

Gender and Intercultural Awareness Network (GIAN)

LL.PP. 2009-2011

This project establish a Grundtvig learning partnership which brings together educational practitioners in order to share pedagogical methods and best practice in the field of intercultural and gender education.

The aim of the project is:

to improve the quality of education by working to erase the gender and cultural biases that exist within educational settings.

The GIAN Project will achieve this aim through partner meetings, an examination of current methods, a series of educational observations, preparation of materials in the form of a training manual, the creation of a website, dissemination of materials and evaluation.

The Project will compile a set of pedagogical tools which will embrace active or participatory methods with an eye toward eliminating cultural and gender biases and will target educators, students of adult education institutions, community learners, and staff of formal and non-formal educational institutions.

The Partners

Waterford One World Centre, Ireland: The WOWC is a Development Education Centre. Our mission is to work in partnership with local, regional, and global communities to educate and empower people to take action on issues of social justice and human dignity. Given the growing number of immigrants to Ireland, the WOWC would like to work toward an intercultural and gender model that supports both integration and respect.

CEMEA Aquitaine, France: CEMEA Aquitaine focuses on the training of adults, trainers and educators who work with, among others, people at risk (young people suffering social exclusion, the handicapped, migrants, refugees) and has a particular interest in educational methods that promote equality between men and women. CEMEA Aquitaine, was part of the national association CEMEA's project aimed at breaking down gender stereotypes and the integration of a non-sexist pedagogy into adult education and became the Centre for Experimental Educational Methods.

CEMEA Piemonte, Italy: CEMEA Piemonte is a non-governmental organisation that works in the social field including education, leisure, early childhood education, sustainable development, scientific activities and media education. CEMEA Piemonte focuses on the training of adults, trainers, and educators that have a particular interest in promoting equality between men and women. From 2004 to 2007, we were involved in a European Project, "A quoi joues-tu?" (Commission Europeene DG Affaires Sociales – VS/2004/0563, www.ficemea.org), the outcome of which was an important training CDROM designed to breakdown gender stereotypes and the integration of non-sexist pedagogy into adult education.

Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz (Assembly of Cooperation for Peace), Spain : Is a non-governmental organisation that works in sustainable development cooperation in over 15 countries and also in value education and awareness raising in our own Spanish and European society. In the educational line we undertake programs and studies focused on support and development of educational activities for peace and awareness. Our aim is to promote tolerance, solidarity and intercultural attitudes as well as fighting racism and xenophobia so that our society takes an active role in the defense of Human Rights.

We have established the following objectives in order to help us reach that aim:

- To identify good practice in the fields of gender and intercultural education through an examination and comparison of current training methods and tools in a European context;
- To challenge gender and cultural biases implicit within existing teaching methods through the production and dissemination of training tools for intercultural and gender awareness education;
- To establish a network for the exchange of good practice and the long-term sustainability of the project;
- To discuss the perceptions of gender and intercultural relations and education within the context of the European Union.

The GIAN Project will address the following problem areas:

- Gender and cultural bias in teaching materials and methods.
- The lack of accessible materials available for teachers and trainers who wish to eliminate gender and cultural biases from their teaching methodology.
- The need for a forum for educators to discuss these issues and how they impact their teaching.

The GIAN Project will take the following approaches:

- Review and share current practices of partners;
- Examine the historical and political context of participating countries regarding the relationships between genders and between cultures, and how this impacts educational methods;
- Identify best practice incorporating the active educational form common to all participating organisations;
- Promote the use of active or participatory education in order to uncover existing gender and cultural "blindspots" within current methods.

The first step:

Meeting in Paris (Cemea)
8-10 January 2010