



ANNUAL REPORT

2014

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Work with Perpetrators – European Network: official European umbrella organisation

Work with Perpetrators – European Network is an open, democratic network of European organisations and individuals whose primary aim is to improve women's and children's safety from domestic violence (DV) by promoting accountable and coordinated work with perpetrators fulfilling internationally accepted quality standards. It has to be underlined that for the members of the Network prevention of violence and work with perpetrators are deeply connected to gender equality.

WWP-EN was founded in 2009 in Berlin under the name 'The European Focal Point for the Work with Perpetrators of domestic violence'. The need to create the Network was one of the conclusions of the project 'Work with Perpetrators' (Daphne II), which was conducted between 2006 and 2008 by Dissens e.V. together with several European partners. The Network was coordinated by Dissens - Institut für Bildung und Forschung e.V., Berlin, Germany until April 2014. In May 2014 WWP-EN was registered, and it has now become an independent, international organisation based in Germany. The organisation was founded during a founding meeting, which took place on the 8th of April 2014 in Copenhagen. After a long but fruitful discussion, the founding members at this meeting decided to keep the old name of the Network.

The Network is an NGO on the European level situated in Berlin, Germany. The Network is managed by an international board and the executive director. They meet on a regular basis through both face-to-face board meetings and skype video-conferences. Organisations working with people who perpetrate violence in close relationships or on issues connected to work with perpetrators from all European countries are entitled to be full members of the Network.

The board members elected during the General Assembly in December 2014 are:

- Neil Blacklock, Respect, UK
- John Doyle, MEND, Ireland
- Heinrich Geldschläger, Conexus, Spain
- Marianne Hester, University of Bristol, UK
- Rosa Logar, WAVE, Austria
- Alessandra Pauncz, C.A.M., Italy
- Olga Persson, SKR, Sweden
- Matius Rakil, AtV, Norway
- Eha Reitemann, Estonian Women's Shelters Union, Estonia

Furthermore, in 2014 the WWP-EN team consisted of:

- Dr Ralf Puchert – Executive Director

- Dr Katarzyna Wojnicka – PR and Communications Officer
- David Nax – IT Officer
- Lisa-Paula Heinrich – Administration and Finances Officer
- Nicole Näser – Office Assistant
- Sylvia Reetz - Bookkeeping

Currently WWP-EN has 30 members from 19 European countries. Moreover, several other organisations have applied for membership in the Network.

Last but not least, WWP-EN is supported by:

the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020" of the European Union



and OAK Foundation



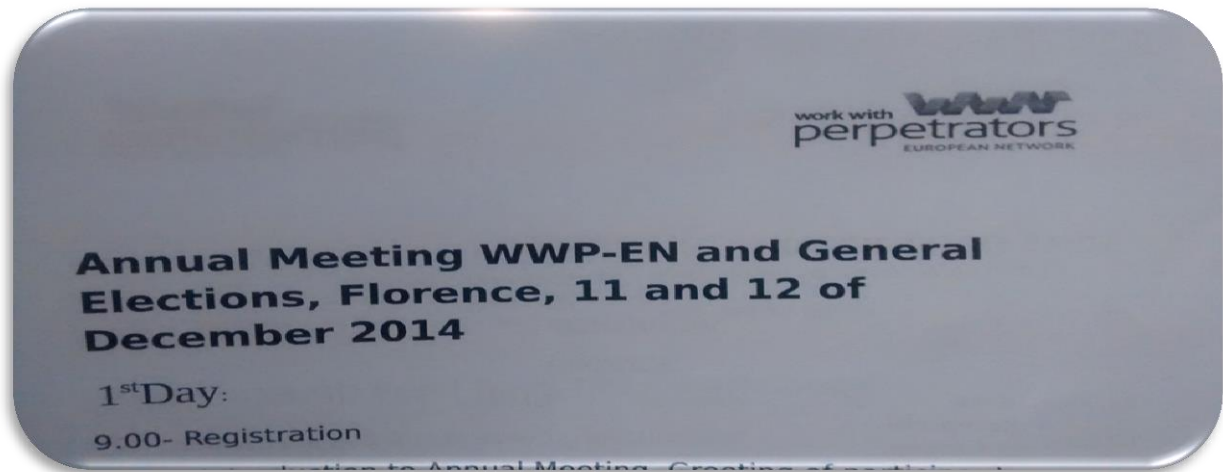
Activities in 2014

Two of WWP-EN's main goals are to improve the quality of existing services for perpetrators of domestic violence and to support the development of services in countries where these do not exist. In 2014 WWP-EN was a new formal organisation, and resources were needed to support sustainable structures and processes for a strong, democratic and dynamic organisation. For this, an effective and strong board, good management and communication structures and strategies for user engagement and participation were established.

