



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. 5 - VIVIEN Project

English

### End of the project - January 2021

**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 Vivien project officially ends on January 31, 2021.

#### SOME NUMBER

In the 4 project countries: Italy, Finland, Croatia and Bulgaria, the following actions were carried out

- multi-professional trainings of 60 hours with more than 100 professionals;
  - National trainings with more than 100 professionals
  - 8 regional seminars where the guidelines resulting from the project were discussed
  - 6 dissemination events in each country
- The multipliers trained in the trainings in turn have realized:

- 10 sector-specific trainings in each country
- 6 sector-specific seminars in each country

We sincerely thank all the people and organizations that collaborated with the project, who participated in the training and dissemination activities and those who ask us to continue. We will try to follow up on this experience, as the issue of violence against women and women with disabilities is an important topic and has deeply involved and passionate us. We are happy to know that some dissemination and training actions carried out by participants of our trainings will continue in the coming months. Working on the training of multipliers has been a winning choice!

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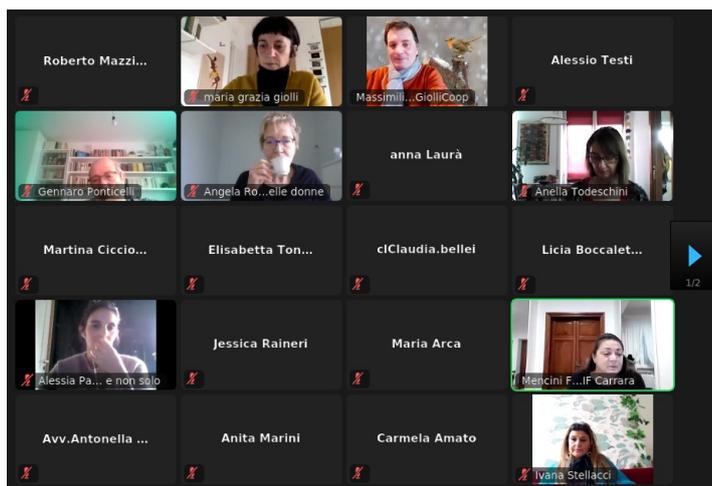
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**FROM AUTUMN 2020 UNTIL TODAY**

In the last months of the project we focused on the dissemination of the project results and carried out, mostly online, in the 4 partner countries:

- Intensive **national trainings** aimed at training professionals at national level who could in turn carry out trainings in their own sectors;
- **10 sectoral trainings** in each country conducted by the previous participants, who together with Vivien trainers, carried out trainings in their own institutions;
- **2 regional seminars** in each country where the project's Reduced Guidelines were discussed
- **6 dissemination events** in each country where the project was presented through the videos produced, discussing with the participants the theme and the results of the project;



- **3 online theatre forum** performances, in Italy, on stories of women with disabilities (cases of secondary victimisation);
- **a 4-day international training**, conducted by the partners of the 4 countries, on the specific training methodologies of each country;
- **an international final conference** with 120 participants including professionals, experts, moderators who debated for two days the issue of violence against women with disabilities and the tools to effectively counter it.

**THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING**

We had four intense days in January, about 25 participants from various countries in Europe and beyond. The four approaches show different facets, so we proposed days that provided various and different stimuli.

The first day explored Boal's Theatre, Giolli's specific method, combined with mindfulness and ACAV's experience about fighting violence.



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The second day experimented with Somebody®, a Finnish psychophysiological method for developing body and emotional awareness.

The third day was dedicated to the Croatian situation and bringing concrete cases on which to experiment in the work.

The last day had a special focus on the condition of women with disabilities and the Bulgarian situation. The participants were satisfied, more than half of them found the training "excellent" and most of the others "very good". Almost all of them recognised the great importance of the topic and found it very interesting. The training was recognised as extremely useful for developing skills and increasing knowledge with regard to the possibility of putting into practice what was learned on the topic.

