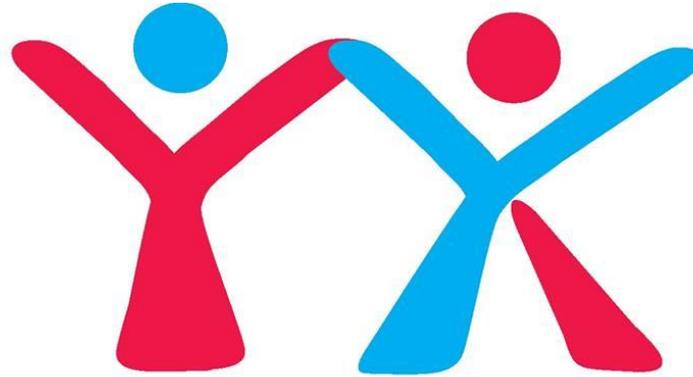




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# G - P C O

**Gender In Youth Work: Perspectives, Challenges and Opportunities**

**Online Journal**



# Project Introduction

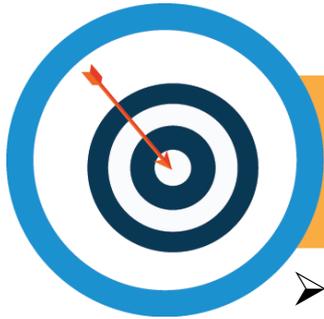
The project brings together 9 associations from Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Greece and Italy. Participants to the 3 activities are youth workers, youth leaders, activist and other young people interested and motivated to act as human right activist for gender based issues. Participants on the local activities (during project implementation and follow up) shall be youth with fewer opportunities, young women from rural areas and young boys and men as a core group but any other young person is welcomed. The whole project is related to the promotion of gender equality for increasing youth participation and involvement on equal bases without any discrimination of gender or sexuality. Partner organizations themselves have expressed a strong interest on this theme of the project. The theme reflects the reality of WB countries affecting directly young people working on youth issues, also other relevant EU countries that are part. Having the opportunity to train youth works/leaders/activists on the concrete themes, and equip them with tools on how to fight gender based discrimination and promote inclusion and tolerance, would be an added value to the work of each partner of the consortium.



## The **Aim** of the Project

The main aim of this project is to raise awareness of youth workers on gender equality aspects through the development of social partnership between organizations from civil society and influence youth association to take action. It seeks to provide information, perspectives and resources for deepening and focusing the emphasis of youth and educational activities which address issues related to gender and their impact in youth work. As well it supports the creation of a stronger network of cooperation among the consortium and provides them with the possibility to increase their capacities and competencies in working with gender related issues, adopt gender strategies into their working agendas and act on local/national level on issues of abuse of gender issues, as human right issues.





## OBJECTIVES

- To increase the participants' knowledge and skills in terms of exploring key concepts like: gender, politics of gender, gender mainstreaming, ethics related issues in youth training's and projects etc;
- To improve understanding of gender equality and gender mainstreaming at European and national level.
- To raise awareness about the complexity of gender equality in multicultural societies;
- To make comparative analysis of the structures of gender equality machinery in the countries involved.
- To exchange good practice on the implementation of innovative measures in the partner countries to promote gender equality.
- To develop tools for action for youth workers in local level of gender equality/inequality.
- To promote Erasmus + as a great programme to empower youth workers



## ACTIVITY 1—TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH WORKERS

The first activity held within the project was a training course, held in Stip, Macedonia, from 1<sup>st</sup> until 8<sup>th</sup> of April. This training course was hosted and organized by PEL, our partner organization from FYROM Macedonia, very experienced in gender issues and with a great capacity to host international events. This organization provided one trainer and one staff for the training. The training course addressed challenges and creating opportunities for gender equality, equity, with a particular emphasis on gender based violence issues. The main milestone to be achieved by this activity was to bring together 27 youth workers/leaders/activists trained in gender matters, gender equality and equity, gender mainstreaming and training them on how to address and work with gender based violence situations.





## ACTIVITY 1—TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH WORKERS

It was almost fully achieved, but during the training course, we had one missing participant from Italy, who could not be physically present due to some personal problems. Besides this, the participation of the other 26 participants was to be applauded, since they were very active and they generously contributed to the efficiency of each session by sharing their work experience, country challenges and personal resolutions to the topics evoked. 4 trainers and facilitators worked hard to make the process of training run smoothly, out of whom, 1 trainer and 1 staff were provided by our partner organization PEL.





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## ACTIVITY 2— YOUTH EXCHANGE

Youth Exchange focusing on gender based violence in the eyes of young people. To be organised and hosted by AfS in Pogradec, Albania from 15-23 May 2016. AfS is also experienced in youth work with young people in the region, and tackling especially gender based violence and approaches towards rural areas. 46 participants





## ACTIVITY 2— YOUTH EXCHANGE

The second activity was a youth exchange, held in Pogradec, Albania, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. The main focus of this youth exchange was to bring a perspective on gender based violence in the eyes of young people and have their ideas shared and discussed. This youth exchange was organized and hosted by AfS, with its expertise in youth work in the region, and its previous experience on tackling gender based violence issues, particularly approaching rural areas. In this youth exchange, there were in total 36 participants, 9 team leaders for each representative country and also one staff from AfS to facilitate the process, as foreseen in the project application.





