

Study visit to Vilnius, June 24-29, 2018

Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
<http://thekvinnatillkvinnafoundation.org/>

Country: Albania

Organisation: Albania Women Empowerment Network – AWEN, Tirana
Association of Women with Social Problems – AWSP, Durres

Representative: Bajana Cevoli

Field of work – AWEN: A network of Albanian women's rights organizations, formed in 2008. AWEN works with strengthening women in Albania socially, economically, culturally and politically. AWEN is focused on advocacy at local and national levels, for issues related to protection and promotion of women rights. The network also supports its member organizations to help them become strong players in promoting women's rights.

Site: www.awenetwork.org

Field of work – AWSP: The Association was established in 1999, when the Kosovo refugees came to Albania for getting emergency support. Over a decade, it has been providing various services to vulnerable women of the Durres Region, consisting of psycho- social, legal, and medical services, as well as on the provision of informative and awareness activities. Concrete lobbying and advocacy initiatives with regard to the community development, with a specific focus on the strengthening of women status in society, has also been an important AWSP area.

Site: <http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/members/association-women-social-problems>

Country: Albania

Organisation: VATRA, Vlora

Representative: Brikena Puka

Field of work: Vatra is a non-profit organisation, a psychosocial center, formed in 1999. It focuses on prevention and raising awareness of human trafficking and domestic violence, direct assistance to victims of human trafficking and victims of domestic violence and their children, capacity building for state and non-state institutions related to trafficking and gender-based violence issues, lobbying and advocacy. In 2001, Vatra established the first shelter in Albania for

Albanian victims of human trafficking. Vatra is a signatory member of the National Referral Mechanism Agreement (since 2005) and recipient of the Appraisal Awards delivered by Higher National and International institutions.

Site: <http://www.qendravatra.org.al/>

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Organisation: Better Future, Tuzla

Representatives: Indira Bajramovic, Larisa Kovacevic

Field of work: Since 2001, Better Future [Bolja Buducnost] has been promoting Roma Women Human Rights through socio-economic and advocacy programs, political participation, improvement of the living conditions of the Roma population with a focus on Roma women. They founded the first Roma Women Network in BiH called “Uspjeh”, with the aim of improving the social status of the Roma national minority in BiH, with the emphasis on Roma women in the fields of education, employment, housing, health and social protection.

Site: <http://www.bolja-buducnost.com.ba/news.php>

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Organisation: Center of Women’s Rights, Zenica

Representative: Amra Becirovic

Field of work: Since 1996, the Centre of Women’s Rights (CWR) has been offering women free legal advice, both face-to-face and online. It has set up an educational, online learning platform targeting main stakeholders and authorities dealing with human rights and gender-based violence. CWR also monitors courts and works on peacebuilding with a focus on women’s rights. CWR has launched numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing human rights (particularly women’s human rights), including the initiative for equal treatment of marital and extra-marital partners in achieving the right to family pension. In the last three years CWR became specialized in representing the clients of discrimination before the courts and institutions.

Site: www.cenppz.org.ba

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Organisation: Helsinki Citizens Assembly, Banja Luka

Representative: Lejla Gacanica

Field of work: Established in 1996, HCA is a human rights organisation working on the empowerment of marginalised and disadvantaged groups in society. It focuses on reconciliation, gender equality and strengthening women's and youth's opportunities to participate in and influence policy making in society.

Site: www.hcabl.org

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Organisation: Rights for All, Sarajevo

Representative: Vesna Vukmanic

Field of work: Since 1996, Rights for All [Prava za sve] has been promoting citizens' participation in democratic institutions and processes through advocacy campaigns exposing human rights violations and discrimination cases, demanding legislative and policy reforms, as well as enabling civil society organisations to participate in decision-making processes. Rights for All demands that the government respects and protects human rights of all people, demands justice for survivors of human rights violations, promotes equality in rights for all individuals or groups regardless of their gender, disability, minority status, sexual orientation or any other characteristics.

