



Municipality of Cesena

HERA Research Co-ordination Conference

20-22 June 2011 - Bishopgart Training School, Wakefield























AGENDA



- Brief introduction of Cesena Municipality
- > Overview of policies for gender equality, women and public security
- "Women Project Unit" activities
- "Centro donna" help-desk activities
- > DO.MINO network
- > Staff and contacts



CESENA CITY

- Cesena is situated in the heart of **Emilia-Romagna Region**, in the North of Italy.
- > Cesena counts **97.056** inhabitants.
- ➤ Together with Forlì it's the capital of the Forlì-Cesena district that counts 377.993 inhabitants and 30 municipalities.







CESENA CITY COUNCIL



- Cesena has 30 elected town councillors, 8 of whom make up the political board.
- ➤ The board consists of the vice-mayor and the councillors with responsibilities for, respectively, internal human resources, training and educational affairs, health and welfare, culture sport instruction and gender policies, young people policies, public works, urban development, environmental sustainability and European projects, urban environment and public security, polices for work and agriculture and public security.





ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION CHART



- ➤ The municipality has **641 employees**, including 14 executive directors, 1 General Director and 1 General Secretary responsible for 15 departments.
- The city council has responsibility for a broad range of services such as education, social services, cultural services and civil protection, environment and sustainability, urban planning, public works and infrastructure and public transport.
- ➤ The main political objectives and actions for women, gender equality and public security are set down in the Piano di mandato, the political programme of Cesena council for the period 2009-2014.
- ➤ The Piano di mandato, through the directions of the **Department for Polices of Differences**, confirmed the Gender Policies issues of the past **Equal Opportunity Department** (2004-2009), which established the Unit Woman Project ("Unità Progetto Donna") in 2007.





POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AGAINST GENDER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

National policies	 National Plan against gender violence and stalking → Agreement Protocol preventing sexual, gender violence and stalking → Arianna Project: National telephone shelter for gender violence (1522) → Agreement designed to joint 1522 telephone shelter and Police forces → Agreement for Police Forces training to unify the behaviour in managing victim of gender violence → Project Agreement for database about sexual and gender violence
Regional policies	 ▶ Regional Measure Obj. N. 1963/1 - Proposal of actions and initiatives to joint schools, territorial services, antiviolence centres, security forces ▶ Regional Provision Obj. N. 366 - Support to initiatives against the discrimination and violation of human rights of women ▶ Agreement Protocol against gender violence in Emilia Romagna Region ▶ "Beyond the road" Project against trade, prostitution and exploitation
Local policies	➤ District Plan — Between local institutions (Municipalities and Ausl) The political programme of prevention, awareness and contrast of gender and domestic violence ➤ DO.MINO Network





National bodies

- Presidency of the Ministers Council
- ➤ Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Equal Opportunity
- ➤ Police Headquarter
- Prefecture

Regional Bodies

Emilia Romagna Region

Local bodies

≻Municipality



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

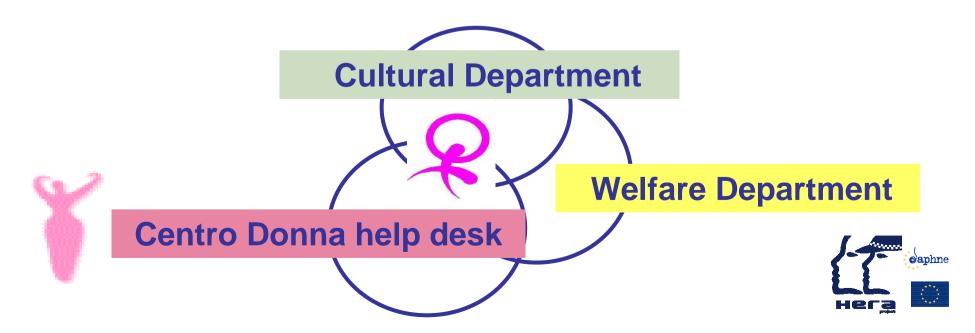


Penal Code	 ➤ Crimes against person ➤ Crime against life and individual safety ➤ Crime against individual freedom ➤ Crime against moral freedom
Laws	 ➤ Law n. 66/1996 – Rules against sexual violence ➤ Law n. 269/1998 – Rules against pimping, exploitation of pornography, sexual tourism against minors and new kinds of reduction into slavery ➤ Law n. 154/2001 – Measures against domestic violence ➤ Law n. 228/2003 – Measures against persons trade ➤ Law n. 38/2009 - Measures in matter of public security and contrast against sexual violence and persecutory crimes

DEPARTMENT FOR POLITICS OF DIFFERENCES



- ➤ The Department for Politics of Differences was established in 2009 to replace and confirm the Department for Equal Opportunities.
- First aim of the new Department was to develop the Woman Project Unit (established in 2007 in Cultural Department)
- >WPU is an organizational, temporary and not structured unit of connection between different departments and services.



