



**WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

**1<sup>ST</sup> OF JANUARY 2011 – 31<sup>ST</sup> OF DECEMBER 2011**



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**PREFACE**

The current activity report covers the period from January 2011 to December 2011. It was a very busy and a successful year for WAVE. The overall focus of WAVE's work was migration and sexual violence, and many activities were undertaken under the focus of migration and sexual violence against women and many WAVE press releases were published internationally.

Due to the financial support from the European Commission within the scope of the Daphne-Operating Grant 2011, as well as the Co-financing from the Federal Ministry for Women and Public Administration, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection as well as from the Women's Department of the Municipality of Vienna (MA57) and UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, all our plans, activities and goals could be carried out and achieved and our services improved.

We would like to express our warmest thanks to our donors and supporters and also all our focal points and experts for supporting the team of the WAVE office.

WAVE, the European Network and the Information Centre against Violence, which has its seat in Vienna, connects 46 countries and 94 Focal Points – comprising women's organisations which engage themselves actively in the prevention of violence at all levels. The activities of WAVE in 2011 were manifold and comprehensive. Besides the current service providing activities for the WAVE-partner organisations and all people interested, WAVE was able to organise the WAVE Conference 2011 in Rome, Italy, which was extremely successful with 400 participants from 38 countries. On this occasion, representatives from the UN and the EU as well as from the Council of Europe were invited. WAVE would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our colleagues at the Di Re Network Italy for cooperation with WAVE in organising this successful conference. Moreover, a summer school was organised in Vienna, to give young researchers working on VaW the chance to network and exchange.

A new WAVE training institute was started, an intense 1-week-training finishing with a certificate was organised in November 2011 in Vienna.

Beside the continuous update of the Website and the comprehensive database, comprising 4000 addresses, we were again able to publish two new editions of our specialised magazine Fempower (in English and French) with articles on "Sexual Violence" as well as on the topic of "Is the Right to a Life Free of Violence a Luxury" in 2011.

WAVE participated in many national and international conferences, like the 55th CSW-Meeting in New York, as well as in Council of Europe Meetings and several EU Conferences in Brussels. WAVE was also present at the CAHVIO-Meetings of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and has actively worked on the development of the planned European Convention against all forms of violence.

We want to express our thanks to Hilary Fischer for representing WAVE at these meetings. As of 2011, WAVE was granted the United Nations ECOSOC consultative status. Moreover, WAVE is member of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the Fundamental Rights Agency.

In 2012, WAVE wants to focus, together with our partner-organisations, on health care response to violence against women by organising and participating in different exciting activities.

The Wave-Team



## **I. WAVE ACTIVITIES 2011 AT A GLANCE**

### **13<sup>TH</sup> WAVE CONFERENCE IN ROME 11<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2011:**

**400 PARTICIPANTS FROM 38 COUNTRIES**

### **SUMMER SCHOOL FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS IN VIENNA, JULY 4-5, 19 RESEARCHERS**

### **DELEGATIONS AND STUDY VISITS FROM VIENNA TO MADRID, SPAIN, Nov. 14-16, 9 PARTICIPANTS**

Delegation from Viennese Women's shelters to Madrid: 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2011: 10 Participants

### **CAPACITY BUILDING SEMINARS**

**WAVE Training Institute** on violence against women and children with the foci on risk assessment, impact of violence on children, groups for violent men, cooperation, and why gender-neutrality does not help was held at Tallinn University in Tallinn, Estonia, from the 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of November 2010: 35 Participants

**The 3rd WAVE Taskforce Meeting** (WAVE- Coordinating Committee), 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> of June in Vienna: 17 Experts

### **WAVE PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

CONFERENCE IN THE FRAME OF DAPHNE PROJECT II – „GOOD PRACTICE IN PREVENTING SERIOUS VIOLENCE, ATTEMPTED HOMICIDES, INCLUDING CRIMES IN THE NAME OF HONOUR, AND IN PROTECTING HIGH RISK VICTIMS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.”

Kick-off Meeting: 21 to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 in Vienna, Austria, 45 Participants

GenderStat Meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 in Vienna, Austria, 63 Participants

1<sup>st</sup> Manual Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in Bristol, UK, 15 Participants

2<sup>nd</sup> Manual Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> October 2011 in Murcia, Spain, 10 Participants

1<sup>st</sup> Coordinator meeting: 31.Jan-1.Feb 2011 in Vienna, Austria, 6 Participants

2<sup>nd</sup> Coordinator meeting: 13. May 2011 in Vienna, Austria, 6 Participants

3<sup>rd</sup> Coordinator meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2011 in Vienna, Austria, 5 Participants

4<sup>th</sup> Coordinator meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2011 in Vienna, Austria, 3 Participants

### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE WAVE HOMEPAGE 2011**

Up to 117,000 page views per month were recorded for the WAVE website and its database: 1,156 million page views a year with a maximum of 117,000 in August 2011 and a minimum of 82,000 in February 2011. Between 4,000 and 5,000 unique users visit the WAVE website each month. Certain documents, like the WAVE Country Report, are downloaded up to 1500 times per month. Information on more than 4,000 organisations and institutions is available via the website's database. The number of closely associated organisations was increased from 74 to 94. More than 4,000 organisations receive our constant updates on information related to domestic violence. Austrian ministries, the OSCE, UNIFEM, UNFPA, the Council of Europe and the European Commission requested cooperation for international projects. The request for study visits remained high in 2011. WAVE is associated with Focal Points in 46 European countries.

