



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

**Activity in Brief**  
**2010**

## 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, as they make long-term change happen.

Our work is focused in two main directions:

- **Counselling and psychotherapy 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, member of **ASTRA network** (Central and Eastern Europe women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) and of the **Trauma Network** set up as a result of the Daphne Project „Join the Net IV”. In the last 3 years, A.L.E.G. has worked as partner in 3 EU-funded projects (Daphne and Grundtvig) involving more than 7 countries. A main result was the setting up of a European trauma network support centers.



## Our Team

President: Sissi Samec

Vice-president: Liviu Gaja

Director: Camelia Proca

Board Members: Maria-Cecilia Dobrotă, Silvana Diana Vulcan, Fabian Bădoi

A.L.E.G. has currently 3 permanent staff and 1 collaborator, 25 members and a pool of 50 volunteers especially students.

## 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.

**Global Fund for Children**  
**Global Fund for Women**  
**EU Grundtvig Programme**  
**EU Daphne Programme**  
**The Body Shop Foundation**



## I. The counselling and trauma therapy program



A.L.E.G. provided counselling to ten victims of domestic violence and two victims of human trafficking. One of the victims entered a long-term therapy program and slowly regained confidence for simple daily tasks necessary for normal functioning, such as travelling on the local bus. She was facing a major difficulty in relating with the baby she had as a result of a rape. After 2 months in therapy she began to spend more time with the child, feeding him and playing together.

2 children victims of sexual assault (a 6-year old girl and a 10- year old boy) were referred to our service. In the case of small children, our councillor uses drawing and playing as tools of communication adequate for this age. The counselling involved sessions with the parents as well. The children benefitted from additional free of charge health services funded by Global Fund for Children.

## II. Educational and awareness raising activities

February 2010- **Gender Equality Festival**- 5th edition- a public campaign for violence prevention and fighting gender stereotypes addressed to young people. The Festival was organized around Valentine's Day and focused on the topic of RELATIONSHIPS:

- **"Relationships Cookbook"** – launching of a booklet that shares experiences of teenage relationships collected from local teenagers;
- **Forum theatre** – a form of educational theatre in which the spectators are changing the plot and replacing the actors; the plays explored gender stereotypes and relationship patterns; over 100 participants;
- **Living Library** - an event that challenged prejudices like "Roma women are lazy" or "men cannot raise children". It works like a regular library except that the participants "borrow" a conversation partner - a living book belonging to a controversial category;
- **Choose your words!** - street action where couples were able to communicate with the help of human letters; 60 participants
- **Couples in documentary film** - Free screenings of documentary films dealing with difficult relationships offered by ASTRA Film Studio; 55 participants.



The Festival was promoted through 84 radio spots on Radio Kiss FM, interviews and articles in local newspapers and a regional leisure time magazine. 100 posters and 200 leaflets were distributed especially in faculties and schools. 26 volunteers were involved.

Funded by: The Body Shop Foundation and Global Fund for Children. Partners and sponsors: "Gong "Theatre for Children and Youth, ASTRA Film, ASTRA County Library, Sibiu 100% newspaper, Days and Nights magazine, Radio Kiss FM, Honterus Print house, Baumax.

November 2009- June 2010- **Educational sessions**- interactive weekly sessions involving over 60 children on topics like: self-esteem and self-image, stereotypes and prejudice, respect, healthy relations vs. abusive relations, violence. Health topics were also included, like personal hygiene. Partner: ASTRA County Library-Children's department. Funded by the Global Fund for Children. Children received personal hygiene products and vitamins.



25 November - 10 December 2010- **16 Days of Combating Violence Against Women** in partnership with local companies TRANS AGAPE and AVON. Activities and events:



25.11.2010- **Silent Witness Exhibition and Candle-Light Vigil** organized in the city center of Sibiu. The red silhouettes represent women who have lost their lives to domestic violence and each tells a story. According to the statistics of the National Agency for Family Protection in the last 5 years in Romania 723 lives were lost to domestic violence. Many women endure the violence until it is too late.

25.11-10.12.2010- **Feed bread to your family, NOT violence!** This message accompanied every loaf of bread produced in the timeframe 25 November – 10 December by the local bread company Trans Agape in the city of Sibiu. At least 80.000 people were reached this way, including men who were an important target group for A.L.E.G.'s campaign. We chose bread for our campaign because this is both a symbol of nurturing one's family and the most frequently bought daily product in Romania. The stickers on the bread packages contained information about A.L.E.G.'s support services for victims.



**Violence leaves marks!** 1500 women in Sibiu received together with their orders of AVON products information related to A.L.E.G.'s therapy and support services for victims of violence. Violence is traumatizing both for the victim and for the children who are witness to violence. For a change to happen, we encouraged women to speak out for themselves and their friends and stop hiding the marks of violence.

