

ANNEXES: CASE STUDIES

WCK's case study (Greece): establishing a network -

The establishment of the local network in Karditsa in order to support effectively IPV survivors

Introduction

Networking is a system of principles and actions, based on new forms of collective action and intervention. It shapes a wider dynamic to meet the social and economic needs of the members of our society.

Women's Center of Karditsa, in the frame of the WE GO! Project, has created a local-regional network, main objective of which is to provide the best support to women victims of intimate partner's violence. The primary concern of the Center and the other members of the network is their financial strength, which will enable them to be released from the violent environment without any retreat.

The two main axes of the WCK's networking were:

- 1) To inform the local stakeholders and to raise awareness, about the support they can provide, initially under the WE GO! Project, to IPV women that it supports
- 2) The Development of a plan of actions, in which briefly included:
 - Selection, on the basis of experience and knowledge of the services they provide, of the organizations to which WCK would address
 - Written or oral first contact of the Director of the WCK with the person in charge of the desired organization
 - Informative first meeting on the WE GO! Program, its actions and the specific points in which the 2 organizations will cooperate
 - Agreement on the implementation of common and / or complementary actions
 - Create project teams to implement them
 - Signing of a cooperation protocol by Legal Representatives, including the specific points of cooperation

There were selected organizations that would complement the WCK's actions, such as the Development Agency of Karditsa, the Cooperative Bank of Karditsa, the Interamerican - Local Branch, the Chamber of Karditsa, the local branch of Manpower Organization, the Lifelong Learning School of the University of Thessaly, and the regional network of the Hellenic radio television.

1) Development Agency of Karditsa (AN.KA)

ANKA's development focus is on "capacity building" and on the "empowerment" of the local population, particularly of the vulnerable groups, and the prevention them, of the social exclusion. Programs and projects are designed and implemented to serve a coherent and integrated vision for local development.

- 1) In the frame of the implementation of the WE GO! project, the women to whom the Women's Center of Karditsa has provided counselling services aiming at their

empowerment to gain financial independence with the establishment of a business in the field of social economy, ANKA undertakes to provide to them, through its specialized personnel, its officers:

- services for creating the "business plan" file
- support for the creation of a social cooperative enterprise
- support to promote businesses and promote their products or services

2) Within the frame of the broader cooperation of the two organizations, WCK also cooperates with the Europe Direct Information Center of Karditsa on European Policy issues.

3) The cooperation of the parties will continue after the end of the above program

The 2 organizations have signed a protocol for cooperation.

2) Cooperative Bank of Karditsa

The Cooperative Bank of Karditsa is the first Ethical Bank in Greece, like "Banca Etica" in Italy, Brazilian "Banco Palmas" and "Grameen Bank" in Bangladesh.

Its local character gives the Bank strong competitive advantages and implies unique advantages for its members.

The WCK and the Bank have signed a cooperation protocol that includes:

1) the Cooperative Bank of Karditsa, evaluating the business plan which has been submitted, undertakes to provide:

- Financing from € 1,000 to € 25,000
- Repayment period from 3 months to 5 years
- Payment of the installment can begin 1-6 months after funding
- 10% discount on file assessment costs

2) Also, in order to strengthen women's access to finance:

- Evaluates with "flexibility" the credit history of each proposal
- Does not require collateral for funding
- The process is "fast track"

3) Cooperation will continue after the end of the program

3) Interamerican, local branch of Karditsa

It is a private insurance company, with a country wide action. In the frame of its "corporate social responsibility", the company will co-organize with the WCK actions to raise public awareness on the IPV women supported by the WCK. This refers to the WE GO! project initially.

Cooperation between the 2 organizations will continue after the end of it.

The 2 organizations have signed a protocol for cooperation.

4) Chamber of Karditsa



Chamber of Karditsa is a legal entity operating under the public law with 3,500 members. The purpose of the Chamber is to “protect” the trade, the artisanship, the industry, in the region of Karditsa.

Common actions of the WCK and the Chamber will include an IPV - Employers Interconnection, with the creation of an electronic tool for communication between them. At this platform,

- the employers will post the available jobs at local level
- the women IPV will post their CV (anonymously, a number will indicate “who is who”)

Actions to inform and raise awareness of the employers' members of the Chamber will be implemented initially within the WE GO! Project. After it expires, the cooperation will be continued. A protocol specifying the specific terms of cooperation, is to be signed the next period.

5) The local branch of Manpower organization, OAED

OAED is the state organization that operates at a national level with branches at the Capitals of each prefecture.

The axes of OAED's policy can be summarized as follows:

- Promoting Employment
- Working with social and other local organizations in local employment programs
- Promoting the adaptability of workers and enterprises while maintaining employment
- Linking “Job Offer and Demand” through the Organization's new portal, at National Level
- EURES network linking “Job offer and demand” at European level

A link to the web site of WCK informs all women visiting it about the jobs available across the country.

6) Lifelong Learning School of the University of Thessaly

The Lifelong Learning School of the University of Thessaly, in collaboration with members of the Academic Community (Teaching and Research Staff), designs, organizes and implements a series of lifelong and distance learning, training and training programs in a variety of scientific fields, knowledge, specialized skills and innovative actions.

The "Lifelong Learning Training Center" of the University of Thessaly “belongs” to the Public Sector.

WCK has ensured the cooperation of the training center, which will allow free and direct access to a range of training programs and training tools that enable the empowerment and / or entrepreneurship of entrepreneurship concepts for women who do not have the have an undergraduate background, or have low qualifications as a large part of IPV women have.

WCK and the Training Center have signed a cooperation protocol, initially within WEGO!, which will continue after the end of the project.

The 2 organizations have signed a protocol for cooperation.



7) Hellenic Radio Television (ERT), regional network of Thessaly

ERT is the national state information network of the country. WCK has already agreed with the regional network of Thessaly for the cooperation of the two organizations, initially in the frame of the implementation of the “WE GO!” project, organizing a radio campaign for information and raising awareness on Violence against women issues.

In particular, ERT takes the responsibility of informing about the actions and of disseminating of the results of the WE GO! Project.

The director of the Regional Network has already sent the signed affirmative reply letter.

A protocol for cooperation is to be signed the next period.

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