## **II. WAVE ACTIVITIES IN THE 2011 “EUROPEAN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING”**

WAVE participated in the 2011 “European Year of Volunteering”. The discourse on the value of volunteer work for society and societal change is lively, and WAVE considers this debate as very important. Due to the constant underfunding of services for women survivors of violence, many services can only survive with the help of unpaid, volunteer work. Thousands of hours are worked unpaid which are worth millions of Euros every year. In order to make these efforts visible and to still keep the importance of sufficient funding visible, WAVE intensified the discourse on this topic:

- a) through lobbying actions and public relations work
- b) by discussing violence against women and volunteer work at the WAVE Conference
- c) by reporting on the status of women's service funding through WAVE's Newsletters and press releases
- d) by assessing the amount of voluntary work done within women's services for the WAVE Country Report 2011.



### III. 13<sup>TH</sup> WAVE CONFERENCE 2011

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual WAVE Conference took place in Rome from 10<sup>th</sup> of October until the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2011. The first two days of the Conference took place at the Town Hall of Rome, while the final events of the last day took place at the Casa Internazionale delle Donne. The title of the Conference was Strengthening the Efforts to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children in Europe and in the Mediterranean Region. Rome was strategically chosen in order to raise awareness of violence against women and their children in Italy and especially to bring attention to the situation of women in Italy, considering that Italy is still missing 5,211 women's shelter places, as based on the European Parliament recommendation of providing one shelter place for women and children survivors of domestic violence per population of 10,000. The Conference included public panel presentations, discussions and events as well as half a day dedicated to workshops and discussions for member organizations of the WAVE Network. The Conference was a great success for three significant reasons. Firstly, around 400 experts from 38 countries and with diverse professional backgrounds took part in the conference, including lawyers, practitioners, psychologists, researchers and representatives of Italian and European institutions. The number of participants increased significantly from 2010, when 300 participants from 24 countries attended the Conference in Warsaw. Secondly, a month following the Conference in Rome, the Italian government released a statement promising the funding for the National Plan of Italy on Women, Peace and Security 2010-2013, all the while mentioning the WAVE Network in the official government correspondence. The statement in Italian can be viewed on the following website:

[http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/images/stories/documenti\\_vari/UserFiles/It\\_Dipartimento/avisocentriantiviolenza\\_14112011.pdf](http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/images/stories/documenti_vari/UserFiles/It_Dipartimento/avisocentriantiviolenza_14112011.pdf)

Lastly, WAVE was inspired to build on the recent movements in the Arab world and looked to connect the women of Europe and the Arabic world to share experiences and network, as well as to empower by shining the light on the significant contributions of Arab women's NGOs to the present and past civil rights movements, further pointing out their unwavering commitment to continuously provide services to women survivors of violence as well as their resilience in the face of political barriers and contradictory legal frameworks.

#### Press Conference

To strengthen the lobbying effort and to raise awareness, a Press Conference took place to announce the start of the WAVE Conference.

#### Information Desk

During the Conference, WAVE set up an Information Desk, where various materials, including all WAVE publications, as well as most recent editions of Fempower Magazine were distributed, along with other relevant data, including copies of statistical reports and text of the new Council of Europe Convention. There was high interest in the information and all of the materials were picked up by Conference participants.

#### Panel Discussions Available to the Public

There were a total of 4 Panel Presentations. The theme of the first panel was the implementation of the new Council of Europe Convention. The second panel focused on international and EU level policies to prevent violence against women. The third panel included presentations from women from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon and Italy on combating violence against women in the Mediterranean region, while the last panel focused on granting of human rights to migrant women in Europe. A session for the audience's questions and comments took place following panel presentations. Detailed information on the Panel Presentations is available in the full protocol of the Conference – see below.

#### WAVE Network Workshops and Meetings

The Workshops took place during the part of the Conference dedicated to the member organizations of the WAVE Network. Each Workshop included presentations from 3-4 member organizations, where the speakers shared their experiences, including providing best practice examples. Detailed information on the Workshops is available in the full protocol of the Conference – see below.

#### WAVE Task Force Meeting

Although WAVE planned to conduct only one Task Force Meeting in 2011, however, WAVE used the Conference as an opportunity for a second Task Force Meeting. For information on the two WAVE Task Force Meetings, see below.

#### Final Statements, Recommendations and Call to Action

The Conference ended with closing remarks and call for further steps, which included putting focus on migrant women, improving risk assessment methods, increasing pressure for governments to sign the new Council of Europe Convention and making a concrete EU commitment to deliver a strategy on combating violence against women.



In the end, the 2011 WAVE Conference was a successful effort at awareness raising, lobbying, empowerment, networking, dissemination of information and finally planning for future action on a European level.

