

TURNING THE PAGE



April 2016 - Edition 3

Pilots and Publicity in Perugia, Italy!

There was a packed agenda over the course of the 2 days and attendees were engaged using ice breakers, Q&A sessions and visual presentations. This was the fourth international event and Corinna Bartoletti (Project Manager at Borgorete) as well as the Director of the Presidency of Gender Politics jointly opened the event at the Palazzo Donini in Perugia, Italy. Corinna provided a brief overview of the agenda and welcomed all partners.

Partners updated each other on the research and evaluation component of the project, met local Italian stakeholders, experienced one of Borgorete's interventions, discussed deliverables, explored the best practice toolkit, talked about the Women's Shadow Board activities, and went on a field trip to an anti-violence center that Borgorete work with.



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Meet the stakeholders

The event was well publicised by Borgorete. The event featured in an article in the local paper and a report also appeared on TV after the event concluded. Stefano, Director of Gender Politics, gave a brief overview of gender politics in Perugia and the changes they have experienced over the last 3-4 years. There has been a lot of interest in working with Borgorete to improve outcomes for clients. A representative from the Equal Opportunities center also presented the support the organisation provides which started in 1989. It initially began as a legal service for women but then became a specialised center for domestic violence.



Role Play Theatre

The members of the partnership were taken to a local theatre in Perugia where a theatre company that is working closely with Borgorete presented on an awareness raising strategy for professionals that is used in the region. The premise of the approach is to place participants at the center of the experience, thereby creating a sense of empathy and understanding. The theatre company works with a director, a writer, and a psychologist to guide the session and work through any emotional issues that may arise.



The group was asked to select 10 verbs, nouns, and adjectives to describe the area of work. We were then split into 2 groups and given one verb, one noun and one adjective. The groups were asked to come up with a piece of theatre without the use of words to represent the words that they were given. We were asked to act out the scene and the director and psychologist carried out a reflective session afterwards to explore the theme of domestic abuse and trauma.



Field trip to an anti-violence centre

Borgorete arranged a field trip for the partnership to one of the anti-violence centers that is situated in Perugia. A representative gave a brief presentation including Q&As regarding the center. The center provides shelter for women who are at risk of having their children removed. It also evaluates the level of risk in terms of domestic abuse. A joint decision is made and the centre agrees an action plan on how to stop the cycle of abuse. The centre also provides legal and psychological assistance if needed. The centre provides assistance with finding local schools for children. The victims stay in a large communal apartment block which is comprised of 5 rooms and a communal kitchen. Male children under 14 and girls may stay with their mothers. The average length of stay for victims at this centre is 6 months, however this can vary. Victims only return home if a restraining order is in place. The centre is supervised by staff 24/7.



There are 2 anti-violence centres: one is based in Perini and the other is based in Perugia. However, they belong to the same organisation. These form the 2 main centres in the region of Umbria. Initially 30 individuals worked in the centre for a trial period. The centre provided training but not all staff members were full time and some were volunteers. The partner centre in Rome provides 240 hours of training for domestic violence. Currently there is an occupancy of 15 victims in each centre. Both centres have approached 700 clients in total. Action for Change provides parental support and training for the centre. The centre has a limited number of social workers but the centre staff vary in their education fields. This centre is currently hosting 8 women and 8 children. There is a trigger code as part of triage in ER who admit to being victims of DV where there is a notification system to the centre.

Generally social housing is difficult to access if the victim's nationality is not Italian. Additionally, there is no specific social housing provision for domestic violence victims. In cases where the father has not abused the child, emotional abuse is identified so courts usually rule in favour of the mother. The father has rights to see the child under supervision only. After a period of 1 year, the judge passes a ruling on whether the father can have unsupervised contact. The behaviour of the father during the supervision and the supervised phone calls is assessed to see if there is any positive change. Phone calls between the father and the child is weekly and visits are fortnightly.

What is Action for Change?

Action for Change is a European Union sponsored project that started in January 2015. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is working in partnership with six other organisations across four European countries, these being the UK, Romania, Italy and Hungary. We want to know which services are most effective in helping women who, as a result of ongoing domestic violence, have had or are at risk of having at least one child removed from their care.

The focus of the project will be:

- To support women to break the cycle of violence and improve outcomes
- To understand which services work and those that are missing across the four countries, and identify which of these will improve the support currently available
- for women experiencing domestic violence
- To form recommendations around key missing services
- At the end of the project, we will come together and share the learning between us to develop a toolkit for services in the UK, and across Europe.

The Action for Change Partners

The Coordinating Partner

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) manages and coordinates the overall project. As part of the combined Children's Services department, Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster City Council are associate partners that contribute to and benefit from Action for Change.

Our UK Partners

ADVANCE is a charitable organisation that does great work in supporting women, children and young people affected by domestic and sexual violence. It has

experience in facilitating participation of vulnerable women and coordinates the overall involvement of the Women's Shadow Board at an international level.

The Learning and Work Institute are an independent research and development organisation dedicated to promoting lifelong learning, full employment and inclusion through tackling disadvantage and promoting social justice. It is the UK's research partner and also leads on developing the international research and evaluation framework.

Our Romanian Partner

CFCECAS is a national NGO in Romania that has strengths in research, developing Innovative Projects and

training for services. It is delivering the research and evaluation in Romania, as well as working closely with authorities to deliver their pilot project. The project will also build these organisations' capacity to deliver services and European Union projects.

Our Hungarian Partner

G-Led is a newly established research and training organisation in Hungary that aims to empower people to tackle injustices. Its focus is gender violence and equality and its experts have contributed to a Daphne project on Empowering Women. Its Associate Partner will be Híd Social and Child Protection Services of Budapest XIII.

Our Italian Partners

Borgorete is an organisation that works in protection and care services, that includes support victims of violence in Italy. It operates on behalf of local health and social authorities in Perugia. Borgorete will be the delivery partner in Italy and will work collaboratively with protection and care services to deliver its pilot project.

CESIE is the research partner for Italy and will work alongside Borgorete in order to deliver the research and evaluation of the Italian pilot project. CESIE has strengths in research and considerable dissemination potential, and has a strong history of working effectively and successfully on EU projects.

