



annual report 2007

women against violence europe

WAVE - WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE – NETWORK

ACTIVITY REPORT JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2007

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WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

The WAVE Network is one of the main and most influential European-wide feminist networks of women NGOs (women's shelter, counselling centres, intervention centres and help-lines, aid organisations for migrant and refugee women) established in 1995. It aims to establish gender equality by eliminating all forms of domestic violence against women. WAVE is the only European network focusing solely on the elimination of domestic violence against women and children.

WAVE – Structure

The Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network connects 78 member organisations located in 43 European countries where members act as “focal points” in their respective countries. As WAVE focal points, our members serve as WAVE's regional and national bases to share and exchange information, knowledge and experience. Through these focal points, together with the extensive WAVE online database, the network reaches out to more than 4000 women's organisations across Europe.

WAVE - Focal Points

Focal Points are the primary sources of information for WAVE at national and regional level. They are national networks, most of which are specialized in combating and preventing gender-based violence, in particular domestic violence against women. At present, there are 78 WAVE Focal Points in 44 European countries. (In some countries there are two or more networking sites). Focal Points are responsible for the dissemination and collection of information. On the one side, the WAVE office continually provides the Focal Points with relevant information (e.g. news over a special area on a national and international level, legal and policy changes in regards to domestic violence), while at the same time the Focal Points report about current developments in their respective countries.

Not only is the geographic distribution of the Focal Points important, but also the consideration of various thematic points of focus, so that a possible wide range of organisations will be addressed. Through Focal Points, WAVE reaches out to more than 4000 women's organisation across Europe. The Focal Points are also the primary contact partners of affected women in regard to inquiries and in regard to research inquiries, etc. The Focal Points can revert directly back to the resources of the WAVE network and thus further strengthen the organisations in their own countries.

WAVE - Mission and Purpose

- The WAVE Network believes in the importance of feminist organisations as alternative and independent actors working in the area of **promoting women's rights and combating domestic violence against women**. Values of social justice, empowerment and participation of women need to be protected and extended within wider society and Europe. This necessitates a strong focus on migrant and refugee women's rights in all aspects of our work.
- The WAVE Network contributes to this objective by **strengthening the organisational and lobbying capacity** of women's organisations in particular, analysing and disseminating information on European and global trends, and supporting the institutional development of the sector as a whole, through a multi-stakeholder approach which includes all those engaged in defending women's rights and combating domestic violence against women in order to establish true gender equality.
- The WAVE Networks **connects** women's organisations in East-, West-, North- and South Europe with experts, policy-makers and other stakeholders including from the governmental as well as from the business sector.
- The WAVE Network actively **fosters and seeks information and knowledge exchange** as well as the **sharing of experience** between different European countries and regions, with a particular focus on sharing East-West experiences.
- The WAVE Network supports a user-friendly, extensive **online database** on domestic violence against women including an address section of some 4000 women's support organisations and institutions. The address section is especially designed to support women affected by domestic violence as well as other women's support organisations. It lists the addresses of all support organisations by country, town, nature of support and service specialization. Therefore, it is a valuable source for practitioners, researchers and policymakers alike.

In a nutshell, the WAVE Network supports and **strengthens** women's organisations across Europe as well as experts/researchers, practitioners and policymakers by:

- providing information on domestic violence through our extensive online database and online literature documentation, a monthly newsletter, a periodical magazine FEMPOWER.
- fostering exchange of knowledge, experience and good practice in the field of eliminating all forms of domestic violence against women and their children through our website, seminars and the annual WAVE conferences.
- improving organisational performance through capacity building programmes and training workshops including written handbooks and manuals as well as toolkits to improve quality standards in service delivery.

