

### WPP EN Annual Workshop 2017 in Zagreb, Croatia

From Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> until Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 84 members of over 60 different work with perpetrators organisations, as well as motivated Croatian volunteers, at the Hotel International in Zagreb for face-to-face meetings, knowledge exchange, supportive discussions and even some dancing. This year's focus was on strengthening accountability, developing practice and increasing safety. Accordingly, each day was under one of these headings. The Workshop Agenda included twelve workshops, two panel discussions and a keynote speech by Marianne Hester, as well as the yearly General Assembly Meeting with the election of a new board member (Dajana Ilic, [Budućnost Modriča](#)) and the re-election of established board members (Olga Persson, Neil Blacklock, Marianne Hester, Heinrich Geldschläger).

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, "Strengthening Accountability", started at 12:30 with Dean Ajdukovic introducing the volunteers, as well as the Croatian organising teams from [SPA](#) and [Dugar](#). Following an introduction to the Workshop programme, WWP members were welcomed by a representatives of the Mayor of Zagreb and the Ministry of Justice.



Alessandra Pauncz ([Relive](#)), Michał Trojnar ([Violence Prevention Institute](#)), Neil Blacklock ([RESPECT](#)) and Olga Persson ([Unizon](#)) joined moderator Dean for the first panel discussion. They compared their different organisations' foci on accountability, or more precisely, whom the organisation should be accountable to, as well as, what to do in cases in

which different accountabilities are in conflict. The panel showcased the complexity inherent in the subject and different possible approaches taken by WWP member organisations. After the coffee break, the participants were able to choose between four different workshops. Olga Persson, Natalia Batenkova and Elin Holmgren of Unizon offered a workshop on "Doing Gender Equality in Practice" and under the title "My Accountability Strengthens your Accountability" Michał Trojnar held a workshop on the topic of the day. In a third workshop, Dorota Dyjakon ([Gabinet Psychoterapii](#)) discussed

“Motivation and Psychological Concepts in the Process of Change”, while Gerhard Hafner of the [BAG TÄHG](#) gave a workshop on the topic of “Accountability in the German and Berlin context” with a specific focus on work with children. Subsequently, everybody met back in the Grand Salon for a short presentation by the different board members up for (re-)election, before moving on to a wonderful dinner buffet next door.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, “Developing Practice”, started early at nine o’clock and while some were still waking up, Dean led a feedback from the first day, as well as introducing new and already known staff members of the WWP administrative team.

Things soon became more interesting with Marianne Hester’s ([University of Bristol](#)) keynote speech on “Gender in Perpetrator Work”, in which she reflected on some European countries’ choice to pursue gender neutral policies and how these choices influenced the perception of gender in perpetrator work, as well as in surveys. She further elaborated on gendered differences in violence and persecution of said violence discovered during her many studies. Following a coffee (and cake) break, the participants gathered in the Grand Salon for the annual WWP General Assembly.



After explanatory remarks on the voting procedure by the election committee, Ralf Puchert (WWP) and Christian Scambor ([VMG](#)), WWP Chair Neil Blacklock gave an overview of the past year. The grant proposal for the operating grant until 2021 was accepted and WWP members went on a study visit to Bulgaria. Additionally, WWP developed the impact tool kit which is already in extensive use in the UK and will further support its development and dissemination. As treasurer Heinrich Geldschläger ([CONEXUS](#)) explained in his presentation, the many days of sick leave by staff members, led to the need of subcontracting many of the tasks still waiting to be implemented by the end of 2017. Due to the additional subcontracting, it will be necessary to rework the annual budget and have it accepted by the European Commission again. The Board elections were a great success. All candidates were voted onto the board with up to 100% approval rates.



Following the announcement of the election results, all participants went to have lunch and soon return for the interactive viewing of posters introducing the organisations, as well as their biggest challenges for the next three years.

After stimulating conversations over coffee and posters, participants again had the choice between different workshops: Nina George (WWP) led the workshop “Working with Sex and Gender” (videos of which can be found on our Facebook page), Kris Decraemer of the [Interactie Academie](#) worked on “Group and Individual Work Exercises” and Alessandra Pauncz offered input on “Practice in Group Work”.

After a short coffee break, the workshop participants regrouped and left for the delicious conference dinner with live music and cheerful dancing.



The feedback session on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, “Increasing Safety”, started at 8:40 and led over to the panel discussion on “What does ‘Victim Safety Oriented Programmes’ mean in Practice?”. Bert Groen ([Family Justice Center Alliance](#)), Heinrich Geldschläger, Marianna

Tortell ([DVIP](#)), [Silvia Baudrino\(?\) \(Relive\)](#) sat down and offered their differing viewpoints on how best to deal with concerns about victim safety and perpetrator work within the different legal and organizational contexts.

After the panel discussion, participants were offered four workshops: in the Grand Salon the “WWP Working Group: Best Practice in Increasing Safety and Collaboration” met, Helena Päivinen ([University of Jyväskylä](#)) introduced the “Partner Perspective in the Jyväskylä Model”, Neil Blacklock led a workshop on “The Drive Project” and Ralf Puchert and Heinrich Geldschläger met with participants of “The ENGAGE Project”.

## Annual Workshop 2017



The last point on the agenda was the closing and evaluation of the 2017 Annual Workshop in Zagreb. The opinions offered in this plenary are a reflection of all our experiences in Croatia. We are very thankful for the motivating and welcoming atmosphere, the beautiful weather and challenging

discussions. Leaving behind a group of 84 inspired participants from all over Europe and Argentina, the feedback to the Annual Workshop was overwhelmingly positive.