



Association for Gender Equality and Liberty
A.L.E.G.

Activity in Brief
2009

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) since 2010, and of the **Trauma Network** set up as a result of the Daphne Project „Join the Net IV”.

A.L.E.G. works as partner in 3 EU-funded projects (Daphne and Grundtvig) involving more than 7 countries.



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 in the timeframe 2008-2009:

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



A.L.E.G. provided support in 11 cases of domestic violence and 1 case of sexual abuse. Most of the cases are referred to us by public authorities (e.g. the police), but we are also contacted directly by victims or family members of the victim who learn about our services from the internet or local means of information. In the cases of domestic violence we often provide legal counselling and accompany the woman throughout the legal procedures, while trying to solve other social needs as well. Two of the women have also brought their children into counselling. Additionally, the Police Inspectorate has requested us to provide mediation in two cases of family violence in rural areas.

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



February 2009 – Campaign for **recruiting volunteers** and promoting the counselling and therapy program. Starting with 2009, the town-hall of Sibiu offers us free public space in the central part of the city, for promoting our services.

8-10 March 2009 – **‘Mărțișor’ for women in difficulty**. Spring is welcomed in Romania through the symbol of „mărțișor”, a token of good-luck received usually by women from friends and family. But not all women enjoy a caring family. A.L.E.G. visited over 150 women and girls in orphanages as well as in the „Hope Island” rehabilitation centre for women who suffer from alcohol addiction in order to bring empowerment and a sweet gift of spring.



Collaboration with the local newspaper „Sibiu 100%”. Starting with April 2009, A.L.E.G. publishes a regular column in the weekly paper Sibiu 100%, one of the most popular local media, distributed free of charge all over the county. A.L.E.G. has the chance to educate and inform the public on topics related to violence against women and gender equality.



International Children’s Day 2009- event under ***All Different, All Equal***- educational project, which brought together children from the local public schools and disabled children from a Special School. The children were involved in games and activities on the topic of non-discrimination with the aim to build up tolerance to diversity. The children created T-shirts with messages related to tolerance and non-discrimination who were then published in a children’ rights brochure. The event was in partnership with the Children’s Section of ASTRA County Library. Vitamins and hygiene products were provided.



**Hanns
Seidel
Stiftung**

June 2009 – International Conference **„Prevention and combating of illegal migration of human trafficking”**, organized by Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Department for European Affairs of the Romanian Government. A.L.E.G.’s director was invited to give a presentation on prevention activities and had the opportunity to network with organizations from Germany who often offer support to Romanian victims of trafficking to return home safely.



July 2009- ALEG becomes member of a local **working group** involving NGOs and public institutions with responsibilities in combating domestic violence. The Guide to Intervention in Domestic Violence was launched, conducted by specialists from the National Agency for Family Protection. Organizer: Department of Labour and Social Protection Sibiu.



July 2009 – A.L.E.G. staff was invited as experts in the **Workshop: „Breaking gender stereotypes. Give talent a chance”**-awareness campaign for enterprises on the topic of gender stereotypes organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sibiu.

During the **“16 International Days of Combating Violence Against Women”** A.L.E.G. organized the following awareness-raising events :



10 December – Human Rights Day: **Children are changing the story**-36 students took part in a workshop on family violence. Starting from the Cinderella Story posted on the website of Sensi-Blu Foundation (www.nuepoveste.ro), children have created a new story in drawings. Their work and message were posted on our website in order to address the adults who are responsible of the actual change in family violence.



10 December – Human Rights Day: **Students learn about violence against women as a human rights violation**- 48 students participated in a discussion about violence against women after watching a documentary film on this topic. Students learned about the UN conventions, the Romanian legislation in this area and the real impact of laws. The event was hosted by ASTRA Film Studio in Sibiu.



15 December – **700 candles for Silent Witnesses**- red silhouettes representing women who have lost their lives due to domestic violence told their stories in the city centre of Sibiu.

According to the National Agency for Family Protection 723 deaths occurred in Romania due to domestic violence over the past five years. The target of the event was to light 700 candles.

III. Projects



March 2009 – March 2010: A.L.E.G. participates as partner in the implementation of the **EU Daphne Project JoinTheNet IV**, led by the organization **Terapeutische Frauenberatung** from Germany. As part of the project, A.L.E.G. is responsible to train 100 professionals in the medical and the social sectors on PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). During 10-15 May 2009, 2 A.L.E.G. staff members took part in a training of trainers in Gottingen, Germany: **“PTSD as consequence of sexual violence against women and girls – identification, counselling and recommended competences”**.

EU - STRATEGIE Gender Budgeting

April – June 2009: A.L.E.G. participated as partner in the **„EU-Strategy Gender Budgeting”** led by the Network of Women’s Counselling Centres in Austria – within the program “Europe for Citizens”, with the task to undertake a research on the financial situation of women and women’s organizations in Romania as well as Romanian experiences related to gender-responsive public budgeting and to present the outcomes in Vienna at an international conference. The outcomes were included in a final project brochure.

IV. Training



September 2009 - A.L.E.G. staff attended **“Training in life skills”**- Integration into society of young people from minorities and disadvantaged groups.

Organizer: The Civil Society Development Foundation.



November 2009 - Participation at the Annual conference: **Interventions thorough Playing and Drama Therapy for Sexually Abused Children and Adults**. Organizer: Association of Playing Therapy and Drama therapy.