

Women Against Violence Europe

WAVE is the only European network focusing solely on the elimination of violence against women and children. We hope that you will join us in supporting our work and take part in advocating for the human rights of women throughout Europe and worldwide!

WAVE News

DIS.CO: 2nd Transnational Project Meeting



DIS.CO project partners met in Tartu, Estonia from 26-27 July 2018 to discuss the progress of the project and assess the development of intellectual outputs O1, O2, and O3. During the meeting it was established that the project is on track and that the profile of a counsellor "at a distance" (IO2) will be released to the public in early Fall. An informational leaflet with the target audience of counsellors, academics and trainers will also be released so that project partners can disseminate information about DIS.CO at events and conferences. The leaflet will be available in all project languages: Estonian, Greek, Spanish, and English as well as Catalan and Russian to improve outreach. A joint staff training entitled "Train the Trainers Workshop" for senior staff of the participating organisations on the topic of Counselling at a Distance will be held by M&M Profuture training in Barcelona, Spain at the end of May 2019. The next project partner meeting will take place in Belfast, Northern Ireland on 31 January - 1 February 2019. It will be hosted by Nexus NI. Follow the [DIS.CO facebook page](#) to stay up to date on the latest developments of the project.

Matinee in the Vienna State Opera for an end to violence against women and children

On September 21st, the International Day of Peace takes place annually worldwide. Living without violence and in peace is a human right. The Austrian Women's Shelter Network (AÖF) in cooperation with the European network WAVE take this opportunity to organise an event with readings and music in the Gustav Mahler Hall of the Vienna State Opera. The aim of the [HELLWACH Matinee](#) is once again to draw attention to the enormous extent of violence against women and children worldwide and to the right of a life away from violence. Entrance tickets cost € 36, and are available at the Bundestheaterkassen or at www.wiener-staatsoper.at. Austria ratified the Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women) in 2013. However, there are still serious gaps and deficits in the implementation of its provisions, particularly with regard to support services for survivors. The 40th anniversary of the Austrian Women's Movement will also be celebrated in 2018.

A new Organization is Included in WAVE. 'Arena y Laurisilva' Introduces Itself

Federación de Asociaciones de Mujeres 'Arena y Laurisilva' has recently joined the WAVE Network. The main aim of the federation - established in 1994 - is to defend women's rights. The federation is active in Spain, specifically in the Canary Islands and Basque Country; the head office is located in Tenerife. The federation comprises 10 organizations which develop projects related to gender-based violence and access to equal opportunities. They run women's shelters, care centres for women, and implement projects on awareness-raising among the young with a focus on gender-based violence and discrimination. These projects empower women who are at risk of social exclusion. It is a huge privilege for the federation to become part of the WAVE network, and it stands ready to engage in research and collaboration efforts with other European organizations fighting against gender-based violence and promoting access to equal opportunities. For more information check out [Laurisilva's website](#) and follow its activities on [social media](#).

De Nieuwe Toekomst (The New Future) Recognized!

The [project De Nieuwe Toekomst](#) (The New Future) is the only interventionist organization in the Netherlands aiming specifically at helping women victims of domestic violence and supporting them by means of greater social and economic independence. The project is implemented locally throughout the Netherlands and is a collaboration of women's organizations, women's shelter organizations and municipalities. In June 2018, De Nieuwe Toekomst was recognized as an intervention organization (Goed Onderbouwd) by the Commission on Social support, participation and safety (Maatschappelijke ondersteuning,

**DE NIEUWE
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participatie en veiligheid). As a result, it was added to the database of Movisie – a knowledge institute engaged with social domains of citizens' independence. According to this commission, which evaluates social interventions, the success of interventions lies in a balanced training programme, which enables it to be a route, customized to the needs of the participants, offering them a new perspective for the future. The further development of [De Nieuwe Toekomst is part of](#) a national project of the Federatie Opvang (Dutch organization of women's shelters) together with De Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad (Dutch Women's Council). The national project is financed by the Ministry of Education. The intervention consists of 10 group training sessions, combined with approximately 9 months of individual coaching sessions with a volunteer coach. A presentation about this intervention will be given at the WAVE Conference in October 2018 in Malta.

