



Women Against Violence Europe

***ANNUAL REPORT 2008***

# The Network WAVE - WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

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## ACTIVITY REPORT

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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 1994. 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 91 member organisations located in 44 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 source 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 91 WAVE Focal Points in 46 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 possibly 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.

### Offers from WAVE

#### WAVE continuously offers:

- Networking and Information
- An annual WAVE-Conference
- WAVE Database
- Train theTrainer-Seminars
- Newsletters
- WAVE's magazine Fempower
- Publications/Literature
- SAVE (Sisters Against Violence in Europe)
- Information Centre / WAVE office in Vienna

#### Projects by WAVE in 2008

- Council of Europe Campaign 2006 -2008 to Combat Violence Against Women
- Ada Project: Improving the quality of women's help services in Turkey
- ProTrain – Daphne Project 2007-2009
- Bilateral Project: Macedonia – Austria
- GenderWorks – EC - PROGRESS program
- Daphne Operating Grant 2008
- Improvement of Website & Database
- WAVE Country Report 2008
- Several Capacity Building Seminars

### Financing of WAVE

The WAVE Office receives financing for projects within the framework of the DAPHNE-Programmes of the EU-Commission as well as the necessary national co-financing through Austrian Federal Ministries like the MA 57 and the Federal Ministry for Women's Affairs Since 2003, the comprehensive activities of WAVE are being supported by the Women's Department of the City of Vienna within the framework of a three-year subsidy-agreement. Since 2007 WAVE also receives support by PMI in order to strengthen capacity building activities. We want to sincerely express our thanks to all promoting and supporting persons.



funded by the  
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## 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, analyzing 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 Network **connects** women's organisations in East-, West-, North- and South Europe with experts, policy-makers and other stakeholders including the governmental as well as 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. It records around 90.000 pageviews / month. 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.

## Regular Publications, Dissemination

### Monthly Newsletter

Since May 2007 WAVE started again to issue an electronic newsletter on a regular basis. In 2008, the WAVE newsletter got regularly disseminated each month to all focal points as well as several associated women's networks and experts. Through our focal points, the newsletter reaches out to women's organisations in 47 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

WAVE published two new editions of the bi-lingual periodical FEMPOWER in English and French in 2008. The issue no. 13 is dedicated to the UN CEDAW document (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), the topic of no. 14 deals with perspectives and lessons learned at the women's shelter's world conference 2008 in Canada.

FEMPOWER no. 13 (10/2008) was issued in October 2008 and is being disseminated before and during the first activities during the global 16 days against violence against women.

FEMPOWER no. 14 (12/2008) was issued in December 2008 and dealt with the 1st World Conference on Women's Shelters. This issue was disseminated in December.

The **WAVE Country report** was issued in December 2008 giving a NGO-approved perspective on the available services for women victims of violence in Europe. Research for these reports is ongoing. Fempower and the Country Report are realized thanks to the support within the Daphne Operating Grant 2008.

## WAVE – WEBSITE AND DATABASE

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The WAVE-Database, is a directory of women's help services in 47 European Countries. It 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 90,000 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. In order to keep the homepage coherent with the number of projects being done by WAVE, work on restructuring the homepage to keep it clear and informative has been carried out:

**Basic Activity – Maintaining the database and women's help directory:** These efforts include the regular update of all existing addresses in 47 European countries, which currently are more than 4100 contacts. The activities continuously have started in June 2006, but in order to maintain up-to-date and accurate information constant updating needs to take place. WAVE has also increased efforts to cover all other EU countries as well as the new EU-Member States.

By June 2008, political changes in Europe, e.g. the independence of Kosovo, were researched accordingly and new regional clusters for services were published on the homepage.

**Improving accessibility to the women's help directory:** 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 social workers to help them search for important women's help organisations 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. These cases are characterized by extreme complexity with often multi national legal backgrounds that have to be considered. WAVE is the platform for experts in these different countries and helps with networking experts in the concerned countries who will then guide the victim through the often long and demanding court process.

**International case example:** A woman from the US married a Dutch man who proved to be highly influential and violent. After several years of using several forms of violence against the woman and the children, the husband gained full custody for the children and almost succeeded to emotionally and financially ruin his wife. After contacting WAVE, we provided contacts to a family law expert in Holland and encouragement for the woman to fight for the right to be with her children.

**Documents and Legislation at the WAVE website:** WAVE continually strives to collect, publish and monitor legislation and projects on national level as well as international and to publish this information on the WAVE website.

## Facts on WAVE activities & the WAVE homepage:

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- 90,000 pageviews/month recorded at the WAVE website and its database.
- The number of inquiries dealing with complex domestic violence problems on an international level raised up to 8 women in 2008.
- Certain documents – like the WAVE manual - are downloaded up to 450 times per month.
- Informations on more than 4000 organisations and institutions are available via website's database.
- The number of closely associated organisations was raised from 74 to 91. More than 4000 organisations receive our constant updates on informations on domestic violence.
- Austrian ministries, the OSCE, Unifem, the Council of Europe and the European Commission requested cooperation for international projects.
- The number of inquiries concerning study visits raised significantly in 2008.
- WAVE is associated with focal points in 47 European countries.
- 3 meetings on the further improvement of the website's interface were held in 2008.

