Dona organisation, certain spaces have been closed down or have changed address, with women moving around a lot. If a significant number of women monitored change place of work, the organisation goes to the new space. This year, many new spaces have been surveyed.

Continuing with the trend of recent years, the spaces most visited were flats, representing 54%, although this reduced proportionally (in 2016, flats represented 62% of the total of premises visited).

The number of pole-dancing clubs and massage/relax venues visited remained stable and the number of clubs increased substantially from 7% in 2016 to 18% in 2017.

Capacity of the closed places visited	2016	Percentage (%)	2017	Percentage (%)
Between 1 and 5 women	79	50.97%	46	37.10%
Between 6 and 10 women	43	27.74%	37	29.84%
Between 11 and 20 women	28	18.06%	31	25.00%
Over 20 women	1	0.65%	7	5.65%
Unknown	3	1.94%	3	2.42%
Independent	1	0.65%	0	0.00%
TOTAL	155	97%	124	98%

As for the capacities of the visited places:

It can be seen that **there is a downward trend in enclosed spaces where a lower number of women work** (between 1 and 5), **and an increase in the rest of the spaces with a higher capacity.** What stands out in particular is the increase in spaces visited with a capacity of more than 20 women, which went from 1 in 2016 to 7 in 2017. Based on the data on the enclosed spaces visited, a trend can be detected of small flats or those with few women working there closing down, with the women moving to larger spaces and where a higher number of women work.

2.2. Comprehensive assistance at the office: women assisted who carry out sex work in enclosed spaces

The number of women assisted in offices in a comprehensive and individual manner was 567, a figure representing an increase of 8.62% compared with 2016, when 522 women were assisted. The three organisations recorded this increase, even though they visited fewer spaces. This is mainly down to the

fact that more women work in the spaces visited, that women working in spaces not visited are assisted (because they have learned of the organisations through a recommendation of a companion or because they previously worked in spaces that were visited), and to the consolidation of the link between sex workers and the organisations throughout the years of assistance. More than half of women assisted at the office (55.38%) were there for the first time during 2017.

Profile of women assisted

The women who received individualised assistance in the offices of organisations that visit closed places were mainly migrants (92.06%) and of very diverse origins; most originated from Latin America, representing (61.90%), the most representative countries were the Dominican Republic (14.99%), Venezuela (11.64), Colombia (11.11%), Brazil (7.41%), Paraguay (3.53%) and Ecuador (3.17%). 13.05% were originally from Eastern Europe (mostly from Romania, representing 9.70%), 8.82% from Europe (7.94% from Spain), 3.35% from Africa (2.47% from Morocco) and three women from Asia (all from China).

Comparing this data with that of 2016, women originating from Latin America increased slightly, going from 60.34% to 61.90%. Attention should be drawn to the significant rise in women originating from Venezuela, some of them having migrated recently, who became the second-most represented nationality with 66 women, only behind the Dominican Republic with 85 women. There was also a slight increase in the number of women originating from Colombia, while those coming from Brazil remained stable and those from the Dominican Republic and Ecuador fell significantly. The number of women assisted originating from Europe, both those from Eastern European countries and those from Spain, remained stable. The number of women originating from African countries also remained stable; the most numerous were those from Morocco.

As for the ages of the women assisted, **the most representative range was between 26 and 35 years**, though the percentage distribution was not available, seeing as not all the organisations used the same interval distribution.

2.3. Access to rights

The requests collected were as follows:

Types of requests	2016 Number	2016 Percentage (%)	2017 Number	2017 Percentage (%)
Health	796	62.83%	912	66.18%
Social	185	14.60%	168	12.19%
Training and employment	79	6.24%	64	4.64%
Legal	146	11.52%	143	10.38%
Other (violence)	61	4.81%	91	6.60%
TOTAL	1267	100%	1378	100%

The requests made by women performing sex work in closed places related to access to healthcare and represented 66.18% of the total. These types of requests are mainly over sexual and reproductive healthcare and relate to the processing of health cards, STI prevention and psychological assistance. The second most common requests were social ones, including covering basic needs (food, transport, child care, clothes), access to decent housing and empowerment processes (including all initiatives to do with taking on the stigma faced by sex workers and which strengthen individual and collective resistance strategies).



ADMINISTRATI VE SITUATION	Number of women 2015	2015 %	Number of women 2016	2016 %	Number of women 2017	2017 %
Regular	353	65.61%	364	69.73%	328	57.85%
Irregular	78	14.50%	142	27.20%	120	21.16%
Unknown	107	19.89%	16	3.07%	119	20.99%
TOTAL	538	100%	522	100%	567	100%

Rights to citizenship and free movement

The women who received individual assistance had, for the most part, their papers in order, representing 57.85%; 21.16% did not have their papers in order and nothing was known about the administrative status of the remaining 20.99%. It must be taken into account that, among the women in a regular administrative situation, there are those who are so because they are from the EU, even though some of them did not have a work permit since they had been unable to process the identity number of foreign nationals (NIE), as well as those who had a valid visa at the time they were assisted. The women in a regular administrative situation by means of a visa mainly originated from Venezuela and had recently arrived; they are therefore usually in a regular administrative situation for the first three months through the tourist visa and, during this period, usually start the procedure for claiming asylum.

The women whose papers were not in order and EU nationals without the NIE had their rights violated, as they had fewer options for accessing social, health-care, training and job-placement resources and more difficulties in being able to find decent housing, formal labour-market work etc. Hence the raised number of these women's requests for support observed.

As mentioned above, the most common requests had to do with access to healthcare, notable among which were those to do with **individual health cards** (TSI) enabling women to realise their right to healthcare and to independently manage their relations with the healthcare services. More specifically, the women were provided with information relating to the processing and renewal of healthcare cards, with advice and accompaniment over processing renewals though the standardised circuit, where possible, or under specific programmes by the Department of Health, and with explanations on how they were run. This year women were encountered who, although they had the TSI, it had been deactivated and they had therefore performed the procedures required to be able to access the public healthcare system. Specifically, 94 TSIs were applied for through the Department of Health's programme for preventing and caring for AIDS.

Responses were also given to requests made by the women to register on the municipal register of residents as a basic document for accessing any type of right, by means of a circuit of referral through the SAS-ABIT, enabling women without a fixed residence in Barcelona city to register; foreign-national assistance was offered (including requests for processing and renewing NIEs (foreign tax ID numbers) and nationality) and support for passport renewals.