The Conference announcement, program and press release can be viewed on the following website:

[http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/press\\_release\\_wave\\_conference\\_announcement.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/press_release_wave_conference_announcement.pdf)

[http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/wave\\_programm\\_2011\\_engl\\_end\\_es.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/wave_programm_2011_engl_end_es.pdf)

[http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/press\\_release\\_wave\\_conference2011.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/press_release_wave_conference2011.pdf)

#### **IV. WAVE TRAINING INSTITUTE**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> WAVE TRAINING INSTITUTE in Vienna**

In 2011, WAVE developed and organised the WAVE Training Institute. From 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> November 2011, WAVE organised its first one-week training for professionals working with women survivors of violence and their children. It focused on “Strengthening capacities in the work to end violence against women & children”.

The WAVE-Training-Institute aims at uniting and strengthening the capacity of experts working at women’s support services and establishing common quality standards for the support of survivors in Europe. It gave participants the opportunity to exchange their experience, to cultivate an in-depth understanding of the current European developments of violence against women policy, theory and research. Furthermore the training focused on several issues deriving from the day-to-day work of women’s support services such as applying quality standards, strengthening the emotional literacy of counsellors and exchanging experiences of women’s support services concerning perpetrator work. Participants also learned about how to apply international human rights instruments for effectively claiming women’s and children’s rights to live free from violence. The training was mainly financed through the EU Daphne programme. 16 participants from EU member states received scholarships through EU funding (Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Rumania and the UK). WAVE additionally covered the expenses of 4 participants from non-EU countries (Albania, Armenia, Croatia and Macedonia). Participants received a seminar certificate after successfully completing the one-week training.

#### **WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE**

The WAVE Network is one of the main and most influential European-wide feminist networks of women’s NGOs (women’s shelters, counselling centres, intervention centres and helplines, 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. Its headquarters are located in Vienna. The Viennese coordinating office serves as a linchpin for the whole network of WAVE.

##### **WAVE – Structure**

The Women against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network comprises 95 member organisations located in 46 European countries where members act as “Focal Points” in their respective countries. As WAVE Focal Points, our members are serving as 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 4,000 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 specialised in combating and preventing gender-based violence, in particular domestic violence against women. At present, there are 95 WAVE Focal Points in 46 European countries. Focal Points are responsible for dissemination and collection of information. The WAVE office continually provides the Focal Points with relevant information (i.e. exchange of national and international news) and vice versa, good practice examples, international recommendations, policy papers, legal and policy changes in regards to domestic violence), while at the same time the Focal Points report on current developments in their respective countries.

Through the Focal Points, WAVE reaches out to more than 4,000 women’s organisations across Europe. The Focal Points are also the primary contact partners for affected women in regard to inquiries and in regard to research inquiries.

##### **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 all of 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 by analysing and disseminating information on European and global trends and supporting the institutional development of the sector as a whole, which is reached through a multi-stakeholder approach including all people 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 throughout all of 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 experiences between different European countries and regions, with a particular focus on sharing East-West experiences.
- The WAVE Network manages a user-friendly, extensive online database on relevant information on domestic violence against women, including an address section of some 4,000 women's support organisations and institutions. It records around 100,000 page views per month. The address section is especially designed to support women affected by domestic violence as well as other women's support organisations. It contains a list of addresses of all support organisations classified by country, town, nature of support and service specialisation. Therefore, it is a valuable source for practitioners, researchers and policymakers alike. Overall, 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 the extensive online database and online literature documentation, a monthly newsletter, a periodical magazine FEMPOWER.
  - fostering the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practice in the field of eliminating all forms of domestic violence against women and their children through the 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.

## **V. STUDY VISITS AND DELEGATIONS TO and FROM AUSTRIA**

Due to the lack of funding in 2011, no study visits to Vienna, Austria, were organized. However, an Austrian delegation visited Madrid, Spain.

From the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, the Austrian women's shelter, Austrian women's helpline and the Austrian Ministry of Justice and Interior conducted a study visit in Spain. Various politicians, delegates for gender equality of the Spanish Ministry, policemen, lawyers, judges and women's counselors took part in the study visit. There were a total of 9 participants from Austria (1 from Ministry of Interior, 1 from Ministry of Justice, 6 from Austrian women's shelters, and 1 from the helpline). The visit took place in Madrid and the purpose was to exchange information on best practices in Austria and Spain in the field of combating violence against women and children by learning about the Spanish anti-violence system. The representative from the Ministry of Interior was interested to collect information on the perpetrator electronic monitoring system implemented in Spain and the representative from the Ministry of Justice collected information on the Spanish Gender Based Courts dealing with cases of violence, that are responsible for both civil and criminal proceedings, where the judges are specifically trained to understand the underlying issues of gender based violence. The study visit was organized by WAVE office in Vienna and WAVE Focal Point ASPACIA in Madrid. In 2004, Spain adopted an exceptional anti-violence legislation and implemented many important preventive measures to fight violence against women and children during the social democratic government under the chair of Premier José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. In comparison to Austrian gender neutral anti-violence law, the Spanish law is gender specific and was created mainly with the purpose of protecting women from male violence. The law has proven effective as it contributed to decrease in rates of femicide, although 55-60 femicides were reported last year. In order to improve implementation of the law, an evaluation of the law is planned. The role of police in fighting violence will be reconsidered, as currently the police play a more protective and supportive role, and focus less on holding the perpetrator accountable.