## ACTIVITY 2— YOUTH EXCHANGE

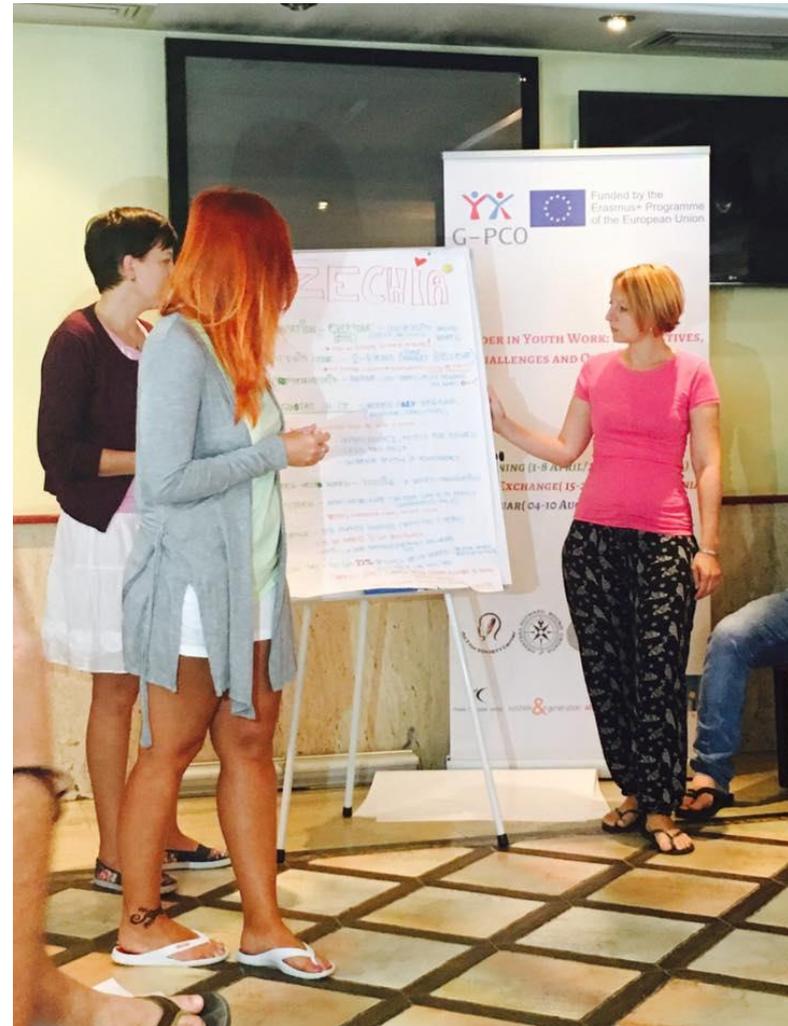
The main milestone to be achieved by this youth exchange was to gather 45 young people to discuss and explore the problems related to gender based violence on each country, emphasizing the need to react and prevent this phenomenon among youth. During this youth exchange, there were produced videos, blog writings, articles, theater forum, and also a flash mob in the center of the city Pogradec, where the youth exchange was hosted.





## ACTIVITY 3— SEMINAR

The third activity was a seminar held in Tirana, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of August. The main focus of this activity was to address different perspectives on gender issues and also to create further opportunities on regard of youth work based on gender. The main milestone of this activity was to bring together 27 youth workers and tackle the topic of everyday responses to violence in everyday life and how can youth work help to minimize it and support the victims of gender based violence.





## ACTIVITY 3— SEMINAR

As part of this activity, a fieldwork survey was made by the participants in local level and recommendations on how to deal with gender in youth work came up as a result at the end of the seminar. As for the participants, we had full participation by each partner organization from representative countries, but there were two issues concerning the participation: one participant from Turkey was aged 16 and another participant from Greece was almost 18 years old, which means under the official age of 20 to participate in the seminar. These were the only issues we encountered during the process of education in the seminar.

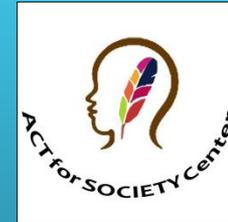




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## ACT for SOCIETY Albania



ACT for SOCIETY Centre Mission is to enhance the healthy lifestyles and stimulate the sustainable development of society, it's work consists on promoting culture, advocating for democracy and human right issues, connecting young's, stimulating the active participation in the social live and decision-making processes.

ACT for SOCIETY Centre, was established in January 2012.

ACT for SOCIETY Centre believes in the power of change. It aims at making this change happen through "...new, creative, and effective strategies and initiatives..." ACT for SOCIETY Centre recognizes that Albanian's young democracy must become increasingly self-reliant and lead its own development. In the current situation, the pressing need is to encourage a greater capacity development, awareness, and participation by Albanian institutions and local communities.