Right to health

Most requests relating to access to healthcare had to do with sexual and reproductive health. The women were offered individual and confidential assistance in response, either through visits to offices, consultations by phone or using systems such as WhatsApp; healthcare accompaniments were made when



so required by the women (due to a lack of familiarity with the healthcare system, language etc.) and in the case of abortions; and information, advice and connection to the network of healthcare resources was provided. Moreover, information and advice was also provided on promoting health to those owning and running the venues. Note the following initiatives in this section:

<u>'Apropa't' [Come Over]</u> service:

Most healthcare requests were for fast and agile gynaecological check-ups, analyses and STI-detection examinations. The PASSIR services (Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights Programme) at the Manso, Numància and Drassanes primary healthcare centres offered, under the 'Apropa't' programme, a weekly gynaecological space for sex workers thereby enabling a fast and quality response to these requests. The organisations informed the women of this service, provided them with access to it and, where necessary, accompanied them. What is more, advantage was taken of this space to enhance links with the women, by promoting a personal and confidential space that could also be used for clearing up health queries, detecting possible situations of violence and violation of rights.

The high demand for this service showed the difficulties the women could have in establishing a direct relationship with healthcare services, both because they lacked a guaranteed right to public healthcare due to language difficulties, a lack of involvement in interculturality or because of the social stigma attached, even among healthcare services staff (public services), preventing the sex workers from exercising their rights, even where their formal rights were guaranteed.

Healthcare workshops in places where sex work is carried out:

For the purposes of offering information and advice in the field of healthcare, promoting spaces for dialogue, experience exchanges and mutual help and evaluating the women's knowledge and disproving possible incorrect beliefs, group workshops on sexual health and reproduction in work spaces were held. The issues dealt with were: transmittable diseases (such as HIV, hepatitis, syphilis, human papillomavirus, chlamydia, candidiasis or bacterial vaginosis), contraceptive methods, preventing unwanted pregnancies, preventing drug dependences, promoting healthy habits, safe sex, sexual health, intimate hygiene (in certain cases, excessive hygiene habits have been detected), nutrition, healing your own body, gender violence, stigma, etc.

Within the framework of the organisation Genera, two working groups were set up on issues relating to sexual and reproductive health, in which 28 women took part. The issues dealt with were: right to health to guarantee your own well-being; knowledge of your own body; knowledge of your own physical and emotional health relating to stress, fatigue, etc.; prophylactics (particularly the female condom); excessive hygiene habits; use of material for continuing to work during menstruation; frequencies of analyses and check-ups, and risky practices. Moreover, workshops focusing on stigma, violence and employment issues also feature health-related issues such as excessive hygiene habits, the right to public healthcare or the right to high-quality healthcare.

The Red Cross of Catalonia organised 32 workshops or discussion groups in clubs and flats on various issues such as intimate hygiene, preventing STIs, contraceptive methods, nutrition and sleep, employment rights, the stigma of sex work, employment climate, etc. These are spaces that are used for clearing up queries and debunking myths relating to sexual and reproductive health. Moreover, information leaflets in various languages are distributed during the visits on STIs, contraception methods, intimate hygiene and other things. 207 women took part in it.

Within the framework of the 'Lloc de la Dona' project, ten workshops were organised on sexual and reproductive health at the workplace, provided by a midwife and in which 56 women took part. The

workshops make it possible to offer advice on preventing high-risk behaviour and healing your own body.

Lloc de la Dona health space

In order to be able to respond to professional consultations on sexual and reproductive healthcare and in cases where there was no need for a medical visit, a gynaecological healthcare worker was assigned to 'El Lloc de la Dona' for three hours a week. This service assisted 43 women during 2017 compared with 29 women who attended this during the second quarter of 2016, when it was commenced.

Besides the weekly consultations the women were able to make in the organisation, the healthcare worker also gave workshops on sexual and reproductive healthcare on the actual premises, thereby enabling the women to get to know her without needing to travel to the organisation to establish the first bond of trust.

STI prevention

A frequent issue under the framework of healthcare assistance was preventing sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The issue included not just requests for information on sexually transmitted infections but for condom hand-outs and information on such materials.

An impact was made on the use of contraceptives and contraceptive methods by the women (both with their clients and with own sexual partners), the owners of the premises and those in charge; and male and female contraceptives were given out as well as lubricants and vaginal sponges. In this context, we should note that many of the women had not known about or ever used female contraceptives.

During the visits to the venues, the Red Cross of Catalonia provided learning materials demonstrating the different contraception methods so as to disseminate this, and so that the women could decide which was the most suitable for their needs having all of the information.

Integrity and mental health. Psychological assistance

There was a recurrent demand for psychological assistance and emotional support through accompaniment in complex situations and times, such as migratory grief, living with social stigmas and the criminalisation of prostitution; a high level of vulnerability was detected among the collective as were social isolation and risk of gender violence.

Lloc de la Dona also offered occupational training to women wishing to find alternative employment.

Right to a life without violence

Situations of rights being violated and gender violence suffered by sex workers working in private spaces have been detected, and their empowerment has been promoted by strengthening strategies for individual and collective resistance for facing stigmatisation and gender violence. They were offered specific and personalised assistance according to their needs. Specifically, the women were provided information, advice and assistance on different kinds of gender violence: HTSE, forced prostitution, sexual aggression and emotional, sexual, institutional, community and gender violence. Information and advice were given on the gender-violence support network, referrals made to specific networks and circuits in cases of gender violence where necessary, accompaniments were provided to help access specialist resources and violations of rights reported and women's empowerment promoted, during which special emphasis was placed on preventing and identifying violence and confronting the stigma faced by sex workers. This year, cases of cyber-bullying on the part of the partner and of clients who used social networks to inflict gender violence were dealt with.

The Genera organisation championed collective rights by empowering women sex workers, based on taking apart social stigma and collective organisation and by providing these women with knowledge of their own rights. Individual assistance was offered and the focus was placed on promoting empowerment, with a special emphasis on social stigma and violence, rights, and employment conditions; work was carried out on enabling the use of 2.0 technologies and social networks as a private space for communicating and creating alliances among sex workers; the debate was promoted for influencing the collective organisation, and 21 group workshops were given (on health, employment, violence and stigma themes) in which 189 women took part.

The Red Cross of Catalonia worked on preventing violence and empowering women in terms of gender through workshops and discussions so that the women could identify situations of violence toward themselves or their fellow sex workers, by partners or on an institutional scale. Included were the early prevention and detection of gender violence as a priority issue concerning partners; self-esteem, selfhealing, self-defence, negotiation skills and setting limits to tackle violence and the stigmatisation they suffer was also encouraged. The women were also informed of Barcelona city's gender-violence assistance network as well as the Genera legal services, the SAS and the Official Bar Association of Barcelona. Potential victims of HTSE working in the spaces visited were also detected, assisted and referred.

