



**C E S I**

**Centar za edukaciju i savjetovanje žena  
Center for Education and Counselling of Women**

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2001

CESI is a women's non-governmental, not-for-profit organization founded on March 8th 1997 - International Women's Day, as a response to problems of the violation of human rights, in particular women's and minority rights, militarism, nationalism and the deterioration of economic standard in the post-war period. CESI has been established by activists and members of women's and peace initiatives, who have years of experience in working with women – survivors of war traumas. CESI's basic team consists of 10 members, and large number of associates and volunteers through their work contributes to our development and realisation of our goals.

CESI is a member of Women's Network Croatia, Union Anti-War Campaign Croatia and international networks: ASTRA – Women's network for sexual and reproductive health and rights of women in Central and Eastern Europe, World's Network for Reproductive Rights and South East European Educational Co-operation Network. We are

members of the Balkan Countries' Women's Network and focal point for Croatia of the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW-GAINS).

CESI is active all over Croatia, paying special attention to the needs of women in geographically neglected, war affected areas.

In year 2001, we have conducted programmes, as planned: The Education and Support of Women's and Other Civil Initiatives, Women's Human Rights and Building Gender Awareness. There were about 5000 beneficiaries, participating in one way or the other, in our activities.

The Centre for Education and Counselling Women's mission is working on advancement of women's status and the building of civil society.

Our goals are to promote values of gender equality, to promote and protect women's human rights and to encourage tolerance and creating conditions for a dialogue in a post-war society.

Through our projects, we aim at empowering women in gaining

control over their lives and improvement of their psychological, social and economical position.

## Activity Review

### I. Programme "Education and Support to Women's and Other Civil Initiatives"

In year 2001, we have implemented project entitled "Education and Support to Women's and Other Civil Initiatives".

Through our activities, we have directly included over 20 associations and 1500 beneficiaries. There were 200 participants at the seminars and workshops, organised on various topics.

The project goals are:

- a) Empowerment and support to women's groups, civil initiatives and individuals in local communities
- b) Encouragement of the active involvement of women in social, economical and political life
- c) Encouragement of the co-operation between non-profit sector and local authorities in order to resolve joint problems in the community
- d) Exchange of information and networking and building of coalitions

Our target groups are women, but also local communities as a whole, as we have foreseen in the project. Women coming from different national and religious backgrounds are majority of our beneficiaries, which are directly involved in the activities in war-affected areas.

## Activities and Achieved Results

### ◆ Education and Support to Women's and Other Civil Initiatives:

Seminars, lectures and workshops with following topics: management for non-governmental organisations, project proposals' writing, fund-raising, evaluation, leadership skills, supporting the founding and linking with similar initiatives.

Economic empowerment: computer skill courses, information on loans.

➤ Workshops:

- ◆ **Activity planning**, "Croatian Woman", Čakovec, January 13, 2001
- ◆ **Activity planning and roposal writing, and**
- ◆ **Mechanisms of Protection and Ways of Human Rights Violations' Registration**, Union of Roma Associations Croatia, Čakovec, February-March, 2001
- ◆ **Structuring Roma Union**, Stubičke Toplice, March 3-4, 2001.
- ◆ **Basics of Phone Counselling**, Association for help to Women and Children "Rainbow", Zadar, February, 2001

- ◆ **Strategic Planning**, Association of the Unemployed, Zagreb, February 2001.
- ◆ **Communication Skills**, Women's Group Vojnić
- ◆ **Implementation and Project Evaluation**, Association of the Unemployed, Zagreb
- ◆ **Project Proposal Writing, and**
- ◆ **Implementation and Project Evaluation**, Women's group Korak and Women's Group Vojnić, March 2001
- ◆ **Activity Planning**, Forum of Women of SDP, Ploče
- ◆ **Needs Assessment**, for Women's Initiative Gvozd
- **Communication Skills**, for women from Dvor
- **Advocacy**, for women from Sisak region, in co-operation with Agency for Local Democracy
- **Strategic Planning**, for Volunteers' Association "Nada" from Petrinja
- **Project Proposal Writing**, in co-operation with association "Nit" for groups from Zagreb area, September 28, 2001
- ◆ **Monitoring and Project Evaluation**, Woman BiH, Mostar and Counselling Office, Gornji Vakuf / Uskopje, BiH

***Project: INTER DEMO – Integration and Democratisation of War Affected Areas***

The project is part of the programme Education and Support to Women's Groups and Other Civil Initiatives, and the project goal is empowerment of women for active involvement in development of the local community, through education (lectures, workshops, creative workshops and computer course) and technical support.

