

The aim of this publication is to briefly present the content and evaluation results of the National Conference “Equality and Gender Based Violence Prevention in Education” that took place in Sibiu, on the 14th of October 2016 in the context of Project “Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence (GEAR against IPV-II)”

The GEAR against IPV II Project in Romania

The **GEAR against IPV** approach is a coordinated action of **primary and secondary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence in adolescents’ relationships** through interventions in the school or in other settings, that are guided by specially designed educational material and are aimed at secondary school students’ awareness raising and empowerment by specially trained teachers.

The main aim is to promote the development of **healthy and equal relationships** between the sexes and the development of **zero tolerance towards violence** by raising teens’ awareness on:

- the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- the influence that gender stereotypical attitudes and socially imposed gender roles have on their relationships
- how power inequality between the sexes is related to psychological, physical and/or sexual abuse against women/girls and
- how adolescents can contribute to the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence.

Given the fact that almost all children and adolescents attend school, the **educational system**, at all levels, is the ideal setting for such an effort, where properly trained teachers can play a key role in the implementation of such interventions targeting the general population. The need for implementing in schools interventions related to gender stereotypes and equality, as a means of primary prevention of gender-based violence it is, therefore, imperative.

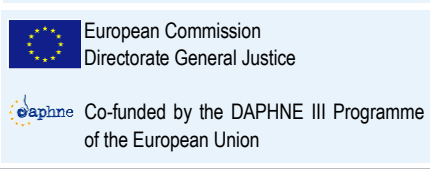
The **GEAR against IPV approach** is a proposal for systematic intervention in the school (or other) setting, where girls and boys are invited, through a series of experiential activities, to assess but also challenge their culturally “inherited” gender stereotypes and to approach differences between sexes as individual differences rather than as characteristics of superiority of one sex over the other.

Project’s Identity	
TITLE:	Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence II (GEAR against IPV II)
PROJECT NO:	JUST/2013/DAP/AG/5408
DURATION:	01.10.2014 – 30.11.2016
COORDINATOR:	European Anti-Violence Network – EAVN (Greece)
PARTNERS:	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies - MIGS (Cyprus) Center for Education, Counselling and Research - CESI (Croatia) A.L.E.G. - Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender (Romania) Plataforma unitària contra les violències de gènere (Spain) The Smile of the Child (Greece)
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The Conference took place in the context of European Project [GEAR against IPV - II](#) with financial support from the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union



Educational Material

GEAR against IPV educational material has been developed in order to support the organization, preparation, implementation and evaluation of teachers’ training seminars and adolescents’ awareness raising interventions (in school or other settings), aiming to primary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence.

Booklet III provides step-by-step instructions for the implementation of a series of experiential activities while **Booklet IV** includes all necessary worksheets and handouts for adolescents.

The full text material is available free of charge at the Project’s website www.gear-ipv.eu/download



This material has been developed in the context of the two European Projects “GEAR against IPV I & II” with financial support from the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union.



The Conference

The Conference took place in Sibiu on the 14th of October 2016; during the conference 77 participants had the opportunity to listen to the reporting from students and teachers presenting their activities and their own experience during the 10 GEAR against IPV workshops implemented in their schools in Sibiu, Cluj-Napoca, Cugir, Bacău, Brăila, Slobozia, in the school year 2015-2016. More specifically, experiential workshops were implemented in 10 schools in 6 areas of Romania and in one high risk group of youth from Placement Center *Tavi Bucur* and *Placement Center Gulliver Sibiu*.

The Conference Programme is available here (http://aleg-romania.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/14.10.2016_Agenda.pdf).

Moreover, during the conference an exhibition took place presenting the materials created by adolescents by the end of the workshops in the framework of the implementation of an information and awareness raising campaign aiming to convey to their peers nationwide messages about gender equality, healthy and equal relationships, how to recognize of violence in adolescents' relationships as well as how to react and reject any kind of GBV.

Evaluation of Conference

Conference Participants' Demographics

A total of 77 people attended the conference, of which 54 adults (6 men and 48 women) and 23 minors/high school students (11 girls and 12 boys); 63 completed the Conference's evaluation form.

Gender

The participants who completed the evaluation form were 4 men, 9 boys and 41 women and 9 girls.

Age

Table 1. Participants age per group and sex (N=63)

	Adults		Minors	
	Men (n=3)	Women (n=41)	Boys (n=10)	Girls (n=9)
Minimum age	35	21	16	16
Maximum age	47	61	17	18

Identity

Minors

All children that attended the conference were 11th grade high school students (10th grade at the time of the workshop implementation), former GEAR workshop participants from all the 10 school and from the risk group.