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## Youth Power Bosnia & Herzegovina



NGO YP was established in January 2013 by group of young people who had experience in working in different NGO's, and had initiative for establishment of YP. YP creates a society in which young people are respected, successful and have opportunity to develop their potentials. We are working on promotion of healthy lifestyles, non-violent behaviour, gender equality, connecting young, active participation in social life and decision-making, volunteerism, promoting culture, advocating for democracy and human rights.

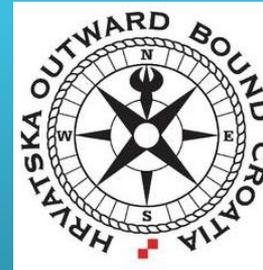
Programs that we are implementing:

- Prevention of violence (three schools in Herzegovina – Neretva Canton – Mostar, Jablanica and Konjic);
- Youth in action (EVS, Youth exchange, Youth trainings) (Cultural diversity; Bridge of better beginnings; etc.);
- MasterPeace clubs Bosnia and Herzegovina (peace building actions through clubs).

YP have 14 employees on 3 programs and 30 volunteers (psychologists, pedagogues, social worker, peer educators, counsellors);



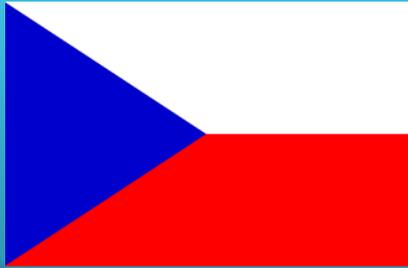
## Outward Bound Croatia



Outward Bound Croatia is a member of Outward Bound International whose experiential educational programs are recognized in over 30 countries around the world as a valuable enrichment of the classic school system. The main field of activity is organization and implementation of innovative outdoor programs for school children and youth, with special concern to youth with fewer opportunities, like children from broken families, youth with behavioral problems, youth facing post-war reconciliation difficulties and so on. Programs include courses in nature, teaching various technical skills and sports, learning how to overcome physical and mental challenges and result in building self-esteem and discovering one's own full capacities, which can later be transferred to everyday life. Special attention is also given to social and environmental responsibility and the impact of one's actions on the group and society as a whole. We teach and work by the following values: compassion, integrity, excellence, inclusion and diversity. Learning through experience, challenge and adventure in a supportive environment are the principles we use to design and deliver programs with targeted outcomes like character development, leadership and service.



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## BPW Czech Republic



Business and Professional Women is international federation of women with local branches in more than 90 countries all over the world, with more than 50 thousand members worldwide. It was founded in 1930 and has an advisory status by the UN and participative status with the Council of Europe. Its members are influential women in leading positions, businesswomen and managers. The Czech branch was founded in 2006 and it has more than 30 active members.

The main objective of the BPW is to ensure, that their members: are professionals in their economic, political and social life; are part of the networking, mentoring and lobbying in the benefit of women's solidarity; lifelong learning; are promoting BPW and its activities, and supporting Young BPW; are cooperating with other women's organisations; are supporting Equal Pay Day worldwide; are developing friendships between nations and cultures; are thinking locally, nationally and internationally.



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# Alter Ego Greece

altereg  ngo

Alter Ego Ngo is a volunteer organization based in Northern Greece, Thessaloniki. It specializes in fields such as art, culture, environmental issues, social inclusion and promote and supporting human right.. Many projects are conducted on both a formal and informal basis and through these educational projects and activities, the organization hopes to motivate young people and encourage them to be more active, be better informed and participate in European programs. Thanks to the nature of our work, we are able to engage with a diverse group of young people, all of whom have different characteristics and ideals; there is often a challenge when attempting to integrate those from outside Europe, but the benefits outweigh any discrepancies that may occur. The differences in culture among those who participate make the program unique and offers an eye-opening challenge. Over time, we feel that we have collected many distinctive methods and as a partner organization, we would like to elaborate upon and exchange our methods and practices with other organizations, both those from Europe and further afield.



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En.A.I.P.  
Italy



En.A.I.P. Piemonte (Ente ACLI Istruzione Professionale) – non-profit association – is a vocational training provider operating in the territory of the Piedmont Region with 18 centres. It plays a significant role in the field of the regional vocation training and is accredited by the Piedmont Region for all types of training and guidance activities.

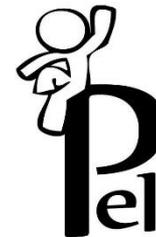
It has acquired a wide experience in the vocational training field with diversified activities addressed to different target groups and users (youngsters, adults, employees, unemployed individuals, with particular reference to weak groups), different training levels (initial training, continuous training, specialisation and masters), different economic sectors (tertiary, commerce, industry, handicraft, services to people, etc.), different professional field (culture, tourism, communication, IT, commercial, plant engineering and handicraft works, etc.).



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PEL  
Macedonia



Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying – PEL is non-profit, non-governmental organization with an aim to improve the situation of young people and women in all areas of social life. This is achieved by promotion of human rights and volunteerism and their values and by making these things possible to all citizens.

