



This project is funded by the European Union's
Rights, Equality and Citizenship
Programme (2014-2020)



VIVIEN - Victim Violence Educational Network

An educational project to improve the ability to assist women victims of violence

NEWSLETTER N. 1 - Welcome to the VIVIEN Project

March 2019 - English

*Do you feel concerned about violence against girls and women?
Do you feel concerned about the situation of people with disabilities?*

*Are you... a professional who comes in contact with victims of violence?
...or a Civil Society Organization activist?
...or just someone who wants to live in a less violent world?*

*Are you interested in innovative approaches for addressing Violence Against Women?
Join us to find them together!*

Then VIVIEN project concerns you!

*Especially if you feel the need to acquire new knowledge and improve your competences and skills how to prevent violence against women to happen and how to cope best with women at risk and/or already victims of violence to prevent their secondary victimization.
There are educational paths to increase capacity to be able to contribute to your full potential to stop violence.*

VIVIEN - Victim Violence Educational Network: *An educational project to improve the ability to assist women victims of violence*, aims to contribute to prevent and to tackle violence against women (VAW), with a specific attention to women with disabilities.

VIVIEN is a European project of two years, started on the 1st November 2018, funded by the European Union's Right, Equality and Citizenship Programme and coordinated by Giolli Cooperativa, Italy. The project activities will be implemented throughout 4 European countries: Italy, Finland, Bulgaria and Croatia, gathering good practices and innovative models from all Member States. The project addresses current challenges and needs of civil contribution to governmental efforts to end violence against women and take into consideration the specific vulnerability and needs of women with disabilities.

The problem

Studies of literature has shown that violence is under-reported by women both to police and victim support organizations; one reason is that professionals who has first contact with victims are not well prepared to recognize, support and help the woman properly or worse, they share the same gender stereotypes of perpetrators.

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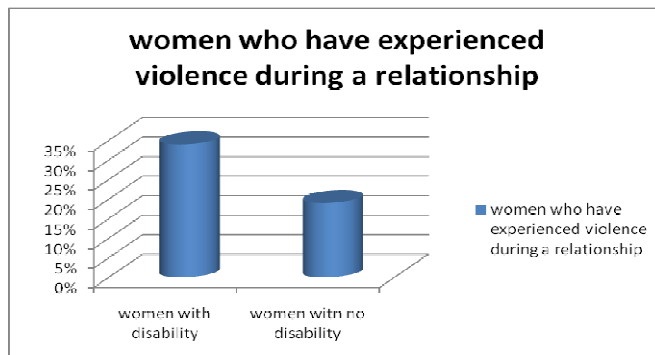
Coordinator email: vivien@giollicoop.it



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European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, in a report about violence against women in 2014, reports that *<women who have health problems or a disability indicate a higher prevalence of various forms of violence>* and *<34 % of women with a health problem or disability have experienced this during a relationship, compared with 19 % of women who do not have a health problem or disability. Differences between these two categories of respondents exceed 10 percentage points also in terms of psychological violence and threats of violence by a partner, violence in childhood and non-partner violence.>* And the number of disabled women across the EU-28 is estimated to 31 million women - huge group of specifically vulnerable to violence EU citizens with special needs.



The project's aim

The aim of VIVIEN project is to contribute to improve the competence of professionals (police, judicial system, school, health and welfare system) who have first contact with women at risk or victim of violence, with special emphasis on women with disabilities, in this way:

- avoiding secondary victimisation
- reducing stereotypes about VAW
- setting right procedures to deal with first contact
- enabling women to early detect violence.

The VIVIEN project wants to engage 500 professionals and 130 responsible, from different Institutions related to VAW, after a check on the previous training. A "Collection of best training paths" will be edited at the end to provide organisations with tools for more effective training and to develop models for raising the competence of professionals transferable to other countries.

The partnership

Vivien Project is coordinated by **Giolli Cooperativa Sociale** (Italy), a social cooperative active since 2008 in different fields, using Theatre of the Oppressed (T.O.) in national and international meetings and projects, as main method to explore the daily life and social problems, with the aim to facilitate change process in the frame of Paulo Freire's pedagogy ("conscientization"), of Community Development Approach, of Specific and active No-Violence. Giolli provides interventions to inform people about T.O., course for operators in social services and projects in different fields (drug-addiction, social disease, psychiatry, education, prevention, etc.) that can involve people of all ages and conditions: students, teachers, parents in school, social workers, drug-addicts, homeless people, prisoners, people with disability, psychiatric patients. Giolli produces performances about different issues by using mainly the interactive technique of

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Forum-Theatre, attends Festival and Conferences and collaborates with similar bodies in Italy and abroad.

Website: www.giollicoop.it

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/GiollicoopTeatroOppresso/>

The Vivien Project **partner** are:

ACAV, The Antiviolence Center of Parma, (Italy) is a non governmental association dedicated to fighting against violence against women and their children and promoting the rights of women in all sectors of society. The association was created in 1985, the center offers free legal advice, psychological assistance, and support in all senses to women who are experiencing situations of violence. In cases where there is a threat to a woman's physical safety the center can offer hospitality for up to one year in 4 shelters. In addition to assisting women on a daily basis the center also organizes conferences, cultural events, courses in the local high schools and universities, and press conferences to promote awareness of violence against women locally, nationally and internationally. The Antiviolence Center of Parma also plays an active role in regional and national conferences, courses, and projects on violence against women.