International News

Workshops for Professional Groups on how to Address Cases of Gender-Based Violence in the Republic of Moldova



In July 2018, 3 NGOs, members of the National Coalition "Life without Domestic Violence" from the Republic of Moldova – "Association Against Domestic Violence -Casa Marioarei", Association "Promo-LEX" and RCTV "Memoria" started a series of workshops for professional groups on how to address cases of gender-based violence. The six two-day workshops provided training and needs-based assistance knowledge to 150 representatives from groups of professionals (lawyers, psychologists, social workers, doctors and journalists involved with and interested in working on cases of gender-based violence). The main objective of the workshops was to increase the understanding within professional groups of the issue of gender-based violence and to strengthen their capacities to provide comprehensive assistance in cases of gender-based violence on a local level. These workshops will continue to be held in different towns around the country until October 2018. They are part of the project "Increasing the respect for women's rights in Moldova through combating gender-based violence", financed by the EU.



Independent Report on the Implementation of the new Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence in Serbia

Autonomous Women Center issued their sixth independent report on the implementation of the new Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence. The Law was adopted in November 2016, and implementation began on June 1st, 2017. After one year, in a country where everyone said that the "Austrian model of prevention measures" couldn't be implemented, police intervened in approximately 3000 to 4000 reported cases and issued between 1100 and 1700 emergency protection orders (which last 48 hours) per month; 90 % of these orders have been prolonged by 30 days by the court upon request from prosecutors. Even though the Law has put victims at the center of all actions in all institutions, the data show that the desired standards for victims haven't been achieved; only around 1 % of all victims are invited to the compulsory meetings of Community Coordinated Response Groups, presided by prosecutors, where victims' protection plans are being developed. Most of the prosecution offices in Serbia held the compulsory meetings of Community Coordinated Response Groups twice a month, but not all groups respected the prerequisite of the Law demanding a discussion of all reported cases including old ones, which needed a re-assessment.

In the Name of the (Male) People – Research on Prostitution in Serbia

An analysis conducted by the Autonomous Women's Centre (AWC) shows that women in prostitution are punished more than five times as often as men who purchase prostitution services. This analysis was carried out in 2016 – the first year of the implementation of a new law on misdemeanours related to prostitution. Although the prohibitionist model on prostitution has been applied throughout history, it wasn't until 2016 that the definition of a misdemeanour applied to those purchasing prostitution services. Research shows that his model remains blind to unequal power relations between men and women. When it comes to prostitution, women's moral principles are being judged and questioned, whereas the buyers of prostitution often avoid public shaming and escape legal punishments.

Besides the discrimination encountered in Courts, women in prostitution are often arrested and convicted even when no offense occurred and, in some cases, when they are arrested together with buyers, those men appear at court as witnesses against the women without facing any consequences themselves. Based on research results, the AWC sent recommendations to responsible institutions, demanding changes of the aforementioned law and the decriminalization of engaging in prostitution.

Main findings with recommendations are available in English [here](#), and the whole research is available in Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian at this [link](#).

New Protective Measures Against Domestic Violence in Albania are being enshrined into legislation



On July 23rd, 2018, the Albanian Parliament approved the amendments to law 9669/2006 "On measures against violence in family relationships."

The Domestic Violence Law amendment harmonizes domestic legislation with the Istanbul Convention and foresees better protection for victims/survivors of violence.