PEL was established in February 2000 by young people.

Members of PEL belong to different ethnic, religious or gender groups that live in Macedonia on age from 16 to 30 years old.

Main fields on which we work on: promotion of human rights, prevention of domestic violence, gender issues, community awareness, civil society, culture, animation, volunteerism...

PEL has been working with EVS (European Voluntary Service) since 2004 and has hosted and sent many volunteers. In the moment we are only sending and coordinating organization (2010-SI-33), but soon we will also host volunteers.



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## People to People Serbia



People to People Serbia

People to People Serbia is youth association open to all young people regardless of their economic, social, religious, cultural or sexual background.

We focus mainly on youth participation, educational programmes, intercultural understanding, human rights, but also art and culture which we more often utilize as the working method, too. Within our activities, we promote and apply principles of volunteering, social inclusion, equality in human dignity, participation and empowerment of minorities, active initiatives, non-formal education and informal learning.

On the international level, we have a stable experience as a reliable partner organization and we also organize our own educational projects.

“People to People Serbia” has significant experience implementing projects and activities both at local, national and international.



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## System & Generation Turkey

system & generation

System and Generation Association - S&G was established in 2008. There are members such as EU specialist, lawyer, and specialist of the development, academician, PCM-master, youth trainers, civil servant and people corded to private sector in our association. In addition to this, there are volunteers more than 200 people and %90 of those is between the ages of 13-30. S&G aims at making young people integrated with the society, encouraging their entrepreneurial spirit, helping them acquire knowledge and qualification getting them know young people from different cultures, empowering sympathy and tolerance, improving cooperation and encouraging European cooperation with young people, supporting the cooperation between the international institutions. Motto of S&G: imaging the societal systems of yesterday and today can facilitate the generation of foresight in order to build tomorrow. OUR VISION is to contribute -Personal Development - Vocational Qualification -Employability of Young People by means of facilitating their participation in Learning Oriented European Journey and getting S&G operating at EU Level until the year 2023



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# *Follow Up Activities*



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During the "Open-Day" Activity conducted under the framework of "Gender in Youth Work: Perspectives, Challenges & Opportunities" project funded and supported by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. We distributed informative and promotional materials of this project in local areas of Tirana, where the citizens of the community were informed for all the other activities of this project





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Business & Professional Women Praha II

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G-PCO

**GENDER IN  
YOUTH WORK**



**G-PCO**



Erasmus+



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Aim of the project is to raise awareness of youth workers on gender equality aspects through the development of social partnership between organizations from civil society and influence youth association to take action. It seeks to provide information, perspectives and resources for deepening and focusing the emphasis of youth and educational activities which address issues related to gender and their impact in youth work.



As well it supports the creation of a stronger network of cooperation among the consortium and provides them with the possibility to increase their capacities and competencies in working with gender related issues, adopt gender strategies into their working agendas and act on local/national level on issues of abuse of gender issues, as human right issues.





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**22nd and 23rd October** 2016 on the Czech Job Expo, where most of the visitors are HR specialist and university students, we introduced the outputs of GPCO.

We talked about Gender stereotypes and student jobs abroad. Like always, we used the speed mentoring method to get immediate response from the participants.



We showed them principles which are used on the trainings, youth exchange and seminars and invited them for future cooperation & projects.

The success came soon. We have 3 new volunteers, who wish to help BPW organization during the new year, especially Equal pay day conference and expect new project challenges in Balkan?

We are looking forward to the new cooperation.

BPW team





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G-PCO YOUTH EXCHANGE  
POGRADEC, ALBANIA  
15-23 MAY, 2016



A STORY BY DARIO SACCHETTO

The flowers were blooming. It was a typical day of spring when one of my Albanian friends invited me to join him in a youth exchange in Pogradec. We had met earlier the previous year in another youth exchange in Turkey, so it seemed an intriguing opportunity to strengthen the bond with my international friend, and more importantly, to visit a new country and get involved with a different culture. So, I contacted the Italian NGO and arranged the travel. On the 14th of May my adventure began. I flew from Milan to Tirana, where I got the chance to visit around and enjoy the night life, guided by my PR friend. The following day we traveled to Pogradec by an “off-line blablacar”, which I found very strange. In that moment, I felt the thrill of discovering something new. The first step of what is called ‘cultural shock’ had already happened.



They say that Pogradec is one of the calmest city in Albania. No surprise to say they were right; there was a lot of tranquility surrounding the city. Spending a week there was very relaxing. Besides my expectation to know a new country and a different culture, it had already reached another level, of actually enjoying the country.

The youth exchange topic was about gender. We had a lot of interesting workshop which also involved going around the little city and interacting with the locals. We were almost 50 young people participating, out of which most were from Balkans countries and they somehow managed to understand each



other without speaking in English, so at the beginning trying to interact with them in the free time was quite challenging. Despite this initial challenge, I must say that the communication among us became smoother day after day and it was not long until I created my own network of connections; brand new people entering my life and hitting my walls of perceptions with their ideas and perspectives.