## **VI. 2<sup>nd</sup> WAVE TASKFORCE MEETINGS (COORDINATING COMMITTEE CoCo) IN VIENNA AND ROME IN 2011**

As the WAVE network has considerably grown during the last years, it proves to be impossible to gather all 94 Focal Points from 46 countries in one place at one time – moreover, it would be inefficient to work in such a big group. In order to improve the coordination of Focal Points and to get a better idea about the regional situation throughout the network, a WAVE Taskforce was founded. The 46 WAVE member countries were divided into 17 regions, and each region was asked to vote for a delegate to report for the taskforce once a year and to take over certain tasks for the network. The 3<sup>rd</sup> WAVE Taskforce Meeting took place in Vienna from the 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> of June, 2011, where 17 international experts participated. The occasion of the WAVE Conference in Rome, Oct. 11-13<sup>th</sup> was also used, to gather 19 representatives of the taskforce and discuss strategic aspects of the WAVE network. The second CoCo meeting took place on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> in the evening.



## VII. EUROPEAN SUMMER SCHOOL FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### Scientific Conference with Researchers:

On July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, WAVE together with Prof. Birgit Sauer from the University of Vienna and Prof. Monika Schröttle from the University of Bielefeld led a summer school for German speaking young researchers. The first day was dedicated for networking, exchange of experiences, and workshops on previously defined topics. The second day was a public day and included presentations by professors and researchers Birgit Sauer, Birgit Haller, Monika Schröttle and Carol Hageman-White. The summer school was a great opportunity to bring together young researchers together with researchers with long-term experience, to exchange ideas and to learn from one another, with the goal to empower the young researchers and provide them with knowledge to further their professional lives. Additionally, the summer school served as a networking event and allowed WAVE to expand its networking with researchers, which will be of use in the future as WAVE expands its research capabilities.

Call for papers can be viewed online:

[http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/call\\_for\\_paper\\_summer\\_school\\_gewalt.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/call_for_paper_summer_school_gewalt.pdf)

Agenda for the summer school can be viewed online:

[http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/agenda\\_summerschool\\_gesamt.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/agenda_summerschool_gesamt.pdf)

The report, in German, can be viewed online:

[http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/bericht\\_summerschool\\_28.7.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/bericht_summerschool_28.7.pdf)

## VIII. WAVE REGULAR PUBLICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND DISSEMINATION

### WAVE – Fempower Periodical (biannual):

In 2011, two English versions of the Fempower periodical were produced and printed as well as they are for free download at the WAVE website.

The first edition of 2011 (Fempower Nr. 19) is titled *Is the Right to Life Free of Violence a Luxury?*

The second edition of 2011 (Fempower Nr. 20) is titled *Sexual Violence*.

### Fempower 1/2011

The first edition of 2011 (Fempower Nr. 19) is titled *Is the Right to Life Free of Violence a Luxury?* And focuses on “poverty and violence against women”.

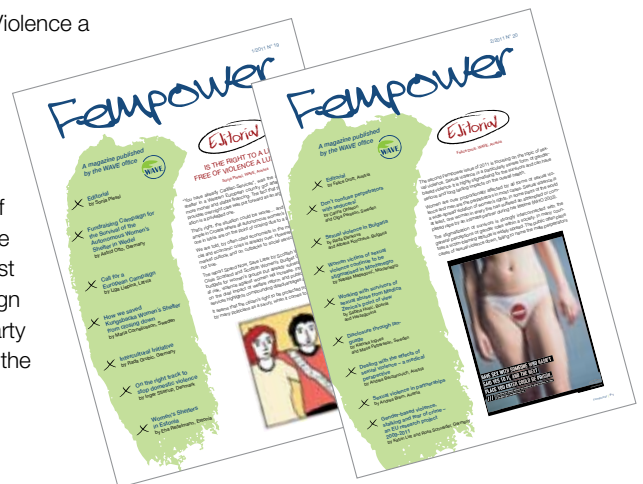
The idea for this edition came from increased awareness that women’s services have been negatively affected by the economic crisis; where for some organizations funding was decreased, while others faced the threat of being completely shut down as a result. The magazine included a total of 6 articles, contributions from WAVE Focal Points, and 1 editorial from WAVE staff member Sonja Plessl. The articles raised serious concern about the current state of women’s services in Europe and provided examples of ways to fight against shortage of financing. An example included a large-scale fundraising campaign launched by Autonomous Women’s Shelter in Wedel in hopes of finding third-party funding for the shelter and to eventually reinstate the institutional financing from the state by 2013.

### Fempower 2/2011

The second edition of 2011 (Fempower Nr. 20) is titled *Sexual Violence*.

This edition of 2011 focused on sexual violence, a topic that needs urgent attention as discussing violence against women. The magazine included 8 articles, contributions from WAVE staff member Felice Drott. The articles called on increasing the penalties for sexual violence as well as bringing awareness to the stigmatization many victims of sexual violence endure. One detailed the ordeal many victims face in medical facilities, when being examined following being sexually assaulted. The article helped bring to light the reality of what victims face as a result of being sexually assaulted, in addition to already having their mental and physical integrity violated as a result of the rape.

The FemPower magazine is available online in PDF form: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=16>



it is often avoided, when from WAVE Focal Points, and 1 editorial



## Dissemination of information and lobbying via Press Releases

WAVE identified the need to enhance awareness-raising about violence against women and children. The Public Relations work has been intensified. The Media Corner has been restructured and extended by Press Releases. Several women's shelters and services are heavily affected by cutbacks due to the economic crisis. The need for even more awareness-raising about violence against women, a societal problem still deeply embedded in Europe, is increasing. Furthermore, there is an urgent need to advocate for a better protection of children and to dispel the myths spread by fathers' rights movements, often linked to right-wing parties.