Lloc de la Dona placed special emphasis on detecting possible victims of HTSE and gender violence, the women were advised and the necessary coordination was performed with the specialist resources when required.

Right to justice

Legal information, advice and assistance was given to the women who needed it, through resources specific to the organisations such as the network of public resources, making referrals and arrangements as considered appropriate (at the legal aid service SAIER - Red Cross, at the Official Bar Association and the Genera Legal Service).

During 2017, the Genera organisation continued offering its legal service through which there were 87 cases of legal assistance to women carrying out sex work in private spaces. Moreover, this organisation also assisted 150 women working in public streets. On the whole, the assistance performed refers to the following fields: immigration law (28.7%), penal (19.8%), administrative fines (17.7%), administration (10.1%), family (10.1%) and employment (6.8%), among others. Among the women working in private spaces, the most prominent types of assistances were those relating to immigration law (49.4%) and employment (18.4%), while among women working on public streets what clearly stands out is assistance relating to administrative fines (28%) and penal (24%).

The Red Cross of Catalonia saw to 32 cases of legal assistance relating to immigration law through the SAIER service, with monitoring and advice offered to women and, in certain cases, accompaniment in the corresponding administrative procedures.

Lloc de la Dona received seven requests relating to legal assistance in the following fields: immigration law (4), sexual exploitation (2) and penal (1).

Economic, employment and training rights

Comprehensive assistance was given to **cover the women's basic needs** relating to aid for food, transport, clothes, child care (nappies, toys etc.) healthcare (paying for medicines), provisions and access to housing. In addition, advice was offered according to the social needs expressed, through resources specific to the

organisations, the social-service network of the public system and the network of specialist resources, carrying out the relevant arrangements and referrals where deemed appropriate.

This year, continuing the previous year's trend, fewer requests for training, improving employability and formal labour-market placements were detected, which were covered through resources specific to the organisations, and advice and information on the network of pre-existing public and private resources for training, improving employability, job placements and procedures for gaining state-recognition of foreign qualifications.

Genera's Legal Service saw to 16 cases of assistance relating to employment, involving advice within the scope of labour rights and on the basis of a non-regulated labour sector lacking a framework of specific rights. This advice arose from the need to create materials aimed at women who wish to register as self-employed in the field of sex work, as an alternative for regularising their work activity and their income, in order to gain independence and explore the options of joining together with other sex workers. Moreover, the organisation's staff set up two internal training sessions relating to sex work, and one on the processes relating to distraints.

Lloc de la Dona offers the service on career guidance and work integration and training to respond to women who want to employment alternative different to prostitution. During 2017, the women assisted made a total of 37 requests⁸ relating to training and accessing the formal job market. Lloc de la Dona assisted women in a comprehensive and personalised manner, and training and work-integration programmes were designed to meet every woman's needs. It should be highlighted that many women who wish to opt for a certain training resource have difficulties being able to access it, since it is often requested that the administrative situation is regular and they have a minimum level of secondary education. In total, five women were able to attend technical training and one was referred to Barcelona Activa to receive career guidance. This year, for the first time, a micro-credits project for self-employment was created for two women who wanted to set up a business and, at the same time, they were offered occupational training.

During 2017, the Red Cross of Catalonia saw to 16 requests relating to employment and nine referrals were made to the Red Cross Barcelona employment service, where women were able to participate in elaborating work integration plans. They received economic support and their qualifications were standardised and translated, and they received training material and were enrolled on various external training courses. On the other hand, due to the success of the first edition, 2017 saw the return of the FRIDA course, an interdepartmental project with the Red Cross Employment service for promoting the empowerment of women based on enabling and enhancing the employment skills and emotional management, skills and abilities in searching for work of its participants.



3. Services and resources for training and improving employability

To promote access to training, economic and employment rights, the ABITS Agency supported several comprehensive-assistance programmes for improving the training and employability of women who performed or had performed sex work. Specifically, three programmes were carried out in accordance with the collaboration with three organisations (Surt - Fundació de Dones, a private foundation; Lloc de la Dona - Germanes Oblates, and Anem per Feina - Coordinating Body for social-occupational insertion), in which 314 women took part.⁹

The women who took part in employability-improvement programmes in 2017 were mainly originally from Nigeria, representing 48.09%, followed by women from Latin America, (25.48%), Eastern Europe (9.87%), mostly Romania, and Spain (5.73%). As for most represented age groups, just over a third of the women assisted were between the ages of 36 and 45, followed by those from 26 to 35, representing 28.03% of the women assisted. The 15.92% of women over 45 and, above all, the existence of women over 55 should be highlighted who, although being a minority, require special attention, since they make the request when they see their health prevents them from continuing to work and they come from long paths of carrying out sex work, outside normalised worked circuits and with highly chronic situations of exclusion, and without having paid social security (or very little).

As for access to studies, most had received primary or secondary education, with 49.04% and 39.17% respectively. 1.91% had no education, 5.41% had undergone middle or higher education, and the level of education of the remaining 4.46% is unknown. Finally, as regards administrative status, we can highlight the difference between programmes with a focus on socio-occupational skills where women without papers were in the majority (71.74%) and which centre on improving basic skills relating to language, knowledge of culture and the city, labour skills or intend to regularise their situation when this is possible; and programmes aimed at improving general employability or technical skills, where most women had their papers in order, seeing that this was one of the requirements for finding work in the formal labour market and accessing many of the official training sessions.

In all, **73 women found 116 jobs, 58 of these through 93 labour contacts and 15 found work on the informal market.** Work continued in 2017, continuing the trend of recent years, within a context of economic and labour crisis and feminisation of poverty. Placement options offered by the current labour market were of low quality, in precarious sectors, with part-time and short-term hiring, low salaries etc., and requiring very high training and preparation. Immigrant and transgender women were those usually in the most precarious positions. In this economic situation of the formal labour market, it should be added that a high percentage of women with an irregular administrative situation is expected, which prevents access to many training resources and often makes access to the formal labour market impossible, despite some women having the rest of the requirements to regularise their administrative situation by means of social rooting.

⁸ It should be taken into account that the same woman can make more than one request.

Note that some women may have been counted more than once, as they could have taken part in more than one programme.



In the DIMO training project ('Comprehensive operation for improving employability aimed at sex workers 2016-2017') of the Fundació Surt, 75 women took part in 2017 (40 of which followed the process started in 2016 and 35 joined the programme during 2017). Anem per feina, through the project 'Special operation of accompaniment for inclusion into the labour market and social fabric', assisted 101 women (31 women received assistance for the first time during 2017 and the rest had already been assisted previously). El Lloc de la Dona de les Germanes Oblates, within the framework of the project 'Social and Employment Training', assisted 138 women.