Site: www.rightsforall.ba/

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Organisation: United Women, Banja Luka

Representative: Aleksandra Petric

Field of work: Works to strengthen women's rights and gender equality in private and public sphere. The organisation provides legal assistance to women who have experienced violence. United Women advocates for authorities to work more efficiently on the prevention of violence against women and to increase public awareness of the issue. The organisation also seeks to increase women's participation in politics and works with court monitoring. Their priorities also include networking and collaboration with other women's and human rights NGOs.

Site: <http://unitedwomenbl.org>

Country: Kosovo
Organisation: Kosovo Women's Network, Pristina

Representative: Gentiana Murati Kapo

Field of work: Established in 1996, Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) is a network with more than 115 women's organisations, including organisations of all ethnic groups from throughout Kosovo. KWN runs campaigns, conducts research and supports, protects and promotes the rights and interests of women and girls throughout Kosovo. KWN supports cooperation between women's organisations. KWN works to increase women's political participation, improve people's access to health care, prevent gender-based violence, and empower women economically. KWN is presently examining the potential impact of the EU Accession on women and men in Kosovo.

Site: <http://www.womensnetwork.org/>

Country: Kosovo

Organisation: Kosovar Gender Studies Center, Pristina

Representative: Nita Zogiani

Field work: The mission of the Kosovar Gender Studies Center (KGSC) is to integrate gender-sensitive analyses, programs, and policies in all sectors of Kosovar society by raising gender awareness, increasing focus on gender issues in the Kosovar educational system, developing gender studies, and ensuring the inclusion of gender-sensitive policies in all sectors of life. The Center's vision is to become a trusted research institute, where local and international governmental and non-governmental institutions would come to look for accurate data, policy recommendations, and research that exemplifies an inclusive gender perspective, sensitive to the diversities of Kosovar society.

Site: <http://www.kgscenter.net/>

Country: Kosovo

Organisation: Medica Kosova, Gjakova

Representative: Veprore Shehu

Field of work: "Medica Kosova" was established in August 1999 and registered as a local NGO in October 2003, with the aim of improving the mental and physical situation of women affected by war and post-war violence. The support consists of psychosocial counseling, legal assistance, provision of agricultural and bee-keeping activities for increasing family incomes, medical care in the center ambulance and the mobile unit traveling to the villages of Dukagjini Region. The organization has implemented over 30 projects providing social and rehabilitation services, reproductive health care, women's access to properties and other legal rights, and since 2011 access to justice and documentation of war rape.

Site: <https://www.medicakosova.org/index>

Country: Macedonia

Organisation: Akcija Zdruzenska, Skopje

Representative: Suzana Grozdanovska Filevska

Field of work: Akcija Zdruzenska is a non-profit organization established in July 2004 within the framework of the strategic transformation of Women's Programme of the Foundation Open Society Institute – Macedonia. The work of the organization is based upon extensive experience in developing and implementing programmes for promotion of gender equality and women's rights. The mission of Akcija Zdruzenska is to contribute to the advancement of gender equality, by advocating the development and implementation of public policies for achieving equal opportunities for women and men, social inclusion and respect women's human rights.

Site: <http://zdruzenska.org.mk/en/>

Country: Macedonia

Organisation: National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence “Voice against Violence”, Skopje

Representative: Elena Dimushevska

Field of work: The Network is formed by Macedonian civil society organisations that are engaged in the field of preventing and dealing with the issue of violence against women, including domestic violence. The mission of the Network is to coordinate the actions of civil society organisations in order to improve the policies and practices for dealing with violence against women and domestic violence. The Network strives to ensure the enforcement and promotion of women's human rights in the Republic of Macedonia.