The activities in 2014 can therefore be divided into three sections:

1. Building a strong, democratic and dynamic organisation:
 - Development of internal rules and regulations
 - Further development of a strategic plan
 - Organising board meetings and the General Assembly
2. Knowledge transfer and capacity building:
 - Improvement and maintenance of the webpage
 - Creating a database prototype
 - Disseminating a quarterly newsletter and other communications
 - Organising an annual workshop
 - Organising a study visit
3. Awareness raising and media presence:
 - Giving presentations
 - Maintenance of social media
 - Creation and distribution of leaflets

Annual workshop



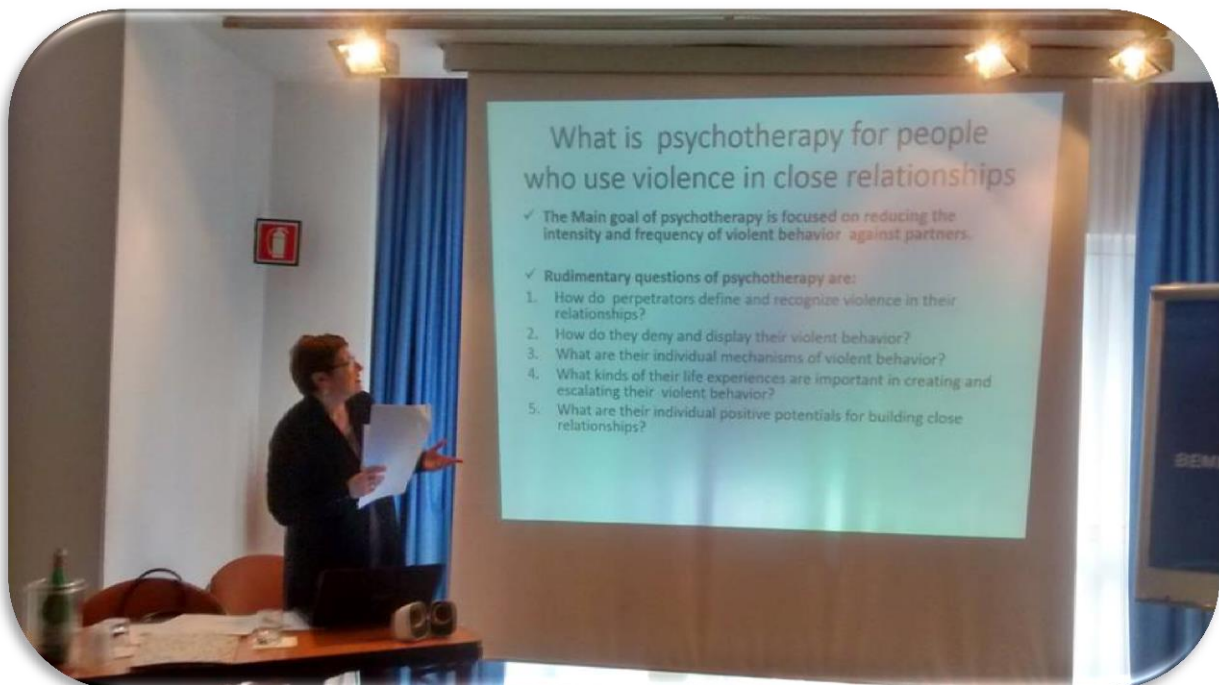
The 2014 Annual workshop with the title “Coming together: Exchange of practical experiences among WWP-EN Members” was held in Florence from the 10th to the 12th of December. It was the third of its kind, following workshops in 2009 and 2013 in Erkner Berlin. The workshops provide an opportunity for Network members to meet, network, exchange and learn, and they help to strengthen the ties between professionals working with perpetrators across Europe. The 2014 Annual workshop also hosted the first General Assembly and Election of the newly founded WWP-EN Association. It therefore had special symbolic meaning.