Moreover, during 2017 work was commenced on a joint project between the ABITS Agency and Barcelona Activa for combining synergies between all of the organisations carrying out programmes undertaken to improve the employability of sex workers.

3.1. Projects for improving basic social and occupational skills

Within this line of work, we find the Lloc de la Dona social and employment training, the aim of which is to promote empowerment, training and pre-employment skills acquisition for women carrying out sex work, by means of improving their independence and personal and professional empowerment, and improving basic social and work habits, training and socio-occupational employability, focusing on personalised training and employment pathways. This is characterised by being much more flexible: it defines with each woman their live and professional project, it accepts women joining the programme at any time, it links their process – when suitable – to social aid that allows activity to be monitored, and it adapts to the women's changing needs.

Taking the profile of the women assisted and the needs identified into account, the programme is basically focused on **improving basic labour and social skills** and, secondly, on specialised training. Specifically, the following actions were carried out:

- Improving basic habits: language training (Spanish and Catalan), basic and functional reception, empowerment and other skills.
- Specialised training: aimed at women who are unable to access the city's other training resources, since they lack regularised administrative documents or due to language difficulties. During 2017, a cooking course was organised, as well as a course on social healthcare for the elderly at home and, new for this year, a course on gardening and horticulture. Moreover, women were referred to dressmaking training at the Dona Kolors workshop (also managed by Lloc de la Dona) and to external resources.
- **Home service mentoring project:** to reinforce the training process and so that the woman can improve her skills at the same workplace.
- **Micro-credits projects:** A micro-credits pilot project was set up for self-employment, for women with the skills and knowledge to carry out any profession, but without the economic resources required to be able to purchase the initial materials. This project includes accompaniment and support for women for advertising and marketing their services.
- **Workshop on gender violence:** Something brand-new this year is a workshop on gender violence in collaboration with the Àmbit Dona organisation.
- **Survey of companies:** this year various companies have been contacted for inclusion in the field of industrial cleaning and home care. As regards home-care offers, healthcare centres in the city and



its suburbs network over managing offers made by family members of patients through social educators and social workers.

It should be highlighted that work has continued within a context in which it is extremely difficult for the women to find alternative employment, mainly because they are in an irregular employment situation, have difficulties reconciling work and family, and due to the significant reduction in work offers that limit their options for inclusion in the formal labour market. During 2017, six women obtained work in the formal labour market and 12 women obtained 21 jobs in the informal labour market, mainly caring for the elderly and domestic service.

2017 saw **138 different women** assisted, who carried out pre-occupational training paths (114 women) and work-placement paths (35 women). ¹⁰

In relation to the country of origin of the women taking part in the programme, 81.16% come from Africa, mainly Nigeria, which represents 76.81%, a percentage that has stayed stable compared with the previous year. The rest came from Latin America (9.42%), Romania (3.62%) and Morocco (4.35%). It should be highlighted that during 2017, no woman of Spanish nationality was assisted. The most representative age group was from 26 to 35 years (30.43%), followed by that of 36 to 45 years (23.91%) and that of 18 to 25 (21.01%). This programme is the only programme for improving employability in which the age bracket most represented is that of 26 to 35, since **the women participating in pre-employment programmes are younger** than in the rest of the programmes (those under 35 are half of the women assisted).

Most of the women taking part in the project (71.74%) did not have their papers in order. As for access to education, 49.28% of the women assisted had secondary studies and 34.78% had primary studies. 2.17% had no education and 3.62% had higher studies. Nothing was known about the level of studies of the rest (10.14%) because of the difficulties in equating the studies they had achieved in their country of origin with the categorisation of studies in Spain. Comparing this with the level of education of the women assisted during 2016, an increase in the proportion of women with a high level of studies (secondary and higher) was detected, as well as some drop-in women with a lower level (without schooling or with primary education).

Note that both a lack of papers and having a low level of studies, or being unable to show their level of study, not only makes it hard for these women to access the formal labour market but also determines their training process, as having papers in order or a certain level of studies was often one of the requirements for eligibility for attending training sessions.

¹⁰ Note that a woman may have followed both a pre-employment and job-placement training path at the same time.



3.2. Comprehensive employability projects for improving socio-occupational skills

Within this line of work, we find two projects: the 'Comprehensive operation for improving employability' (DIMO) by the Fundació Surt, and the 'Special operation of accompaniment for inclusion into the formal labour market for women carrying out prostitution' by the organisation Anem per Feina.

The 'Comprehensive operation for improving employability' by the Fundació Surt offers comprehensive assistance with a very broad focus allowing the circuit to be adjusted to each woman in a highly individualised manner and tailored to their needs. It is based on empowerment methods, gender focus, skills models and the inter-cultural perspective; it puts the emphasis on recovering personal resources and skills that the women have and promotes improvements in their self-esteem and independence. It is about putting a special emphasis on the women's personal processes and encouraging them to start a process of empowerment that enables them to go ahead with their life and professional project. During this year, 75 women took part in the DIMO programme.

DIMO includes a wide range of resources that women could use according to their individual life and professional plan:

- A process of personal empowerment to allow women to define and carry out their life project, beyond their professional project.
- An assessment of skills focused on identifying and recovering professional competences for transferring these to the formal labour market.
- Personalised pathways based on skills identified and defining objectives, consisting in career guidance, specialised skills acquisition, basic equipment training and training in crossover skills.
- Personalised accompaniment
- Managing employment offers and the stock of collaborating companies.
- Job-hunting classes
- Services offering legal aid, help with bureaucracy and advice on applying for benefits.
- Support for women who suffer or have suffered gender violence.

With regard to the participants' profile data, it can be seen that the women originating from Latin American countries represented 46.67% with the Dominican Republic standing out (13.33% of the total), and those from Ecuador and Venezuela (6.67% each); 24% originated from African countries, with the highest number coming from Nigeria, representing 16% of the total of women, ahead of 16% of Spanish women. Fourth place went to women from Eastern Europe (13.33%) and mainly from Romania (10.67% of total). Concerning the age brackets, the majority are between 36 and 45 (50.67%), followed by 26 to 35 (24%), those over 45 (20%), and those from 18 to 25 (5.33%); the growth in women from 36 to 45 stands out, which is the only age bracket that increased proportionally.

