

Domestic Violence Met by Educated Women



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Summary.

The project will raise the domestic violence met by educated women on the European agenda. According to their own points of view the project partners will ask different questions, launch questionnaires and make small surveys in different countries, analyze the results and collect data about domestic violence. They organize five international and several national conferences on the topic. The final report is intended to put the spotlight on common results promoted by all partners. The project aims at producing new knowledge of this sad phenomenon and at disseminating best practices from country to country to prevent it. The project will be successful if an EU wide understanding is found to answer to domestic violence. The project concentrates on the educated women and their children as victims of domestic violence because all the members of the learning partnership are educated women. It is easier to begin with the closest violence concerning themselves and their colleagues.

Motivation for this project

There are different motivations in different countries. In Finland, for instance, a couple of very sad and terrifying cases of domestic violence occurred in academic families in 2012. In one of the cases a highly educated husband killed his academic wife and their small children and himself. It was and still is a mystery. How such things can happen?

International motivation of the project: As IFUW (International Federation of University Women) starts the 31st Triennial Conference in Istanbul, Turkey – 16 to 21 August 2013 about “Women’s role in achieving a sustainable future: Education, urbanization, violence and human rights” , one of the themes of the workshop will be “The culture of violence against women as a threat to sustainability”. Our project DVMEW concerns the same themes for Europe and in particular from the viewpoint of university women organizations, ZKE and KCI.

From the national organizations point of view it is important to learn more about this phenomenon in order to be able to inform and instruct the members of the organizations of university women. It will have a great impact on other groups of women, if domestic violence is discussed openly, if it is effectively prevented or even totally deleted from academic homes in the future.

The project DVMEW is relevant in every country. The educated women as victims is a group which is ignored at large. We definitely need to learn more of it in order to improve the unequal status of our members (university women) at home. This is important in order to relief their everyday life at home and at work and to save them from suffering and to empower them to work with all their capacity in the labour market.

Objectives and strategy

1. To give an overall picture of the problem of domestic violence met by educated women in different European countries by approaching the problem from the perspective of different academic disciplines.
2. To bring together people from different countries, at different ages and with different cultural background and with varying academic education to reflect and discuss the topic together.

Following subjects will be addressed: 1. what are the first signs of the domestic violence met by educated women, 2. what kinds of coping and survival mechanisms do the victims have, and 3. what is the role of education of the wife and husband in cases of domestic violence?

Our approach to achieve our objectives is as follows: Relevant data shall be collected using different sources, such as legislation, and personal informants (police, medical doctors, psychologists, social workers, shelter home staff, etc.). We will conduct additional background interviews with experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations which fight against domestic violence. In addition to gathering data, we are going to conduct a small survey with a questionnaire developed by ZKE (Partner no 2) and another survey with a questionnaire outlined by the Finnish partner. The latter questionnaire can be answered anonymously and electrically. The informant can leave her contacts in the case she is willing to participate anonymously in a face to face interview. The study will pay attention to possible sensitive and ethical issues and follow the ethical rules by the American Sociological Association. We discuss common problems and preliminary results and evaluate the progress of the project in project meetings and international conferences.

European added value

The issue of sustainability - see D2 Istanbul conference

We all try to answer the following questions:

Are there differences in what is understood as domestic violence in the EU countries?

From these differences which will be established through analysis we will formulate more reliable recommendations, how to avoid or to prevent or to reduce domestic violence.

Added European value consists of best practices that we learn from project partners and of European cultural and social diversity that we encounter during the project period and that enriches our knowledge of the vital aspects of domestic violence in different countries. The national view to this global problematic is too narrow, in times of strong immigration in particular.

Impact

From the working process we will gain awareness of intercultural differences and we will gain new experiences how to handle these. We shall also learn from best practices carried out in different countries. We understand that this is a European and world wide problem and thus we sit all in the same boat.

As pupils, learners, trainers and staff we learn this sad phenomenon better and understand the importance of people and organizations fighting against it, providing shelter homes and aiming at changes in legislation in order to strengthen the equality between the sexes and save women and

children from consequences of domestic violence. Our organizations work for academic women in particular. After this project we shall have new insights into the special problems of educated women (members of our organizations) and better possibilities to support the victims. The organizations of University women will be more familiar with other national organizations that work to prevent domestic violence and support the victims. This will facilitate good cooperation. The national and international networks will be strengthened. The strong European networks have more power than individual organizations to demand and implement changes.

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Evaluation

Kyrklunds' Consulting International will be in charge of the evaluation of the project.

The evaluation is going to be done on two plans; on the one hand, an on-going evaluation following the progress of the project. This will comprise an assessment of the results pending each and every meeting and event taking place within the project, considering the degree of achievement of the envisaged partial goals of the project, considering both qualitative and quantitative criteria, e.g.: participation, details regarding organization of the event and its results compared to the projected ones, expected long-time results/effects, etc.

At the end of the project, a final general evaluation of the entire project and its results will be performed, considering a number of criteria, quantitative and qualitative. This is going to be based on a comparison of the initially established goals and objectives of the project with the actual results achieved, also using the partial results of every meeting. Some of the evaluation criteria proposed are:

- Number of participants involved at various levels of the project
- A comparison between the data and (comparable) information achieved within the project, also in a comparative perspective, including a short contrastive analysis of the differences and similarities indicated by the results and information obtained in the countries represented in the project;
- A short review of the (differences between the) legal approaches regarding the theme of the project (DVMEW) in the countries involved, as well as the role and involvement of various actors of interest and involved one way or another in combating the phenomenon;
- A special attention will be devoted to the issue of education and appropriate information and dissemination through the meetings/ conferences organized as a part of the project and the importance of contacts between interested parties/actors on local, national and EU-plan;
- A final assessment of the expected vs. achieved goals of the project, including some considerations upon the appropriateness of choice of the partners involved, and with regard to the actual results obtained, including a projection of the expected short-, medium- and long-term perspective, with due consideration to the particular nature of the subject.
- A short assessment of proposals and suggestions of the project partnership likely to lead to an improvement of the situation of women exposed to various forms of domestic violence.

