

# Domestic Violence Met by Educated Women



## PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES IN THE PROJECT

### **Partner no 1: Finnish Federation of University Women (SANL)**

SANL is the organization of Finnish female university graduates committed to act as a link among its members. SANL encourages its members to the development of their full potential, to the cooperation of different professional fields and to the promotion of international cooperation. SANL, founded in 1922, is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with some 1000 members. It has 19 local associations, three of which are Swedish-speaking (a minority language in Finland). SANL belongs to the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) which works to empower women and girls through lifelong education, for leadership, decision-making and peace.

SANL has as one of its first missions to improve the status of women at all levels and in every country. This target is implemented under the umbrella of the international mother organizations UWE and IFUW. The project DVMEW joins very well to this mission and is topical at the moment. SANL has a network (AURORA) for educated immigrant women in Helsinki and SANL also takes care of teaching Finnish to immigrant women at different levels all over the country.

SANL's role in DVMEW is central because it is the coordinator and founder of the project. The main goal is to find out what we know about domestic violence met by educated women in different European countries. The problem of domestic violence is huge. We do not intend to tackle all sides of it, only and mainly the cases where the victim is an educated woman (and possibly her children and other family members). The data will be collected using different sources, such as legislation, directives and informants (police, medical doctors, psychologists, social workers, shelter home staff, etc.).

In addition to gathering data, we are going to conduct two small surveys, one with a questionnaire adapted from partner no 2 and another survey with a questionnaire elaborated by the Finnish project group. The latter questionnaire can be answered anonymously and electrically. The informant can leave her contacts in the case she is willing to participate anonymously in a face to face interview.

Our study consists of three core questions: 1. What are the first signs of the domestic violence, 2. what kinds of coping and survival mechanisms do the victims have, and 3. what is the role of education of the wife and husband in cases of domestic violence?

At the end of the project period SANL shall organize an international conference to the project partners and stakeholders in Helsinki in order to report the results and contribute to their dissemination and implementation.

<http://www.akateemisetnaiset.fi>

## **Partner no 2: Zentrum für Konstruktive Erziehungswissenschaft e.V. (ZKE)**

The ZKE is an interdisciplinary research group with a tradition of forty years. The research group is part of the Institute for Education of the University of Kiel. Scientists, graduates and students from the areas of educational science, psychology, philosophy, sociology, physics and theoretical cardiology belong to the team. The aim of the research group is the development and testing of educational theories and methods on a methodical-constructive basis. The ZKE will perform an empirical survey. The team seeks to answer three questions. The first question is: How can domestic violence be categorized? The categories will be analyzed dependent on 1) the social class, 2) sex, 3) age, 4) duration of the partnership, 5) the European country involved in the study, and 6) selected problems. The second question is: Are there differences in what is understood as domestic violence in the EU countries? The ZKE-term of violence is chosen as reference point to answer this question. On this basis the ZKE-team will analyze 1) whether there are significant differences in the expressions of domestic violence, and 2) how violence fighting people handle these differences. The data for the study will be collected in the participating countries. Due to limited resources, the survey will be conducted in available groups with small numbers of people. This method limits the generalizability of the results. For the surveys a questionnaire is used. A questionnaire does not answer the questions about the causes of domestic violence and about the success of interventions. For this purpose experiments have to be carried out. Overall, the study has the character of a pilot-study. It serves to formulate hypotheses. These hypotheses can be compared with the results obtained in the other approaches of the project.

<http://www.zke-kiel.de/>

<http://zkewomenprojekt.wordpress.com>

## **Partner no 3: Kyrklunds' Consulting International / KCI**

KCI offers expert services, juridical advice, translation/interpreting, research within social science fields and humanities. KCI has participated in a number of EU-financed project and other national and international projects.

For the purpose of this project, apart from its general involvement in the various phases of the project, KCI is going to present the following deliverables:

- A short outline regarding the Swedish approach on the issue of violence against women, with a discussion related to the (relatively limited issue of) educated women in the context, and a particular attention devoted to women of migrant background. A special attention will be devoted to the topic of so-called “honour killings” occurring at times and how this issue has been tackled in Sweden. Several organizations of interest will be contacted and asked to bring a contribution at the conference/ workshop that the Swedish partner is going to organize in Stockholm (e.g. “Don’t forget Pela and Fadime” – dedicated to the memory of victims of honour killings, Interfem – Association of Academic women with immigrant background, Terrafem – NGO & Women’s Shelter offering assistance to migrant women confronted with domestic violence, social services, etc.).

- Organize the first meeting/ conference in Stockholm in October 2013. Preliminary title (topic) of the Swedish conference: "Violence against women – can education have a preventing effect?"

#### **Partner no 4: Deutscher Akademikerinnenbund e.V. (DAB)**

The Deutscher Akademikerinnenbund e.V. (DAB) or German Association of University Women is an independent, non-party and non-denominational registered association of women academics of all disciplines and academic associations with corporate membership.

It is working for the promotion of women academics and students in Germany and abroad. The DAB is particularly committed to gender equality in all social areas. Its goals are to empower women academics to leverage their expertise, to improve the status of women and girls through gender mainstreaming, to promote lifelong learning, and to support a model of female life that succeeds in combining career and children.

The DAB contributes to the project DVMEW with an interdisciplinary workshop organized by its local group at Paderborn.

The workshop has two main purposes:

1. To give an overall picture of the problem of domestic violence against women by approaching the problem from the perspective of different academic disciplines with a particular emphasis on the situation in Germany.
2. To bring together people from different countries, at different ages and with varying academic background to reflect and discuss the topic together.

These aims are to be realized as follows:

Talks will be held on the topic approaching it from different perspectives, such as philosophical, medical or legal points of view, thus offering a broad range of opportunities to reflect and discuss the problem. Apart from the international project partners the organizers of this workshop will cooperate with student groups, groups from local women's organizations and the Paderborn City Department for Gender Equality in order to ensure the greatest possible diversity of participants.

In addition to the organization of this workshop, the DAB-group of Paderborn will actively support the empirical study of the ZKE, the other German project partner.

<http://www.dab-ev.org/>

#### **Partner no 5: ASOCIATIA FEMEILOR UNIVERSITARE (AFU)**

AFU (Romanian University Women Association) is developing mainly educational, cultural and social activities, having as its main task to raise the awareness of women in a modern society of many opportunities, enlarged after joining the EU in 2007. Romania is still struggling to give up old mentalities and adopt a modern life style balanced between profession and private life; there are prices to be paid and domestic violence is still a problem to be solved. In the frame of the project AFU is collecting statistics regarding violent acts, is promoting the legislation regarding the violence. Debates and meetings with professionals (medical doctors, psychologists, sociologists) and teachers and pupils will raise the awareness of fight against the violence and assist the victims. Stories about violent acts and the consequences on the victims will be collected in a booklet. A

high interest is devoted to the relationships between the Romanians and other ethnical groups mainly Roma people, which have to be helped to be better integrated in the European society.

The Romanian partner is committed to arrange an international project meeting in Bucharest in May 2014. It will also contribute to the survey launched by Partner 2

[www.femei-universitare.ro](http://www.femei-universitare.ro)

(If the direct link does not work, please copy the url to your browser and try again.)

### **Partner no 6: Združenje univerzitetnih izobraženk Slovenije (ZUIS)**

Slovene Union of University Women (Združenje univerzitetnih izobraženk Slovenije) unites educated women of all scientific disciplines who want to be active in promoting education and improving position of women and girls.

The Union estimates that violence which educated women encounter at home is an important setback in their personal lives and professional careers, and in the broader sense the culture of violence against women presents a threat to sustainability at all levels, from domestic to worldwide. As this problem has not been properly addressed yet, we have decided to participate in the present project.

In contact with several major organizations active in the field of violence against women it has been established that there are no data, collected separately for educated women. So our efforts will be oriented in getting and selecting relevant data to be able to define dimensions of the problem. These activities will be carried out in co-operation with other NGOs and experts from our faculties. Through activities carried out together with other participating national associations the project will gain in quality and applicability. The expected result will be a set of recommendations to raise awareness of the learning community and/or stakeholders.

Our attention will also go to the problem of unemployed young educated women where the dimensions of this problem in our society will be examined.

We will also participate in the survey launched by Partner 2.

Our findings and results will be presented in an international meeting in Ljubljana in November 2014.

<http://zuis.si>