

## A European consortium to foster socio-professional (re)integration of women confronted with domestic violence

On November the 12<sup>th</sup> of 2020, the European Erasmus+ project « ACTIV – Acting & Collaborating to Tackle Intimate Violence » was launched

1 out of 3 European women face gender-based violence and over **1 out of 5 is confronted with domestic violence** ([FRA report 2014](#)). Although [the Istanbul Convention](#) provides a legal framework to support and assist these women, the current COVID pandemic reminds us that in times of crisis, they remain extremely vulnerable and often at greater risk. This unprecedented situation calls for action. It is in this sense that the ACTIV project, by improving the collaboration between stakeholders involved in the socio-professional (re)integration of women confronted with domestic violence, will allow a better support of women, and thus **reduce their vulnerability** before such crisis and **better resilience** afterwards.

Composed by a Belgian (POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ-PLS -the coordinator-, and la Mission locale de Bruxelles Ville), a French (la Fondation Agir Contre l'Exclusion - FACE), a Romanian (Asociatia Touched Romania) and a Spanish (CEPS) partnership, this project will **foster and facilitate the socio-professional (re)integration of women confronted with domestic violence**.

Domestic violence has a big impact on women's mental health or material resources and can cause lack of self-esteem, emotional and material instability, difficulties to face complex administrative requests, confiscation of official documents by the perpetrator and restrictions to go out... Therefore socio-professional (re)integration, support, and orientation structures must work hand in hand with companies to provide a global support. However, an important lack of communication and collaboration between those different actors remains. The ACTIV project has been built precisely to enable this collaboration between actors offering a comprehensive and effective support to women confronted with domestic violence on their return-to-work path. To this end, several activities will be pursued.

The first step of the project consists in assessing the existing practices at the UE and national levels, their limits will be identified but also positive initiatives. This research will be used to propose an indicators framework enabling structures to get an overall follow up of their beneficiaries on their return-to-work path. Thanks to their complementarity, the ACTIV partners will reinforce mutual knowledge, especially regarding companies and elaborate in collaboration the learning tools ensuring an improvement of the support. Finally, the project will aim to publish a white paper with recommendations destined to policy makers, companies.

## THE PROJECT PARTNERS

#ACTIVproject - <https://activproject.eu/>

### ABOUT POUR LA SOLIDARITE - PLS

Founded in 2002 by the Belgian economist Denis Stokkink, POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ – PLS is an independent European think & do tank committed to promoting solidarity and sustainability in Europe. POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ takes action to defend and strengthen the European Social Model, which consists of a subtle balance between economic development and social justice. PLS' team is composed of members with multicultural and interdisciplinary backgrounds and works in the public space alongside socioeconomic actors, having as its motto: 'Understand to Act'.

<https://www.pourlasolidarite.eu/>

### ABOUT LA MISSION LOCALE BRUXELLES VILLE

Mission Locale pour l'Emploi de Bruxelles-Ville is a non-profit organization that helps job-seekers in Brussels to overcome any difficulties they face to find a job. The objective is to ensure their social and professional reintegration through a holistic approach. We provide individual coaching and guidance with opportunities for training and qualification.

<http://missionlocalebxlville.be/>

### ABOUT THE FOUNDATION ACT AGAINST EXLUCSION - FACE

The Foundation Act Against Exclusion (FACE), recognised as public utility, brings together public, private, and associative actors in the fight against exclusion, discrimination, and poverty.

For 26 years, it has been a place for companies and public actors acting in these fields, constituting the largest French network of socially committed companies. FACE is an original ecosystem made of the Foundation, its Network - around fifty local structures run by hundreds of employees and patrons, as well as around forty foundations under its aegis. Its work benefits more than 350,000 beneficiaries.

[www.fondationface.org](http://www.fondationface.org)

### ABOUT TOUCHED ROMANIA

Touched Romania is supporting women and their children who are victims of domestic violence, poverty and social exclusion, to remain together and reintegrate into society as independent and productive citizens, through three of its programs: Hagar Home Maternal Center, Center for Counselling and Social Reintegration and Transitional Apartments.

<https://touchedromania.org/>

### ABOUT CEPS PROJECTES SOCIALS

CEPS is a non-profit organization based in Barcelona working EU wide. It is responsible for the management of socio-educational activities for children, young people and adults, and further training for professionals. Expert staff research and develop innovative projects. CEPS promotes a strategic and social view of the use of new technologies, and through participatory practices new models for strategic partnerships are developed at a local and international level.

<https://asceps.org/en>