## WAVE Conference 2008

This year, the annual WAVE conference 2008 took place in **Kosice, Slovakia, Sept. 25.-27. 2008.**

Approx. 150 experts took part at this year's conference, which focused on standards for shelters, children confronted with domestic violence and perpetrator work. WAVE organised this conference together with its focal point Fenestra in Slovakia. Kosice was chosen as a conference location because of its location in Eastern Europe and also, because there is a lack of services for victims and awareness for the problem. With holding this conference, Fenestra hopes to get international backup and expertise for setting up the first shelter in the region and to get continuous support for NGO activities in the field of domestic violence.

The first day was held public and focused on the "Role of Women's Refuges in Preventing and Eliminating Violence against Women". Around 150 people participated at the public day which was held in the Old Townhall of Kosice on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. The conference was opened by the vice major. Rosa Logar Logar and Liz Kelly gave keynote speeches on quality standards in women's shelters and shelter work in the UK.

Additionally three panels were held on the topics of: women's shelter principles, models of funding women's shelters and the future development of services. The idea of choosing these panels was to collect international expertise on this topic and to provide the responsible people from the municipality of Kosice with the know how to start up a qualified shelter. Therefore, the MA 57, the women's department of the Viennese municipality was particularly invited to contribute with one speaker, Meike Lauggas, to the topic of funding of quality shelters on municipality level. This contribution was very much welcomed by municipality representatives of Kosice as well.

The second and third days of the conference will be for WAVE conference participants only and organised by WAVE for its Focal Points and affiliated partners. It aims to share experiences and exchange lessons learned as well as developing new sector-wide strategies to combat domestic violence against women. Those days will focus a) What will the services for victims of DV look like in 10 years and how will we get there? b) How to get children of all ages out of the circle of violence? and c) Are perpetrators an issue for women's services? What to do with perpetrators?.



Recommendations concerning the situation of children as well as on the work with perpetrators were drawn and currently circulate in the network for consideration. The documentation of the conference can be downloaded at the WAVE-website.

Moreover, the next WAVE conferences is already scheduled:

In 2009 the WAVE conference will be held in Belgium, Antwerp.

## Annual WAVE Conference

The annual WAVE conference is an important meeting for all 91 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 staff 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 such as the violence protection law/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 evenly 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

## WAVE ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN 2007-2008

### *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). The campaign was closed in 2008. WAVE monitored and participated in the following tasks:

WAVE's primary aim was 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 informed women's organisation in all CoE member states on campaign activities on ongoing basis. WAVE furthermore assisted in developing NGO strategies to increase the role of NGOs in all member states. In Strasbourg, WAVE was present at most regional seminars and CoE conferences including at the conference of national focal points and contact parliamentarians on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007 in Strasbourg.

On **April 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2008**, the **CoE meeting of national focal points took place in Strasbourg**, where the national focal points representing national governments presented national activities and results. Rosa Logar and Julia Girardi represented WAVE and encouraged the representing delegates to push for further funding of services for victims of violence. A first impression was, that legal improvements have been made in most countries for domestic violence and violence against women, which is great. Yet WAVE knows from it's daily work that the services are severely underfunded and therefore missing or lacking in many countries of Europe, so WAVE pointed out this fact repeatedly during the celebratious presentations of the governmental delegatas.

For the **Closing Conference** of the CoE Campaign in the **Houses of Parliament of Austria** on **April 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 2008**, WAVE was part of an NGO Taskforce which was involved in the organisation of this conference. On 29<sup>th</sup> Maria Rösslhumer represented in the frame of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men the contribution of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network and the Austrian Protection Law against Violence in the Familie to the policy of Women's and Equality. Rosa Logar and Julia Girardi represented the WAVE network and Rosa Logar was given the floor to present the WAVE Network in a keynote. Julia Girardi made a critical intervention commenting on men's involvement in the prevention of violence against women which is important and fruitful, yet a heroisation of singular commitments of men on this topic is to be considered critical.

## Key Documents of the Council of Europe Campaign

Recommendations, 2002 (5)  
[http://www.coe.int/t/e/human\\_rights/equality/05\\_violence\\_against\\_women/03\\_Rec\(2002\)05.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/equality/05_violence_against_women/03_Rec(2002)05.asp#TopOfPage)

Campaign Blueprint  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/PDF\\_EG-TFV\\_2006\\_8\\_blueprint\\_E.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/PDF_EG-TFV_2006_8_blueprint_E.pdf)

Contact Details of Focal Points and Contacts of Parliamentarians  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/NationalContacts\\_en.asp](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>

## **BUILDING ON WAVE'S CAPACITIES AND SERVICES FOR THE NETWORK**

### **WAVE application for the Council of Europe Consultative Status**

Since its foundation the Council of Europe has developed working relations with non-governmental organisations which: (i) directly represent the general public  
(ii) are relays for efficient mutual communication  
(iii) can furnish advice and take action. In most areas, the Council of Europe works in close co-operation with non-governmental organisations which it considers an essential part of the democratic process. At present around 400 international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) have enjoyed consultative status with the Council of Europe.