WAVE's Press Releases can be downloaded from: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=23467>

## Monthly Newsletter

Since May 2007, WAVE started again to issue an electronic monthly newsletter. By 2011, there are about 400 subscribers (additionally to the WAVE Focal Points) to the Newsletter and the number is growing. There are anywhere between 5-10 new subscriptions added monthly. Additionally, we ask WAVE Focal Points to further disseminate the Newsletter to other relevant sources. As of December 2011, WAVE began to add information on research in the Newsletter. Other sections of the Newsletter include WAVE and Network News, International News, and Documents. In the year 2012, WAVE expects subscriptions to increase as subscribing to the newsletter will be automated through the newly designed WAVE website. The monthly Newsletters in PDF form can be found online:

<http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=186>

## IX. WAVE COUNTRY REPORTS

The first Country Report produced by WAVE was the WAVE Country Report 2008 *"Reality Check on European Services for Women and Children Victims of Violence. A Right for Protection and Support?"* on the situation, in all 47 member countries, of services for women and children victims of violence. Accurate data concerning violence against women and especially domestic violence is chronically missing even though it is necessary for successful prevention and protection. During the CoE Campaign *"Stop Domestic Violence against Women"*, several studies were being conducted on the cost of domestic violence and the situation of services in the European Countries, using official government data.

As WAVE realised, it is important to count only women's shelters fulfilling certain standards, which sometimes leads to different figures than those reported by governments, and thus WAVE felt compelled to collect data and research for this independent monitoring report, which can now be used for further improving the situation for victims of domestic violence.

## WAVE COUNTRY REPORT

In 2011, WAVE completed its 2010 Country Report and began working on the 2011 Country Report. Due to limited time resources and the extensive nature of the project, the 2011 Report is in the process of being produced and is expected to be completed in March 2012. The WAVE Country Report has proven to be not only a great tool for collection of comparable data, but also means for ensuring deeper involvement by the Focal Points in the work of the Network, collecting data useful for other areas of WAVE's work, as well as to help develop a path for WAVE to become involved in the field of research and to eventually focus on research on a larger scale in its overall work in the field of violence against women.

Coordinating the Network and involving Focal Points in the processes of WAVE work is a significant task, therefore, collecting data directly from Focal Points ensures their constant involvement and contribution to the Network. The exchange involves frequent communication, which further strengthens the relationship of the Focal Points to the WAVE Office in Vienna. Additionally, Focal Points can take pride, when their contributions to the Country Report, especially regarding needed changes in their respective countries, are noticed by their national governments, who in return take steps to make improvements. The data collected for the Country Report also serves in developing meaningful lobbying tools. This included a Press Release issued on 10 June 2011 titled *Violence against Women and Children – a Daily Reality in Every Country*. The Press Release presented statistics resulting from the Country Report and included the fact that only 6 countries in Europe fulfill the standard of providing at least one women's shelter place per 10,000 inhabitants, that 25,000 shelter places are lacking in the EU, and that the 44 European countries studies in the report are missing a total of 54,800 women's shelter places.

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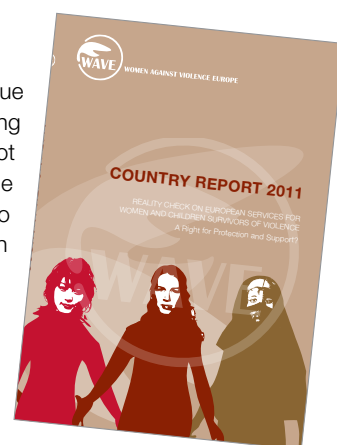
The Press Release can be viewed online:

[http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/results\\_of\\_the\\_wave-country\\_report.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/results_of_the_wave-country_report.pdf).

Lastly, the 2010 WAVE Country Report has proven as a useful supplement to support the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) study awarded to WAVE in December 2011. The EIGE study will focus on collecting data on legislative developments, preventative measures implemented by countries, and services available in the field of domestic violence, in 27 EU countries and Croatia. The goal of the study is to measure the countries' implementation of Area D of the Beijing Platform for Action as well as to provide recommendations for future data collection in the area of domestic violence. Because the study involves research on services available to women, several data from the WAVE 2010 Country Report will be used to supplement the research.

The full 2010 WAVE Country Report is available online:

[http://aoef.at/cms/doc/WAVE\\_COUNTRY%20REPORT%202010\\_NEU.pdf](http://aoef.at/cms/doc/WAVE_COUNTRY%20REPORT%202010_NEU.pdf)





## **X. DAPHNE PROJECT: PROTECT II – CAPACITY BUILDING IN RISK ASSESSMENT AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT HIGH RISK VICTIMS 2010 -2012**

After successfully caring out the EU Daphne project “PROTECT I : good practice in preventing serious violence, attempted homicides, including crimes in the name of honour, and in protecting high risk victims of gender based violence” WAVE again took part in the call for Action Grants 2010 of the DAPHNE program and was granted the financial means to conduct the follow up project of PROTECT I - the project “PROTECT II” in Capacity Building in Risk Assessment and Safety Management to Protect High Risk Victims 2010.