Adults

In their majority 52% were teachers and 43% school counsellors; 5% consisted of other specialties, e.g. social services manager, social workers, psychologists, school inspectorate representatives, other governmental experts from the ministry of education, equal opportunity agency.

Satisfaction from the Conference

Adults

On a scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (absolutely) adults gave high rates (9-10) for all the aspects of the Conference, evaluating positively the *overall organization* (98%), *the venue* where the event was held (97%), *the presentations* (95%), *the exhibition of materials created by adolescents*

(100%); 94% were satisfied with *the duration* of the conference, some suggested that it should have been organized in 2 days in order to have enough time for discussions, but in the end they concluded that it was very instructive and interactive and well organized (97%).

Students

Students also evaluated the Conference positively, *the overall Conference* (96%), *the content of the presentations/speeches* (95%), *the exhibition of materials created by adolescents* (97%), *the venue of the Conference* (96%), *the way the Conference was organized* (98%). They were a little bit more critical giving scores between 7-10 for

the duration (87%), they would have also preferred a two day meeting or a longer one day, especially those who came from different cities to have the opportunity to interact more with the other colleagues and have a better exchange of knowledge.

In future, to what extent you would like to learn more about...

Adults

97% would like to learn more about *gender stereotypes and gender (in)equality and healthy and unhealthy relationships*.

95% would like to learn about *intimate partner violence and how to react if you encounter violence in a relationship (yours or somebody else's)*.

98% would like to be trained on the use of the material in order to be able to implement workshops.

95% would like to implement, as facilitators, *GEAR against IPV workshops with students or with other groups of children or teens*.

At the end of this set of questions some adults gave extra suggestions or comments such as:

- *congratulated A.L.E.G. team for the activities and the changes they saw among students*
- *to involve more men in such activities, potential aggressors, and practicing lawyers in criminal law*
- *to implement the project in other or more schools/high schools*
- *to make some small adaptation in order to implement the activities to younger student groups too.*

Students

Students also want to learn more in the future about *gender stereotypes and gender (in)equality* (93%) and *healthy and unhealthy relationships* (96%).

95% would like to know more about *intimate partner violence*.

A positive high score was given to the item *how to react if you encounter with violence in a relationship (yours or somebody else's)*; 98% of the students expressed their interest regarding this matter.

All the students (100%) expressed their intention to *participate in the future GEAR against IPV workshops*.

Evaluation of Conference's Content: gaining new knowledge

Adults

Adult participants considered in a proportion of 98% that they got new *information that they did not know before*, 99% *liked the information/new knowledge* received during the Conference, and none of the

participants thought negatively of the gained information.

Students

The Students who attended the conference were the same who attended the GEAR workshops, so most of the information shared in the venue was known to them, but

they still felt that they gained new knowledge in a proportion of 87% and received only useful information.

Evaluation of Conference's Content: relevance and usefulness of new knowledge

Adults

96% considered the information and knowledge gained during the conference was *relevant to their professional*

practice (at present or in future) and 93% would *use it during their professional practice*.

Students

97% considered that the information received was *relevant to their life (at present or in future)* and may be *useful in their life*.

In this Conference, what made the biggest impression on me, was...

Adults

- *"enthusiasm of students involved in the project and the convincing speeches of the organizers"*
- *"way how it was organized, the involvement, kindness and professionalism of A.L.E.G. team"*
- *"activities' impact on students and teachers involved in the project"*
- *"seriousness of students"*
- *"that the presentations were authentic"*
- *"involvement of students in such programs which lead to an easier awareness of gender equality an violence prevention"*
- *"sensitivity and empathy of addressing this subject"*
- *"positive feedback about the project among students"*
- *"project presentations by the students"*
- *"the desire for change of the organizers and implementers"*
- *"each group's experience, presentation and the students openness"*
- *"that they included the testimony of a woman who was a domestic violence survivor"*
- *"the student's authentic feelings"*
- *"the real stories"*

Students

- *"the short videos"*
- *"that we could speak freely about the outcomes of the project"*
- *"that we could share with other students information regarding the activities, impact of the project"*
- *"the presentations, the way of organization, everybody's involvement"*
- *"that I could attend such a Conference for the first time in my life"*
- *"the real involvement of the students in this project and their commitment to others"*
- *"the domestic violence survivor's story"*
- *"that there were also officials present and could hear us"*
- *"the enthusiasm of the students in their presentations"*
- *"our problems were listened to"*
- *"the information learned from those invited"*
- *"the person who had the courage to share her personal story"*

Assessment of the necessity for inclusion of relevant modules in the official school curriculum of education

Participants (adults and children) were asked in the evaluation form **whether** according to their opinion **information and sensitization activities relevant to a) gender stereotypes and gender (in)equality, b) healthy and unhealthy relationships, c) intimate partner violence and d) ways of protection and resistance against IPV should be included in the official school curricula nationwide** (including kindergarten, elementary school, junior and senior high school).

