



association for liberty
and equality of gender

About A.L.E.G.



A.L.E.G. is a Romanian nongovernmental organization active since 2004 on promoting and fighting violence against women and children. We promote gender equality, especially through education, with a view to bringing down stereotypes between women and men. In 2016, A.L.E.G. was one of the four organizations in Europe and Central Asia to receive the international [With and For Girls](#) Award, for positive changes in the lives of teenage girls, through activities in which they are directly involved.

Internationally, we are members of the following networks: [WAVE](#) (Women Against Violence Europe), [ASTRA](#) (Regional Network for sexual and reproductive health, and the rights of women in Central and Eastern Europe), and the Regional Network against Sexual Assault, made up of Balkan states. *Nationally*, as members of several networks and coalitions, we are involved in lobbying and advocacy for public policy improvements to prevent and combat domestic and gender-based violence, and to promote young people's access to reproductive health and, generally, in the field of gender equality. In 2014, we initiated the first network of Romanian NGOs approaching the difficult topic of sexual violence – "Breaking the silence on sexual violence" active in national lobbying for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, and the opening of integrated assistance centres for victims of sexual violence. Also, in 2015, we piloted a unique service in Romania, specialized for victims of sexual violence, including online counselling, psychological and legal assistance, having specialized staff and based on good practice models from Iceland. *Locally*, when working on cases of violence, we collaborate with the police, the court, the forensic medicine service, the child protection authorities and NGOs.

Services

A.L.E.G. has been accredited as social services provider for more than 10 years, and offers the following:

1. Counselling Centre for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence. A.L.E.G. has been accredited as a social service provider since 2005 (permanent accreditation certificate no. 001319/13.06.2014), and, since 2016, it has been providing the Certified Service: Counselling centre for the prevention and combating of family violence (operating permit 0000315/27.06.2016, valid for 5 years).
2. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING CENTRE. Organizes educational sessions in schools, aiming at preventing gender-based violence (for example, the Caravan *My Body, My Own*, unfolded in 4 counties and reached over 1000 pupils), meetings and trainings for specialists involved in prevention, public awareness campaigns on domestic and sexual violence (for example, the annual event *Silent Witnesses*).



Staff, members and volunteers:

President: Irina Costache

Secretary: Silvana Vulcan

Vice-president: Fabian Bădoi

Members: Georgiana Epure, Loredana Kaschovits

Volunteers 73 active volunteers in 2016, especially high school pupils; our volunteer database includes more than 300 people.

Funds and financers:

The income of A.L.E.G. amounted to RON 102,787 in 2016 and our main funding sources were:

DG Justice, Daphne Programme, European Union

EEA Grants 2009-2014 within the Fund for Bilateral Relations

Sponsorships from AVON and Bearing Point

Fundația Comunitară Sibiu (Sibiu Community Foundation) through the half marathon in Sibiu

The Local Council and City Hall of Sibiu, funding of a project which took place in 2016 – funds transferred in 2017

Individual donations and 2% income tax



I. Counselling Centre for the Victims of Family Violence



The centre integrates the results of the project “My Body, My Own – Sexual Violence among Youth: Raising Awareness and Counselling Centre”, and also ensures specialized services for victims, including children witnesses of gender-based violence (domestic and/or sexual violence). In order to facilitate victims’ access to information and anonymity, A.L.E.G. manages an online counselling platform, where people can talk to a psychologist in real time: <http://aleg-romania.eu/consiliere/>.

107 people turned to and benefited from services during the year 2016, of which most women chose online counselling (including communication through offline messages, free of charge, through the platform on the A.L.E.G. website), followed by phone information and counselling. 9 women benefited from complex services: safety plans, long-term individual psychological counselling, legal assistance and reimbursement of forensic medicine certificates and other medical expenses. Most of the people calling us were women suffering from various forms of domestic violence perpetrated by their husband or partner (control and psychological violence, physical and sexual abuse, social isolation and economic abuse). 7 people contacted us because they were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by a non-partner (sexual harassment at work or school).

The classification of these requests shows the national character of the service: Argeş, Avrig, Agnita, Bacău, Bârlad, Braşov, Brăila, Bucureşti, Câmpina, Craiova, Constanţa, Dolj, Târgu-Mureş, Moineşti, Sibiu, Sinaia, Paşcani, Runcu Salveii/Bistriţa-Năsăud, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Iaşi, Botoşani, Tâlmăciu, Tulcea, Ploieşti, Timişoara, Suceava. Moreover, we received calls from Romanian citizens in Switzerland and Austria, trying to get information for family members in Romania.