57 participants from 22 countries attended the meeting, including some representatives from countries outside of Europe. Therefore a representative mixture of the diverse interest groups that work in the context of perpetrator programmes was assembled. About 15 participants were from different parts and regions of Italy. This was very important because work with perpetrators is very new, and one of the reasons for holding the WWP-EN Annual workshop in Italy was to sustain the budding practices of different, new programmes. The attendance, which was limited to WWP-EN members and guests from the National Network, confirmed the interest and helped to strengthen the new identity of perpetrator programmes.

In feedback from the previous meetings, participants had requested that at future meetings there be the possibility to discuss professional issues with colleagues and exchange ideas on practice. For this reason, the focus of the 2014 Annual workshop was the exchange of practice based experiences in a format that would allow for a brief presentation followed by a discussion. On the 19th of September 2014 WWP-EN

members were invited to submit brief proposals for 45-minute workshops to share their work, ideas and questions with colleagues. The organising committee received 15 proposals and all were included in the Annual workshop. The workshops were organised as parallel sessions so participants could always choose between two different topics. At the end of each day a brief summary of all the workshops was given.

On the morning of the 10th of December, after greetings, a general outline of the structure of the Annual workshop and a brief presentation game, the attendants broke into two groups. The first two parallel workshops were held by Damien Carnell from the UK and Dorota Dyjakon from Poland. Damien's talk was on gender beliefs and attitudes, and the influence these have on violence against women. He focused on helping practitioners maintain a gendered focus while still addressing the personal issues men may raise such as depression, trauma, drug use and anger management, thereby helping men to take both personal and collective responsibility for change. In the parallel workshop Dorota presented on the topic of assessing the goals and strategies of brief integrative psychotherapy for people who are violent in close relationships. After a brief definition of DV and an analysis of the many factors that influence DV, Dorota presented different stages of the psychotherapeutical process.



The next two workshops highlighted different aspects. Erika Bernacchi from the Italian branch of Amnesty International presented on their work on the Istanbul Convention, underlining the powerful lobbying possibilities that lead to its adoption into Italian legislation.

The workshop also briefly described the methods and the main results of the campaign 'Stop Violence against Women', which ran from 2004 to 2010, and the work on gender and tools for education Amnesty has been running in schools.

At the same time Linnea Halvarson and the Swedish team from SKR illustrated some of their main activities and the Feminist preventive work on violence. The workshop highlighted the way all prevention work done at SKR has mainstreamed a feminist perspective and that appropriate formats and methodologies for approaching different issues are always chosen with an awareness of gender. One of the last two seminars of the day was held by Nelly Zhekova from Bulgaria, who spoke on the effects of attitudes on the tolerance of domestic violence and violent behaviour against intimate partners. Nelly presented a study conducted in Bulgaria on the correlations between physical and emotional violence and beliefs that justify DV. At the same time, the focus of Juha Holma and Helena Päivinen's research from Finland was on analysing the different positions that perpetrators, but also therapists, might take in their interactions. In treatment for example, perpetrators might take up the position of the victim, thus refraining from taking responsibility for their behaviour. The female therapist might also be invited by the men to take the position of "victim" or of "women". Juha and Helena thus analysed how such positionings can be used as tools by facilitators in their work with perpetrators.

General Elections were held on the afternoon of the 10th of December. Following a brief presentation by Neil Blacklock, who became the president of WWP-EN, Heinrich Geldschläger illustrated the economic situation of WWP-EN. After reading out the candidates' names, the ballots were assigned and elections ran.



At the end of the day participants experienced two very typical local traditions: a wonderful traditional Tuscan dinner “drowned” with Chianti, and a strike that cancelled about half of the participants’ flights. With a notable organisational effort on the part of the hosting organisation it was possible to rescheduled most flights, but regrettably some participants had to leave early (though a few were able to spend an extra afternoon in Florence).

The next day opened with two challenging workshops. Heinrich Kraus & Rosa Logar discussed the topics ‘Working in Partnership’ and ‘Focusing on the Safety and Human rights of Survivors in perpetrator programmes: lesson lessons learned from 15 years Anti-Violence Programmes in Vienna’. The workshop focused on the challenges and rewards of a close collaboration between perpetrator programmes and victim protection services in long-term experiences, as is the case for the well-known service offered by the Intervention Centre in Vienna. John Doyle from Ireland ran the workshop parallel to this on gender, attachment, trauma and loss. He discussed the challenges faced by practitioners in balancing attention to these key issues with an ecological model that also allows DV issues to be integrated in strategic ways. The open challenges of dealing with traumatic events in the lives of perpetrators of intimate partner violence appeared in all their complexity and stimulated a vivid discussion.