The 'Special operation of accompaniment for inclusion into the formal labour market for women carrying out prostitution', by **Anem per Feina** - **Coordinating Body for social-occupational insertion**, offers accompaniment and a personalised approach to women of structural or economic disorientation, and who require personalised accompaniment for achieving alternative access to the formal labour market. This is aimed at women with and without their papers in order, who have previous work experience or who had



prior training which enables them to acquire employment skills (responsibility, punctuality, social relations, etc.). It is a flexible programme that accepts the incorporation of participants at any time and is adapted to their personal needs. There were 101 women assisted in 2017: 31 who started the process in 2017 and 70 who started the process for improving employability in previous years.

The project was divided into several stages:

- Information and orientation stage: Reception interviews, information and work on CVs are provided in this stage.
- Accompaniment and improving employability: planning and professional re-qualification through training, monitoring the established pathway, advice and raising awareness of rights and duties relating to immigration and employment.
- Actively seeking work: employment mediation service and stock of companies collaborating, market survey; monitoring the established and employment pathway once work has been obtained.
- Closing stage: assessment of the pathway covered and other resources deemed appropriate.

The profile of the women assisted according to country of origin¹¹ were the following: 45.54% of women were from Africa, mainly Nigeria, with 32.67% of the total of women assisted, with a slight increase compared with 2016. In second place, there were women from Latin American countries (31.68% -mainly from Ecuador, Brazil and Venezuela, with an increase in women originating from the latter country), followed by women from Eastern Europe, (15.84% - mainly from Romania), and in third place the rest of Europe (6.93% - Spanish women presented 5.94% of the total of women). Both the women originating from Eastern Europe and from the rest of Europe fell compared with the previous year, dropping from 17.31% to 15.84% (with a significant reduction of women originating from Romania) and from 11.54% to 6.93% (Spanish women represented 9.62% in 2016 and 5.94% in 2017), respectively.

The prevailing age group was 36 to 45 years (39.60%), followed by the bracket of 26 to 35 years (27.72%), 46 to 55 years (17.82%), those over 55 years (10.89%), and from 18 to 25 years (3.96%). A drop in the proportion of women aged 26 to 45 should be highlighted, and in increase in those over 45 and those between 18 and 25.

With regard to the administrative situation, 83.17% of women were in a regular situation with a work permit, and 16.83% in an irregular situation without a work permit; women in an irregular administrative situation without a work permit (representing 10.58% in 2016), who were thus unable to access the formal labour market, have increased significantly.



4. Other projects under way

4.1. Social assistance for women in situations of medium emergency and social inclusion

Defining the project

This was aimed at responding to situations of exclusion which cis and trans women faced in environments of voluntary and forced prostitution, with particular emphasis on those in more serious situations of rights being violated, suffering from violence, discrimination because of their origins and who had children under their care. The activities carried out provide social assistance in emergency situations (managing economic aid for covering basic needs and referring, coordinating and monitoring with specialised external resources), intercultural mediation, as well as socio-cultural integration. This project was carried out by the organisation Àmbit Prevenció, and the City Council has supported it since 2006.

In 2017, in total 95 women (seven of them trans) benefited from the programme, both through social assistance and granting economic aid, and taking part in the workshops.

It should be pointed out that almost 56% of the women assisted originate from Sub-Saharan Africa (practically all from Nigeria). 33% are in an irregular situation (seven women have no type of documentation). 35% are single-parent families and 46.3% have dependent children in the country of origin. Regarding access to housing, 35% live in a rented room, 34% in a rented home, 18% in a 'squat', 3% have no home and 10% are in other situations (with no fixed place of their own but are with family, friends, etc.).

Initiatives carried out

Social assistance and covering basic needs: economic aid

There were 177 requests attended to during 2017: 55 for social support, 30 for processing the individual health card, 22 for economic assistance, 17 for training and job placement, 13 for legal advice, ten for registration in the municipal register, eight for assistance against violence, five for temporary accommodation requests, four for accompaniment and schooling children, and three for assistance for possible victims of human trafficking.

Concerning economic aid, 80 supermarket vouchers were provided for buying food, 50 supermarket vouchers for buying hygiene products for the home and children (nappies, baby hygiene products), 75 cases of aid with transport tickets and six cases of direct aid for buying clothes and shoes for children.

¹¹ Data is collected by country of origin, as there were women who, even though they had acquired Spanish nationality, had to continue working on immigration-related aspects.



Access to training and information: workshops for strengthening and helping family and social environments

Workshops were set up aimed at women with dependent children, focusing on the issues concerning them the most, with the aim of providing tools for personal empowerment, for bringing up their children, for the relationship and co-existence with their surroundings and the social actors in their lives, as well as knowledge of rights and non-discrimination as migrant families, as a way to reduce the inequalities occurring. The issues addressed in these workshops are: family relationship and school; knowledge of the law on protecting minors and situations of risk and helplessness, where women have been able to express fears relating to possibly losing custody of their children; strategies for education in terms of transmitting rules and limits; cultural differences of the country of origin and the host country in this regard, and contraception methods.

4.2. Sexual health service and support concerning violence against women who carry out sex work

Defining the project

The objective of this is to reduce violence, improve health and quality of life, and to promote the empowerment of women who carry out sex work. The project aims to provide responses that improve the women's sexual and reproductive health by increasing their personal care and empowerment in sexual relations and, therefore, reducing the risk of STIs (HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and others), sexual violence and other issues faced by women carrying out voluntary or forced prostitution; a special emphasis must also be placed on women in a more serious situation of rights being violated, such as migrant women, and who often suffer from other situations of discrimination and violation of citizenship rights, for reasons of origin or gender, among others. The activities carried out provide comprehensive assistance in sexual health (including promoting empowerment so they can make decisions freely), detecting violence (psychological, physical, sexual and environmental), psychosocial assistance and subsidised housing. This project was carried out by the organisation Àmbit Prevenció, and the City Council has supported it since 2006.

Initiatives carried out

Right to health:

In a cross-departmental manner, empowerment in health has been promoted through individual and group assistance, so that the women are able to have more control over their decisions and the actions affecting their health, both personally and in their close surroundings. Empowerment is also a tool for reducing inequalities in access to information and services for sexual health and assistance in cases of violence, taking into account that the women assisted in this project present a particularly vulnerable situation as they experience strong social stigma for carrying out sex work, the majority are migrant women, some of them are trans women, etc.

Sexual health assistance has been devised as comprehensive healthcare and has dealt with psychological and emotional aspects, as well as the women's life circumstances. This assistance has been realised by offering tests for detecting sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy tests and referrals to services specialising in sexual and reproductive health. The advice 'pre' and 'post' carrying out the tests is a fundamental stage for accessing the women's performance, emotions and living situations, which have a direct impact on decision-making relating to sexual health. In addition, it means informing and educating not only on health, but it also makes mindfulness a way of life. Also standing out in sexual healthcare are



detecting and attending to gender violence, as well as referring to the region's specialised services.