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The trainers were very good and in multiple occasions they had something for us to reflect on. During the project we were able to perform multiple activities, such as group meditation, interactive discussions related to the topic of gender, dance practice and we even managed to perform a flash mob in the centre of Pogradec.



Another remarkable thing I enjoyed doing was biking to the beautiful little village nearby, hanging around by the lake, or visiting the city of Korca during our free day. I have a lot of beautiful memories from those times.

Albania definitely impressed me in a good way. I'd like to come back there in the future and spend some more time going around! As an ending, I would like to give a big 'thank you' to everyone who made this trip a special one for me.



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## Local meeting “Gender in Youth Work- Perspectives, Challenges and Opportunities”

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September

**Topic:** Macedonian case on gender challenges and equality progress was the main aspect on the local meeting, adding to it Macedonian policies comparing to European policies and their implementation and their effect on Macedonia and citizens. How Macedonia has developed in the last years, what is needed to be done, what is the best solution to for these problems, how can we contribute and what exactly can we do.

**Location:** Faculty of Philology “Blazhe Koneski” Skopje, Macedonia

**Participant profiles:** young people/students.

**Methodology:** The first part of the meeting started with presentation of the national laws on gender equality and European ones and giving facts, numbers and realities from the same. The presentation included information of the European policies concerning the gender equality progress report and how Macedonia is handling these policies and implementing them. The project G-PCO was also presented with its activities and aim.





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The next part of the meeting was dedicated to initiate debate and discussion when participants could choose from some of photos offered to them and present how they see equality or inequality on the picture and what needs to be done in Macedonia in order to make country where women and man are equal.



Questions and comments from the participants were enabled leading to very fruitful discussion. The discussion also tackled the role of young people in the process and emphasized their importance into helping reach equality. Burning discussion was brought concerning the national law on defining what is marriage (law saying that a family is only formed by one man and one women) and who can get married and adopt children.





**Evaluation:** The evaluation was made among the group, giving the participants opportunity to share their opinion about the meeting itself and about the project. They were satisfied that this kind of topic was selected for the general public, since they felt there is lack of information about the situation of the gender equality in Macedonia and Europe in general. The evaluation was made through a circle of satisfaction, where each participant could share their satisfaction from the meeting, their satisfaction from the presentation, the moderator and the fulfillment of their learning/information expectations.

**Conclusions and recommendations:** The main conclusions and recommendations the participants made during the workshop were:



Media should report more about empowerment of women and encourage citizens to support female participation on all levels in the country;  
NGO's should be more visible in their work on the topic, include more visibility among young people especially young girls;  
Government should be more supportive in involvement of women on all levels and not to include women on their political party lists just because of the law. They should make things come naturally and promote women as leaders too;  
Young girls especially should attend more activities for self development and encouragement for taking more active role in the society  
Trainings for boys should be made where they will have to put themselves in the shoes of the girls and understand why they need to support their mothers, sisters, girlfriends, women, etc.





## Gender in Youth Work.

Something good happened this year in Albania! All started with a call from the Greek NGO Alter Ego Basement which proposed us to participate in a Youth Exchange which took place on May at Pogradec, Albania and a seminar in August at Tirana the capital of Albania, organized by an Albanian NGO named Act for Society Center. The name of the project was: ***Gender in Youth Work: perspectives, challenges and opportunities.***





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**Experience from Pogradec:** At the project participated nine countries: Albania, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Serbia, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Bosnia & Herzegovina, Czech Republic and Croatia. The hospitality was excellent and the Albanian NGO had organized everything great! We had a very good connection with all participants and we had a feeling of a “big family”. We did a lot of projects, sometimes in groups of people from our country and other times in mixed groups of different countries. We discussed about the problems of Gender in our own countries and how we can do something to change the situation. Also, about the Lgbtqi community which in Balkan countries unfortunately is still not well appreciated. Also we did some workshops like a little act of theater representing a problem of each country and the audience had to guess which country was. One other role playing that I liked the most was the separation in couples which were supposed to get married, of course the couples were mixed, so from my experience, I had to get married with Turker a guy from Turkey and we had to decide where will take place the wedding, how it will be organized and where we will live after the wedding. So it was so difficult for us to decide because of the mentality and traditions of our countries. With all the participants at the last days we did also a Flash Mob in which we had to dance all together a traditional song from each country. So, what we learned from this Youth Exchange was the group communication, and how to inform other people about gender problems in Europe and of course in Balkans!





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**Experience from Tirana:** In Tirana the things were more formal because it was a seminar. We discussed more deeply about the Gender issues in Europe and Balkan countries, but also about the work perspectives and opportunities of youths. Our trainer, Ira Topalli was very informed in such topics and we learned a lot of important things that we can use in our everyday life. The project that we liked the most was the one that we had to take interview from locals in Tirana. What impressed us: some locals didn't know what gender equality was, or they didn't want to tell us. From the other hand there were a lot that proposed also solutions about gender problems. So from the seminar we learned to cooperate with other people, to understand and explain gender issues in education, to take ideas for working on gender related issues.

