

Press release - project Step4GBV

Violence is not LOVE!

Gender based violence is a topic that progressively gets sufficient attention from the general public and those in charge of the society. Nevertheless, it is still necessary to engage in this topic, particularly in order to decrease tolerance towards domestic violence and to assure help to domestic violence victims is available all over the world.

Such a goal has also been set by the international project STEP4GBV. This project aims to increase the competencies of professionals via capacity building activities. The professionals will thus be better equipped to meet the needs of GBV victims and to treat perpetrators. Another aim is to develop and test new intervention methods package tools. It will be achieved through mutual learning and assessment of the methods used for supporting GBV victims and treating perpetrators.

The project started in January 2018 and members of the project are:

- 1/ Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family – Cyprus
- 2/ ENOROS CONSULTING LIMITED – Cyprus
- 3/ Centro Italiano per la Promozione della Mediazione – Italy
- 4/ Cyprus police
- 5/ Diaconia of the ECCB The Centre of Christian help in Prague – Czech Republic
- 6/ Ass. I Diritti Civili nel 2000-Salvabebè/Salvamamme – Italy
- 7/ Association Demetra - Bulgaria

All partners first met in Nicosia (Cyprus) in January 2018 to plan upcoming activities. Up to date, 3 transnational workshops already took place in Nicosia, Prague and Burgas. These days, the participants are preparing for the last workshop that will be held in Milan (5. – 7. 2. 2019).

Nicosia Transnational Workshop - 13th & 14th March 2018

During the 1st day of the Nicosia Transnational Workshop, APHVF's programmes for victims, perpetrators, couples and clients of APHVF shelter were presented to the participants through a series of presentations and experiential exercises. During the second day, participants shared their emotions and feelings regarding the previous day. A presentation of APHVF shelters followed, in which the operation and rules of the shelters were explained. Throughout the two days transnational workshop, the participating organizations discussed and exchanged their experiences and observations about working with victims and perpetrators.

Prague Transnational workshop - 27th & 28th June 2018

During Prague Transnational Workshop, SOS centre therapists presented and explained methods of work with victims and perpetrators of GBV. The first day started with an overview of services provided by SOS centre in the past and at present. The second day of the workshop begun with a presentation about PSSI (a diagnostic tool used in the program "Stop violence"). Afterwards, a presentation focused on work with unmotivated clients took place. The last presentation of the workshop took place in SOS centre and focused on group therapy for clients who committed violence in close relationships. Throughout the two day transnational workshop, the participating organizations discussed and exchanged their experiences and observations about working with victims and perpetrators.

Burgas Transnational workshop 29th & 30th October 2018

During the transnational workshop in Burgas, the participants had a unique chance to visit a shelter for human trafficking victims and a sexual assault referral center (a support unit for victims of sexual violence). The participants also learned about the fruitful cooperation between Demetra association and local municipalities along with the police. Outcomes of the shared intervention tool package were also presented during the workshop.

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