Also offered are accompaniment and follow-up at complex times (unwanted pregnancies, infections of HIV or other diseases, etc.) in external resources specialised in sexual health and violence, particularly in the case of women of Nigerian origin (due to language or cultural issues, or because they experience the stigma and discrimination still existing mainly in certain health services).

In total, in 2017 specialised assistance was given to a total of 231 women and trans women; early diagnosis was promoted, which reached 140 women with 209 diagnostic tests for STIs (HIV, syphilis and hepatitis C), 67 pregnancy tests were performed, 30 new health cards were processed and six renewed, 49 accompaniments were performed at various health resources (gynaecological and hospital care, abortion clinic), and individual advice and follow-up was offered in health education, psychological assistance and health.

Right to a life free of gender violence:

The right to a life free of gender violence was focused on in a cross-cutting manner, by means of promoting empowerment, psychological assistance and providing information on rights, resources and options for reporting, should the woman deem this appropriate.

In addition, specialised assistance was offered to women of Nigerian origin for preventing and detecting violence (mainly sexual, social or human trafficking), based on psychological monitoring. By using this relational and therapeutic space, the risk and consequent referrals to the region's specialised services were rated, and during 2017 three accompaniments in Ciutat Vella's PIAD and the SICAR were performed.

Access to subsidised housing:

This concerns shared housing of a medium stay (12-18 months) for cis women with children and trans women. The possibility of shared housing is part of an accompaniment task working towards independence, in coordination with the organisation, with which the users already have an action plan. Nevertheless, also performed within the accompaniment task is socio-educational and health monitoring, which offers psychological support, social assistance and follow-up, accompaniments, bureaucratic management, information and guidance, psychological assistance and follow-up, and referral to training workshops, etc.

During 2017, three women (one cis woman and two trans women) occupied the shared housing and none of them had dependent children. Two of these people were at the flat for approximately one year, and the third one was there for 6 months.

4.3. Project of actions aimed at the trans-women sex workers group (DTTS)

Based on diagnosing needs which brings together trans women's requests, performed during 2016 within the scope of the Carolines programme, 'Proposal for actions aimed at the trans-women sex workers group in Barcelona city", in 2017 the following actions were continued, prioritised and started to be expanded:

- **Improving employability:** In coordination with Barcelona Activa and the organisations with agreements with the ABITS Agency, during 2017 the strategy to be followed was developed so that trans sex workers who wished to improve their employability had the opportunity to do so through the projects and programmes the organisations offers, and accessing Barcelona Activa's offers.
- **Promoting and guaranteeing the right to access justice:** The SAS continues working so that trans women who work on public streets are able to identify the possible violations of rights and



violence they may suffer, and so that they know the mechanisms for reporting this, the services that can support them and the option of being able to receive legal advice at SAS if they think this is relevant. A legal accompaniment service is offered that guarantees access to justice for DTTSs and empowers them as people with rights.

- Preventing and combating gender violence that trans women sex workers suffer: The SAS has continued focusing on trans women sex workers acquiring tools for identifying the violence they suffer, and has placed a special emphasis on the importance of everyday violence and the importance that this is not normalised. Moreover, during 2017 work on coordinating with police forces was continued; the ABITS set up a committee on violence in the districts of Les Corts (the district where the majority of trans women working do so on public streets) and the women were informed of the right to file reports.
- Raising awareness among public administration workers on preventing transphobic violence: In cases in which violations of the rights of a trans woman on the part of a certain service has been detected, Law 11/2014, of 10 October, on guaranteeing the rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex, and for eradicating homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, was circulated; as well as the protocol expanding the duty to intervene among those working at Catalonia's public administrations to effectively tackle homophobia, biphobia in Catalonia.
- **Psychological assistance:** As mentioned above, during 2017 the SAS psychological assistance team attended to 20% of trans women, which is a slight increase compared with the previous year.
- **Coordination with the Municipal Plan for Sexual and Gender Diversity:** The ABITS Agency and the SAS worked in a coordinated manner with the municipal plan for sexual diversity and gender, so that the actions scheduled could have a greater impact within a comprehensive strategy,

5. ABITS NETWORKING AND NETWORKING

This section describes the ABITS Agency's participation and coordination in several work spaces, both social organisations and other institutional players.

5.1. ABITS Agency Expert Committee

In 2017, the expert committee prioritised the employment subcommittee, with the aim of ordering, defining and boosting the strategy in terms of improving employability, together with the organisations working on this and collaborating with Barcelona City Council.

A session of the public space subcommittee was also held for dealing with aspects of coexistence, providing information and sharing proposals.

- Public Space Subcommittee. One working session
- Employment subcommittee. Two working sessions

Bodies taking part in the subcommittees

- Anem per Feina
- APIP-ACAM Foundation



- Red Cross
- Fundació Àmbit, Àmbit Dona
- Genera
- Oblates del Santíssim Redemptor, Lloc de la Dona
- Surt Fundació de Dones. Fundació Privada
- Putes Indignades
- Metges del Món / Doctors of the World

Barcelona City Council

- Councillor for Feminism and LGBTI Affairs
- Ciutat Vella District Archives.
- Feminism and LGBTI Services Department
- Ciutat Vella District Persons Services Department
- Barcelona Activa
- Coordination and management at the ABITS Agency
- Director of the SAS
- Guàrdia Urbana Barcelona Barcelona City Police

Generalitat Government of Catalonia

- Mossos d' Esquadra [Catalan police]

5.2. Emergency committee on gender violence against sex workers

Coordination activities began between the district of Ciutat Vella, the City Police and the Catalan Police at the end of 2016 for coordinating, from the first moment, in cases of gender violence toward sex workers, all social and police actions and offering the women the maximum guarantees of safety, prevention and assistance.

These actions were presented in a document and an emergency committee on gender violence toward sex workers was set up. Aside from offering the catalogue of resources and the circuit on gender violence the city had at its disposal, attention was given to the risk of community and gender violence when working on public streets, and to specific actions required according to the context and area.

The committee of the Ciutat Vella district was convened four times.

Composition of the emergency committee on gender violence against sex workers

- Adviser of the District
- Citizen Attention Office of the District
- Expert of the District
- Department of Feminism and LGBTI Affairs
- Coordination and management at the ABITS Agency
- Director of the SAS
- Two people representing third-sector organisations

- Representative from 'Putes Indignades'

This year the document was presented to the Les Corts district, and the emergency committee on gender violence against sex workers of Les Corts was developed, adapting this as necessary according to the area, population and services. The committee of the Les Corts district was convened three times.