Publication & Dissemination

Monthly Newsletter

Since May 2007 WAVE started again to issue an electronic newsletter on a regular basis. With the exception of a short summer break during August 2007, the WAVE newsletter is now disseminated each month to all 78 focal points as well as several associated women's networks and experts. Through our focal points, the newsletter reaches out to women's organisation in 44 European countries. Furthermore, the newsletter is available online and free of charge and can be downloaded from the WAVE Website at <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?b=7&sub=32>

FEMPOWER Periodical

After a two year break, WAVE published a new edition of the bi-lingual periodical FEMPOWER in English and French. The issue no. 11 (9/2007) is dedicated to the Council of Europe campaign 2007 to stop domestic violence against women. This edition takes a close look at the different dimensions of the Council of Europe campaign, especially on the involvement of women's organisations. Hilary Fisher, chairwoman of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence and director of the British NGO 'End Child Poverty', gives an account of the task force's achievements six months into the campaign year 2007. Shpresa Banja, President of the Women Forum of Elbasan in Albania, reports on campaign activities in her country looking at all four thematic areas, which have been identified as crucial areas when combating domestic violence against women by the Rec2002(5) and the campaign Blueprint. In her article, Shpresa Banja looks at the challenges and opportunities from an NGO point of view.

Julia Hertlein from the Austrian Information Centre Against Violence casts a close look at the Council's Stocktaking Study by Carol Hagemann-White. She reviews and summarizes the main lessons learned from measures that have been taken across member states so far to stop domestic violence against women. In order to complete Hertlein's review, Sylvia Králová, who works for the Slovak women's organisation Fenestra, examines the usability of Hagemann's Stocktaking Study for NGOs in Slovakia. The NGO view from Slovakia is then complemented by a brief description of the shadow report "reality check" to the CoE's stocktaking study, which was issued by the European Women's Lobby (EWL) in February 2007.

FEMPOWER (9/2007) was issued on 25th of September 2007 one month before the annual WAVE conference in Vilnius and ready to be disseminated before and during the first activities started during the global 16 days against violence against women.

HOMEPAGE & DATABASE

The WAVE-Database can be found on the WAVE-homepage and is available free of charge to all users. The database is one of the most important services of the network and the European Information Centre. The WAVE-website and the database are accessed approximately 70,000 times a month. Since April 2007, WAVE increased the regular updating of the database, which is imperative in order to be able to offer quality service.

The **short-term goal** of these efforts is to update all existing addresses in 46 European countries. The activities have started in June 2006. After entries from Germany, France, Italy and Spain and Non-EU countries have been updated until April 2007, WAVE has since increased efforts to cover all other EU countries as well as New EU-Member States (states that have joined the EU since 2005). Between April 2007 and September 2007 WAVE has increased the database with some **1.800 new entries** in several EU and new EU member states.

The **long-term goal** is to improve the options for those affected by domestic violence. The WAVE office in Vienna is often contacted with requests by affected women or their help-facility care-persons to help them search for important help facilities in other European countries. Because of the ongoing and close networking with the women-NGOs concerning the updating of the database, inquiries to the WAVE-office have risen noticeably.

WAVE – DATABASE

WAVE has a comprehensive database on the subject of violence against women in 46 European countries. The database thematically focuses primarily on the subject of domestic violence. The database also offers information about other forms of violence against women, such as trafficking in women, female genital mutilation, violence against migrants, etc.

Access to the database is free of charge and warranted over the WAVE website: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?b=3>

The database contains information on the following areas:

- Addresses of women's help facilities (women emergency numbers, women's shelters, etc.) and experts in the area of violence toward women in 46 European Countries. The information contains the activities, focuses and services offered by the respective organisations.
- Information on
 - Prevention (good practices, plans of action, training material, etc.)
 - Protection (laws, police policy, etc.)
 - Prophylaxis (support of victims of violence, health-, welfare/system)
 - Research
- Important international documents
- Important thematic literature from all European countries

WAVE Conference 2007

This year, the annual WAVE conference 2007 took place in **Vilnius, Lithuania 18th to 20th October 2007**. 41 experts from 21 European countries participated at this conference, and even two experts from the National Network for the Elimination of Domestic Violence (NNEDV) from the USA attended the WAVE conference. All of these participants represent various women's organisations who engage in the elimination of violence against women and children within the family. The focus of this year's conference was on the Council of Europe Campaign 2007 "Stop domestic violence against women" and to strengthen quality standards for victims' services.

