

Study Visit Report

Zagreb, 19 – 21 November 2014

In response to the request from WWP-EN the study visit was organized by the Society for Psychological Assistance (SPA) from 19th to 21st November 2014 in Zagreb, Croatia. The purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with the experiences that SPA has gained during the past 15 years of working with the perpetrators of domestic violence in Croatia.

SPA was the pioneer of introducing WWP in the country, it was able to influence the legislation that provided the legal framework for court mandated referral of perpetrators, it started the first treatment center for perpetrators in the country, developed the treatment program that became the standard for other treatment centers, helped draft the Minimal National Standards for work with perpetrators and trained 120 providers in Croatia and another 40 providers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Macedonia.

The study visit group included eight participants from seven countries, all members of the WWP-EN: Dr. Ralf Puchert, Germany, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators (WWP EN); Neli Zhekova, Bulgaria, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation; Stanislav Khotckii, Russia, Men of the 21st century; Oriol Ginés Canales, Spain, Associació CONEXUS, Atenció, formació i investigació psicosocials; Sara Kirkpatrick, UK, The Hampton Trust; Mario De Maglie and Rossano Bisciglia, Italia, Centro di Ascolto Uomini Maltrattanti; Guiditta Creazzo, Italy, Changing men/women relationship; men taking responsibility of violence.

The hosts included Dragan Jusupovic, Executive director of SPA, Prof. Dr. Dean Ajdukovic and Prof. Dr. Marina Ajdukovic. All three hosts have been involved in development, delivery and dissemination of the knowledge of work with perpetrators, and training of treatment providers, thus being the most qualified to present the work of SPA to the study visit group. The study group also visited the Shelter for Women Victims of Violence - Duga Zagreb where the director Zeljka Baric hosted the group.

Ms. Jasminka Fuchs served as coordinator of the study visit, communicated with the participants, helped prepare the materials, organized the accommodation and local transportation.

The study visit program included the following topics:

Thursday, 20 November:

- Review of the study visit program and presentation of the host SPA and the Modus – Child, Adolescent and Family Center

- Presentation of SPA's work regarding prevention and treatment of domestic violence.
- SPA / Croatian program 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 and overcoming barriers; funding challenges
- Group treatment with court-referred women who perpetrated family violence; Individual treatment of special cases of perpetrators

Friday, 21 November:

- Visit of the victims support services: Shelter for Women Victims of Violence - Duga Zagreb Visit "Duga" shelter
- Final question and answers session and closure.

The feedback from the study group participants included a separate and very informative report by Sara Kirkpatric and another three anonymous participants (collected by WWP-EN). The feedback showed that the study visit participants found the whole visit interesting and helpful, they highlighted the opportunity to exchange experiences among themselves, appreciated the presentation of the work with perpetrators of SPA and the new insights from the work with female perpetrators. They also found the visit to the shelter for women victims of violence very interesting.

The recommendations from this study visit include two points: the visit should have been one day longer and all the participants should be proficient in English to be able to exchange the experiences on an equal basis and also to benefit more from the visit.

Report prepared by Dean Ajdukovic

Zagreb, 19. 12. 2014.

