

Summary CSO training seminar on European Civil Society Advocacy on Women, Peace and Security (Brussels, 22-23 April 2010)

On 22-23 April, EPLO, with funding from the Initiative for Peacebuilding (Capacity-building and Gender Clusters) and in close co-operation with International Alert, as well as assisted by other members of its working group on gender, peace and security (GPS), organised a two-day training seminar entitled European Civil Society Advocacy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

The main objective of the seminar was to better enable multi-level (EU and Member State) advocacy by Europe-based civil society organisations working on WPS issues. Sub-objectives included ensuring a good understanding of the EU and WPS among civil society organisations advocating for WPS in Europe; furthering understanding about the links between EU and Member State (MS) implementation of WPS commitments; developing objectives and concrete actions for Europe-wide, multi-level advocacy on WPS; and further connecting organisations working on SCR 1325 in Europe.

Approximately 20 CSO representatives from across Europe – from Portugal to the Czech Republic and from Sweden to Italy - participated in the training event.

During the first session, participants discussed the implementation of WPS commitments in different European countries and exchanged examples of successful advocacy strategies.

The first day also included sessions on the EU and WPS, aiming to provide participants with a better understanding of the links between EU and MS implementation of UNSCR 1325 and other WPS-related documents; relevant EU institutions and structures, as well as current EU reforms; EU policy on WPS; and the EU and WPS in practice (including process-related steps taken, the state of play in key areas such as CSDP, and remaining problems).

On day two, participants brainstormed on common advocacy objectives for the implementation of WPS commitments in European policy and practice, and developed concrete ideas for Europe-wide advocacy on WPS, in 2010 and beyond.

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