The first day was "public" and jointly organized by WAVE's Lithuanian Focal Point the Vilnius Women's House and took place in the Lithuanian Parliament. Three Ministers (Minister for Social Affairs, Minister for Education and Labour and Minister for internal Affairs) and several MPs attended the WAVE conference. Three distinguished international experts on domestic violence against women delivered key-note speeches. Rosa Logar, in her capacity as Member of the CoE task force to combat (domestic) violence against women addressed the audience on the CoE campaign itself. Prof. Carol Hagemann-White talked about research findings from the CAHRV (Co-ordination Action on Human Rights Violations) project (speech focus: *The justice system as an arena for the protection of human rights for women and children experiencing violence and abuse*). And Nicola Harwin, Executive Director of Women's Aid Federation England, presented the lessons learned from developing National Service Standards for Domestic and Sexual Violence, drawing on the WAVE report from July 2007.

Lithuania is going to implement the Austrian anti violence legislation, so this conference was of high importance for the Lithuanian parliament and the colleagues from women's organisations. Also, the women's organisations were promised a larger budget for their work, which is a great success for the institutions.

The second and third days of the conference were for WAVE conference participants only and organised by WAVE for its Focal Points and affiliated partners. It aimed to share experiences and exchange lessons learned as well as developing new sector-wide strategies to combat domestic violence against women. Those days focused a) on Quality Standards of Victim's Protection Services across Europe, (including a discussion on risks and challenges when developing such standards) and b) on activities and learning points of the 2007 Council of Europe Campaign to Stop Domestic Violence Against Women. Moreover, the establishment of a European-wide helpline for victims of domestic violence was discussed and checked for

Annual WAVE Conference

The annual WAVE conference is an important meeting for all 78 focal points of the network, in order to inform themselves, exchange information, develop common means and strategies as well as to facilitate further co-operations. The goal of the conference is to support and strengthen the staffs of the respective organisations. At the conference, all the participants should learn from each other. The exchange experience should be profitable and supportive and further strengthen the network. Through the transfer of concrete information (e.g. the use of international campaigns, resolutions for the support of persons affected by violence, implementation strategies in one's own country, establishment of organisations offering protection from violence or establishments for migrants, getting to know the Austrian types of intervention sites/women's shelters, etc.), the establishment of more effective help- and support structures should be easier. In addition, through personal contacts at WAVE-conferences, long-term co-operations are established, and deepened support for women takes place.

WAVE-conferences take place according to the principle of rotation in a different European country every year, in order to divide the costs as well as to make the presence of the European WAVE-network visible and to strengthen and support the member organisations in the respective countries

the needs for possible implementation. On the third day, the colleagues from the US reported on their situation and their extensive networking.

Moreover, the next WAVE conferences were scheduled: In 2008 the WAVE conference will be held in Kosice, Slovakia. In spring 2009 a smaller seminar shall take place in Belgium, maybe Brussels. For autumn 2009 a joint WAVE conference is envisaged together with experts from the US and representatives from Vienna. This conference shall take place in Vienna.

WAVE ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN 2007

Stop domestic violence against women

Since the launch of the Council of Europe campaign 2007 to combat domestic violence against women in November 2006 in Madrid, WAVE has been closely involved in both planning as well as implementing campaign efforts. Not least because WAVE's chairwoman, Rosa Logar, is member of the CoE task force to combat violence against women, including domestic violence (comprised of eight international experts).

WAVE's primary aim is to **support and promote widespread NGO involvement** into the campaign, both at level of the Council in Strasbourg as well as at **national level within all 47 CoE member states**. Through a lobby paper and several information sheets, WAVE informs women's organisation in all CoE member states on campaign activities on ongoing basis. WAVE furthermore assists in developing NGO strategies to increase the role of NGOs in all member states. In Strasbourg, WAVE is present at most regional seminars and CoE conferences including at the conference of national focal points and contact parliamentarians on 4th June 2007 in Strasbourg. During this conference a representative from WAVE, Barbara Brubacher, addressed the conference audience and urged the present national high level officials and focal points to better engage with NGOs especially when it comes to policy-making and legal reforms in the area of domestic violence.

The CoE **Conference on qualitative and quantitative standards for shelters** for victims of violence took place in **Strasbourg Dec. 6th and 7th 2007**. Rosa Logar and Julia Girardi represented the WAVE network. 100 experts from 37 countries participated at the international conference and used this opportunity to exchange experience and information.

