



C E S I

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

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ANNUAL REPORT

2002

CESI is women's non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation, founded on March 8, 1997, the International Women's Day, in response to problems of violations of human rights, especially women's and minority rights, problems of nationalism, militarism and the deterioration of economic standard in post-war period.

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

Our goals are: promotion and protection of women's human rights, advancement of relations between men and women and tolerance, and creating conditions for dialogue in post-war society.

Through our projects, we aim to empower women in gaining control over their lives and improving their psychological, social and economic well-being.

CESI was founded by activists and members of women's and peace initiatives, with years of professional experience working with women who have survived war trauma. There are ten members in CESI team, and there is large number of associates and volunteers who, through their work, contribute to development and realisation of our goals.

The Board of Directors consists of four members, who are engaged in decision-making process on management and strategies.

The Advisory Board contributes to CESI work through bringing new ideas and visions, and supporting existing activities. Its members are: Andrea Feldman, Blaženka Leib, Vesna Kesić, Gordana Lukač-Koritnik, Ela Kurešević, Nataša Petrinjak, and Marina Škrabalo.

CESI is member of the Women's Network of Croatia, The Union of AntiWar Campaign Croatia, as well as international networks: ASTRA - CEE / CIS European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Global Reproductive Rights Network, South East European Educational Cooperation Network. We are members of Balkan Women's Network, and focal point for Croatia for UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW-GAINS).

Activity Overview

Our activities in 2002 were conducted within one of three programmes framework: Support, Education and Development of Women's and Other Civil Initiatives, Women's Human Rights and Building Gender Awareness. About 5 000 beneficiaries have directly participated in activities, in different ways.

Support, Education and Development of Civil Initiatives Programme

This programme has been conducted by CESI for several years now, through organising workshops, seminars, lectures, as well as through publishing.

The project goals are:

- Empowering and supporting women's groups, civil initiatives and individuals,
- Encouraging women to actively involve in social, economical and political life,
- Exchange of information and building networks and coalitions
- Encouraging co-operation between non-profit sector and local authorities, in order to resolve joint problems in the community

Conducted activities:

- Lectures for women's groups and initiatives, with topics as follows: women's health; reproductive health; domestic violence; nutrition and stress;

hormones; cancer prevention; biodynamic growing food in Dvor, Gvozd, Hrvatska Kostajnica and Sisak. There were over 200 participants.

- Seminars and workshops held in Croatia and regionally, for over 400 participants:
 - Strategic planning, continued, for Volunteers' Association "Nada" ("Hope"), Petrinja;
 - Multiculturalism, in co-operation with association NIT, Zagreb,
 - Multiculturalism, in co-operation with IRC, Pakrac
 - Proposal Writing, for new associations, organised by IRC, Petrinja
 - Communication Skills, Gvozd.

- Trust Building, for women of Prizren, Kosovo, in association with Ecumenical Peace Initiative, Zagreb, and ASB, Prizren
- Consultations for Volunteers' Association "Nada" ("Hope"), Dvor
- Workshop "Needs Assessment" for Volunteers' Association "Nada" ("Hope"), Dvor
- Workshop "Needs Assessment" for Women's Initiative Gvozd
- Strategic Planning, Vojnić
- Activity Planning for Women's Initiative Gvozd
- Activity Planning for Croatian Women, Hrvatska Kostajnica
- SEEN Network (South-East Europe Environmental Organisations) international conference, organised by Green Action, Zagreb

"Women and New Technology" Project

- Course "Basic Computer Skills (MS Word, Excel) has been successfully attended by 100 beneficiaries from Dvor and Gvozd
- Seminar "Women's Activism On-line" has been held in November 2002; there were 14 participants, coming from 9 organisations. They were given manual "Basics of Internet - Woman On-line", which is being used for this type of education.

"Empowering Women in Gvozd, Dvor and Vojnić Local Communities" Project

The project goal is to strengthen local initiatives through providing technical support, education and support in concrete projects, and in that way to work on improving position of women and to contribute to reintegration of population in war torn communities. The project has begun in 2002 and continues in 2003.

We work on three projects jointly with women from three initiatives. With Women's Group Vojnić we work on creating activities relating to establishing and equipping Multipurpose Open Centre; with Women's Club Dvor we work on starting and organising Internet Centre, with different activities for the community; with Women's Initiative Gvozd we work on economical empowerment, building business plan and starting curtain-sewing project. The workshop Social Mobilisation has been organised within the project.

