

Breaking the Taboo Two “Developing and testing tools to train the trainer”

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Research on violence against older women shows, that violence and other forms of abuse often occur in the immediate family. However, violence against older women in need of care is still a taboo and therefore even less visible in society than violence against younger women. Professionals who work in community health and social services are often the only persons who have access to the target group. It is thus very important that these staff members have the sensitivity and skills to detect and assess problematic situations and the knowledge and competence to act accordingly.

The Breaking the Taboo Two-project (BtT2) builds on the previous project “Breaking the Taboo” – that showed that many health and social service providers do not have clear organisational procedures dealing with abuse against older women. Hence, organisations working with older people need to develop standards, procedures and staff members as peer advisors who are trained with respect to these issues. It was also recommended to strengthen cooperation and networks between victim protection organisations and community health and care organisations.

The project **aims** to develop and design a curriculum to train professionals working in the field of community health and social services based on the brochure and the design for workshops for staff developed within the “Breaking the Taboo”-project. The project aims to:

- Enable **senior staff and/or trainers** to **carry out one-day workshops** on “violence against older women within the family – recognizing and acting” with staff members who work in older people’s own homes (e.g. nurses, nursing assistants, home helpers, social workers)
- Train **staff members** to act as **peer advisers** within community health and social service organisations
- Develop and suggest a module on violence against older women within the family for **inclusion in basic vocational training** of staff members who work in older people’s own homes

In the first project phase research on existing training material for social service and health professionals will be carried out. Based on these results and the results of the preceding project, the curriculum with training tools will be designed. The second phase of the project focuses on testing the tools in a trans-national workshop, translating and adapting tools for partners’ own countries and implementing the tools on national level.

The **main products** of the project will be:

- A European research report
- The design of a 1-day workshop on “violence against women within the family: recognizing and acting” for staff in community health and social services
- A train the trainer curriculum in each partner language to enable facilitators to conduct the 1-day workshop and act as peer advisers
- A 5-day joint trans-national pilot workshop
- Implementation and dissemination activities in the partner countries

The BtT2-project is coordinated by the Austrian Red Cross. Organisations from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Portugal and Slovenia are participating in the project which runs from December 2009 until December 2011.

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