Site: <http://www.glasprotivnasilstvo.org.mk>

Country: Macedonia

Organisation: REACTOR – Research in Action, Skopje

Representative: Sneshka Ilikj

Field of work: REACTOR is committed to facilitating Macedonia's EU integration process by providing timely and relevant research, proposing evidence-based policy alternatives and actively working with the policy community. REACTOR is also committed to conducting research on the status of women and using the data to promote gender equality in the policy-making processes. Reactor's main strategic objective has always been to provide relevant, up-to-date and thoroughly researched data with the purpose of informing the policy process in our target areas. Reactor as an organisation is involved in many advocacy activities, including consultation for the EC progress report, contribution towards CERD shadow report and ICCPR submission, and meetings with the parliamentary commission on gender equality. Reactor is also a member of the Gender Equality Platform, which comprises 21 diverse organisations that work towards advancing gender equality.

Site: <http://www.reactor.org.mk>

Country: Montenegro

Organisation: Women's Rights Center – WRC, Podgorica

Representative: Maja Raicevic

Field of work: WRC is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-religious organisation that fights for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, helps women get access to justice, and develops a gender-equal democratic practice in cooperation with all relevant national and international stakeholders in Montenegro. Through advocacy, monitoring and promotion of women's creativity, WRC is improving conditions and social atmosphere in which women exercise their rights. WRC advocates gender equality as one of the priorities of Montenegro in the European integration process.

Site: <http://womensrightscenter.org/en/>

Country: Serbia

Organisation: ASTRA – Anti Trafficking Action, Belgrade

Representative: Isidora Petrovic

Field of work: Astra is a Belgrade-based organisation established in 2000 as the first actor to raise the issue of human trafficking in Serbia. ASTRA applies a comprehensive approach to the human trafficking problem, i.e. deals with all forms of human trafficking and all categories of survivors – women, children and men, focusing its activities concurrently on prevention, education, public awareness raising, direct victim assistance and reintegration, research and networking. Since 2002, ASTRA has been running an SOS hotline for victims of trafficking, still the only one in Serbia. It has developed a network of 30 specialised lawyers, as well as a network of 20 psychotherapists trained to work with trafficking trauma. In 2007, ASTRA opened a daily center, primarily for victims who do not live in shelters. It has also built and provided training to the Serbian anti-trafficking network. ASTRA is a member of the world-wide anti trafficking GAATW network and European anti-trafficking NGO platform. ASTRA is also a member of prEUgovor/Prenup, coalition monitoring the process of EU integration.

Site: www.astra.rs

Country: Serbia

Organisation: Autonomous Women's Center, Belgrade

Representative: Tanja Ignjatovic

Field of work: Autonomous Women's Centre (AWC) was founded in 1993 with the aim to organise support for women survivors of male violence. In the first six years, the work was mainly focused on providing support to women refugees, women raped during the war and women survivors of any type of violence. After the turnover of the Milosevic's regime in 2000, the AWC started to work on lobbying the government and the state for laws, protocols and standards in the field of

violence against women. The main goal of AWC is to advocate women's human rights and gender equality in order to prevent/decrease the violence against women and strengthen the democratic society. AWC is now a member of a coalition of NGOs in Serbia called prEUgovor ("PreNup"), that participates in EU accession processes, writes reports and builds its own capacities to be an equal partner during the process.

Site: <https://www.womenngo.org.rs/en/>

Country: Serbia

Organisation: Catalysta, Belgrade

Representative: Ksenija Perisic

Field of work: Center for education and counseling – Catalysta was established in 2011, with the aim of achieving objectives in the field of protecting the rights of young women and girls and combating violence against girls and young women. They work on projects related to improving the observance of young women and girls' rights, combating gender-based violence, and providing gender-sensitive psychological support, prevention and education.

Site: <http://www.katalista.org.rs/index.php/en/>

Country: Serbia

Organisation: Sandglass, Krusevac

Representative: Snezana Jakovljevic

Field of work: Sandglass creates meeting places for women – politicians, journalists, trade unions representatives and NGOs active in the municipality – in order to build and strengthen networks. Sandglass runs a women's centre that aims to improve women's awareness of social issues and increase women's political participation. They also educate young women so that they can become trainers in women's rights.

Site: www.ngo-sandglass.org