"Women's Rights" Programme

CESI works on the programme of promotion of and advocating for women's human rights, in order to achieve equality and to decrease discrimination in practice. Within the programme, double - issue (No. 8) of CESI Tribunela magazine has been published, with title "Right to Diversity". This topic has included minority groups' problems, problems of persons with disabilities, coping with prejudices and racial discrimination. At the same occasion, we have presented two non-governmental organisations, and provided information on our research dealing with adolescents' perceptions of sexism. Tribunela has been published in 700 copies and sent to 500 addresses.

As members of Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, we have participated at 9th international meeting in Toronto, Canada, and prepared report on status of reproductive rights in Croatia for network's magazine.

We have also participated in the programme of specialist course for police officers working on the stamping out the juvenile delinquency, where we have held the lecture "Possibilities of Co-operation Between Non-governmental Organisations and Institutions".

Our web site, renewed and refreshed, was moved to the new address www.cesi.hr

"Building Gender Awareness" Programme

Through our programme "Building Gender Awareness", which has been implemented since beginning 1999, we want to:

- advance relations between men and women,
- promote development of knowledge and skills through non-institutional educational programmes,
- promote values of non-violence, tolerance, solidarity and gender equality.

Besides that, through different educational activities, education of educators, providing information, conducting researches and campaigns, we aim at:

- encouraging young people to work with young people on volunteer basis
- increasing professional knowledge and skills of professionals working with young people
- informing the public on young people's issues regarding sexuality and violence
- developing networking and active co-operation among institutions, non-governmental organisations and citizens.

Results

- Through trainings for trainers, 60 professors and adolescents have been qualified for conducting programme Building gender awareness and education for human rights in their schools, and they do it on volunteer basis.
- Through lectures and workshops, 2847 young people have received additional information and increased their knowledge on sexuality, reproductive health, dating violence.
- In April 2002, CESI has created web page "SEZAM - Sexual Education for Young People", which provides complete and tested information on complex issues related to sexuality, dating violence and protecting their rights. The page has won the first award at the EMC festival "Media and Health", held under Ministry of Health patronage.
- Brochure "You have right to know - sexuality and reproductive health from A to Z" has been published in 34 000 copies, and distributed to high school students.
- The Initiative for Introducing Sexual Education to Schools has been founded. At the meetings, conception and strategy for introducing sexual education to schools has been agreed on, and these ideas have been presented to Ministry of Education and Sports, as well.
- The final report of the research based on the questionnaire "Men, Women and Sexuality" has been prepared. In this research, we have tried to establish ways in which opinions and attitudes that young people have on gender issues and sexuality affect sexual behaviour. Report also contains recommendations for including research results in process of education of young people on sexuality.
- The co-operation with institutions has been advanced. The broad public has been informed on young people's issues related to respecting their rights, violence, and sexuality.

Activities

I Research

At the beginning of 2001, CESI has started conducting two-year research based on the questionnaire "Men, Women, Sexuality", which has already been used by Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research, within "Living for Tomorrow" project. The final goal of the questionnaire is not only to establish ways of influence that young people's opinions and attitudes on relations between men, women and sexuality have on risky sexual behaviour, but also to include those results in real process of education of young people on sexual health.

From October 2001 till April 2002, the questionnaire has been applied on representative sample of 995 young people, 16 to 17 years old, coming from 12 schools, in Zagreb, Osijek, Rijeka and Split. The questionnaire is divided into

four parts, in which young people are asked to express their opinions and perceptions on:

- gender system and gender differences in Croatian society;
- boys' and girls' expectations within sexual relations context;
- risk and responsibility issues within sexual encounters / relationships;
- participants' personal experiences and expectations in sexual behaviour.

The report on the research, entitled "The Significance of Gender in the Attitudes and Sexual Behaviour of Croatian Adolescents", in Croatian and English language, will be available in early 2003.

We hope that the results will be used as basis for creating gender sensitive programme of sexual education, and therefore the final chapter contains concrete recommendations for creating draft programme, which could be applied at schools.

II Education and Informing

➤ Education of Educators

- Education of educators "Building Gender Awareness" - follow up
- Education of educators "Building Gender Awareness" - seminar for professors coming from all over Croatia
- Human Rights Methodology - seminar for primary and secondary school professors from Sisak - Moslavina County
- **Peer education**

Continuous education and support for girls from Administrative School, who conduct programme "Building Gender Awareness" in their school.

