



REPORT: WWP EN STUDY VISIT 2023

15-17 NOVEMBER 2023
TURIN, ITALY



**Report on the WWP EN 2023 Study Visit, hosted by
association CERCHIO DEGLI UOMINI APS
15-17 November 2023 in Turin, Italy**





Participants and Organisers

The WWP EN Study Visit 2023 took place in Turin, Italy, on November 15th-17th.

It was hosted by the WWP EN member organisation *Cerchio degli Uomini Associazione APS (Circle of men Association, CdU)*. The following colleagues took part in the study visit:

- **Milan Manojlović**, OPNA, Serbia
- **Edlir Doko**, "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre, Albania
- **Juha Holma**, Psychotherapy Training and Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
- **Philippe Bigler**, Fondation malleyPrairie/Centre Prévention de l'Ale, Switzerland
- **Kameliya Bosilkova**, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, Bulgaria
- **Iatamze Verulashvili**, Union Women Center, Georgia
- **Zlatka Macheva**, Alliance for Protection against Gender -Based Violence, Bulgaria
- **Antonia Montanus**, WWP EN, Germany

The CdU team consisted of Andrea Santoro (chairperson), Maurizio Pisani (communication and logistics), Massimo Cotichella (psychologist).

Antonia Montanus, Germany, from the WWP EN Office (Germany) was supporting the host organisation team.

Roberto Poggi (vice chairperson) and Franco Tozzi (council member), supported the excursions to various organisations in Turin.

The organisation team of Cerchio degli Uomini wants to thank all those who helped make the WWP EN Study Visit 2023 an interesting and successful event!

Day 1: The history of Cerchio degli Uomini

On the first day (November 15th) we were hosted by "Passpartout", a municipal organisation collecting a great amount of social activities and associations, that has its headquarters in a historic building, previously a home for the elderly poor.

After gathering, the participants introduced themselves, then Andrea Santoro (chair of Cerchio degli Uomini) told the history of our Association, born as a male movement in which men wondered about their condition in a society where patriarchy began to be in a deep crisis.

We then screened two documentaries featuring Cerchio degli Uomini in different ways:

- *I figli si baciano solo quando dormono* (Children should be kissed only when they are asleep) by Chiara Canale, Chiara Ferretti, Letizia Salerno Pittalis, Giulia Zini, Civica Scuola di Cinema "Luchino Visconti"
- *Nel cerchio degli uomini* (In the circle of men), by Paola Sangiovanni, KON-TIKI FILM e RAI DOCUMENTARI





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The films received applause from the participants, as they are a very direct way to show the nature of CdU's commitment, without using words that can easily be misunderstood. CdU representatives shared with the participants the struggles and obstacles of going through such a process and also some of the criticisms that the two movies received along with the positive feedback. This was meant to give participants a sort of roadmap to deal with the experience should they walk the same path in the future.



Two of the participants asked if they could be granted access to these movies for their work at home.

Day 2: Activities and challenges of Cerchio degli Uomini

PART 1

The second day (November 16th) was a very busy day, so rich in workshops and visits.

Firstly, we presented the new challenges brought by the changes in society, in terms of culture and legal system.

Due to new laws, most men who act violently towards their partner need to participate in our programmes in order to avoid prison, whereas previously men voluntarily turned to our association.

This means that men's motivation is very low and we had to adapt the paradigm of our approach.

Another issue is the widening of the typology of the perpetrators involved in our programmes: people from other cultures (often not speaking Italian well), stalkers, sex offenders, drug addicts, mentally ill, and so on: the users of our programmes are not so homogenous as in the past and this is a new challenge for our operators.

Furthermore, new laws rule the work of centres involved with perpetrators: we have to be compliant with standards of service, duration of the



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programme, training of the operators, etc. Curiously, the law does not guarantee funding.

A very interesting debate followed among participants, who shared experiences from their countries, showing similarities and differences with Italy in relation to laws and requirements for perpetrator programmes.

PART 2

Andrea Santoro explained another important part of our work which is primary prevention in schools: raising awareness about patriarchy and gender-based violence among young people is fundamental to decrease the cases of violence in the future.

In the second part of the day, we also visited the **CRF Centro Relazioni e Famiglie** (Center for Relationships and Families), a municipal organisation we collaborate with in providing support to men as well as in promoting parenthood (both fatherhood and motherhood) in the awareness that good parenthood is a protective factor against gender-based violence.

One of CRF's operators, Consolata Galleani, told the participants about the activities of Cerchio degli Uomini there, confirming the deep crisis many men are experiencing while slowly the world changes and patriarchy collapses, and the difficulty in persuading them to be helped.



In this context, CdU presented also its work on fatherhood in the framework of the two EU projects [PARENT](#) and [4e-parent](#), each of them based on the assumption that the promotion of non-violent and equal fatherhood is a winning strategy to prevent gender-based violence, especially in the very delicate period of the so-called First Thousand Days. Each project saw CdU as one of the main partners.

Day 3: Work with Centres for women?

On the last day (November 17th), we visited a women shelter (Centro Donna) in the west side of the municipality of Turin, a village called Collegno.

Sonia Rossato, the director of the center, explained their way of working and the complex support they strive to give to the women in need: housing, psychological support, legal support, employment support, security support, etc.

A critical point is that, in Italy, for different political and cultural reasons, operators from centres for women do not like to collaborate with centres for perpetrators.



Furthermore, many people think work with perpetrators is not only useless, but actually dangerous for women in general.

Luckily, there are exceptions: Cerchio degli Uomini and Centro Donna started and continue to collaborate, as we believe this brings better results in fighting gender-based violence.

An important testimony in this sense was brought by our participant Philippe Bigler, who told us that his organisation is providing two centres for women and one centre for perpetrators, all working together for the same purpose: to eliminate gender-based violence.

Conclusions

Cerchio degli Uomini was very pleased to host the WWP EN Study Visit 2023, hoping to provide insights while sharing its experience in the promotion of men's evolution toward respect and solidarity, particularly in the relation with women. The visit has been also a valuable occasion for the organisation to reflect on its work and the steps still to take in order to grow and pursue its mission more effectively.

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