All the people who contacted us were informed and assisted to understand the specifics of gender-based violence – forms, causes and effects, information regarding the victims’ rights and ways to access these rights. Many people write to us to understand whether they are living an abusive situation. Our services are not conditioned by the victim filing a police complaint. Our approach is to help the person affected by violence to regain the power and trust to make informed decisions for themselves; when they decide to file a complaint, we assist them throughout the process, to avoid secondary victimization through the way in which they are treated by the authorities. The people accessing our services benefit from full confidentiality: we will not disclose the information they entrust us with without their consent, except for the situations when we are compelled by law – such as, in situations of minor abuse.

Regarding legal assistance, including court representation of victims, we collaborate with lawyers in Sibiu, Bucharest, as well as with the pro-bono network managed by ACTEDO. Intervention cooperation partnerships were signed with Women’s Association in Sibiu, ANAIS Association in Bucharest, the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) in Târgu-Mureş, as well as public institutions such as the police, child protection authorities, school inspectorates.

A.L.E.G. also offers counselling for children, with a view to putting an end to the violent pattern, and avoiding that, in the future, the child becomes a perpetrator or a victim. Any child witnessing repeated violence between their parents suffers from long-term effects, even if he/she is not directly targeted by violence.

II. Projects



October 2014–November 2016: A.L.E.G. was a partner in the project **Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence (GEAR against IPV-II)**. The project was a coordinated action of primary and secondary prevention of intimate partner violence in adolescent relationships, through interventions in schools or in other settings, based on specially designed educational materials, aimed at secondary school students' awareness raising and empowerment by specially trained teachers. Its main aim was to promote the development of healthy relationships based on equality between the sexes and zero tolerance towards violence. The project contributed to protecting girls and women (of all forms of gender-based violence), the development of policies and practices promoting gender equality in the field of public health. The tools used to this end were the Master Package and the National Package "GEAR against IPV". The project addressed pupils in the 10th grade, teachers, school counsellors, specialists or organizations in the field of promoting health and educating youngsters.

In Romania, the project "GEAR against IPV" included the following activities:

- Elaboration, evaluation and revision of the **National Package adapted for Romania**, based on a first set of sessions implemented in class. Starting from this, main interventions (**teachers' seminars and students' workshops**) were implemented and evaluated; the material and the interventions were tested as pilot and with **teenagers in high risk groups (care homes)**. The package includes the Teacher's Manual and the Students' Activities Book <http://www.gear-ipv.eu/educational-material/national-packages/item/55-the-romanian-gear-against-ipv-package>.

- Improving the capacity of teachers to prevent violence through two 3-day training seminars for 55 teachers and school counsellors in Sibiu and other 10 counties, including a mock educational session in class, during which the teachers played the role of pupils.

- The implementation of educational workshops for 10-graders, with a complex component of impact evaluation, during the school year 2015-2016, 10 teachers trained during the project, involving a total number of 262 pupils from 10 high schools in Sibiu, Cugir, Cluj-Napoca, Brăila, Bacău, Slobozia. Each comprising at least 13 hours of class activities, the workshops aimed at increasing the teenagers' level of information and awareness regarding gender stereotypes, myth deconstruction and the development of safe and healthy intimate relations, with zero tolerance towards violence.

- **Pilot workshop for participants in vulnerable groups** – 12 beneficiaries from care homes in Sibiu.

- **Awareness-raising campaign – creative competition "Unlearning Violence"**, involving all the 274 young people active in dissemination activities. The pupils turned into videos the key messages they had to send to their colleagues following the educational workshops in the project. All the materials were promoted by A.L.E.G. online

- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLq2PN3uEs2XMptPAGpd7TuRok9dOaRVQs>. "Jealousy is not a sign of love" is the message of the winning video, chosen by a jury comprised of both adults and teenagers.

- The **national conference** on 14 October 2016, "Equality and the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Education" – pupils and teachers had the opportunity to present their point of view on the utility of the materials, the methodology, and the way in which the project was implemented; with the participation of local and central authorities, as well as those in the field of equality of opportunities.

- **Promotion and lobby** for the educational materials and the awareness-raising workshops to be integrated in the school curricula.