Project Integration, Democratisation and Development of Local Communities takes places on Gvozd, Dvor and Hrvatska Kostajnica area and over 300 beneficiaries participated in it.

Members of ŽIG (Women's Initiative Gvozd), UV "Nada" (Hope) and Croatian Woman participated in the project (these associations gather women and they are active in their community)

As part of the project, we have organised Development Centres for women in Dvor and Gvozd, where women have participated in making New Year's cards and organised sale in local community and at NGO fair.

There were 15-20 women actively involved at each centre.

We have also organised workshops for members of ŽIG and Nada, with following topics: Communication Skills, Planning, Project Proposal Writing, Violence Against Women. There were 50 participants.

Lectures on women's health have been organised in each of three towns, with following topics: Introduction to Women's Health, Nutrition and Stress, Women and Hormones. The audience for the lectures was rather large. Radio Quirinus and Radio Sisak have often announced them. There were 100 women, attending the lectures.

In Dvor, we have organised lecture for local audience with topic "Growing Healthy Food", held by Ms. Zlata Nanić. There were 30 people in the audience.

Courses on Basic Computer Skills were held in Dvor and Gvozd, for members of women's associations, but also for other women interested in the topic. Total of 82 women has completed the course.

➤ **Providing information on non-governmental organisations' activities and problems in the community**

- Through our bulletin ***CESI Tribunela*** we have informed donors, local authorities, institutions and non-governmental organisation on our activities, but also on the issues relevant to women, to which each edition has been dedicated
- As members of Women's Network of Croatia, we have participated in regular bi-annual meetings, and jointly with women's organisations, we have defined priorities and tasks relevant for our society. Women's Network has decided to formally register, which is going to enable us to be more visible and more efficient in the public (for example, we were not able to nominate our candidate for Croatian Radio-Television Counsel)
- Once again, we were active in pre-election activities, concerning local election held in May. We have distributed materials and Women's Coalition leaflets, through which we have encouraged women not only to vote, but also to question what has been done so far, through slogans "Let's Elect" and "Let's Dismiss".

We have also reacted to sexist attack at the Parliament, when the depute A. Kovačević has insulted the depute Vesna Pusić. It was not the first such case, and therefore it only proves how insensitive deputies are to such problems.

- As members of organising committee, we have actively participated in organisation of the Economical Forum, organised by STAR Network, and under the patronage of the Zagreb City, held in November 2001. At the Forum, the possibility of the small entrepreneurship and importance of the programme and credit lines for women has been emphasised.
- We have participated at the Non-governmental Organisations' Fair (for NGOs financed from the state budget), in December 2001. On our stall, we have also displayed promotional materials of the organisations which have not been financed from the state budget so far (because they were either just established, or they did not succeed to get funds). The fair is place where round table and workshops take place, where organisations' products are being sold, where joint activities are being discussed, and where networking and linking takes place.

#### **4. International Co-operation**

CESI is member of ASTRA - Women's network for sexual and reproductive health and rights of women in Central and Eastern Europe. We have also signatories

and supporters of the international actions, and the World's Population Awareness Week 2002, organised by the World's Population Institute. Our members and activists participate in number of conferences, gatherings and in education both in Croatia and abroad.

All activities were well covered by media, through articles in newspapers, on television, and in radio shows. Promotional materials have been published, and our web pages are constantly being up-dated.

## II. Programme “Women's Human Rights”

We have planned to continue campaign "Right to a Life Without Violence", and educational activities on women's rights, advocacy, multiculturalism, right to diversity, ecology and globalisation. More than 1000 women, young people and experts working with young people have used our educational materials or participated in the activities.

### **Activities:**

- **Round table “Women and Media”** was held in Zagreb. It also included projection of the documentary film "Distorted Reflections", produced by Group for Women's Human Rights "B.a.B.e.". Journalists coming from leading media – television, radio, newspapers – have participated, as well.

