

Coordinating Institution

THE MEDITERRANEAN INSTITUTE OF GENDER STUDIES (MIGS)

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) is a non-profit organization, affiliated to the University of Nicosia. The Institute aims to act as main contributor to the intellectual, political, and socio-political life of the region as this relates to issues of gender and to do so using a multidisciplinary approach and in collaboration with other institutions. The Institute recognizes the multilayered levels of discrimination against women and accepts that this discrimination takes different forms. It is committed to the elimination of this discrimination using a combination of research, advocacy and lobbying, as well as training, conferences, and other activities.

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Youth4Youth

Empowering Young People
in Preventing Gender-based Violence
through Peer Education

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



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PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:



UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA



Background

Gender-based violence, and particularly domestic violence, is an area that has been receiving increased attention in Europe in recent years and has been identified as a social problem with devastating effects that deserves special attention in legislation and research. In most member-states laws on domestic violence have improved and National Action Plans on combating violence against women have been drafted. However, most of the existing policy and legislation on gender-based violence in EU member states focus on the adult population and fail to target the foundations of this problem in the early stages of appearance. Although there has been some increased and much needed attention given to combating bullying and violence among youth, gender-based violence among adolescents including dating violence, violence in intimate relationships, sexual harassment and the gendered aspects of bullying have received less attention in both prevention programmes as well as in policy development and research.

The project

The main aim of the project is to contribute to the prevention and combating of gender-based violence among adolescents by providing them with a safe space to reveal their attitudes towards violence, to reassess their tolerance towards it, and empower them to become actively involved in developing an environment free from violence for themselves as well as for their peers. The project will be implemented using a gender equality and rights based approach.

Project Objectives

- Investigate and explore young people's attitudes towards gender-based violence and the links between gender stereotypes and gender-based violence;
- To expose and challenge attitudes of tolerance towards gender-based violence among young people;
- Empower young people to resist gender-based violence and develop attitudes of self-respect and self-value;
- Further develop and promote the 'peer education' methodology to preventing gender-based violence among youth as well as promote their active involvement in developing a safe and protective environment for themselves and their peers;
- Promote the development of critical thinking among young people towards important actors of youth gender socialisation, particularly electronic and other media;
- To provide educators in formal and non-formal education with information and tools for working with young people in the prevention of gender-based violence;
- To promote the role of schools and other formal and non-formal education centers in the prevention of gender-based violence among young people and in the promotion of relationships based on tolerance, respect and equality;
- To contribute to policy development on the prevention of gender-based violence in educational contexts on a national and EU level;

Activities

- A research study to investigate and explore young people's attitudes towards gender-based violence in the partner countries using quantitative and qualitative methods;
- The preparation of country reports based on the research carried out in the partner countries;
- Press conferences in all the partner countries to disseminate the results of the research;
- The organization of teacher training workshops in all partner countries to introduce the basic concepts relating to gender-based violence and peer education and actively engage teachers in the project activities;
- A series of training workshops with adolescents in secondary education schools using the 'peer education' methodology on gender-based violence and gender roles and stereotypes;
- The organization of student exhibitions in each partner country to celebrate the participation of students in the training workshops and to promote their own views on combating gender-based violence;
- The publication of an awareness-raising booklet with information aimed at preventing gender-based violence among young people that will be disseminated among all relevant stakeholders including NGOs, youth centers, secondary schools, Ministries of Education, teachers unions, among others;

- The publication of a training manual for education practitioners in formal and non-formal education that will include the methodology and exercises developed and implemented during the project;

- The organization of a final seminar and workshop on gender-based violence among adolescents in each partner country whereby the results of the project will be disseminated to all relevant stakeholders;

Partner Organizations

CASA DELLE DONNE PER NON SUBIRE VIOLENZA, ITALY

Casa delle donne per non subire violenza (Center for Women against Violence) is a women's organisation founded in 1990 which has been working with the financial support of and in cooperation with the Town and Provincial Councils of Bologna. It provides counselling, support and shelter for women and their children who have been victims of violence. Their purpose is to support and assist women victims of violence, especially those abused in a domestic environment and also frequently involving children. They aim to provide comprehensive assistance and counselling, including providing information, psychological support and legal support in order to promote the undeniable human right to not be violated, as well as the right to security. In addition to survivor services, the Centre works towards the elimination of violence through awareness campaigns, community education and training and prevention efforts.

For more information please visit www.casadonne.it

CREA, UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA, SPAIN

The Centre of Research in Theories and Practices that Overcome Inequalities (CREA) is a highly interdisciplinary centre with long experience in Research and Technical Development (RTD) projects at a national and European level. Some of CREA's most significant lines of research are gender inequalities, educational success, and cultural groups. CREA is currently coordinating the INCLUDE-ED Integrated Project which is the most important RTD project on schooling in Europe. The SAFO CREA's Women's Group has been working on research projects since 1999, mainly related to 'other' women, women and interculturalism, and gendered violence. This group has been involved in several scientific conferences and publications with feminist authors, and it regularly collaborates with other women's groups and institutions linked to gender issues.

For more information please visit www.creaub.info

EUROPEAN ANTI-VIOLENCE NETWORK, GREECE

The European Anti-Violence Network (EAVN) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, certified by the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, which was founded in November 2006 and is based in Athens, Greece. The Network's activities include the design and implementation of research, educational and other scientific activities aimed at primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of violence by means of the investigation of and/or confronting of social or other factors that are directly or indirectly related to the violence phenomenon and especially domestic violence.

Specifically, the Network carries out its mission through activities such as: networking organizations combating violence; referral of victims of domestic violence to support services; developing educational and sensitisation material; designing and conducting research; implementing and evaluating informational and awareness raising activities and interventions; conducting educational workshops; collaborating with national and European organizations and contributing to policy making.

For more information please visit www.antiviolence-net.eu

WOMEN'S ISSUES INFORMATION CENTRE, LITHUANIA

The Women's Issues Information Centre (WIIC) is non-governmental organization actively promoting gender equality in Lithuania since 1996. WIIC aims are to seek equal rights and opportunities for women and men in Lithuania; improve women's position in Lithuania in public and private life and develop gender equality environment. The Centre initiates research studies and conducts statistical surveys. The WIIC coordinates or participates as partner in numerous European and national projects on violence against women, trafficking in women, ICTs, family and professional life responsibilities reconciliation, refugee women. The Centre has an extensive network of contacts with women's organizations, women's NGOs within Lithuania, Nordic – Baltic region.

For more information please visit www.lygus.lt