The aim was that this could be rolled out to the rest of the districts requiring this taking into account the volume of women carrying out sex work, thus guaranteeing their access to rights.

5.3. Studies, protocols and reports

Educational level:

- External guide for indicators and assessment of the impact of the DIMO project. The aim of the DIMO project was to improve the employability of sex workers. This was a project carried out by the Surt organisation in collaboration with Barcelona City Council.
- Collaboration in elaborating HTSE indicators pioneered by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit. Three sessions were attended.

Surveys of the SAS team:

The SAS carried out surveys of public spaces at the request of the districts or services detecting an area or street with an increase in women, or new meeting points of women carrying out sex work. The SAS team assessed the area and the needs and requirements, to guarantee the women access to rights.

- Sants-Montjuïc district, Zona Franca.
- ➤ Ciutat Vella district.

Protocols:

Updating the CUESB-ABITS protocol. CUESB, Barcelona Social Emergencies Centre. The aim of the protocol is to establish communication channels and intervention strategies between professionals for responding to emergency situations the women might encounter.

Reports:

Internal quarterly analysis reports on gender violence and violations of rights against women sex workers in public spaces, so as to create improvements to assistance and guaranteeing the women access to rights.

5.4. Local coordination

The ABITS Agency kept its presence in the districts through the coordination and participation in work spaces and committees.

In the case of Les Corts, there was collaboration with the district and the 'Service for Managing Conflicts in Public Spaces' in surveying the conflict situations between various parties when leaving nightclubs.

In the Sants district, there was coordination in order to tackle specific themes relating to sex work and participation in the work sessions of the municipal stakeholders of the public space in the Carrer del Cisell area.

Throughout 2017, a community mediation project was carried out in the Ciutat Vella district in order to improve co-existence in the public space in Carrer d'en Robador, with the aim of improving co-existence and social cohesion, mainly between sex workers, business owners and those living in the area. A series of action proposals in various fields was built within the scope of this mediation process.

In relation to this project, two work sessions as part of the 'Neighbourhoods Plan' were attended: 'We define new uses for the Rambla del Raval, the Plaça Vázquez Montalbán and Salvador Seguí'.

The summer committee on public space of the Ciutat Vella was also attended, from June to October. It collaborated legally with the same district and organisations championing the rights of sex workers where ABITS Agency users faced penalty proceedings for carrying out 'sex apartment' activities.

5.5. Collaboration with sexual and reproductive healthcare services

Coordination work was maintained with the Public Health Agency, the Barcelona Healthcare Consortium and the Healthcare Programme Department for the 'Apropa't' and 'Trànsit' programmes assisting cis and trans women who carry out sex work in the city.

A work group on sexual and reproductive health was set up in 2017, due to the increase in terminations, especially among women of Nigerian origin. This work group consists of organisations and the municipal team (SAS), who advise on and assist with the requests of women sex workers working both in public spaces and in enclosed spaces. Also taking part in this is the Barcelona City Council Department of Health and the PASSIRs (Assistance with Sexual and Reproductive Health Programmes) to which most referrals are made. The aim is to share strategies for promoting comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare from an intercultural and intersectional perspective.

5.6. Coordination with other institutions, police forces, municipal services and bodies

The ABITS Agency maintained expert coordination with the CUESB, Espai Ariadna, the PIADs, SARA, l'IMSS, the Office for Non-Discrimination, the Department of Health, Barcelona Activa and Làbora, among others. It also did so with the third-sector organisations collaborating with Barcelona City Council in issues relating to requests and improving circuits for guaranteeing women's rights.

As in previous years, the ABITS Agency continued its participation in the Circuit's plenary session on gender violence in Barcelona city, which was jointly led by the city's Department for Feminism and LGBTI Affairs and Healthcare Consortium. With regard to the circuit in the districts, it attends Les Corts, Ciutat Vella, Sant Martí and Eixample.

There is collaboration with the Universitat Pere Tarrés and the University of Barcelona in carrying out work placements in social education and psychology, respectively, at the SAS.

ABITS and SAS hold periodic coordination meetings with the UTEH for advising, assisting and monitoring cases, and elaborating coordination circuits, as well as sharing intervention strategies in detecting women with possible indicators of HTES.

Meetings are also held with the Catalan Police and the City Police for establishing communication circuits, assisting women and other issues, for guaranteeing women access to rights.

Within the scope of the 'Transgenerant salut' launched by Doctors of the World, a meeting with transgender women was held for focusing on needs and proposals.



5.7. Raising awareness and dissemination

In relation to the means of communication:

- There was collaboration in the documentary 'NUES', presented at the Filmoteca de Catalunya.
- Requests from journalists from several media organisations were also attended to.
- A press conference was held for presenting the Carolines programme.

In relation to students:

Students from all over Catalonia were assisted, who requested information on the Agency's work and the situation of sex workers in Barcelona.

Throughout the year, four group presentation sessions were held and students with requests for more specific information were assisted in individual meetings. The students were studying for degrees in social integration, social education, psychology and journalism, and there were also Master's and PHD students. The request of around 60 people were attended to.

Training:

Training was provided to officers and civil educators in public spaces of the Ciutat Vella district.

Conferences:

Participation in the conference 'La prostitució, una forma de violència cap a les dones', in Mallorca.

6. 2017 Budget

The budget executed in 2017 was €1,020,906.24. This amount was down by 29% compared with the 2016 budget, since it did not include the part corresponding to the expenses of the municipal Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (UTEH).

Until 2016, the ABIT Agency's budget included both the expenses and actions intended for assisting the educational, social, legal and psychological needs of sex workers, and those specifically intended for combating HTSE.

As of 2017, with the UTEH under way, the two budgets executed were presented separately. As the **UTEH 2017 report** specifies, its budget executed for external expenses was **€432,737.75**. This amount would make up 30% of the ABITS's total budget.

Comparing between 2016 and 2017, the entries no longer attributed to the ABITS programme, since they are the UTEH's responsibility, were:

Economic aid for women:

In 2016, €32,615.99 were allotted to aid for women. This was €20,918.66 in 2017, since this did not include the aid allotted to women who were victims of sexual exploitation (€3,853.00).

It should also be taken into account that aid provided to users of SAS-ABITS also decreased due to the internal strategic line of jointly working with general services and linking the women to the corresponding social services centre when, in particular, there were needs of an economic nature.