Website: <http://www.acavpr.it/AcavPR/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/AssociazioneCentroAntiviolenzaDiParma/>

The **University of Parma** (Università degli Studi di Parma, **UNIPR**), founded in AD 962, is the oldest university in the world. As of 2016 the University of Parma has about 26,000 students. It is a state university with administrative autonomy. The University holds 9 Departments, 39 First Cycle Degree Courses, 6 Single Cycle Degree Courses, 41 Second Cycle Degree Courses (5 of which entirely held in English), as well as many Postgraduate schools, Teacher Training courses, several Master Programmes and PhDs.

The mission of UNIPR is to promote knowledge creation, transfer and progress to meet the increasing demand of advanced education and research in the society.

At the University of Parma, more than 70 projects have been funded within FP7 and H2020.

Website: <https://en.unipr.it/>

Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, SAMK, (Finland) is a multi-disciplinary and an international higher education institute of approximately 6 000 students and 400 employees. SAMK's basic functions are teaching and research, development and innovation (RDI). One of the faculties is Health and Welfare faculty, which offers Bachelor's and Master's Degree level education in Social and Health Services and Fine Arts.

Website: www.samk.fi/en



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B.a.B.e. Be active. Be emancipated. (Croatia) is a strategic lobbying and advocacy non-governmental organization founded in 1994 with the aim of promoting gender equality and ensuring equal opportunities for all genders, in all domains of social life. Nowadays B.a.B.e. is focused on prevention and suppression of all forms of gender-based violence, as well as advocacy and monitoring of legislative procedures, public policies and implementation measures. Activities of the organization are structured around four strategic programs that are aligned with the vision, mission and strategic goals of the organization: Gender equality; Prevention and suppression of gender-based violence; Providing existential protection and psychosocial support to women victims of violence and their children in the Vukovar-Srijem County (Safe House); Advocacy and monitoring of legislative procedures, public policies and enforcement measures in the field of human rights. In national context, B.a.B.e.'s success lies within the fact that it brought gender issues and women's human rights in political discourse and made them visible and part of the mainstream political agenda.

Website: <http://www.babe.hr/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BaBeZagreb/>

Eyes on Four Paws Foundation (E4p) (Bulgaria) started in 2000 by a blind psychiatrist and journalist, true to the motto of the disability movement "Nothing about us without us", the foundation has established the first and only in Bulgaria school for guide dogs for the blind and ever since strengthens and expands its activities. Currently it also trains in its cynology centre assistant dogs for physically disabled and diabetic alert dogs. E4p works actively for improvement of legislation where needed for ensuring the equal rights of disabled, for raising public awareness about disability issues, for international collaboration and transfer of innovations to ensure more independent and better quality life of persons with disabilities. Its experts consult and implement projects in international and public-private partnership, supported by corporate responsible businesses and a pull of volunteers. Currently the foundation starts its new social enterprise with vocational training centre.

Website: <http://e4p-bg.com>

Narodno chitalishte "Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodij 1924", (Bulgaria) established in 1924 as one of the unique Bulgarian type educational-cultural community centres "chitalishte", Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodij - 1924 is recognized as one of the most active in the nation-wide network of over 3 600 such community centres. It maintains a library of over 40 000 books, dancing school with 3 formations, 2 theatre groups, musical instruments teaching, lecturing, presentations of books and authors. The community center actively collaborate internationally in projects and initiatives. Its international music festival "Crossroad of the Muses" and its theatre festival "Aesop - the Freedom of the Slave" are part of the official cultural calendar of the Bulgarian capital Sofia. One of its core activities is to raise permanently the community awareness about important issues as gender equality, prevention of violence, intercultural and inter religious tolerance, etc.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/chitalishtekirilimetodi>

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Past Events

From 3rd to 7th December 2018, the first Transnational Partner Meeting of the project took place in Reggio Emilia (Italy), and the last day, the 7th of December, the Vivien Project has been officially presented in a public press conference at the University of Parma.



On 15th of February, in Zagreb (Croatia), B.a.B.e. held a meeting with stakeholders and associates from Croatia. B.a.B.e. has presented project 'VIVIEN - Victim Violence Educational Network' to the representatives of the The Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Police Administration of Zagreb, Police Academy, Faculty of Law in Zagreb, University of Zagreb - School of Medicine, University of Applied Health Sciences, Judicial Academy, City Office for Social Welfare and Disabled Persons, Zagreb County Health and Social Welfare Department, Social Welfare Center of Zagreb Croatian Nursing Council, Croatian Association of Social Workers, Croatian Psychological Society, Victim and Witness Support Service and Status M. B.a.B.e. proposed co-operation models and supported letters for the future project activities were and well being of Croatian society. Find more [HERE](#).



The project logo



The project logo has been designed in December 2018 by students of a class of an artistic high school, the "Liceo artistico Nanni Valentini" in Monza, Italy. The class prepared different logos and the international team chose the idea of the young student Alice Bajoni (18 years old). In this logo the project team likes the idea of the network, from difference Countries, difference professions, different situations, linked to prevent and to tackle violence against women.

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Next steps

The research! The University of Parma is coordinating the Country based research on past training for professionals' effectiveness. First a mapping of previous training and then, in each of the four Countries, the research is starting: 160 questionnaires and 30 video session ("hunt for errors") interviews to coding skills acquired and to analyze need and challenges met during previous training. In the Based on this research, a set of training will be held in the four Countries, affecting professionals who come in touch with gender violence (health system personnel, policemen, teachers, social workers, lawyers, etc.).

Keep in touch

You can find more information here:

Web site <https://vivien-project.eu/>

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Vivienproject/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/ProjectVivien>

Contact

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