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VIVIEN - Victim Violence Educational Network
An educational project to improve the ability to assist women victims of violence

NEWSLETTER N. 2 - VIVIEN Project

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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.

Existing publications on training studies for professionals working with victim of violence with and without disability: what's right? What's wrong?

One of the activities of the project is the creation of a report, realized by the University of Parma, on training studies for professionals who work with victim of violence in Europe.

Our literature review highlights the importance to train professionals not only on the professional "know-how" but also on the "know to be", by helping professionals to increase awareness of their empathic abilities and to reflect on their beliefs, attitudes and stereotypes towards women victims of violence. The University of Parma is preparing the report, soon available on the Vivien website.

The trainings and the seminars

Multi-professional Training

The framework that guides most of the past and existing training to assist women victim of violence in our countries is based on the conviction that "*if I know, I am able to*", but this is not proved by several studies; on the contrary, "*to know*" and "*to act the knowledge*" are different and even if the two levels are connected, the second needs a specific way to be developed. To do that our project offer Multi-professional training linking with the research of the University of Parma.

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The goal of multi-professional and cross-sectoral trainings is to enhance the competencies of professionals within the system in order to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, but also to avoid secondary victimization of the victim, break stereotypes and prejudices. This is a training for professionals from the sectors of the police, judiciary, social services, health, education and civil society sector who are working or might work with women victims of violence. The idea is also offer training for trainer, in fact some of the participant are accompanied to become multipliers, trainers in their own institution.



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In Italy the participants of the training are nearly 30 professionals from different sectors: social workers, obstetricians, physicians, teachers, lawyers, local and national police and “Carabinieri”. The first day of the Basic Training was the 2nd October 2019 in Parma and was really successful and participants strongly appreciated mainly the possibility to meet each other, but had also some doubts about to become multipliers of the training. The second day of the Basic Training was held the 13 November 2019 and was again really satisfactory with good engagement of people. The experiential, participatory and active approach was very important to allow them to open up to other professionals and try to overcome stereotypes. The Intermediate Multisectoral Training was held the 10th of December with the presence of *Differenza Donna*, a feminist association from Rome, an organisation first in Italy for projects against violence for women with disabilities.

In Croatia Basic Multi-professional Training was held in Vinkovci, in the Vukovar-srijem County (eastern region of the Croatia) on the 25th, 26th and 27th of the September 2019. Educators in charge of training participants were experts: psychologist Bruna Nedoklan, lawyer and human rights activist Sandra Benčić and lawyer Ines Bojić. All three days of training included a theoretical part, but also practical interactive and highly participatory workshops. 33 professionals from police, justice, social services, health, education and civil society participated in the training. B.a.B.e. held the Intermediate Multisectoral Training for at the Great City Hall in Vinkovci, on the 6th and 7th of November.

In Finland SAMK University decided to split the training in two trainings: one experimental using Somebody Method, and one planned later, based on the result of the experimental training and also based on the results of the research of the project. The first pilot Somebody in Violence

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Work Basic training was organized in Tampere on 19th and 20th August 2019, the Intermediate one on 9th September and 23rd September 2019 and Advanced one on 28th October 2019. There were beforehand 16 professionals came from Federation Settlementti Tampere (11 persons), Federation of Mothers and Child Homes and Shelters Pori (2 persons) and Juvenile home (2 persons). The participants were nurses, social workers, social counselors, public health nurses and juvenile counselors who were registered to training. Training is functional and exercise oriented and based on experimental and reflective learning. The second Somebody in Violence Work training one will start in January 2020 in Pori. Read more about Somebody method in <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-633-300-0>.



Seminar for Directors

Because of training professional could be not enough if the institution in which they work doesn't welcome the new knowledge in appropriate way, in the project we planned also Seminar for Directors of different units where trainees come from. The Seminar is the place to create or update a joint procedure to deal with women victim or at risk of violence.

In Italy we had 3 seminars with Directors where we explained the project and asked them to collaborate later on giving space to the multipliers attending the training. Around 30 responsables from different Public Services came and attended a 2 hours seminars discussing the difficulties to deal with violence against women. Now we are preparing a specific list of requests for them, coordinated with the multipliers themselves.