The Brain and Body are "Experience-Dependent"

The "affective regulations of brain growth" rely on attachment relationship. (Trevarthen)

The quality of touch, eye contact, emotional attunement, responsiveness, interactive regulation, and attunement of caregivers shape both the brain and the body. Ogden 2009

Physical actions are creating the context for mental actions; bottom-up processes are affecting upper level processes. Damasio, 1999



**THE FINAL CONFERENCE**

20 and 21 January 2021 were two very intense days of discussion and exchange at international level, on what the Vivien project has been, but also looking towards future perspectives.

WEDNESDAY 20 and THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2021  
**VIVIEN** project ends with the on-line conference

**NEVERMORE INVISIBLE**  
 round tables with European experts  
 about  
**good practices**  
 to combat violence against women with disabilities

**effective training**  
 for operators working in support of women

**key role of multipliers and network**  
 in the fight against gender-based violence

During the first morning it was possible to split into 6 separate virtual rooms to encourage horizontal dialogue and participation. Thanks to a light facilitation, each group brought up important issues or questions from their own professional and personal experience, to be put to the speakers of the round tables that took place in the subsequent conference programme.

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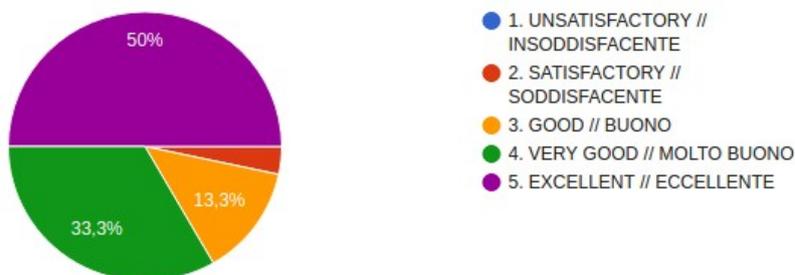
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The round tables highlighted some key points for a better fight against the phenomenon, which we summarise here:

- 1) The **importance of systemising all the good practices** that exist and are effective, so as to make a positive approach to violence systematic and to better accommodate women with disabilities, bringing to light the hidden violence that is exercised on them.
- 2) **To strengthen and extend the networks** against violence and to promote the creation of similar networks for the prevention of violence, including representatives of the world of disability.
- 3) **To guarantee the protagonism of the associated realities of people with disabilities** and of individuals so that the policies and services that concern them are full of their voice.
- 4) **To develop research on effective training methods**, based on an integral, holistic approach to the person (mind, body and emotion intertwined), with dialogic, maieutic, participatory methods that enhance the practical knowledge of professionals and volunteers.

The feedback from the people who participated was very positive. Out of 60 people who responded to the evaluation questionnaire, more than 80% rated the conference as "very good" or "excellent".





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*Here some comments from participants of the Final Conference:*

*-“I really enjoyed the round table and the involvement,  
as was typical of Boal's method, inviting participants into the role of actors.”*

*-“It is important to approach training not only cognitively  
but attentive to empathic motivation. it is important to take care of the network”*

*-“I found the conference and the whole initiative very interesting and it opened up a world to me. It  
also showed me areas of action and tools to work with. My skills to be refined and evolved, my  
knowledge and gaps to be integrated and implemented.”*

*-“I really appreciated the use of the techniques of the theatre of the oppressed.  
What I do think could be improved, however, is to expand the training to more  
to a larger number of multipliers”*

*-“I appreciated the research and fieldwork presented by the various speakers”*

*-“I appreciated the ways of interaction”*

The conference was also online on the Facebook page [Vivien - Victim Violence Educational Network | Facebook](#) and it is possible to see it in English language in the [video](#) section.

The recording of the conference will be able very soon in English and in Italian on the YouTube Channel [Vivien Project - YouTube](#).

## DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

The project ends up leaving several documents and materials available on our website and social channels. Of these, the last ones produced can soon be found on our website News - VIVIEN project ([vivien-project.eu](http://vivien-project.eu)):

- **Collection of best training paths**, collection of training paths to combat violence against women with disabilities and guidelines to implement them, by Nadia Monacelli and Arianna Mori of the University of Parma.
- **Guidelines** to train operators effectively on how to welcome women (with disabilities) who are victims of violence, by the University of Parma.
- **Recommendation** for public authorities on how to include the problem and its management in their political and administrative agenda.