The next sessions were held by Jo Langstang from the UK and David Moran from Scotland. Jo discussed issues related to the partner Support Service and how the service standards translate into daily practice, while David presented qualitative research involving a series of interviews with men who have “successfully completed”

different UK perpetrator programmes. He analysed the complexities of life after “perpetrator programmes”, giving an insight into what a successful outcome might look like with time. One of the quotes from the men in the research sums it up: “Aw I don’t keep any of the same company to be truthful with you, don’t hang round any of the lads I used... plus, don’t get me wrong, you know, I... I’ll be honest, I think what it’s (the programme) made is a **man**, but **a proper man** which may sound a bit dramatic, you know, but I’m a man now with a heart, I’m a man with feelings and concerned for other people’s feelings. That’s what it’s made me....” Tony: Commenced programme seven years previously. “Still comes around occasionally”.

Alessandra Pauncz from Italy, Binah Taylor from the UK and Heinrich Geldschläger from Spain held the last three workshops. In the first, reflections on the most important aspects of setting up a perpetrator programme were shared in small groups. It was interesting for both novices and more experienced workers to reflect on their practices in terms of justifying their choices. Call back policies and motivations were some of the many issues that were discussed.

Binah demonstrated an enactment process with the use of video and live audience, taking the group through a lively presentation that made group work come to life right there at the conference. Last but not least, Heinrich Geldschläger gave a demonstration of the current state of the development of the Impact toolkit. Impact has been developed within the Daphne III IMPACT project and the aspiration is for it to become an evaluation measure for European perpetrator programmes.

The Conference then drew to its conclusion with a brief summary of the workshops of the second day, a farewell and feedback from participants.

Feedback from participants

Feedback from participants was on the whole enthusiastic. Members enjoyed the short and fast pace of the workshops. Although there had been some perplexities about the 45 minute length of workshops, in the end most agreed that it had been a good way of gathering a lot of information on the practices of colleagues and that there had also been some time for discussion.

Suggestions for future conferences included:

- a) An open space for discussion or for unplanned presentations or workshops
- b) A keynote and more space for group discussion of issues
- c) Possibilities for longer presentations
- d) Possibilities for having the slides of presentations on the website before the conference
- e) More space for the General Assembly to discuss collectively, and candidate presentations for elections.

Study visit

Between the 19th and 21st of November 2014 the second WWP-EN study visit took place. This time the study visit was organised by SPA in Zagreb, Croatia, which was visited by 8 participants (all WWP-EN members) representing 7 European countries. The main goal of the study visit was for participants to get acquainted with the experiences SPA has had over the past 15 years of working with perpetrators of domestic violence in Croatia. The study visit was organised by SPA's team, namely Dean Ajducovic, Dragan Jusupowic, Marina Ajducovic and Jasminka Fuchs. The study visit programme included the following topics:

- Review of the study visit programme and presentation from the host
- Presentation of SPA's work regarding prevention and treatment of domestic violence
- SPA / Croatian programme for the treatment of perpetrators of family

violence: theoretical background, structure, contents, methods, evaluation

- Legal framework and referral systems, networking with other services, Croatian standards for work with perpetrators
- Dealing with system resistances: building community alliances, overcoming barriers, funding challenges
- Group treatment with court-referred women who perpetrate family violence, individual treatment of special cases of perpetrators
- Meeting with the members of the victim support services: Shelter for Women Victims of Violence - Duga Zagreb

The participants found the study visit very educational. They defined the event as a great opportunity to gain new knowledge and observe the ways of working with perpetrators in Croatia and as a unique chance for networking.



WWP-EN participation in conferences, workshops and meetings

In 2014 the Network's members participated in several international conferences, workshops, meetings and guest lectures. From among these, the following events can be singled out:

On the 17th of June 2014 the **Fundamental Rights Agency** organised a **meeting on the role of men in combating VAW** in Vienna, Austria. Dr. Ralf Puchert, WWP-EN executive director, took part in the event. Together with members from 15 European organisations involved in work with men and boys, he discussed possibilities for more effective work in combating violence against women.



