

Gender Equality Matters – Tackling Gender-Based Violence

Gender equality is a right for everybody

In highlighting the cause of GEM - Gender Equality Matters, let me start this second newsletter, in a series of four, with a quote from Ban Ki-Moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations.



To those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender let me say: You are not alone. Your struggle for an end to violence and discrimination is a shared struggle. I say, I stand with you and I call upon all countries and people to stand with you too.

A historic shift is on the way. The time has come.

Ban Ki-Moon
Secretaris Generaal van de Verenigde Naties
7 maart 2012

In writing this article we intend to give you the latest updates on the milestones we have achieved in the Gender Equality Matters – Tackling Gender-Based Violence project since our first Newsletter from December 2019. The objectives of our two-year GEM project are to raise awareness, change attitudes and promote behaviour changes in relation to gender-based violence generally, with specific reference to violence perpetrated against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community in and around schools. In this project ESHA has partnered with Dublin City University (DCU - Ireland), Social Action and Innovation Center (KMOP - Greece), Research Group in Educational Technology / University of Murcia (GITE - Spain) and Fondazione Mondo Digitale (FMD - Italy).

Over the past few months we have achieved a lot. The GEM website is now fully functional and is linked to our five social media platforms (please find the links to our platforms on our [website](#)). Our social media activities are on the increase and we are getting more and more likes every day.

In March we finished our second meeting at the University of Murcia, where we set the goals for the coming months. The GEM partnership has expanded its network of supporting local and international advocacy groups to further the cause of Gender Equality Matters. DCU arranged for a conference presentation at the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI) Conference 2019: 'Education in Times of Change, Choice and Challenge' in Sligo (Ireland), April 11 – 13. Going into the future DCU will participate in the [World Anti Bullying Forum](#) held in Dublin June 4th – 6th 2019. Free lesson materials and training manuals are now ready for piloting in selected schools in Ireland, Spain, Greece, Italy and Greece.



The first group of teachers in Ireland have already received training in the Gender Equality Matters (GEM) project. The teachers are all based in Wexford which is in the south-east of Ireland. A group of teachers in Dublin have also received training. These teachers are now going to pilot the GEM classroom resources with their pupils in 5th and 6th grade (age 11-13). We are now moving to work with parents in the pilot schools and hope to update you about this in the next GEM newsletter. In case you are a head teacher, teacher or know of parents based in Ireland that would like to participate in these programmes, please be in touch with our local Irish partner, Dublin City University. You can reach the local coordinator Seline Keating on seline.keating@dcu.ie.

Our Italian partner, Fondazione Mondo Digitale (FMD), is organising a GEM presentation in schools based in Rome, Naples and Milan in order to engage head teachers and teachers in its objectives and training activities. Teachers across Italy interested in taking part in the project are warmly invited to contact FMD. The country coordinator is called Annaleda Mazzucato and she can be reached on a.mazzucato@mondodigitale.org.

The University of Murcia is in the process of rolling out “Super Puntalilla: the dawn”. This is a gamified service learning project for children 3 to 12 years old in relation to GEM Project. The school where the project is being implemented is “El Puntal” (Murcia, Spain). The main objective is to work on gender equality directly (each Monday and Friday for two months since May) and transversally (every day under a coeducational paradigm). If you want to know the whole history, you can watch [this video](#). In case you need more information please get in touch with Ms. Paz Prendes at the University of Murcia, Isabel Gutiérrez Porlán on pazprend@um.es.

Our Greek partner KMOP will start organising training for sessions educators and parents from September onwards. You can reach Chrysanna Pavlou at KMOP on pavlou.c@kmop.gr.

Towards the end of 2019 ESHA will organise a Train the Trainer event for 20 trainers for both parents and teachers in the Netherlands. In case you want to be a one of the 20 trainers please contact Edwin Katerberg at edwin.katerberg@esha.org.

As an educator and/or parent, how do you benefit from all these activities? As you probably know, as per the regulations set by the European Union, all GEM project materials that are generated are delivered free of cost and for general use to the benefit of educators. Therefore keep a regular eye out on [our website](#) for events, articles, information about national initiatives and projects (for students, parents and educators), classroom and school resources (for educators), training modules and manuals (for teachers and teacher trainers) (including self-evaluation instruments for schools/educators), and training workshops (for teachers and parents). In particular the Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) for students, parents and educators that will be held over the summer holidays may be of interest to you.

In case you are interested in lending your support to the GEM cause, we invite all school leaders and educators to consult <http://www.esha.org/esha-projects/> and www.genderequalitymatters.eu and/or to contact GEM partners directly.

We hope that you will participate actively and share your opinions on the GEM social media accounts on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Instagram](#).

For further suggestions and/or queries please contact Edwin Katerberg, the local GEM coordinator in The Netherlands, at edwin.katerberg@esha.org.