Novelties brought in by the amendment concern the authority of police officers to grant an order of preliminary measures for immediate protection until the court grants the decision, enhancing protection for women and girls. For the first time the law protects women and girls in intimate relationships, without having to be a blood relative of the perpetrator, being married or cohabitating with the perpetrator. This also ensures improved protection orders for children - even in cases when they are indirect victims of violence, better services not only for victims/survivors of DV but also provision of rehabilitation services for perpetrators of DV. "The Monitoring Network against Gender Based Violence" actively contributed during the public consultation process and has provided suggestions to improve some of the amendments. Some suggestions were accepted by the Parliamentary Law Commission and are reflected in the law. The following organisations contributed during the public consultation process of the aforementioned legislation: Albanian Women Empowerment Network (AWEN) with its members organizations, Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC), Counseling Line for Women and Girls, Association of Women with Social Problems (AWSP), "Me, the woman", Agritira Vizion Association, Woman to Woman Association, Women's Forum Elbasan, "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre, Jona Association and Center for Legal Civic Initiatives; **Human Rights in Democracy Center (HRDC)**, Women's Association Refleksione - members of the WAVE network - and also other organizations such as Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF), Useful to Albanian Woman, National Center for Community Services (NCCS), Albanian national, professional, businesswomen and crafts' associations and other.



Serbia Submits Official State Report to GREVIO

On July 3, the government of Serbia submitted the first official report about the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to GREVIO. GREVIO is the independent body tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. After a two-year evaluation process undertaken by the state, a ratification of the Istanbul Convention is now underway. The first state report, which lists all the important legislative and strategic measures taken by the state in the fight against gender-based violence, corroborated by relevant statistical data, is available to the public on the **Council of Europe website** . A coalition of ten women's organisations from Serbia have been engaged in the drafting process of a Shadow Report, but it is not yet known when this will be published.



Project on Changing Attitudes and Perceptions About GBV is Being Implemented in Cyprus



Preventing and combating violence against women and girls through gender equality awareness

The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (APHVF) offers support and counselling to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, provides shelter to women affected by domestic violence and implements educational preventative programs for professionals and society at large. APHVF is a partner, together with the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies and ENOROS Consulting Ltd., in the project "Circle of Change", coordinated by the Cyprus Police. This project is co-funded by the Justice Program of the European Union. Its main objectives are to change societal attitudes and perceptions on gender-based violence and improve capacities of police officers and public officials to register, investigate and prosecute all cases concerning gender-based violence. The project also makes a contribution to education

in primary and secondary schools on how to prevent violence in intimate adolescent relationships.

Some of the activities include:

- training material on combating GBV for police and public authorities
- awareness raising training seminars for teachers and adolescents
- a media campaign consisting of a photo exhibition, theatrical workshops and a theatrical performance

Respect Young People’s Services National Event



On September 26, Respect Young People’s Services National Event will take place in Gateshead, UK. The event will provide an informal, participatory platform, where experts, service managers and practitioners can meet and discuss. The event will be focusing on working with young people diagnosed with autism or ADHD and their families, and, in

particular, tackling child to parent violence. You can find out more about the event on [Respect’s website](#).

Abortion No longer Considered a Crime in Belgium

In July, Belgium finally **decriminalized abortion**, which has now become a right. Lawmakers have been pushing for this law since 1990. However, due to religious beliefs embedded in society, it has been difficult to change the legislation in this particular area. By removing abortion from the penal code, Belgium is also openly addressing the taboo of having this procedure done, which is paramount for girls and women – especially in cases where pregnancy is the result of non-consensual sex.

New Zealand Brings in Paid Domestic Abuse Leave

New Zealand passed a new law in July, which grants victims of domestic violence 10 days paid



leave in addition to standard holiday and sick leaves, giving them time to find a new home for themselves and their children. New Zealand has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the developed world – the police responds to incidents every four minutes. Another important part of this new law is that women aren’t required to provide proof of their circumstances. Additionally, they will be entitled to fast-tracked flexible work conditions as a safety precaution, e.g. a new work location, change of email address and having their contact details removed from the

company’s website. The new law will **take effect as of April 2019**. New Zealand is only the **second country in the world** to put in place such policy. A similar measure was adopted by the Philippines in 2004.



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