WOMAN PROJECT UNIT – Area of intervention

- Politics of contrast against gender violence and promotion of female associations i.e. Women House, a place for 9 women associations.
- casa delle donne
- Promoting Actions to favour the conciliation between life and work: development of a discussion table and promotion of the Law n. 53 to implement part time job, pregnancy projects and family assistance.
- Organisation of cultural events to enhance female role in society and his history: exhibitions, presentations science women, artists and writers.
- Awareness on **gender health issues** together with Health Local Unit: alimentary disease, hormonal problems, menopause, public services available, prevention, accesses to these services.
- Women direct democracy through the Women Forum: an assembly to evaluate and propose to the Municipality relevant women issues.
- Promotion of a gender sensitive culture within the Municipality work place: Gender Balance, Warranty One Committee, Triennial Plan of positive actions.







TOGETHER AGAINST VIOLENCE





International day against gender violence:

- Screening of the movie "Bordertown" followed by a discussion moderated by Women Centre
- Arts exhibition "No violence of gender"
- ➤ Performance by the *Dance Therapy Group*



TOGETHER AGAINST VIOLENCE





The artist of the exhibition is **First Aid nurse** touched by the drama of women victims of violence that he met in his work.

In the back of the leaflet a list of self-defence courses available in Cesena was written to show that is possible to oppose resistance to violence.



WOMEN RELY RACE

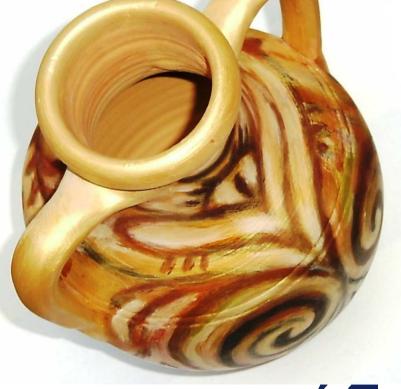
The Women Rely Race was a national rely race campaign of awareness. An amphora crossed all Italy brought by groups of women from city to city where women were killed.

In this amphora messages, ideas, poetry, tales were collected and in the end a publication was done.

In Cesena was brought to high schools were students and teachers put their messages.







A CITY FOR WOMEN – Network of antiviolence services



- **>56** pages booklet with information on violence issues, women rights, with a useful list with addresses, telephone numbers, associations.
- The booklet was spread out between operators involved in managing violence cases, doctors, experts, associations.



GENDER PROJECTS – National and international projects

- 2006 "Implementation of networks for inclusions in detention area and violence on women" European Training Project managed by the Provincial Body Techne. From this project Do.mino Network was born.
- 2009 "Together against gender violence" managed by the Municipality of Bologna that allowed the Municipality of Cesena to do training of operators
- 2011 "Hera Improving Policy Management" managed by the Police of Valencia, that will help us to develop useful materials and protocols for Police Forces





MUNICIPALITY OF CESENA BEST PRACTICES



- Cesena Women Center ("Centro Donna"): an help-desk office providing women and families with social and legal assistance service in coordination with local police force, local health agency and local agency for public order (Questura)
- **Do.mino network:** a common basis of intervention and a chance of sharing knowledge among every service, local institution, association (both private and public), already active on Cesena's territory, dealing with violence and abuses.
- Cesena Women Forum ("Forum Donne"): a forum of citizens and local associations that plans initiatives and projects for the city together with public officers. It is called 4 times a year by the city councillor for gender equality policies and counts many women, some from North Africa and South America countries.
- ➤ Cesena Women house ("Casa delle donne"): a public hall open to local associations for immigrant and Italian women where are organised counselling points on different topics.
- ➤ One-Committee of Warranty ("Comitato unico di garanzia"): a body to prevent gender discrimination and mobbing compulsory in all public agencies.