### **PROTECT II : PROJECT DESCRIPTION &PARTNERS**

PROTECT II aims at building the capacity of practitioners in the law enforcement, judicial and para-legal fields such as forensic doctors and practitioners from women’s services providing counselling about victims rights, legal assistance, in the area of multi-agency work, risk assessment and risk management:

Intimate partner violence against women and girls can, unfortunately, take very severe forms such as grievous bodily harm, deprivation of liberty (locking victims up over often days or even years), attempted murder or murder. These crimes have the similar goal of exercising power over women and girls and controlling their lives. Any move that is seen as a challenge to such concepts of power and control (for instance if a woman or girl tries to leave the violent partner or father; she does not follow the strict norms and is “dishonoring” the men or the family) – can endanger her life, health and freedom.

The project focuses on the prevention of intimate partner violence against women and their children and particularly aims at improving the protection of women victims of violence and their children who are at high risk to become victims of severe and repeated violence and femicide (homicide of women), including crimes in the name of honour.

#### **Partners:**

- 18 partner organizations from 13 countries participate in Protect II
- 8 advisory board members (researchers, judge)

#### **Aims of the project are:**

- development of a manual for risk assessment based on a multi-agency approach
- Gender Stat: Guidelines for systematic and reliable data generation
- Train the Trainer seminars: in Sweden and regional trainings in different countries
- 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 Kick-Off Meeting in Vienna
- Dec. 2012 Public Final Conference

#### **International Meetings in the frame of Protect II:**

- Kick-off Meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 in Vienna, Austria
- GenderStat Meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 in Vienna, Austria
- 1<sup>st</sup> anual Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in Bristol, UK
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Manual Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> October 2011 in Murcia, Spain
- 1<sup>st</sup> Coordinator meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> January-February 2011 in Vienna, Austria
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Coordinator meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in Vienna, Austria
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordinator meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2011 in Vienna, Austria
- 4<sup>th</sup> Coordinator meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2011 in Vienna, Austria

## **XI. GLOBAL SHELTER NETWORK AND GLOBAL SHELTER DATA COUNT**

An important core area of WAVE is the dissemination of information on the work of women’s shelters and women’s NGO’s in their work with women and children victims of violence. WAVE is a founding and board member of the Global Network of Women’s Shelters (GNWS), which was established at the 1st World Conference of Women’s Shelters 2008. As a board member, WAVE takes part in preparing the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference of Women’s Shelters in Washington, Feb. 2012. WAVE also initiates the Global Shelter Data Count as a best-practice model to gather comprehensive and comparable data on existing shelter networks and the capacity of shelters in each country, to highlight the work that sheltering organizations do, to draw attention to the need for better support of women’s services and shelters, and to lobby for adequate funding.

The Global Shelter Data Count is an annual global data count, which was created after the first World Conference of Women’s Shelters 2008 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. It includes two phases:

1. Women’s shelter organizations fill out a form concerning basic data on existing shelters and networks.
2. The organisations take part in a survey which took place on a single day in the year 2011. Each year, this day is most likely to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November or a day during the 45<sup>th</sup> calendar week. On this day, shelter workers count the number of women who received counselling in the shelter and the number of women and children who could not get help due to limited capacities. The data is

analysed by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (please refer to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSDCinternational>).

As a result of WAVE's proposal, the analysis of the gathered data will be deepened and differentiated: Beginning with the 2010 Global Shelter Data Count, the analysis will also include a Europe-specific analysis.

WAVE members also participated in the Global Shelter Data Count in 2011 via the online questionnaire (please refer to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSDCinternational>) or the questionnaire disseminated by WAVE via e-mail. The results will be analysed again by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters.

### **Participation in the 54<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> of February 2011**

The WAVE delegate Silvia Sinnmayer participated in the 55<sup>th</sup> Conference of the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSW focused on Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology.

WAVE hosted its own side event: "*Violence against Women and Children and Education*", exchanged knowledge and deepened cooperation. WAVE presented and disseminated WAVE's Country Report 2010 and participated in events hosted by associated organisation the Global Network for Women's Shelters. Please refer to WAVE's Report on the 55<sup>th</sup> CSW:

<http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=23487&b=151>.

## **XII. UNFPA PROJECT:**

### **PROGRAMMATIC PACKAGE ON HEALTH CARE RESPONSE TO VAW IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

UNFPA and WAVE were jointly working on a package on integrating GBV within Health Systems in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The project lasted from June-December 2011 and is published at: [www.respondgbveeca.org](http://www.respondgbveeca.org).

Health Services offer an effective way to respond to GVB, yet a systemic approach is still often missing. This website provides tools for professionals working in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The website consists of three modules:

1. Programming for Integration of GBV within Health systems: Health care can play an important role in taking a stance against gender based violence. In order to efficiently help and protect survivors, an integrated response is needed.
2. Training programme for health care providers: Training and sensitization of health care professionals is essential in responding to gender based violence. Here you find a training manual containing background information, handouts, exercises and powerpoint presentations to train health professionals on GBV
3. Creating Referral Pathways integrated into healthcare: A fast and efficient referral system can save many lives of women and children. However, creating such a referral system is quite a challenge, look here for guidance and recommendations on getting started or improving the current situation

## **XIII. CHILDREN'S PROJECT WITH RUSSIAN FOCAL POINT CENTER ANNA**

Violence against children is a significant indicator of violence in society and an obstacle in development of civil society. In recent years an increase in violence against children by parents and other family members has been documented by official statistics and NGOs in Russia. Violence against children includes physical, sexual and psychological violence as well as neglect.