FRA

On the 10th of September 2014 WWP-EN representative Katarzyna Wojnicka took part in an **online discussion on men and gender equality** organised by the **European Institute for Gender Equality**. The discussion was focused on the role of men in gender-based violence, how to cooperate with women's organisations and other stakeholders in this area and critical areas of the Gender Equality Index that are relevant for men such as health behaviour and care activities. The transcript from the discussion can be found under the following link: http://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/web-discussions-files/Engaging%20Men%20for%20Gender%20Equality_transcript.pdf

From September 17th to 19th 2014 in Zagreb, Croatia WWP–EN representative Heinrich Geldschläger presented the Network’s activities during the **1st MenEngage Europe members meeting**. As ending men’s violence against women and children is one of the main aims of MenEngage, there was high interest in WWP-EN and our positions on issues regarding work with perpetrators and its connection to support for women and children, although most of the NGOs present at the meeting focus their work in the field of gender based violence on prevention rather than on intervention with perpetrators.



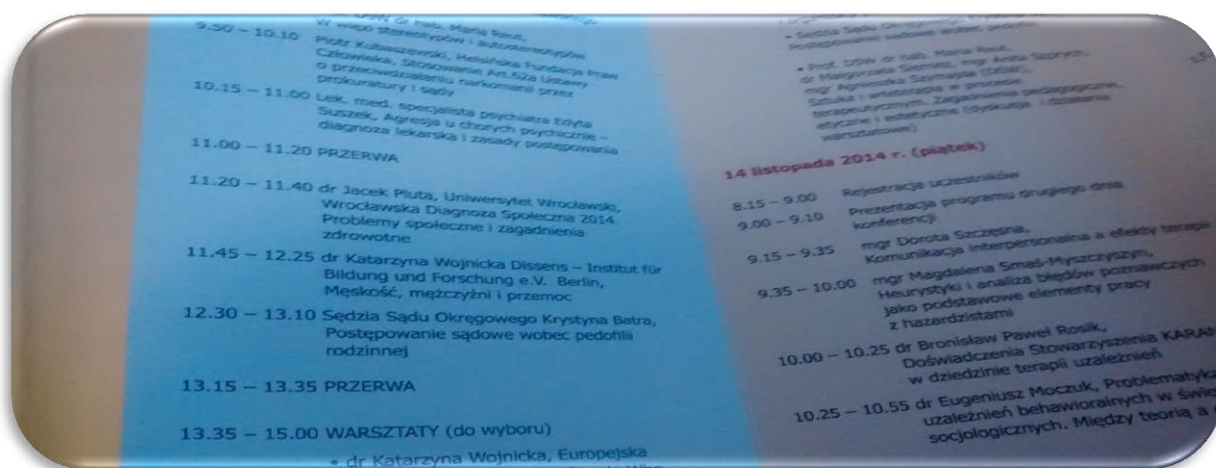
From MenEngage Europe

At the beginning of November (8th-13th) Heinrich Geldschläger also took part in the **2nd MenEngage Global Symposium** in New Delhi, India. At the symposium, where over 1000 participants shared their knowledge, experience and thoughts, Heinrich presented a poster on “Victim-safety oriented work with perpetrators of domestic violence in Europe: standards and impact”.



From MenEngage Europe

At the same time in Wrocław, Poland, Katarzyna Wojnicka took part in the international scientific conference **“Więzi które chronią. Integracja i rozwój”/“Protecting ties. Integration and development”** organised by Dolnośląska Szkoła Wyższa. During the conference Katarzyna gave a lecture on “Men, masculinities and violence” and held a workshop on the possibilities of networking for professionals working with perpetrators; in other words, on WWP-EN activities.



Katarzyna gave a similar presentation a few days later in Warsaw during the conference **“Przeciwdziałanie przemocy w rodzinie. Współpraca skoncentrowana na rozwiązaniach”/“Combating domestic violence. Cooperation focused on solutions”**. The conference was organised by Polish NGO Niebieska Linia and took place at the Polish Parliament in Warsaw between the 25th and 26th of November 2014.

Expert essays

There is a huge knowledge of professional perpetrator work spread among the network members. To access at least some of these treasures and make them available for all other members, three expert essays have been composed and published on the WWP-EN website. (Former) board members Dean Ajdukovic from Croatia and Alessandra Pauncz from Italy, who have years of experience in setting up perpetrator programmes in countries where they haven't existed before, shared his experiences on "Issues and Dilemmas of the 'Start Up' Process". Katarzyna Wojnicka, an expert on masculinity studies, discussed the relationship between masculinity and violence. Finally, Thangam Debonnaire from RESPECT/UK outlined her experiences with the reflection of ethnic diversity in perpetrator programmes. The expert essays are available on the Network's website.