We want to thank a lot the Albanian NGO which made a very big effort to accomplish this project and inspired us so much to continue our battle for gender equality and rights.





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**Problems in Greece:** Before writing this article we had a conversation about the problems of Gender in Greece and also we took some photos and a video. So, in Greece we have the orthodox religion and the church controls a lot the country. The most common problem of the church is the Lgbtqi community. The church can't accept them and they call them "people of Satan". One other problem in Greece is the Patriarchy. Men sometimes consider their women as their property. Even in some social centers, which are fighting for human and gender rights the opinion of men is more powerful and women are taken for granted. Also in work, unfortunately women are not respected. The most common problem is the work dress code which is taken in big consideration. The work opportunities are not good enough for Lgbtqi too.





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They have to lie about their personal life so as to find a job. Fortunately woman violence is eliminated, but this last months we had some rape issues which concern us a lot. As we live in Thessaloniki, we wanted to share something that happened in our city. A girl was raped next to the university campus as she was walking with her boyfriend. The guys overpowered her boyfriend and raped her. The local society was shocked and some of them started to blame refugees and the situation of refuge crisis in Greece. But of course the guys were Greek! So this was a very bad situation. Girls don't want to be brave on their road at home, they want to be free! Except from church, people are becoming more and more open-minded and especially youths who are the "future" of our country. What makes us happy is that we have a lot of NGO's and social centers who take under control human and gender rights. Youths have to ACT and fortunately they have the motivation!



***Marilena-Anjeza Dilo  
Agapi Eugenidoy  
Thessaloniki-Greece,  
Alter Ego Basement NGO.***



## Gender in youth work project in Tirana

### What did I learn?

In every place of world, people face with problems that caused by themselves. Most efficient way to solve these problems is involving to projects that we all can share our experiences and find small solutions to those human based problems. G-PCO Tirana is a great project to raise the awareness among youth workers and to create an environment that everyone can share their experiences, ideas freely. My improvement throughout this project is unpredictable because I thought that we will just talk about what I already know. But, the seminar included different concept. For example, I learned that gender based issues is not just related with women. Men are part of it.





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The visitor from “Be a Man” club showed me that this club works with boys only and explains evilness of domestic violence to them. Beside this, I learned that other countries have similar problems as Turkey. According to my observations, we are not the only country that have gender based problems so seriously. Our trainer sometimes divided the group based on their nationalities and sometimes based on point of interest. In small groups, we did discussions. After that, we came with the result which will be shown in the presentation.



Most of the time, I presented it and I noticed that I can talk in English without big hesitations. These presentations made us feel as a family and helped us to know each other. Everyday in Tirana, we learned different ideas, life styles , experiences , campaigns, problems that specific for some countries.



Activities in first few days were depending on knowing each other, introducing countries, specifying the gender based issues. After learning the gender based issues for each country, we wrote recommendations that bring small solution to the problems. According to my observations, every group had different styles through the recommendations, but trainer showed us which one can be a perfect one in the way that being formal and acceptable. Besides that, we had an activities to make the group together and harmonized. These activities helped me to understand every human have different perspectives and different life styles. In activity, our task was to make a plan about bridge and explaining it to the villager. The most important part was engineers (our group) cannot do the bridge, and they can just plan. This was really hard activity for me because activity forced me to test myself. At the end of the seminar, we had a most important task because we wrote our own Erasmus+ project which presented to whole group. What makes everything learnable is having a great group to work with. I believe that I fitted into this group very wisely and carefully which makes the seminar more useful. I improved myself while learning new things. Beside, I make everyone learn about Turkey.