There are about 28 millions children in Russia. However, according to official data in 2008:

- 1,914 children were killed by parents or other family members;
- 161,000 children were victims of violence;
- 12,500 children are reported missing

Frequently, children are sexually abused by someone they know, even by a family member. According to statistics, 10 per cent of girls are raped.

The project of WAVE in cooperation with the Russian Focal Point ANNA is to promote and ensure the human rights of children victims of different forms of violence and to raise awareness of the issue of child abuse as a human rights violation.

In order to develop and test models of identifying child abuse and developing and implementing the system of support for children victims of family and/or violence in school project partners are regularly meeting in Russia and Austria.

In May 2011 they got together to develop a model to raise awareness and identify violence against children in workshops designed to be implemented in schools. From 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011 they met in Russia to work on a train-the-trainer concept for teachers in order to sensitise them to the issue.

Further activities are planned to take place in spring 2012 in Austria.

For more information:

[http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/children%27s\\_right\\_russia.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/children%27s_right_russia.pdf)



#### **XIV. YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME: WAVE PROJECT WITH SPANISH FOCAL POINT HÈLIA “WE BREAK-PEER MYTHS”**

The activity takes place in the week of 13 to 20 November in Barcelona. At the meeting in Barcelona, the research done in both countries will be shared including different cultural, legal and social aspects of each country in relation to the subject. During the VII Forum against gender violence, on 18 November 2011, there will be a debate between young people from different schools of Catalonia and Austria. Results should be the common thesis, “We Break-peer myths” which has been worked on by the group of girls and boys participating in the exchange. It will discuss causes, prevention methods and tools and awareness to violence against women among the youth. A documentary of video format will be created to present the findings of this project.

The purpose of the activity performed by a group of 16 young people, 8 Catalans and 8 Austrians, is to learn and raise awareness about the causes of violence against women and the resources that exist in their countries. What the cultures have in common and how to change the current roles.

During the week they will meet with persons responsible for gender policies of the City of Barcelona and the local government of Catalonia, and with representatives of the National Council of Women of Catalonia, a government consultative body led by Catalan Women’s Institute. Visits by women specialists in the field are scheduled.

#### **XV. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CAHVIO)**

WAVE was invited to take part in the Council of Europe CAHVIO (Committee on preventing and combating VaW): WAVE was represented by Hilary Fisher, when the “*Draft Convention on Preventing and Combating VaW and DV*” was produced.

Hilary Fisher participated on behalf of WAVE in all the Ad Hoc Committee on Preventing Violence against Women (CAHVIO) meetings to prepare, together with the Committee, a legally binding instrument for the Council of Europe to prevent and combat domestic violence, including specific forms of violence against women, to protect and support the victims of such violence and to prosecute the perpetrators ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/violence/general\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/violence/general_en.asp))

The reports of Hilary Fisher can be viewed at:

<http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=23079>

WAVE’s comments on the third draft of the convention can be downloaded from:

[http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/wave\\_third\\_submission\\_to\\_cahvio\\_on\\_third\\_draft.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/images/doku/wave_third_submission_to_cahvio_on_third_draft.pdf).

#### **XVI. EUROPEAN PROTECTION ORDER (EPO)**

WAVE supports the initiative launched by the Spanish EU Presidency for a European Protection Order (EPO, a Europe-wide system of restraint orders) and for EU legislation offering protection to women victims of gender-based violence across national borders. The European Protection Order (COD/2010/0802) was proposed by 12 European member states, including Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Finland and Sweden, presented in January 2010. The focus of the initiative is on crimes which may endanger the victim’s life, physical, psychological and sexual integrity or the personal liberty. Until present, the protection of victims depended on the national legislation of the member states. As some countries have protection orders, while others do not, victims of violence are not ensured a free movement between the EU countries. It is thus essential that a European Protection Order takes the form of a directive to ensure it covers the whole European Union. On Tuesday, 20 September 2011, after one and a half years of negotiation, a draft agreement on the European Protection Order (EPO) was struck by Parliament and Council representatives. On Friday, 23 September 2011, EU justice ministers unanimously approved the EPO. Followingly, on 4 October 2011, it was endorsed by the Civil Liberties and the Women’s Rights Committees. On 13 December 2011, it was further endorsed by the full Parliament at its plenary session. The UK has opted-in, but Ireland and Denmark are not taking part. WAVE highly supports the initiative and aims of the European Protection and hopes, that the Council will accept the position of the EU parliament. WAVE recommends that it should be a priority of the European Union to ensure the right of every woman to live a life free from violence.

#### **XVII. EU STRATEGY FOR COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND EU-CONFERENCE ON HOW TO FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BRUSSELS**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2011, the Belgian EU-Presidency and the EU Commission organised a conference on “ZERO TOLERANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE EU-WIDE STRATEGY”. It was planned for the EU Commission to give more information about the EU Strategy for combating violence against women for the upcoming years 2011-2015.



