WAVE Multidisciplinary Training on strengthening cooperation between specialist women’s support services and the health sector in effectively responding to elder abuse

Venue: L’Office, Schottenfeldgasse 85/1, Vienna
5-6 September 2019

The European Network WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe) in cooperation with Empowering Old Age Coop - VoIva will deliver this interactive multidisciplinary training with financial support from the European Commission. The aim of the 2-day training is to bring together key stakeholders from several European countries to address the barriers and gaps which exist in specialist women’s support services to effectively support elderly women victims of abuse, including to increase the capacity of specialist women’s support services to empower older women victims of abuse by including older women’s issues due to aging and health. The training will provide professionals from women’s organizations (e.g. women’s shelters) with the necessary tools to make their services more accessible for older women, including to improve cooperation with the health sector in cases of elder abuse.

The target group from these countries are specialist women’s support services for women survivors of gender-based violence. Participants will then deliver knowledge and materials gained to their own organizations and the health sector in their national context. Experiences and materials from two EU-funded projects, WHOSEFVA and TISOVA, will be utilised in the training. The training will be interactive and more practical than theoretical in nature. A maximum of 23 individuals from both EU and non-EU countries are allowed to attend the training.

Two objectives are expected from this training:

1) To increase the capacity of specialist women’s support services to cooperate with healthcare providers and provide more accessible and sustainable training on serving elderly female victims of domestic violence

2) To improve the knowledge of professionals in the social and health sector on how to recognize domestic violence among older women and how to facilitate victim-centered support

3) To increase the capacity of specialist women’s support services to empower older women victims of abuse by including older women’s issues due to aging and health.

Link to registration: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K8XHN3W
Deadline to register: Thursday, July 25th, 2019
Person responsible for organizing in WAVE office: Kelly.blank@wave-network.org

Trainers from Empowering Old Age Coop – VoIva (Finland)

Sirkka Perttu is a registered nurse specialized in mental health and has a university Master’s degree in public health from University of Helsinki, Faculty of Medicine. She is the founding member of Women’s Line in Finland. She worked for years in hospitals and health centres before a national career in prevention of violence against women and elder abuse. The first tool for screening of intimate partner violence for Finnish maternity and child health clinics was initiated by her and she also developed the emergency care protocol and tools that are in use in hospitals in Finland. She has worked as a nursing teacher and is a qualified trainer of social and health care professionals. After retiring from University of Helsinki, working as a Project Manager responsible of EU –funded projects on violence against women, she continued working as

With financial support from the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union.
an expert and trainer e.g. for Akova Women’s Association in North Cyprus and International Consultant for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2014 by planning and implementing the trainers’ course on Gender Based Violence for Family Doctors in Kosovo. She continues her expertise work as a Consultant for Gender Based Violence and Health transnationally for Empowering Old Age Coop – VoiVa specializing in violence against older women.

Henriikka Laurola, MSc is the co-Founder and Project Officer at Empowering Old Age Coop – VoiVa; Junior Associate at International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC); and Vice President of Emerging Researchers of Integrated Care (ERIC). Henriikka has a BSc in Social and Public Policy (University of Helsinki) and MSc degrees both in Gender Studies (Birkbeck, University of London) and International Development (Utrecht University). Working as a Project Coordinator for a Finnish specialist NGO as well as an independent consultant, Henriikka’s working history includes six years of coordinating national and EU-funded projects for the prevention of elder abuse. As part of her Junior Researcher role for the International Foundation for Integrated Care, Henriikka gained a solid understanding of the theory and practices of integrated care, particularly as they relate to bridging health and social care practices and systems in an efficient and person-centred way for the benefit of vulnerable populations. In early 2017, Henriikka co-founded the Empowering Old Age Coop VoiVa. The on-going EU project activities of the VoiVa Coop aim to enhance the skills of social and health care professionals working with older people to help identify and prevent elder abuse and build collaborative inter-professional and cross-sectional networks in the European partner countries.

Reimbursement of training: It is the responsibility of participants to arrange their own accommodation and transportation for the training. However, the WAVE office will refund all participants upon receiving all necessary receipts and invoices at the end of the training via online bank transfer. WAVE will refund 2 nights’ accommodation (max. 90€/night) and maximum 300€ for transportation. WAVE will also provide participants with a per diem of 30€/day for two days, which will be sent along with the reimbursement. Participants will need to fill out a bank information sheet in order to receive their reimbursement, which will be sent to all participants upon confirmation of registration. Participants are requested not to arrange travel and accommodation until after receiving a confirmation of registration from the WAVE office.

1 WHOSEFVA website: http://whosefva-gbv.eu/
2 TISOVA information: https://www.facebook.com/TISOVAproject/