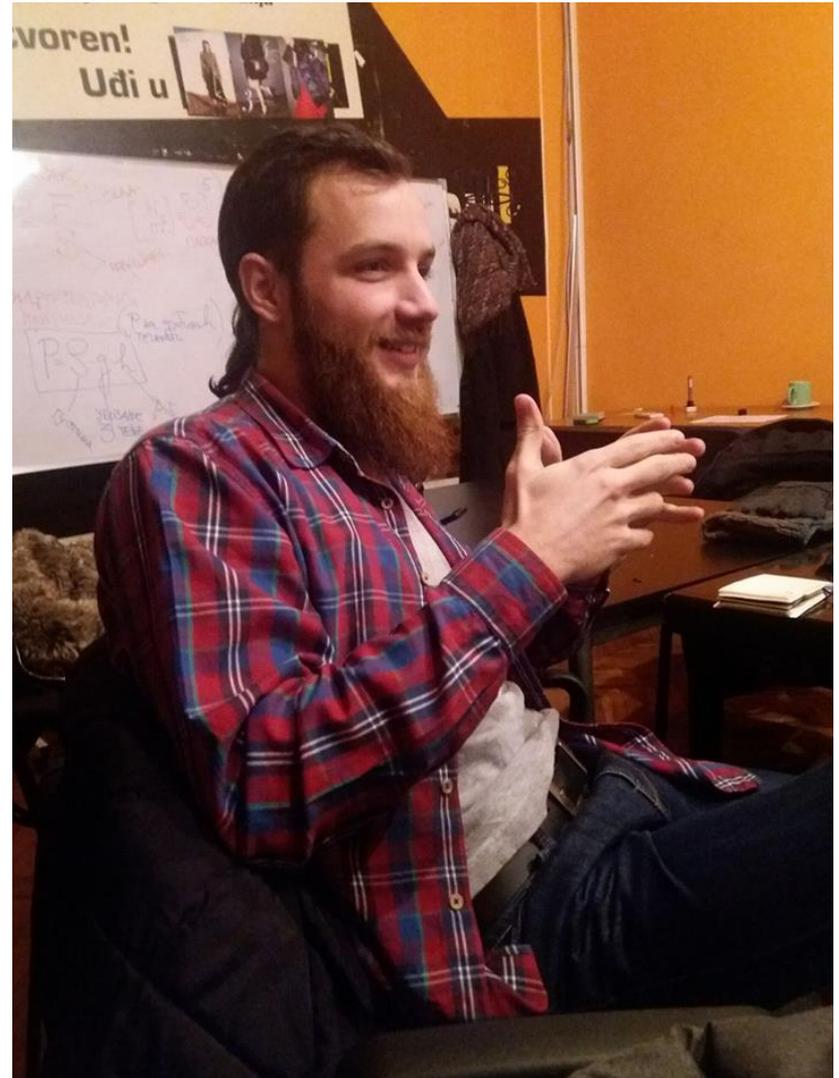




## GENDER ISSUE IN SERBIA

### G-PCO

I had an amazing opportunity to be apart of Gender in youth work: PERSPECTIVES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES” training course and seminar in Albania, organized by Act for Society. Being actively involved in lots of workshops, roleplays, lecturers and activities, I increased knowledge and skills in terms of exploring what are really the concepts like gender, politics of gender, gender mainstreaming, ethics related issues etc. I definitely improved understanding of gender equality and gender mainstreaming at European and Serbian level and learned about the tools for action in local level of gender equality/inequality and its implemetation. After all analysis and exchanging experiences with all participants I could finally go back to Serbia and start raising awareness about the complexity of gender equality in societies.





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First step was to communicate to my environment about my experience in Albania and knowledge I got about the gender issues. I shared my new attitudes and opinions with family, friends, organization and classmates, having strong arguments about what I really stand for. With some of them I was developing ideas about future steps in that road. What is happening from then until now is that organization where I am volunteering put a gender issue on a discussion and work plate, and we did some concrete steps in raising awareness about the issue and influencing our network and community.

The organization that I am talking about is World Youth Wave (Serbian: "Svetski omladinski talas"), a youth organization, founded in 2005 by a group of students and young professionals in Serbia. The idea behind the foundation was to give a chance to young people to represent their ideas, beliefs and convictions, and also to connect students on a global level, through different cultural and educational projects.





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Sounds perfect for developing what I have just learned this summer. Our main project, ISWiB (International Student Week in Belgrade) is a meeting platform for young people with different cultural backgrounds. It is a place where young people get to know each other, establish new friendships and discuss various topics, from different points of view. Our goal is to establish international cooperation and contacts by creating a healthy working environment and enabling stronger bonds among domestic and foreign students.



By promoting the idea of the “citizen of Europe” and “citizen of the World”, we insist on embracing intercultural and European values and bringing them to a global level of mutual respect and understanding.

As theme for this year’s festival is „Youth strikes back“ the idea is to have a workshop that is focused on gender issues not only in Serbia, but also in each country that participants are coming from. On these meeting we are just brainstorming about how the worksop will look like, what to emphasize from the subject, who is gonna be the moderator etc.



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At the end, I am very happy to encourage thirty people in my organization to think about the gender issues, and came up with some great ideas how we can influence our society through ISWiB project and other smaller organizational projects. I hope, and I know, that in the following days, weeks and years, our work will influence a tons of people worldwide, encouraging them to do some concrete steps and influence their society to understand, see and help the whole „gender issue“ situation nowadays.