Adults

98% of adults considered that **gender stereotypes and gender (in)equality** should be thought/approached starting from *Kindergarten* and continue through *Primary school, Junior High School* and *Senior High School*.

95% of the adults think that **healthy and unhealthy relationships** should start in *Kindergarten*, 97% in *Primary school* and *Junior High* and 99% in *Senior high school*.

Only 6% of the adult participants considered appropriate to start talking about **Intimate Partner Violence** in *Kindergarten*; the percentage increased with the age group

of children in *Primary school* (34%), *Junior High School* (87%) and *Senior high school* (98%).

Regarding the **protection and resistance against IPV**, 2% of the respondents thought is relevant to start in the *Kindergarten*, 27% in *Primary School*, 57% in *Junior High* and 96% in *Senior High*.

Students

98% of students considered that **gender stereotypes and gender (in)equality** should be thought/approached starting from *Kindergarten*, 97% in *Primary school*, 98% in *Junior High School* and in *Senior High School*.

95% of the students think that **healthy and unhealthy relationships** awareness should start in *Kindergarten*, 96% in *Primary school* and *Junior High* and 98% in *Senior high school*.

None of the students considered appropriate to start talking about **Intimate Partner Violence** in *Kindergarten*, 25% in *Primary school*, 67% in *Junior High School* and 99% *Senior high school*.

As regards the **protection and resistance against IPV**, all the students (100%) considered it wasn't relevant to start such awareness activities in the *Kindergarten* nor in *Primary School*, but later, 89% in *Junior High* and 97% in *Senior High*.

What I liked most of all in this Conference was....

Adults

- *"the interest shown by the councilor of the minister of education"*
- *"the enthusiastic and relaxed atmosphere, the results after the implementation of the project's activities, the implementers and students feedback"*
- *"the presentation of the steps of the activities were conducted"*
- *"the materials resulted during the project"*
- *"the contest creations, presentations and discussions"*
- *"the student's critical thinking involved in the project"*
- *"the presence of officials of national level and their speeches"*
- *"that each group had the opportunity to present in a pleasant way their experience and what they learned during the project"*
- *"the student's experience and their involvement"*

Students

- *"that we could all express our opinions freely regarding the project, activities"*
- *"to listen the other student's experiences"*
- *"the atmosphere"*
- *"that students from different high schools were present and I could hear different opinions"*
- *"that I had the opportunity to present what my class did during the project"*
- *"the desire to implement this project to younger students"*
- *"I didn't know how difficult it was to conduct extracurricular activities in schools, the need of so many approvals"*
- *"I learned about other project that I would like to take part in"*

Something that I didn't like was...

Adults

- "few men participants"
- "the discussion about religion"

Students

- "that all the information was given in one single day"
- "that is was held on Friday, in my opinion Saturday would have been much better"
- "that I had to fill out a questionnaire"

Awareness of participants for the "GEAR against IPV" Workshops

Adults

21% of the participants stated that they had *no information* before the conference regarding the workshops

38% had *a few* information regarding GEAR workshops

17% stated that they had *several* knowledge about the workshops

15% *many* because they attended at former conferences, or teacher's training seminars

9% *too many* as they were implementers of GEAR workshops or former trainees

Students

Having in mind that the students present at the conference were the same who implemented GEAR activities in their classes, their scores were given accordingly when they were asked to rate their amount of

information regarding GEAR against IPV workshop. They appreciated in a proportion of 97% that they have **a lot** of information about the subject and 3% **several**.

Adults said...

If you would like to **describe** to a friend of yours the GEAR against IPV Workshop "Building Healthy Intimate Relationships" by **using one single word**, which would that be?



More photos are available here on the project's Facebook album
https://www.facebook.com/169962753021439/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1107023589315346

Children said...

If you would like to **describe** to a friend of yours the GEAR against IPV Workshop "Building Healthy Intimate Relationships" by **using one single word**, which would that be?