In addition, the recording in Italian of the online theatre forum "Invisible Women" is available on Vivien [YouTube Channel](#).

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## THANKSGIVING

We would like to thank for the collaboration many people and organization, specially:

- The **Emilia-Romagna Region** which strongly collaborated to the project in particular to the realisation and dissemination of the final events
- **Differenza Donna** NGO that contributed to give a particular value with its own direct experience on the topic
- **Anziani e non solo** Società Cooperativa Sociale di Carpi, which has intertwined with us part of the path of their **Stay Safe** project, which we suggest you to follow. [staysafe - Preventing and responding to sexual violence against women with disabilities \(staysafeproject.eu\)](http://staysafe-preventingandrespondingtosexualviolenceagainstwomenwithdisabilities.staysafeproject.eu)
- Mondo Donna of Bologna, which contributed to some key steps of the project such as the Final Conference

Finnish special thanks for active collaboration: **Federation Settlement House Tampere, Pori Anchor Team, Mothers and Child Homes and Shelters Association Pori, The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters, Crisis Centre Ankkurpaikk' Rauma, Association Suvanto - For A Safe Old Age, The Tampere Mother and Child Home Association, The Turku Mother and Child Home Association, Girls' Houses Helsinki, Turku and Tampere.**

A special thanks for active collaboration to Croatian institutions and organizations: **Vukovar-Srijem County, Safe House of Vukovar-Srijem County, the Vukovar-Srijem County Police Administration, the Victims and Witnesses Support Association Croatia, the Women's Association Vukovar, the Home for children and adults, victims of domestic violence, „Duga - Zagreb“, Association Vukovar Butterflies, the National Memorial Hospital Vukovar, Law Clinic Zagreb and Law Clinic Osijek, University of Zagreb, University of Rijeka, University of Zadar, University of Osijek, Student Council of the University of Zagreb, Student Council of the University of Osijek, the National and local teams for the prevention and fight against violence against women and domestic violence, Social Welfare Center Županja, Social Welfare Center Vinkovci, Police Station Vinkovci, Border police Station Vrbanja, Border Police Station Ilok, Elementary School of Antun Bauer Vinkovci, Elementary School of Nikola Andrić, the Municipal court of Vukovar, County Court of Vukovar-Srijem County, County Court of Split, the Vukovar General Hospital, Ljubica Matijević Vrsaljko and others. Thank you!**

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**BaBe!**  
Budi aktiva. Budi emancipiran.





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Bulgarian special thanks for active collaboration: the Municipality of Ruse, the social services of the Municipality of Sofia, the Union of the Bulgarian National Chitalishta, the National Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Plovdiv, the Center for Educational Initiatives, the 67 basic school "Vasil Drumev" and the High Vocational School for Textile and Leader Goods with predominantly Roma students, the Specialised School for Visually Impaired and Multiple Disabled Students.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

The web site (which will remain for at least 5 years) <https://vivien-project.eu/>

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

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

The YouTube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_XQcxfQNlev7I](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_XQcxfQNlev7I)

## CONTACTS

### Project coordinator

Giolli (Italy) - name: Cristina Ceruti  
email: [vivien@giollicoop.it](mailto:vivien@giollicoop.it) - phone +39-0521-686385

### National coordinators

BaBe (Croatia) - name: Anja Mihajlovic  
email: [anja.mihajlovich@babe.hr](mailto:anja.mihajlovich@babe.hr) - phone: +385 1 4663 666

SAMK (Finland) - name: Satu Vaininen  
email: [satu.vaininen@samk.fi](mailto:satu.vaininen@samk.fi) - phone: +358 44 710 3865

Eyes on Four Paws (Bulgaria) - name: Alya-Nedyalka Veder  
email: [alya.veder@gmail.com](mailto:alya.veder@gmail.com) - phone: +359-885-84-34-85

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