The conclusions of the implementation and evaluation of the workshops can be found in the in following documents:

- Teachers' Training Seminars in Romania: Implementation and Evaluation Report http://www.gear-ipv.eu/images/news/Training_seminars/Teachers_Report_ROMANIA_Web.pdf
- Implementation and Evaluation Report of Awareness Raising Workshops with Adolescents in Romania http://www.gear-ipv.eu/images/news/Workshops/Workshops_Report_Romania_EN.pdf
- Policy brief following the implementation of the students' workshops in Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Spain, and Romania: [The role of school: Evidence-based Policy Recommendations for Adolescents' Empowerment](#)
- Policy brief: [The role of school: Evidence-based Policy Recommendations for Adolescents' Empowerment](#)

Coordinator: European Anti-Violence Network (EAVN), Greece

Partners: Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) – Cyprus; Centre for Education, Counselling and Research (CESI) – Croatia; Plataforma Unitària contra les Violències de Gènere – Spain; The Smile of the Child – Greece, A.L.E.G. – Romania. **Project funded through** DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union, Project code: JUST/2013/DAP/AG/5408.



Between 14-16 October 2016, A.L.E.G. organized the 11th edition of the **Gender Equality Festival**, an annual event during which teenagers design and implement actions for other young people. The project taking the form of a festival aims at offering teenagers access to education targeted at preventing couple violence and at promoting healthy relationships in which power is divided between the two. The conclusion of the 3-day festival was that: “In order to build healthy relationships, we need education which tackles the problems in young peoples’ lives, and it is essential to involve schools.”



Events within the Festival:

- **The conference “Equality and Prevention of Gender-based Violence”** brought together 78 participants from all over the country, among which Mr. Eugen Crai, counsellor of the Minister of Education, and Andra Croitoru, State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour – National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, listening to the impressions and recommendations of the 10 high schools which tested the educational module proposed by A.L.E.G. The representatives of the two Ministries stated, in Sibiu, that such materials and good practice examples are very necessary in Romania, which, starting 2016, has the legal obligation to integrate violence prevention in all levels of education, in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.



- The winners of the contest “**Unlearning Violence**” were also announced during the national conference, where the best campaign materials on preventing violence against teenagers were rewarded.



- The **street action “Choose your words”**, during which A.L.E.G. volunteers holding huge letters challenged passers-by to answer the questions “*What are the ingredients of a healthy relationship?*” 87 people were engaged, and the most common answers were “*trust*” and “*communication*”.



- Over 80 young people and some parents participated at the **forum theatre performance “Chalet Party”**, in an attempt to change the ending of a theatre play created by A.L.E.G. volunteers and inspired from real events in high school pupils’ lives. This year’s performance brought to light some of the peer pressures that nowadays young people have to deal with in their relationships, i.e. girls, having a boyfriend who supports them financially, and boys, not be seen as henpecked and break as many hearts as possible. These pressures cause trouble for the couple, and sometimes lead to violence. In order to solve the conflict, the participants suggested changes through which the true friends of the main characters chose get involved before getting to a conflict. Event coordinated by Doriana Tăut, vice-dean of the Faculty of Letters and Arts, the LBUS Department of Drama and Theatre Studies. Partner: Habitus Bookshop.



- **Projection of the film “Stockholm”**, offered by Transilvania Film, followed by a debate on adolescent relations, which brought to light the different expectations that women and men may have in a relationship.

- The “**Gender Treasure Hunt**”, which took place in the historical centre of the city, also drew numerous youngsters eager to look beyond clichés and stereotypes regarding the role of women and men in society.

Funding:

The 11th edition of the Gender Equality Festival was co-founded by the Sibiu Local County and the Sibiu City Hall through the Community Agenda.

The conference “Prevention of Gender Violence in Education” marked the end of the project „GEAR against Intimate Partner Violence II”, funded through the European Union Daphne III Programme.

The competition “Unlearning Violence”, funded through the funds raised by runners and supporters during the 2016 Sibiu Half Marathon, a sports fundraising event of the Sibiu community organized by Fundația Comunitară Sibiu (Sibiu Community Foundation).

Between June 2015 and March 2016, A.L.E.G. was a partner in the project „**Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence: Strengthening the Capacity for NGOs to Provide Better Services to the Survivors of Sexual Violence**”, which continued the efforts initiated by A.L.E.G. to combat sexual violence.



The project coordinated by ACTEDO was active in advocacy to ratify the Istanbul Convention and to establish sexual violence integrated centres offering victims specialized and integrated services. Through the experience of the

organizations in the network, the project contributed expertise and good practice models to the development of specialized assistance services for survivors.