➤ Seminars

Two seminars "Human Rights and Gender Awareness", in co-operation with CARE International were held for members of youth NGOs, coming from Eastern and Central Croatia, and from Dalmatia and Istria region.

➤ Workshops

- "Sex and Gender", within Miramida 10+, for participants from Serbia and Macedonia
- "Dating Violence", four workshops for Geodesy School students, in Zagreb
- "Violence", for Administrative School, Zagreb
- Series of workshops for girls from Administrative School with topics: gender identities, violence, empowerment, feminism
- Workshops on sexuality for several groups from Administrative School, Zagreb
- Workshop "Sexuality" in co-operation with the local library for elementary school students in Dvor
- "Human Rights" for professors of secondary school in Hrvatska Kostajnica and "Dating Violence", for secondary school students in Hrvatska Kostajnica

- "Gender and Sex", workshop for trade unions, political parties and non-governmental organisations representatives, within MIRamiDA Partnership in Jastrebarsko
- workshop "Gender and Sex" for Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia representatives

➤ **Regional Workshops**

Training for trainers "Building Gender Awareness" for NGO members from Serbia and Montenegro

➤ **Lectures**

Lectures with topics: introduction to reproductive health, contraception, sexually transmitted infections and sexuality were held in 15 schools in cities, as follows: Zagreb, Slavonski Brod, Sisak, Nova Gradiška, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Pula, Dvor and Osijek. Lecture on sexuality for parents has been held at the Centre for Social Care Medveščak.

Web page

Web page SEZAM - Sexual Education for Young People (www.sezam-hr.net) has been created in April 2002, and presented at art net club MAMA in May 2002. At the EMC festival "Media and Health", organised by School of People's Health "Andrija Štampar", under Ministry of Health patronage, web page SEZAM has been awarded in competitive part and voted the best in web page category. In strong competition, SEZAM has been recognised by the expert judges commission as a visually attractive source of positive, clear and punctual information on sexuality and relations between sexes for adolescents.

III Advocacy and Public Policy

- Advocacy for introducing sexual education and education for gender equality into schools through public discussions, round tables, working discussions, continuous monitoring of work of competent state institutions, formulating recommendations and media promotion

The initiative for Introducing Sexual Education to Schools has been created, and conception and strategy for introducing sexual education to schools has been agreed upon at the meetings. These ideas were presented to Ministry of Education and Sports in November 2002. The Ministry of Education and Sports has offered patronage for the round table with topic of introducing sexual education to schools, and the Minister has asked the Bureau for Advancement of School System to appoint its representative in the Initiative.

- Through media, we have introduced public to special needs and problems of young people. There were articles on the programme and publications

published in Večernji list, Novi list, Jutarnji list, and Slobodna Dalmacija daily newspapers. We were guests at radio shows on Croatian Radio, Family Radio, and Radio Samobor, as well as in Croatian television shows "Good Morning Croatia", "Every Day Events", OTV show "Hello Zagreb", and Croatian television magazine for young people "What is happening to me?"

- We have participated in number of round tables and public discussions with topics of violence, sex / gender inequality, human rights.
- We collaborate with experts, institutions and service providers on issues of interest for our organisation. We have participated in meetings of AIDS Committee when preparing project proposal for Global fund for fighting AIDS.

IV Publishing

Educational brochure for adolescents "You Have Right to Know - Sexuality and Reproductive Health from A to Z" has been published in 34 000 copies. Most of the print run has been distributed. AWT has organised distribution of the brochure to secondary school students in following cities: Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, Osijek, Slavonski Brod, Zadar, Šibenik, Vinkovci, Pula, Bjelovar, Varaždin, Karlovac and Sisak. Brochure presentation has been held in April 2002 in Europe House, Zagreb.

The postcard "I have right to know - education on sexuality and gender equality to schools" has been published in 8000 copies.

The postcard "I am not feminist, but..." has been published in 5000 copies.

Distribution of the manual "Sex and Gender Under Magnifying Glass", which is being used in working with young people in the whole region, has continued in 2002, as well.

Donors and supporters:

Government of the Republic of Croatia – Office for Associations (Human Rights Office, Ministry of Education and Sports)

Mercy Corps

WHO (World's Health Organisation)

BALKAN C&Y FOUNDATION

American Embassy, Zagreb

Academy for Educational Development

Embassy of the Norway Kingdom, Zagreb

Embassy of Canada, Zagreb

OSCE

CARE INTERNATIONAL

COMPANIES: AWT – Libresse, Krka.

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