Newsletter

From 2013 WWP-EN once again began to issue an electronic newsletter on a regular basis. In 2014 the newsletter was disseminated in every quarter of the year (April, July, September and December) to all the Network's members, associated organisations and experts and other bodies and individuals interested in our activity (over 100 recipients). To receive the newsletter please fill out the application available under the following link:

<http://work-with-perpetrators.us7.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=4e602995015e40a8f2f2f60ba&id=805ea1adfb>

Website

The website is WWP-EN's central medium for information, resources and dissemination. It serves as a collection point for all the information and materials gathered and produced through the Network's work. In combination with mailing lists, the website will function as an important dissemination tool.

In 2014 several major improvements were achieved in order to make the WWP-EN website www.work-with-perpetrators.eu more clear and usable. These improvements include an enhanced layout, new technical features and major content revision.

Layout

The former layout reflected the formative phase of the Network in 2013, the year of its reestablishment. The optimistic and candy-style colours underlined the playful shapes and elements of the layout.

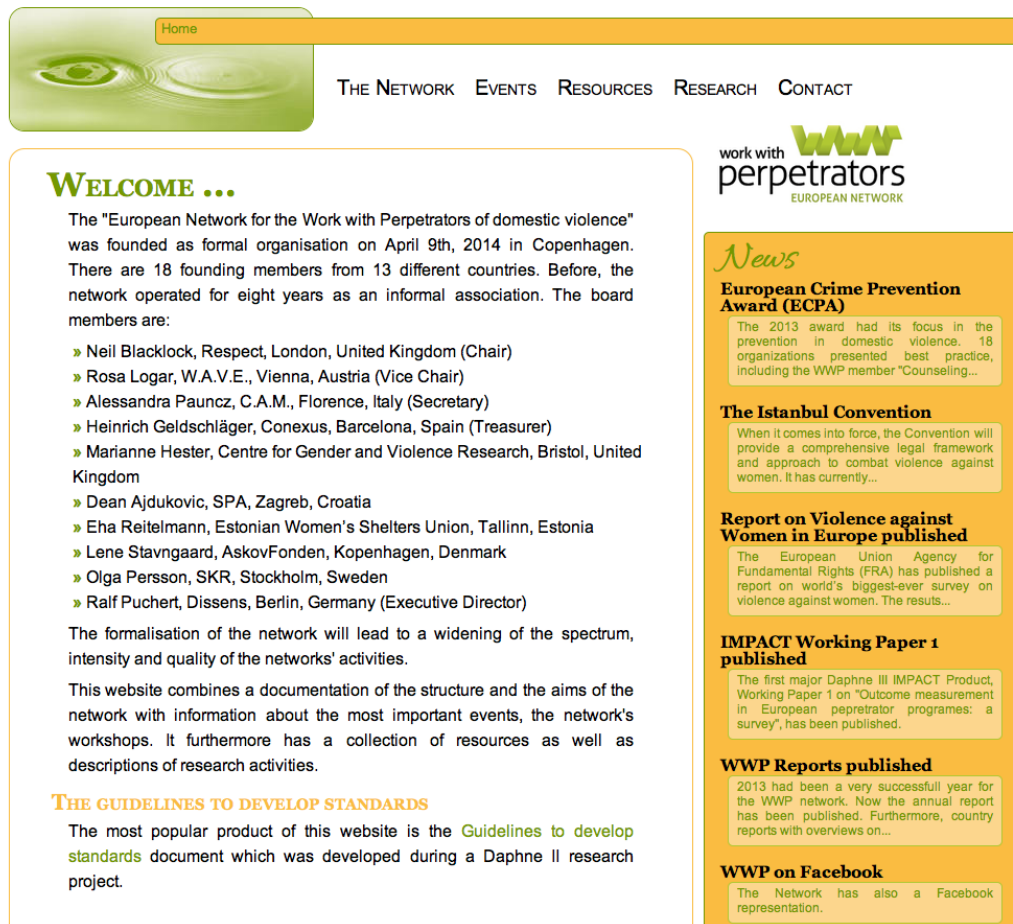


Figure 1: How it all started

Although this layout had its charm, it was not suitable for professional, long-term use. Luckily a graphic designer and artist who understood the importance of WWP-EN helped out and gave professional advice on how to remove the outdated aspects of the old layout. The result was a more elegant and professional corporate design that uses more suitable colours and clearer elements. This matches the process of professionalization WWP-EN has undergone in 2014.