Accomplishments:



- August 2015 – Following the network's open letters on the rape case in Vaslui, an intersectoral work group on sexual violence was set up, hosted by the Superior Council of the Magistracy, and bringing together NGOs and representatives of competent public institutions (Ministry of Health, General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, Ministry of Justice, Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, etc.) in order to establish concrete measures for sexual violence victims to have access to specialized care and protection services. A government decision on integrated crisis centres was under development.

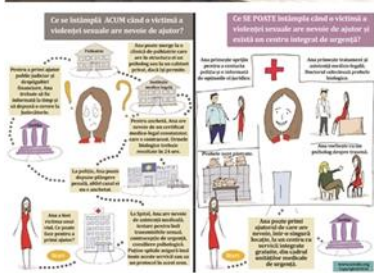


- The network researched and published a proposal of public policy on the establishment of integrated crisis centres for victims of sexual violence, aiming at reducing the risk of revictimization and to facilitate access of survivors of sexual violence to support services and justice.

- Petition to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice to set up integrated crisis centres for victims of sexual violence.

- 3 thematic meetings for the development of an advocacy strategy.

- Training sessions for member organizations and activists in the field on psychological counselling for victims of sexual violence.



- 23 February 2016 – the network organized the technical conference “**Sexual Violence: Challenges and Solutions in the context of the Ratification of the Istanbul Convention**”, focusing on the implementation of the convention. During the conference, the vice-president of the GREVIO expert committee monitoring the Istanbul Convention, Rosa Logar, talked to Romanian decision-making factors about the importance of specialized services for victims of sexual violence. At this conference, A.L.E.G. presented the experience of the pilot centre for victims of sexual violence and the final results of the project *My Body, My Own*.

- We requested that a National Interest Programme regarding integrated emergency centres is introduced, funded by the Ministry of Labour.

- 18 March 2016, Cluj-Napoca – the network organized a concert for a cause: better services for survivors of sexual violence. The concert was supported by the lead singer of the band Byron, Dan, and by The Glass Fish.



Project funded through the EEA Grants 2009-2014 within the NGO Fund in Romania. **Coordinator:** ACTEDO **Partners:** Association for Liberty and Gender Equality (A.L.E.G.), Filia Center, Front Association, Association for the Promotion of the Rights of Roma Women – E-Romnja, the Eastern European Institute for Reproductive Health

(EEIRH), Association of Women Against Violence – Artemis, the Center for Partnership and Equality (CPE) and Society for Feminist Analyses AnA.

More information on the network “Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence” can be found at www.violentadegen.ro.

In **March-April 2016**, A.L.E.G. implemented the project “**Sexual Violence – Transferring Good Practices for Intervention Sensitive to the Victim’s Needs**”, funded through EEA Grants 2009-2014, the Fund for Bilateral Relations.

30.03–03.04.2016: study visit to Reykjavik, Iceland. Through this, we offered representatives of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities and the Institute for Public Order Studies the possibility to take part in an experience exchange with the Reykjavik Metropolitan Police, the sexual assault crisis centre within the Reykjavik hospital, Barnahus – an institution specializing in hearing abused minors –, and NGOs that are highly experienced in counselling victims, such as Stigamot.



5-6.04: Returning from the study visit in Iceland, the lessons learnt were exploited through a training on gender violence, held by Irina

Costache and Camelia Proca, for 21 Romanian police officers, within the Institute for Public Order Studies in Bucharest. The training was designed and supported through a partnership between A.L.E.G. and Institute for Public Order Studies (ISOP).



May-December 2016: A.L.E.G. raised funds through the Sibiu Half Marathon 2016 to co-fund the teenager violence prevention projects. “**Unlearning Violence**” was the cause that aimed to bring to high school pupils educational sessions and materials promoting healthy relational alternatives, detailed in a previous section. Thanks to the extraordinary runners and their supporters, we managed to raise RON 7357, three times more than in 2015! This is a sign that more and more people support unlearning violence! The most active fundraisers of our cause were Loredana Kaschovits and Radu Negru. We would like to thank all runners, as well as all their supporters! The funds raised were put forward as the local contribution to the EU grant which enabled us to bring educational sessions to reach 139 youngsters in the county of Sibiu, to edit the videos made by the pupils in the context “Unlearning Violence”, and to give a special prize to the students of the “Octavian Goga” National High School in Sibiu.