WAVE was represented by various Focal Points and Maria Rösslhumer, who gave a presentation at a Panel meeting. She stressed the important and crucial role of NGOs providing services for women and children affected by violence and demanded again that national states fulfill their duty to protect women and children from violence by supporting women's shelters and services legally and financially. She also called for a strong and legally binding EU-initiative to tackle violence against women.

### **XVIII. WAVE'S DATABASE AND DIRECTORY OF SERVICES**

The database and directory of services for women and children victims of domestic violence in all EU member states comprises over 4,000 women's help organisations, women's shelters, information and counselling centres, networks of services for women, information on domestic violence legislation, on prevention, on health care and therapy, connections to lawyers and doctors as well as international documents. The directory serves as an important information tool for victims of violence and for family members, friends, counsellors for victims, researchers, politicians, academics and NGOs.

However, up-to-date resources of high quality are only possible if regularly updated. WAVE has continually updated the database and directory throughout 2010. The basic activities of WAVE also include incoming phone calls and requests from all over Europe by, amongst others, social workers, survivors of violence or policy makers; these requests are answered during office hours, as well as by e-mail.

#### **WAVE's country information**

WAVE's Website constitutes, amongst others, a directory of crucial country specific information on domestic violence legislation and documents from the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the United Nations and other international bodies providing information on violence against women. Especially in the European Union where mobility is encouraged, quick access to women's help organisations in every European Union Member State is necessary. A Map of Europe ensures user-friendliness, enabling users to quickly find information by either clicking on the country located on the political map or represented by a flag, and using the alphabetical order or the categorisation of services offered in each country. An average of 100,000 monthly page views has been registered at the website.

#### **WAVE's website**

During 2011, the website was continually updated with the newest information and changes in legislation, in particular with information from our Focal Points as well as from European and international women's NGOs, with international documents, projects and campaigns and new publications. In order to facilitate easy access to service, especially for the younger Generation. Though important progress has been made at the international level in combating violence against women, the topic is still far too often a taboo or is seen only as a side issue, especially in times of economic crisis. Women's shelters are threatened by cutbacks and closures. WAVE has identified the urgent need to intensify public relations and lobbying on the topic and to enlarge its media presence.

The Media Corner has been restructured and extended by Press Releases:

<http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=23094>.

### **XIX. WAVE PUBLICATIONS**

- WAVE Country Report 2010: Reality Check on European services for women and children survivors of violence. A right for Protection and support?
- WAVE-Manual: Bridging Gaps – From Good Intentions to Good Cooperation – Manual for effective multi-agency cooperation in tackling domestic violence - (Daphne Program 2004).
- WAVE-Manual: Away from Violence – Guidelines for setting up and running a women's shelter – (Daphne Programme 2004); English and German version.
- WAVE-Training Manual for Improving Quality Services for Victims of Domestic Violence - (Improve: Daphne Programme 2006).
- WAVE-Training Manual on CDs: Improve – Quality Services for Victims of Domestic Violence (Improve: Daphne Programme 2006).
- WAVE-Information Folder.
- WAVE Report on Poverty and Violence against Women (Progress Programme 2008-2010) in English and German



## **XX. SAVE – Sisters against Violence Europe**

### **Solidarity Account for Women's Shelters Initiatives in Eastern Europe**

At the specialist symposium, "30 Years Women's Shelters Movement in Europe", on 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2002, financial support for the colleagues in the Eastern European neighboring states was initiated by staff members of Austrian women's shelters.

#### **The Goal of SAVE**

SAVE supports service and counselling centers that help women and children affected by violence. SAVE tries to offer support until public authorities in these states will assume responsibility and guarantee financial support for these establishments.

#### **We help because:**

- Violence against women and children is a human rights violation
- Violence represents a severe threat to physical and psychological health
- Violence against women and children affects everyone
- Women's organizations, above all in Eastern- and South Eastern Europe, still do not receive any governmental financial support, although they try to efficiently and professionally combat violence against women and children

WAVE will identify good services in need in Europe and forward the money to these organisations.

The Association of Autonomous Austrian Women's Shelters, in concern to this, has established an account for financial support:

SAVE – Sisters Against Violence Europe

Bank Austria/CA

BLZ (Bank Code Number): 12000

Account No.: 00610782047

In the name of Association Autonomous Austrian Women's Shelters/SAVE

Contact and monitoring of the Account: Tel. +43/1/548 27 20 or Tel. +43/1/5440820

Kontakt und Betreuung des Kontos: Tel. 0043/1/548 27 20 oder Tel. 0043/1/5440820

## **XXI. WAVE-STAFF AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN 2011**

**Rosa Logar** – Chairwomen of WAVE and founding member of the WAVE Network

**Maria Rösslhuber** – Managing Director of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network - AÖF.

**Julia Girardi** - Liaison Officer

**Regina Webhofer** – Project Officer

**Barbara Stelmaszek** – Network Officer and responsible for Public Relations

**Sonja Plessl** – Network officer and responsible for Public Relations

**Silvia Sinnmayer** – Network Officer

**Ute Rösemann** – Project Assistant in the frame of Protect

**Hilary Fisher** – CAHVIO Delegate for WAVE

Hilary Fisher from UK is attended the Ad Hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe on behalf of WAVE.





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