We have discussed what is it like to be a woman in the profession, and the way women are portrayed in the media.

The conclusion was that the situation has improved regarding the number of women in editors' positions, but, unfortunately, the owners' structure still does not show sufficient number of women.

- **Round table “Alternative Way – Sources and Possibilities of Non-Violence”**, in co-operation with Centre for Peace, Zagreb and Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights from Osijek. Invited speakers were representatives of the religious communities, politicians and representatives of the non-governmental sector, working on renewal of tolerance and trust.

Once again, politicians "did not have time", so the ideas were exchanged among non-governmental sector representatives and religious (minority) community representatives (Jewish, Baptist, Christian Ecumenical), who have already expressed their commitment to co-operation and tolerance, and media representatives.

There were 100 participants at two round tables.

- **Seminar – September 14-21, 2001**

The Feminist Summer School, organised by several organisations (CESI, B.a.B.e., Centre for Women War Victims and Centre for Women's Studies) has been held, for the members of the Women's Network Croatia. There were 20 participants coming from 15 organisations participating in the education. The topics were: Women and Media, Women's Human Rights, Violence against Women, Creative Writing, Gender Equality, Feminism.

➤ **Campaign "16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women" and project "Right to Life without Violence"**

- Lecture at the Women's Centre Gvozd and Women's Centre Dvor with the topic "Campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women", and distribution of the educational materials
- Lectures at the Police Academy with the topic "Family Violence and Models of Co-operation Among Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations", within the specialist course for officers working on the stamping out the juvenile delinquency
- Workshop for young people at secondary school in Zagreb "Dating Violence among Young People"
- Workshop for young people in Pula, in co-operation with Suncokret ("Sunflower") Pula, with the topic "Dating Violence among Young People"
- Participation and facilitation of the round table of the Office for the Equality and Committee for Gender Equity, held in Zagreb, for students of several grammar schools, entitled "Violence – What are You Talking About?"
- We have created folder with educational materials for young people on dating violence
- We have published post-cards and marked International Day Against Violence against Women, November 25.

◆ **Publishing**

- Cesi Tribunela has been published – two issues, with a 1000 copies. It was distributed free of charge to women and different organisations, governmental institutions, media representatives and funders.

CESI Tribunela No. 6 has been dedicated to the topic "Women and Media", and No. 7 to "Women and Social Rights".

- ◆ The second, supplemented edition of the handbook "There is No Excuse for Violence" has been published.

### III. Programme "Building Gender Awareness"

The aims of the programme "Building Gender Awareness", which has started in 1999, are:

- To advance gender equality,
- To promote development of knowledge and skills through non-institutional educational programmes
- To promote values of non-violence, tolerance, solidarity and gender equality

Through different educational activities, education of educators, providing information and conducting researches and campaigns, we also want:

- To encourage volunteer work of young people with young people

- To expand knowledge and skills of the professionals working with youth
- To inform the public on the problems of young people, related to sexuality and violence
- To develop linking and active co-operation among institutions, non-governmental organisations and citizens

## **Results**

- There were about 1950 beneficiaries coming from city and rural areas directly involved in educational and counselling activities, which is 95% more than planned number, and there were about 1000 participants involved in the research.
- Through media, leaflets and brochures, we have introduced the problems and needs of young people to the general public, as well as the possible ways of the improving existing situation
- We have formed the team of 12 young peer educators. Some of them have started leading workshops at schools and in other towns, jointly with CESI trainers, after they have finished seminars.
- Educated teachers have been conducting workshops dealing with relations between sexes, in various schools in Croatia
- Volunteers have been included in implementation of the programme
- The knowledge and awareness on sexuality, gender awareness and training methodology has been increased for about 1800 young people and 150 experts working on these issues
- Through workshops, lectures and educational materials, we have influenced the change of attitudes and behaviours related to the gender relations.
- We have partially implemented two-year research "Men, Women and Sexuality", and, if necessary, we are going to modify programme of education based on gathered results.
- Based on the CESI programme for advancement of the gender relations, the handbook "Sex and Gender under Magnifying Glass" has been published. It is used for education of young people at schools and youth associations in the Republic of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **I. Research**

Since the beginning of 2001, CESI has started conducting 2-year research, based on the questionnaire "Men, Women and Sexuality". The goal of the questionnaire is not only to establish how opinions and attitudes of young people on gender and sexuality affect risky sexual behaviour, but also to include the result into the real process of education of young people on sexual health.