III. Advertising and Awareness-raising Activities



Vigil Night for the Silent Witnesses, annual action taking place on **25 November**, marking the **International day for the elimination of violence against women**. The silent witnesses are red figures symbolically representing women who lost their lives because of domestic violence. Each figure bears the story of a case. In most cases, the violent act was preceded by a long history of violence and threats. A.L.E.G. invited journalists, representatives of competent institutions, and the audience to a vigil night, in an attempt to highlight the fact that violence against women is not a mere subject for sensational headlines, but a reality that we all contribute to by tolerating violence that we are aware of. Passers-by lit a candle and showed their support for women’s right to live a life free of violence. We need a gesture that makes a difference: knocking on the neighbours’ door, calling the police when the victim cannot do so, not judging a woman filing a complaint thinking that “surely she must have done something to deserve it”. According to the data from the Sibiu forensic medicine service, between January-November 2016, 171 forensic medicine certificates were requested to prove physical domestic violence, and 30 to prove sexual violence acts others than within the family. The Sibiu Court recorded 82 protection order requests, of which 13 were rejected. Only in 8 cases did the judge’s decision include psychological counselling or rehab for the perpetrators.

Photo credit: Silvana Armat.

IV. Petitions and Public Efforts:

European Campaign WAVE Step Up in Romania: WAVE and partner NGOs started the campaign with the action *Governments Commit*, asking European states to make **STEPS FORWARD – INVESTMENTS IN PROTECTION AND**



SUPPORT! As part of our efforts aimed at the Romanian Government, we showed that Romania has ratified the Istanbul Convention – but we now want to see actual STEPS FORWARD! In Europe, 1 of 3 women fall victim to physical or sexual violence, and this figure also applies to Romania. Although women make up for half the taxpayers, the state does not yet ensure proper protection and assistance services to women victims of violence. In shelters, we have 47,000 places less than the European need, Eastern European recording the biggest shortages. In Romania, there are no integrated emergency centres for victims of sexual violence. Discrimination prevents the most vulnerable of women to access the services they need. *“In many European countries, specialized services are seriously underfunded, which is why women victims of violence do not benefit from proper assistance. We request that European and national decision-making factors, as well as other key-actors in society take steps forward and invest in eliminating violence against women!”* (Rosa Logar, WAVE President). The message of European and Romanian NGOs can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvcu2IZqpNE>.

In Romania, there still are no integrated centres for victims of sexual violence, even though NGOs and state institutions worked on a government order to establish them. Camelia Proca, A.L.E.G director, has contributed as an expert in preparing the WAVE campaign, as well as in the work groups for integrated centres for victims of sexual violence. Andra Croitoru, state secretary in the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men committed to support the NGO campaign.

June 2016 – The Network for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, the Gender Equality Coalition and the network Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence appealed for the immediate adoption of strategic initiatives on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, in the context of the harmonization of national legislation and the provisions of the Istanbul Convention (Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence), which Romania adopted this year. Open letter to expedite the implementation of strategic initiatives that the Romanian Government took on for the prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence <http://violentaipotrivaafemeilor.ro/scrisoare-deschisa-urgentarea-implementarii/>



October 2016 – We sent a letter supporting the results of the **Comparative Analysis of Civic Culture Text Books**, made by **Centrul de Resurse Juridice (Legal Resource Centre – CRJ)** within the project **Non-discriminatory Education is My Business, Too!** The text books approved by the Romanian Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research for secondary education were analysed from the viewpoint of education for human rights and diversity, focusing on topics related to gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and disability. Better quality equals less discrimination! <http://www.educatiefaradiscriminare.ro/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Analiza-Cultura-Civica-Final.pdf>

November 2016 – Open letter to expedite the implementation of strategic initiatives that the Romanian Government took on in the field of prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence. The Network for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, the Gender Equality Coalition and the network Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence made a public appeal for the immediate adoption of the strategic initiatives on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence that the Romanian Government took on in January 2016. <http://violentaipotrivaafemeilor.ro/scrisoare-deschisa-pentru-urgentarea-implementarii-initiativelor-strategice-asumate-de-guvernul-romaniei-pentru-prevenirea-si-combaterea-violentei-impotriva-femeilor-si-a-violentei-domestice/>

V. Networking and Training Activities



01-04.11.2016: Camelia Proca, A.L.E.G. director and founder, participated at the award ceremony in London, as well as at a series of workshops aimed at experience exchange and institutional development with the 2016 other 19 winning organizations all over the world, as well as with the prize financiers. The award consists of USD 15,000 flexible funding to continue our activity in 2017-2018.