CESENA WOMEN CENTRE



- The "Centro Donna", managed by Cesena policy officers and staff from Coop Libra, has been active on the territory since 1990 helping women as far as medical, psychological and legal advocacy are concerned, as well as the search for a job. Is a **free service** for all the citizens without gender, nationality, age and civil state ties.
- ➤ Centro Donna helped in 2010 nearly **1.900 women**. **262 Legal counselling** were held approaching different topics:
 - *Separation*: 160 cases
 - Conflicting separations: 150 cases
 - Mistreatment: 10 cases
 - *Stalking:* 10 cases
 - Conflicts between parents and children: 7 cases
 - Threats or injuries: 5 cases
 - Sexual violence: 3 cases
- **▶ People** that turn to the Women Centre are:
 - 92% women 8% men
 - 65% Italians 35% foreigner
 - 42% employed 24% unemployed 34% other occupation

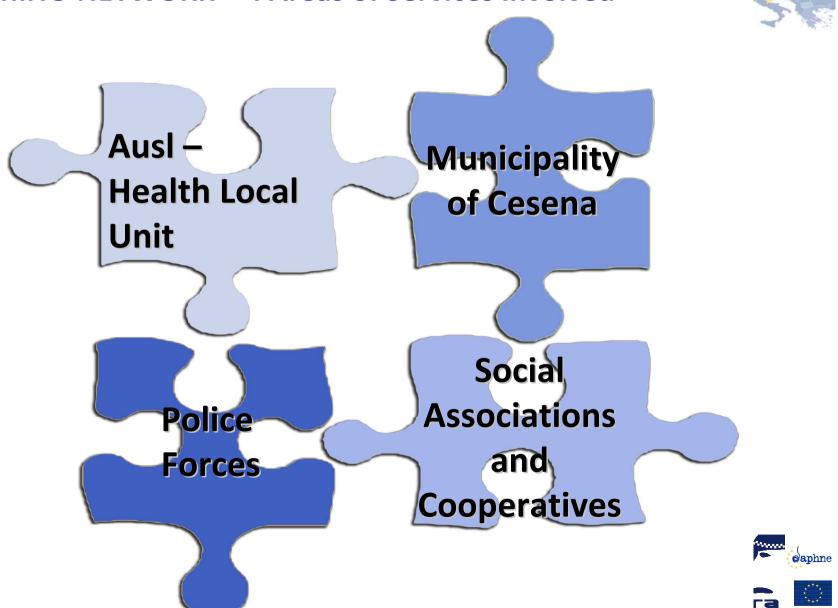


DO.MINO NETWORK – How it was born



- ➤ Do.mino network is a tool of **prevention** and **intervention** in cases of violence against women (*donne*) and minors (minori).
- The project was born thank to an **European financing** which allowed the developing of a training project targeted to social operators, health operators and public security forces, involved in the intervention in cases of domestic and gender violence (psychological, physical, domestic, economic, sexual).
- The spontaneous participation of **Cesena Women Centre** (help-desk office for women of the Municipality) as partner of the **provincial training body Techne** was crucial for the project implementation.
- Cesena Women Centre, coordinating the training project, allowed mutual knowledge and comparison between operators of agencies involved in cases of gender violence, bringing to a socializations of protocols and easing inter-institutional relationships.

DO.MINO NETWORK – 4 Areas of Services involved



DO.MINO NETWORK – Services involved



AUSL – HEALTH LOCAL UNIT

- -Family planning clinic
- -First aid
- -Service against drug addiction
- -Mental health centre
- -Gynaecology
- -General medicine

MUNICIPALITY

- -Department for Differences Politics
- -Warranty one-committee
- -Women forum
- -Cesena women centre
- -Families centre
- -"Beyond the road" project
- -Intercultural centre Movi.Menti
- -Urp Offices dealing with the public
- -Social Services: area of adults, elderly, families and minors
- rannies and mino
- -Municipal Police

POLICE FORCES

- -State Police Police headquarter
- -Prefecture
- -Corps of Carabineers

SOCIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND COOPERATIVES

- -Libra Cooperative
- -Caritas Association
- -Grace and Peace Association
- -Don Giorgini Family Planning Clinic
- -Auto mutual help group "Together in the sun"
- -Associations for women





DO.MINO NETWORK – Main aims of the network



≻Contrasting

Coordinated actions between all the operators to increase the awareness of people about gender violence through cultural and political actions, meetings, exhibitions, activities, presentations, demonstrations, etc...