The quantitative part of the research has been preceded by qualitative part, held through focused group discussions. Students coming from three Zagreb secondary schools have participated in the discussions, and the following

topics have been discussed: influence of the media, influence of the peers, pressures and negotiation / deciding on starting the sexual relationship.

The questionnaire has been implemented on the representative sample of 1000 young people, age 16-17, in Zagreb, Osijek, Rijeka and Split, coming from 12 schools (four grammar schools, four technical schools, four trade schools). The questionnaire consists of four parts, through which young people are asked to express their opinions and perceptions on:

- sex/gender system and gender differences in Croatian society
- expectations of men and women in sexual relations
- issues of risk and responsibility in context of sexual encounters and sexual relationships
- own experience and expectations in sexual behaviour

After the preliminary analysis of the gathered data, the members of the research team are going to go back to schools, in order to lead interactive workshops with young people. The goal is to present the results of the research and to facilitate discussion on meaning and implications of the gained results.

The results, based on the questionnaire and workshops, are going to be used as basis for the creation of the framework programme, which could be implemented at schools. Team for creation and implementation of the programme should include experts from different areas. It is of highest importance to include young people in the creation of the programme and to examine and to take into account their needs, in order to have successful programme.

## **II. Education and Information**

### **1. Education of Educators**

#### **Training for Physicians, Split, May, 2001.**

The goal of the seminar, at which 28 physicians have participated, was to train the participants working in health care, for autonomous creation and implementation of the education on protection of the reproductive health of adolescents, and to raise awareness on the influence of the social gender construct on methods of family planning and their attitudes toward sexuality.

#### **Training for trainers – peer education, Novi Vinodolski, September 2001.**

CESI has organised and conducted seminar for adolescents with topics of growing up and changes, sexuality, stereotypes, communication, power, violence and methodology and basic trainers' and communication skills. There were 12 participants, ranging in age from 16 to 18 years, coming from Zagreb, Opatija, Gvozd and Pakrac. The purpose of the training has been to introduce the young people to methods and techniques of leading the workshop and in that way to enable and empower them for future autonomous creating and leading workshops.

#### **Training for trainers – Building Gender Awareness – for professors**



Training for secondary school professors has been held in Stubičke Toplice, from October 17 till 21, 2001. There were 16 teachers, coming from different educational backgrounds, from Split, Zagreb, Osijek, Našice, Pakrac, Nova Gradiška, Pag and Sisak, participating in this, first part of the training. On four-day seminar, the participants had deepened their understanding of the gender issues through empirical work, and had the opportunity to gain and practice skills of the non-violent communication, group facilitation and planning and implementing the training. The workshop has also served as a place for exchange of the knowledge and previous experiences in working with adolescents on issues of sexuality and protection of reproductive health.

Participants had the opportunity to create and implement workshop on chosen topic, and to create the plan of the implementation of the programme "Building Gender Awareness" in their working surroundings. Namely, the seminar participants are going to organise and conduct lectures and workshops for students and their colleagues in the schools where they work. The continuance of the seminar, aiming at the evaluation of the implemented programme, has been planned for the May, 2002. .

### **What have the professors said about the training:**

*"Thank you for your commitment, based on great work, competence and interest in people. You contribute to the feeling that we are moving on and that we have perspective! That is so nice!"*

*"Thank you so much for inviting me! It was great, and seeing how many great and competent women working in education were at one place especially thrilled me. I filled my batteries with optimism's. We want more!"*

*"Great atmosphere of the co-operation and sincerity has been accomplished. I believe that we will continue to co-operate..."*

## **2. Workshops**

### **➤ Republic of Croatia**

There were 12 workshops, with about 250 participants. Workshops were held in Zagreb, Nova Gradiška, Opatija, Fužine and Pakrac. We have worked on following issues: stereotypes and prejudices, sex/gender identities, sexuality, reproductive health, violence, relations among men and women.