In Croatia on the 11th of September 2019, in Vukovar, the Association B.a.B.e. held a Seminar to the members of the County Team of the Vukovar-Srijem County for the Prevention and Fight against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, that unanimously agreed to participate in a series of multi-professional trainings. On 20th of September 2019, Association B.a.B.e. held a Seminar for Directors for the members of the Gender Equality Committee of Vukovar-Srijem county and the Human Rights Coordination. The Seminar took place in Vinkovci. The assembly resulted in cooperation between B.a.B.e. and the Committee and Coordination, which will contribute to decentralizing measures for protecting victims of GBV by educating experts at the regional and local level.

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Sectoral Sensitization Seminars

After the training, the participants-future multiplier are involved in organizing seminar in their own institution. The project provides 6 Sectorial Sensitization Seminars in Italy, Croatia and Finland.

In Finland the first Sectorial Sensitization Seminar was organized on 15th October 2019, with The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters and The Finnish Federation of Settlement Houses and their local representatives participating. There was 54 participants. During autumn 2019 and August 2020 six seminars will be arranged for professionals.



The 25th November

In Croatia on the International Day Against Violence Against Women, November 25th 2019, B.a.B.e. was one of the speakers on the multi-sectoral training named "Improving the position of the victim of domestic violence", that was held at the the Police Academy in Zagreb. B.a.B.e. was invited as one of the experts on the subject. This cross-sectoral gathering brought together experts from different fields of prevention and suppression of gender-based violence - Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy, Ministry of Justice, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Prevention at the Croatian Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Science and Education and representatives of the two civile society - B.a.B.e. and Korak. Representative of B.a.B.e. shared our often complementary knowledge and experience in working with victims of domestic violence.



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In Bulgaria

In Bulgaria 3 “Basic Multi-professional Sensitization Seminars were planned to be held in 3 different locations and they were conducted till the end of October. They aimed to identify the needs and the problems the professionals face in their work with gender violence. In fact by planned 3 seminars we succeeded to conduct 3 Sensitization seminars in the capital and additional 2 in two big cities in the country - Plovdiv and Ruse. The seminar in Ruse University involved also university staff, thus widening the scope of educators involved. The seminars took place: the 21st October 2019 in Sofia, held in a basic school (with 99% Roma students) with 30 participants, most of them teachers; the 30 October 2019 in Sofia, held in the High Vocational School for Textile and Leather Goods (around 90% Roma students) 30 participants, most of them teachers; the 31st October 2019 in Sofia, in the new own premises of Eyes On Four Paws foundation, with 25 participants, mostly social workers; the 6th November 2019 in Plovdiv, in hired hall and with 25 participants, mixed group - social workers, police, teachers, NGOs; the 14th November 2019 in Ruse (a big city on Danube river bank), held in Ruse University, with 42 participants, mixed group: university professors, police, social workers, NGOs, and some students. Based on the results of these meetings we are organizing 3 Trainings for Multipliers led by Italian, Croatia and Finnish partner, to increase the capacity of work with gender specific issue. The Training with international partner will take place at the end of February 2020.

The Second Transnational Partner Meeting

The Second Transnational Partner Meeting of project VIVIEN was held from December 3rd to December 5th 2019 in Zagreb, Croatia. The meeting took place on the premises of the Association B.a.B.e. and the Human Rights House Zagreb. Partners from Finland, Italy, Bulgaria and Croatia attended the meeting in order to summarize and discuss the progress of project implementation, including the difficulties encountered during the first year project. The University of Parma presented the first results of the study conducted by partners in all four countries, as well as the first results of mapping good practices in educating professionals working with women victims of violence in the European Union. Partners in all four countries need these results to implement them in the content of their national trainings.



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The Forum

Visit our support forum to ask, answer and contribute to the issue.

We are waiting your opinion!

<https://vivien-project.eu/support-forum/>



This is the first topic you can participate:
How deal when at school...?

Often the school is the place where we can see and understand the violence in the family of the student, but at the same time the teacher doesn't find support in the other institutions that manage violence against woman. The institutions say they cannot do anything without an authorization of the Court. So, what to do?

(Italy, issue emerged during the multi-professional training of 21st January 2020 in Parma).

Next steps

In order to identify the training needs of the professionals, we administered questionnaires to more than 750 professional and 125 deep interviews in the 4 Country (Italy, Croatia, Bulgaria and Finland). A part of respondents have received in past a training to assist women victim of violence, a part of them did not receive any training. Through this research, it will be possible to evaluate the professionals' skills and attitudes in terms of: empathic abilities, gender ideology and gender system justification, negative stereotyping of women, beliefs on violence towards disabled women, motivations of male violence and of acceptance of violence by women and beliefs about secondary victimization. **The results of the research will be ready soon.**

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