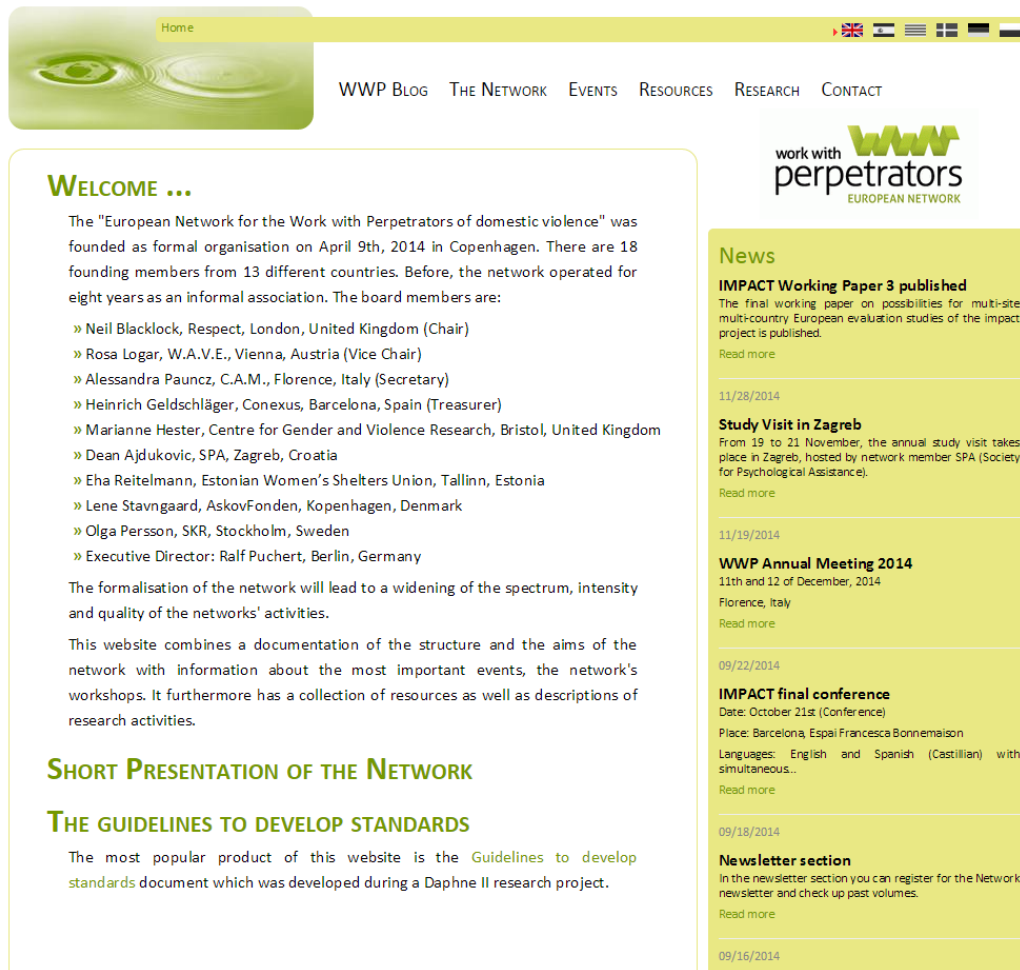


Figure 2: The new layout with more professional colours.

Technical Features

A good website must be technically state-of-the-art. New features to enhance usability should be constantly developed. In 2014 we were able to implement some major cornerstones for technical features that will help the network establish a powerful technical infrastructure.

- **Upgrade to Typo3 6.2 LTS (Long Time Support) Version**

In the formative phase a decision was made to use a professional Content Management System (CMS) to facilitate enrichment, organisation and updating of content. The decision was made in favour of Typo3, one of the most popular CMS systems worldwide and one used frequently in Europe. In 2013 the newest version of this system was in a developmental state, but the decision to implement it along with its new features reflected the entrepreneurial spirit of the formative phase.

In 2014 the more stable LTS (Long Time Support) version was released. Most of the technical difficulties could be solved with this and a reliable and powerful technical base for a fast and stable website could be established. Along with the upgrade to LTS, the Multilanguage feature could be integrated.