25 November 2010- A.L.E.G. director Camelia Proca, was invited in the evening show of the local TV station TV Eveniment in a talk-show on gender roles and stereotypes leading to violence and presented the A.L.E.G. campaign.



### III. Projects



November 2009 - January 2010: As part of the **EU Daphne Project JoinTheNet IV**, 10 trainings on the post-traumatic stress disorder were implemented by A.L.E.G. staff Eniko Gall and Liviu Gaja for a number of 103 professionals from social, health and educational sectors.

In February 2010, A.L.E.G. staff attended the final conference of the project in Ljubljana/Slovenia where a network of trauma support centers was created.

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 European 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 motilities. Project co-coordinator: Mundig, Austria. The partnership includes organizations from Germany, Italy, and Slovakia.



#### IV. Organizational development: training and networking

February 2010 - A.L.E.G. hosted a presentation of the **Youth in action** program for our volunteers to support informal learning activities for young people. Participants were informed by the program's actions (youth exchanges, European Volunteer Services, youth initiatives, participatory democracy projects, etc..) and they were familiarized with the terms of European citizenship, active participation, intercultural dialogue and inclusion social. Partner: Colors Association, Brasov.



June 2010 – A.L.E.G. staff Eniko Gall attended the **Diversity Management Training** organized by Legal Resource Centre Foundation. The course was supported by the representatives of the National Council for Combating Discrimination and experts from Italy and Romania in the field of non-discrimination and diversity management. Project co-financed by European Social Fund.

March 2010- ALEG becomes a member of the **Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities:** multi-regional network of counseling services for social inclusion of discriminated persons. Project co-financed by European Social Fund.

May 2010 – A.L.E.G. director Camelia Proca co-authored the book **"Four Dimensions of Romanian Femininity,"** exploring woman's relationship with oneself, family, profession and divinity. These four dimensions were approached in 73 short essays by women from all over the country who are active in their local communities in different areas or professions.



In 21-23 October 2010, A.L.E.G. was invited to attend the international AWID conference "Resource Mobilization for Women's Rights Organizations and Movements in the SEE/CEE/CIS Regions", Tbilisi, Georgia where our director had the chance to strategize on resource mobilization together with over 50 women's organizations in the region and funding organizations like: Global Fund for Women, Sigrid Rausing Trust, and Mama Cash. As a result of the networking during this conference, in

December 2010 A.L.E.G. joined AWID as institutional member and the ASTRA network for reproductive health.

#### V. Financial report

**Income received in 2010:** 72416 lei

**Total expenses in 2010:** 87945 lei

**Major sources of income and funds transferred in 2010:**

- Global Fund for Children: **33442 lei**
- EU Daphne Programme: **13628 lei**
- EU Grundtvig Programme: **12780 lei**
- Donations and income from 2% rule: **3246 lei**



## SUCSESSES and AWARDS

**2005:** Award from the international organization AWID (Association of Women in Development) in a call for essays and case studies on "women's organizations and movements": publication of the study and free participation to the *AWID 10<sup>th</sup> Forum* in Thailand in October 2005

**2005:** Scholarship for the leader of the organization provided by the Swedish International Development Organization to participate in a training of trainers program on women's rights at the *Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Raol Wallenberg* in Sweden

**2005, 2008:** Accreditation as provider of social services from the Department of Labour, Family and Social Solidarity

**2006:** Award for Project of the year for A.L.E.G.'s "Owning My Body – Public campaign for reproductive health and prevention of sexual abuse in rural areas" at Volunteer's Gala organized by the Red Cross Sibiu

**2007:** Volunteer Gala Awards: best volunteers' coordinator and A.L.E.G. project "Girls club" as the best project of the year

**2009:** Successful outcome in social inspection of our domestic violence services

**2010** - Award received at the SUPERvolunteer Gala organised by the Colors Association – "The Gender Equality Festival, won at the category "the project with the largest number of volunteers involved"

**2010** - Through the G.E.N. network – the NGOs involved in the fight against gender-based discrimination notified the National Antidiscrimination Council regarding the statements made by an expert and profiler, during a telephone interview where direct gender-based discrimination, prejudicing the dignity of the Romanian women were made. The Managing College endorsed the case of the NGOs and declared this an act of discrimination, harassment and violation of human dignity.



**Contact info:**

**Tel/fax:** 004-0269-242078, **Mobile:** 004 0722 732 767

**E-mail:** [aleg\\_romania@yahoo.com](mailto:aleg_romania@yahoo.com)

**Web page:** <http://aleg-romania.eu/>

**Address:** Sibiu, str. Uzinei, nr. 14, bl. 17, ap. 9, Romania

**Contact persons:** Director -Camelia Proca, Psychologist- Enikó Gáll