Key Documents for the Council of Europe Campaign

Recommendations 2002(5)
[http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/equality/05_violence_against_women/003_Rec\(2002\)05.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/equality/05_violence_against_women/003_Rec(2002)05.asp#TopOfPage)

Campaign Blueprint
http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/PDF_EG-TFV_2006_8_blueprint_E.pdf

Contact Details of Focal Points and Contact Parliamentarians
http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/NationalContacts_en.asp

Stocktaking study
[http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Equality/PDF_CDEG\(2006\)3_E.pdf](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Equality/PDF_CDEG(2006)3_E.pdf)

Handbook for Parliamentarians
<http://www.coe.int/t/pace/campaign/stopviolence/Source/ID%204170%20Manuel%20Parlementaires%20A5%20Gb.pdf>

WAVE Lobbying Paper and WAVE Campaign Information-Sheets
<http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?b=14&sub=39>

Among the speakers at the CoE Conference on qualitative and quantitative standards for shelters were Yakin Ertürk, Carol Hagemann-White, Liz Kelly and Rosa Logar. Prior to the conference, Julia Girardi had researched the situation concerning services for victims of domestic violence in central and eastern Europe – which is alarmingly bad, and reported on these findings in interventions at the conference. Moreover, this conference was an excellent opportunity for networking: new focal points in Norway and Azerbaijan were found and the translation of the WAVE manual “Away from Violence - Guidelines for setting up and running a women’s shelter” are being translated into French and Dutch by the Government of Belgium and many ideas for future cooperations were born and concretized.

http://www.coe.int/t/pace/campaign/stopviolence/RegionalSeminar_en.asp

NGO Task Force Austria: WAVE together with Amnesty International Austria, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, Information Centre against Violence, the Women’s shelter network Austria etc. developed a **Policy Paper** addressed to the relevant Austrian Members of Parliament as well as Ministries to improve identified gaps in the Austrian anti violence legislation and in practical interdisciplinary work with battered women. Reactions of the addressed Ministries showed understanding for the requested improvements and commitment.

WAVE – Strategic Planning and successful Project Proposals

Successful Proposal - PROGRESS: a new partnership with OXFAM GB

In June 2007 WAVE was approached by the British Development NGO Oxfam GB to join a partnership for a project called “Gender Works: Mainstreaming and Communicating Gender Equality in Anti-poverty and Inclusion Strategies.” A proposal was submitted to the European Commission within the framework Mutual Learning on Social Inclusion and Social Protection (VP/2007/012) as part of the PROGRESS Programme.

The core of this proposal is that while Europe has repeatedly called for gender to be mainstreamed into National Action Plans (NAPs) processes, this has been hard to achieve in reality and there is still a long way to go. Oxfam GB and WAVE proposed that if organisations working on gender and poverty/social inclusion and protection in different EU countries, sharing their learning and experience on how to focus on women and social inclusion, and disseminate the results as part of NAPS processes, the changes of social inclusion really getting resources to the most vulnerable (women affected by violence) will be considerably increased.

The project will focus on influencing the NAPs process with this message and learning, firstly in three countries UK, Austria and Italy, and more widely across the EU through the WAVE network. The official start of this project is Dec. 15th 2007.

Austrian Development Agency ADA Microproject Turkey:

Improvement of quality standards in women's shelters in Turkey. WAVE applied successfully for an ADA "Microproject" together with the WAVE Focal Point in Turkey, Mor Cati. In the course of this project, the WAVE Manual "Away from Violence. Guidelines and standards for setting up and running a women's refuge" will be translated into Turkish as well as train the trainer seminars with Turkish professionals dealing with domestic violence will be organized. This project has started in November 2007 and will be finished by July 2008.

Bilateral Project Macedonia – Austria managed by WAVE:

WAVE was approached by the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs and asked to manage a two-year-project with the title "End domestic violence in Macedonia" with a special focus on the prevention of domestic violence and evaluation of the current situation of women's shelters in Macedonia as well as improving the interministerial cooperation and implementation of the national action plan on domestic violence. The official start of the project is Dec. 1st 2007, with a Kick Off meeting including all stakeholders of the project in January 2008. The official implementing partners of the project are the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of the Republic of Macedonia, ESE and the WAVE network. Further project steps include three training seminars for relevant professional groups, one training seminar for shelter staff, the evaluation of existing shelters, preparation of a joint protocol within the interministerial workgroup and a support programme for victims that can't stay in shelters.