“For A.L.E.G., the award is first of all a sign of recognition for our bold approach, which involves teenagers – particularly girls – in transforming power relations in family and society. Everything we have achieved in 12 years of work – from social service innovation to legislative changes like rape crisis centres – is the joint effort of a team that remained true to the values of the organization, despite the lack of state funding. This team always included girls, who have grown up at the same time with the organization, whilst building up new girl leadership.” (Camelia Proca)



“These 20 outstanding organisations demonstrate the power of grassroots movements and girl leadership to effect change, both in communities, and in the world at large. The Collective is proud to be supporting the With and For Girls Award winners with flexible funding, which is still a rare asset for most grassroots organisations. We want to encourage more funders to trust and invest in girls to address the challenges that they face in their everyday lives. By doing so, they are changing the future for the millions of girls worldwide who face discrimination simply for identifying as a girl.” (Muna Wehbe, CEO of Stars Foundation, financier of The Collective granting the prize).



11-13.04.2016: Camelia Oană, A.L.E.G. member, took part at the youth projects writing event, organized by the ERASMUS+ programme in Cluj-Napoca. Topics: introduction to the programme, analysing organizational needs, identifying objectives, results, activities, eligibility, working on the online application form, teamwork for project writing, etc.



13.04.2016: The Department for Public Health, the Faculty for Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences within the “Babeş-Bolyai” University in Cluj-Napoca, in collaboration with A.L.E.G., organized, in Sibiu, a round table within the project IMPLEMENT: *Specialised support for victims of violence in Health Care Systems across Europe*. The event was part of a series of meetings with key staff in the medical, educational, non-governmental and related services fields, aiming at discussing the importance of training medical professionals to identify and refer victims of gender-based violence to specialized services. The IMPLEMENT project and text book are a model of good practices.



18-20.04.2016: Camelia Proca, A.L.E.G. director, represented Romania at the Wave managerial meeting in Vienna, where she talked about:

- the financial difficulties of Romanian NGO services, the problem of sustainability, as the state does not consistently support independent services offered by NGOs (and there is no proper legal framework allowing for this support as it happens in other European states);
- the efforts of the networks VIF and Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence to modify legislation according to the Istanbul Convention.



16-19.05.2016: The **Women Deliver Conference, Copenhagen** – the young members Georgiana Epure and Alexandra Abrudean represented A.L.E.G. at the WD2016 Conference, regional session (Eastern Europe and Central Asia) on education for health. The conference focused on implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), so that they make a difference for girls and women, placing an emphasis on health – especially maternal health and health and reproductive rights, gender equality, education, environment and economic capacity.



Georgiana held a presentation on inequality, discrimination and violence, but also about youth education and prevention, emphasizing A.L.E.G.'s activities to develop programmes with and for youngsters – according to the Development Goals no. 4 and 5. Georgiana also moderated the panel “Protecting the Reproductive Rights of Survivors of Sexual Violence in Conflict”. The conference was live streamed.



14.06.2016: A.L.E.G. representatives held a session on Healthy Relationships and Balanced Families at Incubator107Sibiu. Camelia Proca, director, and Eniko Gall, psychologist, talked about what real partnership entails in a couple and how to reach it. How to know how much to compromise without becoming dominated? How does it work when we have children? What does a relationally healthy family look like and what to know about the hope that the other will change?



1-3.04.2016 – volunteers Porumb Ana Diana and Maria Severin represented A.L.E.G. in Sinaia, at an experience exchange within the project **E-VIP (Equality through Volunteering, Innovation, and Professionalization)**, together with volunteers and members of human rights NGOs. The teambuilding was organized by the FILIA Centre. Participants shared their experiences, challenges and aspirations on volunteering or working in an NGO, and the girls from A.L.E.G. presented volunteering activities and experience of our organization.



Ioana Şurubaru, young member of A.L.E.G., represented us at the seminar „**European Flirt Expert**”, held in Bucharest, where she presented the activity of A.L.E.G. in English, as well as the Caravan and the Counselling centre within the project “*My Body, My Own – Sexual Violence among Youth: Raising Awareness and Counselling Centre*”. The seminar discussed reports/statistics on sexual education and sexual violence among Romanian youngsters aged between 14-24.

This project was implemented by the Association “Young Partners for Civil Society Development”.



Andrei Gabriel Stupu, A.L.E.G. volunteer, represented us at the Conference “The Role of Education in Preventing Violence and Combating Gender Stereotypes”, organized by the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Global Campaign. ANES wants to bring to the public attention the main courses of action established by the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence: integrated public policies, victim protection, punishing perpetrators and preventing violence. Andrei presented the experience and results of his participation at the workshops within the project *GEAR against IPV – Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence*, coordinated by A.L.E.G.



