

SAFE project, using a cross-sectoral, international human rights and women's rights approach, intends to develop a Training Curriculum on prevention of abuse on older women, a Multi-Agency Set of Procedures for intervention in cases of violence and abuse of older women and a Policy Paper on prevention and intervention in cases of violence against older women.

The project targets social and health care teachers and trainers/educators, social and health care professionals working in the home care sector and in residential settings and local/regional social and health care decision makers.

THE PARTNERSHIP

SAFE project is financed by Erasmus+ programme, coordinated by the **Directia Generala De Asistenta Sociala A Municipiului Bucuresti (Romania)** and delivered in partnership with other five organizations:

Asociatia Habilitas - Centru de Resurse si Formare Profesionala (Romania)

Voimaa Vanhuuteen - osk VoiVa - Empowering Old Age Coop (Finland)

Anziani e non solo Società Cooperativa Sociale (Italy)

Kentro Merimnas Oikogeneias Kai Paidiou (Greece)

Universidade Do Minho (Portugal)



A SAFER LIFE FOR OLDER WOMEN

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SAFE PROJECT

The project "A safer life for older women: training professionals and implementing cooperation mechanisms for combating violence and abuse against older women" (SAFE) is a 2-years programme that aims to tackle the problem of elder abuse, in particular the violence against older women.



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Elder abuse, defined as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person” (WHO 2008), has traditionally been viewed as “gender neutral,” leading to inadequate responses that focus exclusively on per-

sonal or interpersonal problems. But, given the longer life expectancy of women, the aging population is predominantly a female one, which is often living in poverty, on social welfare, and suffering: older women face greater risk of physical and psychological abuse due to discriminatory societal attitudes and the nonrealization of the human rights of women.

Abuse of older people is not a new phenomenon, however, the conceptualisation of ‘elder abuse’ only received wider public and governmental attention towards the end of the 20th century. Addressing elder abuse is now regarded as a universal reflection of worldwide concern about human rights, gender equality, domestic violence and population ageing. In Romania, Greece, Finland, Italy and Portugal (project countries), like in all EU, population ageing also brings the need to protect and develop protective measures for older people.

Age and being female, among the others, are identified risk factors that make older women more vulnerable to elder abuse.

Neglect, abuse and violence against older women have been overlooked as a focus of research and development of services; this is in spite of the fact that older women as a group experience unique and compounded disadvantages. There is the need to give greater visibility to older women.

Violence/abuse against older women can be of several types: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, neglect, and can occur in any setting - at home (perpetrators being family members/informal carers or home care professionals) or in long-term care settings (residential centres or day-care centres, where perpetrators can be other residents or health/social care professionals). There are no specialized teaching/training curricula for social and health care teachers or professionals in partner countries with the focus on abused older women. Especially the gender aspect is missing; in existing training the general term used is “elder abuse” which is gender neutral term homogenizing all older people as the same.

OBJECTIVES

The project intends to achieve the following objectives:

- to improve quality of teaching and training for developing working life oriented training curriculum of prevention of violence against older women in the Collaborative Learning Groups and in the framework of Professional Learning Community Model;
- to improve professional development of teachers and trainers to work as educators in violence against older women area and in gender specific issues, challenging ageism and gender discrimination from international Human Rights and Women’s Rights perspective;
- to improve capacity of social and health care professionals to identify and intervene abuse of older women and empower them in home care and residential settings;
- to support social and health care authorities and professionals, and stakeholders to develop intervention measures in cases of violence against older women.

OUTPUTS

Output 1 - Multi-Agency Set of Procedures for intervention in cases of violence and abuse of older women, which will be used by the social and health care professionals and public authorities with attention to special circumstances of partner countries, with the role of specialized victim services.

Output 2 - “SAFE” Training Curriculum, a multi-professional training curriculum which is a total package of learning modules for VET teachers and trainers in the social and health care field, on violence/abuse of older women.

Output 3 - Policy paper on prevention and intervention in cases of violence against older women. This Policy will focus on social and health care services and training and education in the area of abuse/violence on older women.