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A SAFER LIFE FOR OLDER WOMEN: TRAINING PROFESSIONALS AND IMPLEMENTING COOPERATION MECHANISMS FOR COMBATING VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AGAINST OLDER WOMEN

PROJECT LAUNCH AND KICK OFF MEETING

The partnership of the project “A safer life for older women: training professionals and implementing cooperation mechanisms for combating violence and abuse against older women”(SAFE) is very pleased to announce the launch of its EU funded SAFE programme.

The project is a 2-years programme that aims to tackle the problem of elder abuse, in particular the violence against older women by developing a training curriculum on prevention of abuse on older women, a set of procedures for intervention in case of violence and abuse and a policy paper.

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, 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.

Targeting 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 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;
- 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.

The project, coordinated by the Directia Generala De Asistenta Sociala A Municipiului Bucuresti (Romania), will be 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) and the Universidade Do Minho – (Portugal). Project partners has just met in Carpi for the kick off meeting on the 9th and 10th of January, hosted by the Italian partner Anziani e non solo.

Follow the project on our website: www.safeeuproject.eu