29.09 – The Romanian Police unfolded the national campaign “Crime Prevention Week”, an event involving informative and prevention activities, including members of the mass-media. Their objectives revolved around raising public awareness on the need to adopt various protection measures. To this end, A.L.E.G. held a presentation at the Mediaș City Hall, as part of the activity dedicated to *preventing domestic violence*. The action ended with an interview for TV Mediaș on the effects of violence on women, but also the prevention and intervention measures in such situations.

10.11 – Eniko Gall and Camelia Oană participated at a round table in Alba-Iulia, organized within the project “**National Awareness-Raising and Public Information Campaign on Family Violence**”, by the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men.

15.12.2016: Camelia Proca, A.L.E.G. director, participated at the conference “**Family Violence: Concept, Causes, Solutions**”, in Făgăraș, holding a presentation on good practice examples in preventing and combating domestic violence.



We are happy when our good practices examples are taken on by state authorities. The Police Inspectorate of the Satu Mare County implemented the sexual violence prevention campaign “**Love Smart**”, reprinted the guide for teenagers “Sexual Violence – Recognise, Discourage, Avoid, Help!”, made by A.L.E.G. within the project “*My Body, My Own – Sexual Violence among Youth: Raising Awareness and Counselling Centre*”. The campaign reached 1000 students of 10 schools in the county of Satu Mare. The initiative was initiated by Hrihorisan Felicia and her colleagues at the Crime Prevention Department. We hope this serves as an example to other as well!

VI. Media visibility

A.L.E.G. representatives participated at radio and TV shows and gave interviews on various local and national channels, presenting the organization’s activities and supporting the rights of violence victims. Moreover, the association was well promoted in written and online media.

Digi24, February 2016: Camelia Proca, A.L.E.G. director, highlighted that NGOs must be included in intervention services for victims. “NGOs offer support, not just assistance. Besides, NGOs are less bureaucratic, don’t ask for proofs and papers, reducing secondary victimization. It is not our job to establish what happened, Justice will deal with that.” Following the pilot project “My Body, My Own”, focusing on victims of sexual violence, we realized that this type of violence mostly goes unreported because of fear or shame. “They want to be listened to, not to be judged or pushed to act in any way. Assistance services should not be conditioned by suing.” The representative of A.L.E.G. presented a conduct code for employees of integrated emergency centres or of shelters for sexual violence: to approach cases sensibly, not blame the victims, focus on the victim and her needs, offer confidential services based on anonymity, if necessary. <http://www.digi24.ro/stiri/actualitate/social/romania-ar-putea-avea-centre-integrate-pentru-victimele-violentei-sexuale-489536>



The magazine DoR #24, July 2016, „Feminin/Masculin”, includes stories about the cultural inheritance of violence against women and how laws and social services try to minimize it. Camelia Proca, representative of A.L.E.G., also contributed to the section *Inegalitatea de acasă* (The Inequality at Home) with information about Romanian and European legislation on domestic/gender-based violence, current statistics. Conclusion: for *efficient prevention and combating policies to be developed, they should be based on a correct understanding of the problem*. <http://www.decatorevista.ro/dor-24-inegalitatea-de-acasa/>



July 2016: within the project **Non-discriminatory Education is My Business, Too!**, coordinated by *Centrul de Resurse Juridice* (Legal Resource Centre – CRJ), the director of A.L.E.G. wrote the article **School and Education on Rights**: “At school, kids unreservedly laugh at sexist jokes, many times alongside their teacher. But then, the fact that 1 of 3 Romanian women faces a form of gender-based violence is considered an alarming, exaggerated statistics.”

[http://www.educatiefaradiscriminare.ro/portfolio-view/scoala-si-educatia-despre-](http://www.educatiefaradiscriminare.ro/portfolio-view/scoala-si-educatia-despre-drepturi/)

[drepturi/](http://www.educatiefaradiscriminare.ro/portfolio-view/scoala-si-educatia-despre-drepturi/)



October 2016 – A.L.E.G. psychologist, Eniko Gall, presented the activities of the 11th edition of the Gender Equality Festival, organized for and by teenagers, as well as the results of the project *GEAR against IPV*, which reached 10 high schools throughout the country, at the TV show *Raluca și Răzvan*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOPJlnwUFM4>



November 2016, **Radio România Actualități** – Stop Violence against Women. Marking 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women A.L.E.G. representatives, Camelia Proca, director, and Eniko Gall, psychologist, talked about preventing domestic violence, effects, services available in the county of Sibiu, and in the country. They emphasized prevention among youngsters. A beneficiary talked from experience about the difficulties faced by women when trying to get out of a violent relationship. They also mentioned the street event Vigil Night for Silent Witnesses.