In practise, this means that these INGOs: may address memoranda to the Secretary General for submission to the committees mentioned above, as well as to the Commissioner for Human Rights; may be invited to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on Council of Europe policies, programmes and actions; shall receive the agenda and public documents of the Parliamentary Assembly in order to facilitate their attendance at public sittings of the Parliamentary Assembly; . shall be invited to public sittings of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe; . shall be invited to activities; organised for them by the Secretariat; . shall be invited to attend seminars, conferences, colloquies of interest to their work according to the applicable Council of Europe rules.

When WAVE has been granted consultative status also WAVE'S Focal points will have access to participating at CoE processes via the WAVE-network.

### **WAVE application for UN/ECOSOC Consultative Status**

WAVE currently is applying for obtaining an UN/ECOSOC consultative status. This means that if we are accepted, every women and NGO in the network can register via the WAVE-network to attend the relevant international conferences convened by the United Nations and the meetings of the preparatory bodies of the said conferences shall as a rule be accredited for participation. For instance to get access to attend at the Commission on the Status of Women (<http://un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html>).

More information on the application process can be obtained at <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>

## **52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

United Nations: The 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 25 February to 7 March 2008. WAVE prepared statements to be considered for the agreed conclusions and Julia Girardi participated at the CSW from 27th February to 6th of March. During the Commission Julia lobbied for the implementation of state fundings for services for victims of domestic violence since the priority theme of this year's CSW was: Financing for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

WAVE has participated in this and the previous CSWs via our Portuguese Focal Point AMCV. Currently WAVE applies for an own consultative status. The decision process till the status is granted can take up to two years or longer.

WAVE's attendance was made possible with the support of the Federal Ministry for Women's Affairs.

WAVE staff will participate in the 53<sup>rd</sup> session in March 2009.



## Daphne Project: “IMPROVE - Quality Services for Victims of Domestic Violence”

JLS/2006/DAP-1/279/WC 30-CE-0117538/00-200

"IMPROVE - quality services for victims of domestic violence" was a one year Daphne project from February 2007 till February 2008. Twelve partner organizations - experts on women's shelters from eleven European Countries - and three associate partners took part in the project. Project coordinator was the WAVE office in Vienna. The training manual for conducting trainings for professionals working with victims of domestic violence was written by WAVE and finished in May 2008.

### Aims of the IMPROVE project

Women's shelters, important institutions in the fight against domestic violence, should work according to certain quality standards (e.g. protection, security, empowerment etc.) Still in many European countries women's shelters are still missing and/or there are not sufficiently safe places for women and children affected by violence. The project IMPROVE aimed to disseminate the results of the manual "Away from Violence" and quality standards Europe-wide by implementing the steps mentioned below.

### Implemented steps of the IMPROVE project:

1. During the IMPROVE – project the manual "Away from Violence – Guidelines for running and setting up a women's refuge" got translated in six further languages: Polish, Greece, Slovenian, Slovak, Romanian and Estonian.
2. A training concept for running and setting up a women's refuge got developed, the trainings concept is available on the WAVE website [www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org) and is to be used together with the manual.
3. Two training seminars for women's NGOs and for policy maker were held in Vienna in June and in September 2007.
4. The IMPROVE project partners adapted the training concept according to the specific needs in their respective countries. Training seminars were held in eight partner countries.
5. All 16 translated versions of the manual "Away from violence" are published and disseminated on this CD and are available for free download on the WAVE website [www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org)
6. WAVE has written and published a training concept based on the manual Away from Violence. The training concept can be downloaded at the WAVE website.

Trainings for running and setting up a women's shelter can be requested at the WAVE-office:  
[office@wave-network.org](mailto:office@wave-network.org)

## DAPHNE

Many offers from WAVE were initiated and developed through the Daphne Projects of the European Commission, such as the WAVE-Database, the European Information Centre, training programmes and –concepts, etc. The last concluded Daphne Project Publication is called WAVE Country Report 2008 and will be further presented later on.

### What is the Daphne Programme?

Daphne is a preventively oriented programme of action of the European Commission for Combating Violence against Children, Youngsters and Women. It was founded in 1997 and has meanwhile supported over 350 projects in all of Europe.

Daphne supports the activity of non-governmental and other organisations that involve themselves in the fight against violence toward children, youngsters and women. Projects are supported that fight against every form of violence against children, young people and women (e.g. violence in the family, violence in the school and other establishments, violence at one's place of work, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, trafficking in women, working with offenders, etc.). The goal is to learn from each other through nets of trans-national cooperation away from country borders and to develop and implement strategies. For example, the build-up and extension of multi-disciplinary nets are supported for the cooperation between non-governmental- and other organisations for the exchange of information and proven practices, as well as measures for sensitizing the public.

All further information can be found here:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/funding/2004\\_2007/daphne/funding\\_daphne\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/2004_2007/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm)