



Association for Gender Equality and Liberty

A.L.E.G.

Activity in Brief

2008

About A.L.E.G.

A.L.E.G. is a Romanian nongovernmental organization active since 2004 on promoting gender equality and fighting gender-based violence. We started as a small local organization and have grown from one year to the other, both in terms of outreach and in terms of diversity of the services provided.

Our acronym means “*I choose*” in Romanian. The name reflects on one of our core values: that men and women should be able to choose their role in family and society free from prejudices. We involve both men and women in the process of eliminating violence and discrimination. Another important principle is to focus on children and youth in our work on gender equality and violence prevention.

Our work is focused in two main directions:

- **Counselling and trauma therapy for victims of gender-based violence**
- **Information and public awareness on violence against women and gender equality**

Our social services are accredited by the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family and are inspected every 3 years for compliance.

We are members in two national NGO coalitions (VIF and GEN) who are advocating for better policies in the area of violence prevention and gender equality.

At European level, A.L.E.G. acts as focal point and member in the Coordination Committee of **WAVE network** (Women Against Violence Europe), is a member of **AWID** (Association for Women’s Rights in Development). A.L.E.G. works as partner in 3 EU-funded projects (Daphne and Grundtvig) involving more than 7 countries. The European trauma network support centres will be the main result.



Our Funding

A.L.E.G. has a yearly budget of 40.000 Euro. Most of our funding continues to come from outside the country. An important development in the last two years was the accessing of EU funding opportunities. Main sources of funding:

Global Fund for Children
Global Fund for Women
EU Grundtvig Programme
EU Daphne Programme

OUR ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

I. The counselling and trauma therapy program



Psychological counselling services were requested by 11 women and girls, most of them in crisis situations. Very often, the women seek help only when the situation becomes unbearable. 5 of the cases were related to domestic violence. In addition to psychological support, they were provided legal counselling as well as guidance in finding a shelter. The rest of the cases were 6 girls, part of them struggling with feelings of anxiety, abusive relationships others trying to overcome an experience of rape. They benefitted from additional free of charge health services funded by Global Fund for Children.

Although the women were facing different difficulties, in 80% of cases, the therapy process revealed a trauma related to sexual assault or abuse between the ages 13 and 17. The memory of the event is often times repressed, but in order to achieve inner strength and balance, the trauma has to be dealt with.

II. Activities related to information and public awareness on violence against women and gender equality



February 2008 - **Educational sessions** in local schools (C.F.R. High School) under the title „Unlearning Violence”. Beneficiaries: 54 students. Partner: Sibiu School Inspectorate. Health topics like reproductive health were also included. The children received vitamins and hygiene products.



May 2008 - **Public Debate**: “Gender Equality in decision making: negative versus positive experiences”. Participants: 20 women active in the local community, both in politics and in public organizations. They shared experiences and views regarding discrimination and tried to respond to the following question: Are women equal partners in public life? Partner and host: the „Gong” Theatre for Children and Youth.

8-10 December 2008 – **Awareness-raising activities** part of the International Campaign “16 International Days of Combating Violence Against Women” including:



1. The Silent Witness Exhibition and Candle – Light Vigil – the red silhouettes represent women killed by partners. Each ‘witness’ told a real story. The data, complying with confidentiality principles, was provided to us by the Police Inspectorate. Our objective was to

show that domestic violence can kill. According to the statistics of the National Agency for Family Protection, the number of women killed grows from one year to the next. In the previous year 131 women loosed their life due to domestic violence. During this public event organized in the city centre, our target was to have 131 candles lit by passers-by, one for each women killed. Exceeding our expectations, the candle-light vigil had over 200 participants.



2. **“Indifference allows violence to happen” - Painting and photography**, organized in the lobby of the Children and Youth Theatre “Gong”. Target group: children and young people, with the purpose to prevent violence and acceptance of violence from spreading to the next generation. The local artists: *Robert Csizer* and *Catrinel Ioan*. Events funded by Global Fund for Women.

III. Projects



2006-2008-**Girls Club**- Regular educational and counselling activities for 32 adolescent- girls (15-18 years). Purpose: education on combating unwanted pregnancies and STDs, domestic violence prevention, strengthening self-esteem.



Funded by Global Fund for Children. In partnership with Child

Protection and The School Inspectorate.



September 2008 - September 2010 A.L.E.G. is implementing an **EU Grundtvig** partnership for Life-Long Learning with the title **“Kitchen Learning”**. The aim of the project is to encourage cultural exchange and development of new abilities among adult women over 50, while building on the basis of their life – long experience.

A.L.E.G. participates in the project with 6 beneficiaries and 12 nobilities. Project co-coordinator: Mundig, Austria. The partnership includes organizations from Germany, Italy,

Slovakia and the Czech Republic. EU-funded project.