November 2016, the magazine **Dilema veche**, no. 663 – *Steps for Protecting Victims of Sexual Violence*. The director of A.L.E.G. talked about the efforts of NGOs and the Network for the prevention of violence against women in the field of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, about stories of victims of gender-based violence who addressed institutions: “It is very important that, from the very beginning, when the victim benefits from assistance, a psychologist trained in the field is present, to help the victims get over the trauma, become aware of their steps and of legal consequences”.

[http://dilemaveche.ro/sectiune/societate/articol/pasi-pentru-protectia-victimelor-violentei-](http://dilemaveche.ro/sectiune/societate/articol/pasi-pentru-protectia-victimelor-violentei-domestice)

[domestice](http://dilemaveche.ro/sectiune/societate/articol/pasi-pentru-protectia-victimelor-violentei-domestice)

Local media articles on the 11th edition of the Gender Equality Festival.



VII. Volunteering

We would like to thank the volunteers involved in the activities of A.L.E.G. throughout 2016:

Abrudean Alexandra, Avram Carina, Bebeșelea Maria, Bucur Alexandra, Butoi Liana, Cărătuș Danya Nicole, Cufteac Ioana, David Dana, Deaconescu Daniela, Drotleff Bianca, Dînsu Diana, Dumitru Cosmin, Duminciuc Alexandru, Epure Georgiana, Frășie Alexandru, George Radu, Hărpian Denisa, Halcea Anamaria, Martin Petru, Mariș Maria, Miron Emanuel, Mitea Teodora, Modrîngă Angela, Moldovan Andreea, Munteanu Patricia, Muntean Alexandra, Neagoe Oana, Porumb Diana, Lesca Daniela, Lupu Diana, Porumb Diana, Rusu Iulia, Șamu Andreea, Stănilă Denisa, Severin Iulia Maria, Stupu Andrei Gabriel, Șurubaru Ioana, Topârcean Maria, Tatu Ana Raluca, Toader Teodora Octavia, Zăbavă Denisa, Văleanu Andrei, Ungureanu Cristina.



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRIZES

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”.

2007: Volunteer Gala (organized by the Red Cross) Awards: best volunteer coordinator and project of the year: “Girls' Club”.

2010: Award received at the SUPERvolunteers' Gala organized by the Colors Association – “The Gender Equality Festival”, won “*the project with the largest number of volunteers involved*”.

2011: SUPERVolunteers' Gala award for the best project: Școala de vară “EU ALEG viitoru” (“I Choose my future Summer school”)

2012: Camelia Proca, A.L.E.G. director, received the Woman of the year award in a national gala organized by Avantaje magazine and Avon – Respect Campaign, category “*Initiative to support others – for domestic violence prevention and awareness-raising programmes*”.

2013: During the Social Services Provider's Fair, A.L.E.G. received public recognition for its *contribution to the social sector's development in Sibiu, for special involvement in the community life developing and implementing social programs*.

2013: During the "We act with responsibly" Gala, A.L.E.G. received the title of “*the most dynamic youth organization in the region through Act with Responsibly Network Center*”.



2016: A.L.E.G. wins the international *WITH AND FOR GIRLS* Award, for its exceptional activity supporting girls.

A.L.E.G. is **one of the 20 organizations in the world** getting this award in 2016. In Europe, four organization receive this award every year. The *With and For Girls* Award is a global initiative identifying and supporting strong local organizations active in promoting girls' rights, involving them directly. A.L.E.G., based in Sibiu, Romania, thus received international recognition for its activity as a provider of specialized services for the prevention and combating of violence against girls and young women. “*These 20 outstanding organisations demonstrate the power of grassroots movements and girl leadership to effect change, both in communities and in the world at large. The Collective is proud to be supporting the With and For Girls Award winners with flexible funding, which is still a rare asset for most grassroots organisations. We want to encourage more funders to trust and invest in girls to address the challenges that they face in their everyday lives. By doing so, they are changing the future for the millions of girls worldwide who face discrimination simply for identifying as a girl.*” (Muna Wehbe, CEO of Stars Foundation, financier of The Collective granting the prize).

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Cod de identificare fiscală:
16717410

Cont bancar:
RO 61 RNCB 0227 0360 5049 0001

Pentru mai multe detalii privind activitatea A.L.E.G.: www.aleg-romania.eu sau tel. 0753/893.531