Andrija Šuberić

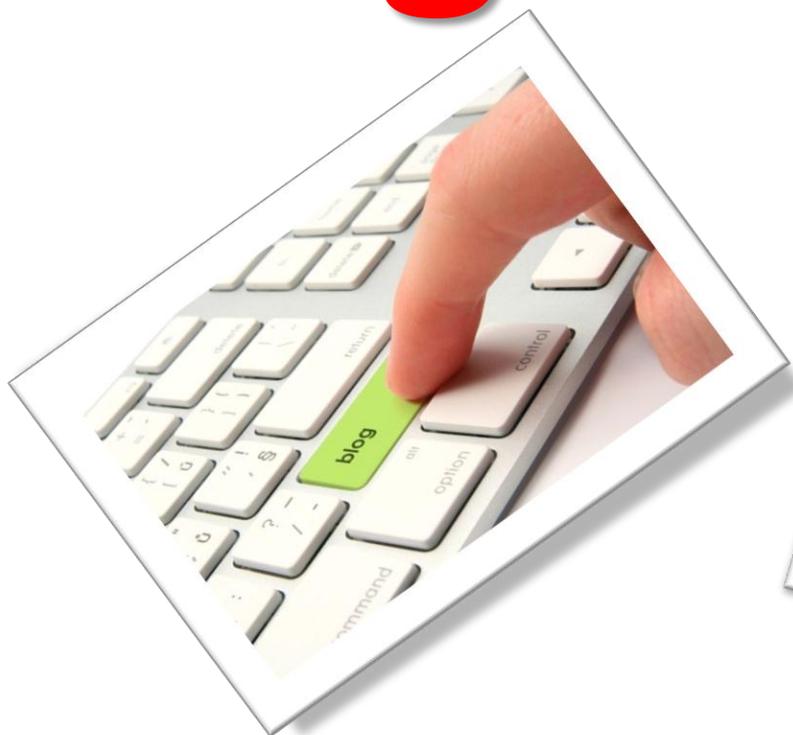




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# Insights...





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The Youth Exchange in Pogradec was a partnership among associations from the next countries:  
Alter Ego Ngo from Greece – People to People from Serbia – Youth Power from Bosnia Herzegovina - BPW from Czech Republic – System and Generation from Turkey – Outward Bound from Croatia – PEL from Macedonia – Enaip Piemonte from Italy and the coordinating and hosting organization from Albania – Act for Society.

Youngsters from each country during the YE were sharing activities and knowledge up to the topic of Gender in Youth Work.

Using methods of Non Formal Education we gather to discover the challenges, the perspectives and the opportunities according to title of the gender equality. In total 45 youngsters were part of the YE plus 2 facilitators and 2 others staff members of the hosting organization.

The whole project was financed under the Erasmus plus Program under the Key-2 action – Capacity Building in the field of Youth for Balkans. In total there are 3 main activities as: Training Course in Stip in Macedonia, Youth Exchange in Pogradecs in Albania and Seminar in Tirana in Albania.





## Non formal education

Non formal education is any organized educational activity outside the established formal system whether operating separately or as an important feature of some broader activity that is intended to serve identifiable learning clientele and learning objectives. There are many methods used in non formal education such as:

- Workshops and presentations
- Group work and teambuilding activities
- Icebreaking games and energizers
- Experimental interactive learning
- Media such as videos and photos
- Dance and sport classes such as flesh mob etc.
- Theater practicing and acting
- Personal development activities such as coaching techniques, meditation etc.





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## **Flash Mob**

Polka, Dance of Tropoja, Sertaki, Kolo, Cardas, Tarantella, Ankara`nin Baglari... If You are wondering about the dances mentioned above You should take a look at the video of the Flash Mob made by the participants of the YE `Gender in Youth Work` that took place in Pogradec, Albania. 45 participants from 9 different countries (Serbia, B&H, Croatia, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Italy and Albania) sang and danced in the center of Pogradec with the intention of expressing gender equality and interculturalism to the citizens of the town.

The group themselves organized the performance that included 7 previously mentioned national dances, song `Oh, Happy Day` sang by two participants Christy and Faby, and finally a song `Waving Flag` sang by the whole group.

The Flash Mob was practiced for two days, and the final performance was interesting, and brought lots of interesting moments.

Finally, each participant learnt several different national dances that also improved the connection among the group.



[Orestes Ioannidis](#)



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In May, forty five people from different countries went to Pogradec in Albania for a Youth Exchange: Gender Equality. The hosting organization of this Youth Exchange was Act for Society Center from Tirana, Albania.

They invited the youth at the city of Pogradec on the very south of Albania next to the Ohrid lake. The Youth Exchange was founded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union.

The aim of this youth exchange was to understand the meaning of gender equality and to get to know the situations in other countries. The purpose was to share good experiences between countries and to avoid common mistakes related to this topic.

These young people spent seven days there. The program was full of interesting activities. Treasure hunt, theatre, workshops and energy activities. The first day participants were asked to introduce each other, their sending organizations and countries where they come from. Welcome evening was organized during the first night so the participants could remember each others names more easily through interactive games.





To get to introduce the local culture and history, the hosting organization planned a game for the participants called Treasure Hunt that means that they had to discover the local traditions, famous people of the city and local monuments. By doing so the participants were obliged to communicate with the local population.

After the interesting city treasure hunt, the young participants gathered at the Intercultural night where everyone had to introduce their traditional dishes and beverages.

The third day was reserved for Theatre plays on Gender Issues. Through this play they had to introduce the typical problems of each country participant and to guess by the play which country was portrayed. The discussion was continued by describing the typical issues of each country regarding gender equality.





Next day was free to visit other cities and to explore more about Albanian culture.

Some people went to the border city of Korca or city of Ohrid or just stayed in Pogradec to enjoy the only sunny day of this event.

Coming to the end of this youth conference, participants had to prepare a flash mob. The flash mob was presented on the city square and the participants danced on traditional music from each country. The local people were looking at them. The point of the flash mob was to show to the locals the activities that youth were involved during this week and also to encourage them to participate in similar exchange programs for young people around Europe.

[Berina Verlašević](#)





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