- **Multilanguage**

The main language of the Network is English and most of the members speak European English at a professional level. Nevertheless, it could be necessary to have certain translations for certain pages. This is why the Multilanguage option was implemented. It has already been of practical use in the presentation of the IMPACT final conference website¹, which is hosted by the WWP-EN website. The Spanish and Catalan language options were implemented for this. This meant that local practitioners at the Barcelona conference could easily access information. For the final presentation of the IMPACT deliverables German, Danish, French and Polish versions are available.

- **Blog Feature**

The website has both news and traditional information pages. In between there might also be the need to discuss the latest developments in a deeper and more extended way than through news but without including the information permanently. For this purpose, the WWP Blog² has been developed. Here, important information like conference announcements, event reports, current developments on the Istanbul Convention and the latest improvements and political decisions on the protection of women and children against violence can be posted. Members can contribute with short or long notes, which will then be published by WWP-EN staff.

- **WWP Database**

The research projects WWP (2007) and IMPACT (2014) produced an overview of existing perpetrator programmes across Europe. This is a powerful resource for knowing “what is going on out there”. The structures and items from both databases have been examined and merged into a collection of the most important elements in order to establish a simple and easily maintainable, but at the same time informative database structure. The IMPACT dataset has been implemented in the database structure so that information on more than 130 programmes, including where they are and how they work, is already available.³

- **Internal Resource Centre**

Some information is exclusively available for WWP-EN members. For this purpose, an Internal Resource Centre⁴ based on a Tiki platform has been installed. Here,

¹ <http://www.conference.work-with-perpetrators.eu/>

² <http://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu/index.php?id=56>

³ <http://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu/index.php?id=62>

⁴ <http://resources.work-with-perpetrators.eu/>

documents and information on strategic developments are available. There is, furthermore, a discussion option. Network members automatically have access to the platform and can access and discuss all the documents.

- **Content**

Without informative content, and without practitioners using the content, even the best technical infrastructure and the most elegant website layout are pointless. For this reason WWP-EN staff have made a significant content-enrichment effort in order to make the website more informative and attractive for its members and interested members of the public.

- **Blog statements**

Three blog statements have been published thanks to active members. The first was a report on a Berlin event that discussed experiences of cooperation between perpetrator programmes and women's support services. The second was an introduction to the IMPACT final conference in Barcelona. A report on the WAVE conference in Vienna followed.

- **Newsletter section**

Since 2013 seven newsletters have been published and distributed among network members, interested practitioners and a general audience. In order to retain the information from the newsletters and to ease the subscription process, a newsletter section⁵ has been established on the website. Here you can subscribe to future editions of the newsletter and access the archive of past issues.

- **Speaker's Corner**

WWP-EN is very unique with its focus on perpetrator work, its commitment to prioritise the safety of women and children, its heterogeneity of approaches and its regional spread across Europe and even Russia. As we want to bring these different regional and methodological positions into a dialogue, the "Speaker's Corner" section of the website began collecting various statements from different WWP-EN members. Their statements will be published in 2015 to guarantee vivid and communicative exchange among members.

- **Other**

A bibliography has been started to collect all relevant scientific articles about domestic violence and perpetrator work. This section can never be complete, so if you have further sources please contact the WWP-EN staff who will be happy to update the bibliography.

⁵ <http://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu/index.php?id=58>

Social media

In 2014 WWP–EN managed to improve its social media presence. Firstly, the Network is now present on Facebook under the username ‘Work with Perpetrators - European Network’. The website address of the WWP–EN profile is:

<https://www.facebook.com/WwpEuropeanNetwork?ref=hl>

The Facebook profile has an open character, and its main aim is to strengthen the Network’s visibility both among newcomers (new organisations, researchers, practitioners who work or plan to work with perpetrators) and the general public. Currently the Network’s page has 224 ‘Likes’, and the number of followers regularly increases. On the Network’s Facebook profile we not only give information about WWP–EN activities and news but also share scientific and popular articles on work with perpetrators and domestic violence issues, announce and comment on important events, conferences and meetings where work with perpetrators is discussed and promote projects and initiatives that advocate for a gender violence-free society.

Secondly, the Network is also present on LinkedIn where a closed group named WWP – European Network exists. The website address of the group is:

https://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5091169&trk=nmp_rec_act_group_photo

Currently the group has 41 members, and the vast majority of them are professionals working with perpetrators. The WWP–EN groups are platforms for exchanging knowledge, experiences and good practices among experts as well as places where relevant discussions on issues surrounding work with perpetrators can take place.