- Workshop "Introduction to Sexuality" and presentation of the programme "Spajalica" ("Clip") for 32 pupils in 9<sup>th</sup> Grammar School, Zagreb

- Workshop "Sexuality" and presentation of the programme "Spajalica" ("Clip") for 27 pupils in 9<sup>th</sup> Grammar School, Zagreb

- Workshop "Adolescents' Sexuality" and presentation of the programme "Spajalica" ("Clip") for 28 pupils in 9<sup>th</sup> Grammar School, Zagreb
- Workshop "Why Little Girls Like Pink Colour" for pupils in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grammar School, Zagreb
- There were 15 participants, teachers at the primary school, at the one-day workshop "Reproductive Health and Sexuality of the Young People", held in Nova Gradiška.
- Workshop on stereotypes and prejudices "Why Little Boys like Blue Colour", for pupils of the 7<sup>th</sup> Grammar School, Zagreb
- At the Youth Fair, held in Students' Centre in Zagreb, we held a workshop "Relations between Sexes", for 14 participants, aiming at raising awareness of the way that social construction of the masculinity and femininity affects our interpersonal relations.
- Promotion of the handbook "Sex and Gender Under Magnifying Glass", and workshop for 14 professors, held at the Grammar School "Eugen Kumičić", in Opatija
- Within the seminar "Identity and Hug", in Fužine, we held a workshop "Sex / Gender Identities" for 28 participants, ranging in age from 15 to 20 years.
- Workshop, which was, among others, led by peer educators, "Being a Women and/or a Man: Our Experiences and Social Context" has been held for group of young people from Pakrac.

➤ **Regional Workshops**

1. January 19 –26, 2001. Banja Luka, BiH  
Training for trainers "Building Gender Awareness", for 20 members of non-governmental organisations from Federation and Republic of Srpska
2. June, 2-9, 2001, Novi Sad, FRY  
Participants of the seminar "Humane Relations Between Sexes" were psychology students. The seminar was held with the purpose of raising awareness of the problems related to influence of the social context on growing-up, sexuality, development of gender roles and identity, and encouraging participants to include gained knowledge and skills into their work with young people.
3. June 10.-15, 2001, Belgrade, FRY  
Seminars "Gender Awareness", for two groups of young people (total of 28 participants), were held in order to promote values of sex / gender equity, non-violence, tolerance and solidarity, and encouragement and empowerment of young people for developing and including gender perspective in their work in the community.

## **Lectures**

There were 54 lectures for young people with topics of protection of reproductive health, human rights and violence. There were about 1600 young people participating at the lectures, coming from Zagreb, Sisak, Vojnić, Dalj, Pula, Pag, Slavonski Brod, Slunj, Karlovac, Petrinja and Dvor.

**Distribution of leaflets** on family planning, sexually transmitted infections and dating violence.

## **III Advocacy and Public Policy**

- Advocacy for introducing sexual education and education for gender equality to schools, through public discussions, round tables, working discussions, continuous keeping up with the work of competent state institutions, formulating the recommendations and promotion in media
- Through media, we have informed the public on special needs and problems of the young people
- We have participated in various round tables and public discussions dealing with violence, gender equality, human rights
- We co-operate with experts, institutions and offices working on issues related to our scope of interest

## **IV Publishing**

- Distribution of the handbook "Sex and Gender Under Magnifying Glass", which has been used for work with young people in whole region
- Educative brochure for adolescents "You have the right to know – sexuality and reproductive health, from A to Z", being prepared

## **Donors:**

Government of the Republic of Croatia –  
Office for Associations (Office for Human  
Rights, Ministry of Science and Technology)  
The OLOF PALME International Centre,  
Sweden  
WHO (World's Health Organisation)  
BALKAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
FOUNDATION  
Embassy of the United States of America  
ACADEMY FOR EDUCATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
Embassy of the Norway Kingdom  
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WOMENKIND, UK  
Women's Aid for Peace, UK  
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ZAGREBAČKA BANKA (Zagreb's Bank)  
Companies: Krka, AWT – Libresse

January, 2002