≻Managing

Supporting actions in case of violence to the victim, in order to offer a first hearing point and coordinate different levels of intervention through a continuous sharing of good practices and the development of a common basis of solutions.

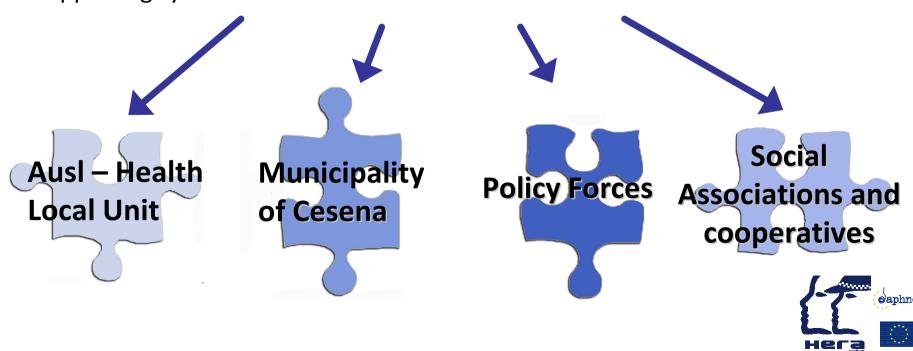
≻Preventing

Training courses in primary and secondary schools to involve students in informative meetings about social, psychological and juridical aspects of the violence phenomenon and to realize workshops about the concepts of relationship, affectivity/aggressiveness, gender stereotypes, gender relationships.





- ➤ A victim of gender and domestic violence can access the network through: telephone call email direct consult with the operator.
- ➤ Each of the different Services belonging to the 4 macro areas of the network could be a possible access point for a victim to the intervention and supporting system.



DO.MINO NETWORK – The first access to the network

- The access point is the **first chance for the victim** to gain awareness and ask for help, developing the knowledge of possible solutions, of her situation and getting acquainted of the territorial services targeted to domestic and gender violence.
- ➤ Operators of the network are trained and prepared and know how to hear the victim actively and with empathy, finalized to:
 - make the victim feeling welcomed and not judged;
 - collect all the elements useful to have an **overview of risks** and to plan actions in order to allow the consequent interventions by proper Services;
 - reassure victim underlining **personal resources** and **tools offered** by the services network.



DO.MINO NETWORK – Tools to support the victim

Many tools are available to help and support the victim:

- ➤ Health assistance (Ausl Health Local Service)
- ➤ Psychological counselling (Family Planning Clinic, Family Centre)
- ➤ Legal counselling (Cesena Women Centre)
- Family mediation (Family Centre)
- ➤ Provision of a home (agreement of the Municipality and of some Associations with hotels, bed and breakfast, laic and religious institutes)
- Tutelary actions of Police Forces according to Judicial Authority (State Police)
- Economics support (Municipality of Cesena, Associations)
- Social secretariat (Cesena Women Centre, Associations)
- Career counselling in order to reintegrate the victim: language courses, qualifying courses, support in work research (Cesena Women Centre,

Family Centre, Intercultural Centre, Associations)

OPEN POINTS FOR DISCUSSION



- ➤ No **agreement protocols** between different Agencies to have a common basis of intervention
- ➤ No standard intervention measures
- > Limited number of homes to protect gender and domestic violence victims
- ➤ Difficulty in integrating women without economic autonomy in work world
- Lack of **local observatory** in gender violence
- >Slowness of bureaucracy to get the acknowledgment of opportunity and changes (i.e. agreement for Police Forces notified 2 years later)



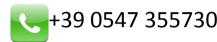
STAFF INVOLVED IN HERA PROJECT



Cristina Barducci – Policy Officer, Coordinator fo the Unit "Service for women" at Culture Dept., Municipality of Cesena.



barducci_cr@comune.cesena.fc.it; +39 0547 355730



Maria Carolina Porcellini – Coordinator of Gender equality area at Libra Coop. Soc.ONLUS; Social and Cultural coordinator and operator at "Centro Donna" -Municipality of Cesena.



porcellini_c@comune.cesena.fc.it; +39 0547 356462



Elena Recchia and Elena Giovannini – General Director's Staff, European and national project office, Municipality of Cesena.



ineuropa@comune.cesena.fc.it;