Training and job placement:

• Training and employment programme for recovery, empowerment and work placement of women victims of sexual exploitation (RAI): in 2017, the amount the UTEH paid out for this was



€125,457.98. This was €126,276.53 in 2016.

• In the same way, in 2016 a study was conducted on the impact of this RAI programme, with a cost of €9,235.47.

Providing assistance for victims of sexual exploitation:

- Care and protection: €113,822.33 was spent in 2016.
- Transitional flats and personal-independence flats: in 2016, €41,132 was spent on flats for women victims of sexual exploitation. The total budget executed by the UTEH during 2017 for residential care, including the two entries above, was €186,669.44.
- Legal representation: This was €18,150 in 2016. For 2017, advice and legal representation, as well as psychological assistance for victims of HTES, was €85,325.57.
- During 2016, €21,778.79 was also spent on other trafficking projects (training, mediation, supervision, etc.).

Study and assessment of projects:

An order was placed in 2016 for elaborating indicators to detect victims of HTES for a sum of €21,659. This definition continues, through the Inter-Institutional Committee against HTSE, at a cost of €31,431.76 during 2017.

The attached chart lists the amounts per item and includes a comparison with the programme's budget since 2010. Also marked in red are the entries which, in an integrated manner, have become part of the UTEH budget.



BUDGET Agency for a Comprehensive Approach to Sex Work (ABITS) Agency	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 implemented	2016 implemented	2017 implemented	16/17 variation in moneyimpl. (€/%)
Socio-Educational Assistance Service (SAS)	211,674.23	241,986.71	287,942.50	317,867.27	317,867.27	347,293.49	360,093.83	495,787.98	
	211,674.23	241,986.71	287,942.50	317,867.27	317,867.27	347,293.49	360,093.83	495,787.98	
Financial aid for women	11,721.00	16,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	20,000.00	24,723.54	32,615.99	20,918.66	
	11,721.00	16,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	20,000.00	24,723.54	32,615.99	20,918.66	
Training and getting people into work	265,217.10	356,369.75	710,762.47	819,081.14	686,008.03	845,420.63	586,625	318,175	
Comprehensive Operation for Improving Employability							230,175	230,175	
Comprehensive operation for reintegrating into the Labour Market (DIR)	224,625.85	232,487.75	260,799.35	368,027.93	318,791.78	394,837.15	90,618		
Recovery, empowerment and work placement of women victims of sexual exploitation (RAI)			88,008.90	99,745.99	110,000.00	111,448.11	126,276.53		
Personal advisory itinerary for professionalising (ITI)		83,290.00	83,290.00	83,290.00	94,624.25	81,957.06			
Comprehensive support for transsexuals (ACCIÓ)			128,727.22	128,727.22	64,000.00	64,000			
Employment and training itineraries	40,591.25	40,592.00	48,590.00	48,590.00	40,592.00	40,590	44,555.73	48,000	
Accompanying Team			40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000	40,000	40,000	
Dressmaking project			•		18,000.00	35,000	35,000		
Dressmaking entrepreneurship						25,588.31			
Dona Impuls (Barcelona Activa)			61,347.0	50,700.00		52,000			
Designing an employment project for transsexual persons							20,000		



BUDGET	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 implemened	2016 implemented	2017 implemened	Variation For 16/17 implemented
Social assistance for women	24,838.50	24,838.50	24,838.50	24,838.50	27,447.30	34,964.10	51,102.54	61,776.37	
Intermediate emergencies ¹²	24,838.50	24,838.50	24,838.50	24,838.50	27,447.30	27,447.30	40,216.14	40,000	
Training in healthy habits						7,516.80	10,886.40		
Mediation at Robadors								21,776.37	
Legal aid for women					26,031.43	75,649.82	68,132.65		
					26,031.43	75,649.82	68,132.65		
Providing assistance for women who carry out sex work in closed spaces		10,000.00	20,000.00	38,648.14	75,232.54	103,464.37	137,907.50	122,500	
Eixample				7,808.14	31,232.54	52,464.37	52,464.37	35,100	
Les Corts				10,840.00	24,000.00	31,000	30,240.13	32,200	
Rest of the city		10,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000	55,203	55,200	
Providing assistance for victims of sexual exploitation (TEH)	122,566.13	140,093.03	138,358.03	152,503.29	158,653.29	205,405.82	194,883.12		
Shelter and protection	96,197.22	99,564.12	99,564.12	99,564.12	99,564.12	113,822.33	113,822.33		
Temporary and personal- independence flats	26,368.91	26,368.91	26,368.91	40,939.17	40,939.17	41,132.00	41,132		
Legal representation		14,160.00	12,425.00	12,000.00	18,150.00	17,992.70	18,150		
Other trafficking-related projects						32,458.79	21778.79		
Project studies and assessments	14,160.00	21,073.84	52,717.69	40,384.50	61,914.26	33,311.23	43,939.05	41,748.23	
Evaluation of ACCIÓ's impact						13,945.25			
Evaluation of RAI's impact						19,365.98	9,235.47		

12 Included in the entry of grants for Feminism and LGBTI.

Area of Citizen Rights, Culture, Participation and Transparency Department of Feminism and LGBTI Affairs

BUDGET Agency for a Comprehensive Approacl to Sex Work (ABITS) Agen	2010 h ic y	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 implemented	2016 implemented	2017 implemented	Variation 16/17 implemented	
Assessment of the DIMO								21,339.56		
Study of the situation of prostitution in the city Barcelona				30,000.00	61,914.26		12,944.58			
Impact of <u>Surt</u> - DIR/TS		21,073.84								
Trafficking Indicators			12,624.79				21,659 (HT)			
Impact of the programme fo recovery from sexual exploitation (SICAR)	r 		10,736.90							
Les <u>Corts</u>	14,160.00									
Comparative study on legislation			4,356.00							
Recommendations in means of communication				10,384.50						
Legislative and social study			25,000.00							
Projecte TrAns								20,408.67		
SAS database	40,635.39	3,917.60	10,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00					
Creation and improvement.	40,635.39	3,917.60	10,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00					
Other	18,460	4,381.87	22,673.83	2,700.00	6,700.00	11,188.01	12,800			
Communication, networkingetc.	18,460	4,381.87	2,673.83	2,700.00	6,/00.00	/,132	6,621.12	-		
International Cooperation			20,000.00							
Condoms						4,056.01	6,179.41			
TOTAL	709,272.35	818,661.30	1,279,654.01	1,383,647.70	1,389,854.12	1,681,421.01	1,488,000.40	1,060,906.24	-427,094.16 -29%	

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