WAVE – Strategic Planning and submitted Project Proposals

PROGRESS: Fostering a new type of cooperation between women's rights NGOs and the business sector in the field of violence against women

From May to June 2007 WAVE prepared and submitted several proposals to the European Union/European Commission in order to strengthen the WAVE network (and to widen WAVE efforts) through advanced and more project work. For this purpose WAVE developed a major proposal for the Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity "PROGRESS" (EU budget-line VP/2007/013). The Progress Community Programme specifically aims to strengthen EU-Level Networks active in different fields to combat social exclusion. WAVE thus applied for a EU partnership in the area of *combating social exclusion and discrimination and promoting gender equality*. The proposal entailed the development of a strategic triennial plan.

- **EVEE**

Accordingly, WAVE developed a **strategic plan for 2008-2011 to eliminate gender-based violence and establish gender equality (EVEE)** by providing improved and quicker access for women affected by violence to the labour market and to improve their employment opportunities. As a new focus, WAVE aims to make a contribution to changes in employment and social policies by fostering a new type of cooperation between women's rights NGOs and the business sector in the field of violence against women as an employment issue and obstacle to gender equality. WAVE will develop new strategies within Social Corporate Responsibility to combat gender-based violence by tackling its root causes: the imbalance of power between men and women and women's economic dependency.

Furthermore WAVE used this opportunity to deepen its connection with several European partners who already have significant experience in this area. Partners include the Women's Aid Federation Ireland, the Women's Aid Federation England, the Association of Women Against Violence in Portugal, NANE Women's Rights Association in Hungary, ROSA Civic Society – centre for battered and lonely women in Prague, and the SOS Helpline in Slovenia.

In October 2007, the Directorate General on Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission will inform WAVE about their final decision. By the time of writing this report, WAVE has not received notification on this matter.

Daphne III: Bridging Gaps Follow-Up Project

Since August 2007 WAVE is preparing a proposal for the DAPHNE III - European Community Programme in order to follow up with the successful project "Bridging Gaps". Bridging Gaps was implemented from April 2005 and March 2006 and resulted in the publication of the WAVE Manual "Bridging Gaps: from good intentions to good cooperation". While Bridging Gaps brought together eleven NGOs from different European countries who jointly developed guidelines on coordinating effective multi-agency co-operation, the follow up project intends to test multi-agency co-operation in practice. Bridging Gaps II will use a participatory approach and will actively involve women affected by domestic violence and survivors of domestic violence in the project process. Like Bridging Gap, this follow-up project will work with highly experienced experts from five European countries, but will furthermore include experts and representatives from other agencies such as the police, the judiciary, health and youth welfare agencies.

WAVE is timely with its preparations and will submit the proposal to DAPHNE III once the European Commission will issue the call (most likely in December 2007).

EUROAID: National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey

In June 2007 was approached by a Turkish/Italian consortium to take part in a EUROAID proposal to conduct a major national research in Turkey on the prevalence of domestic violence against women in 2008. WAVE's role in this consortium is primarily to monitor that international principles

and standards in regards to victims' safety are met. WAVE will actively participate in an advisory function, especially during preparations of the household survey and the survey itself. WAVE will bring in international expertise through external experts who have conducted similar surveys in Germany and other European countries. Furthermore WAVE will ensure that Turkish women's organisations, especially women's shelters are actively involved and consulted during the research process.

EUROPAID will make a final decision by December 2007.

Austrian Development Agency ADA Individual Projects East:

Capacity building and improvement of services for victims of domestic violence in South Caucasus Region. Since the region of Transcaucasia has been underfunded by international aid and faces severe problems of poverty and violations of human rights as well as alarming gaps in the service for victims of domestic violence. Together with WAVE Focal Points in Georgia, WAVE wants to work towards the prevention of domestic violence using the tool of Train the Trainers seminars to increase awareness and understanding of domestic violence. Also, Georgian women's NGOs shall be supported in their lobbying work and the establishment of shelters will be prepared and monitored. The focus of WAVE will be on increasing the capacity building process in Macedonia. Deadline for the call is Feb. 28th 2008.

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