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More specifically, **four peer review meetings** will be organised in each partner's country aiming at fostering mutual learning and exchange of experiences. In the next stage, a one-day **high level seminar** will be organised in each participating country by the local partner/s, targeting a wider range of key stakeholders, including national and regional health authorities, but also local health institutions and civil society organisations. These seminars shall stimulate participants in providing their experienced opinion on the lessons learned during the peer review process and involve them in a policy/strategy design exercise addressing health inequalities of migrant women.

Synthesis and dissemination of results. The **project website** will host the best practices gathered through the project period along with all other deliverables and reports produced during the project activities, allowing a wide number of stakeholders to search and access them. The **project handbook** will be the synthesis of the main lessons learned during the project with a specific section devoted to the main instruments and tools of policy/strategy used by seminar participants in the policy design exercise for tackling health inequalities among migrant women. A **final project conference** will be organized, where project results will be disseminated among a wide audience of health experts and stakeholders (including policy-makers, social partners and academics).

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For further information please check out our website:

www.bhbi.eu

PRESENTATION of PARTNERS

PROJECT COORDINATOR



Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini

Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (FGB) is an Italian Research Institute on Labour and Social policies established on the 9th April 1971. Through over thirty years of activities, FGB has accumulated a large amount of experience in carrying out research and studies into cultural trends and social changes, following a rigorous scientific and interdisciplinary approach.



REGIONE MARCHE FGB has been entrusted for this project by the Department of Equal Opportunities of Marche Region.

PARTNERS



promoting adult learning

The **National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)** is a UK charity, a company limited by guarantee and a member-led, non-governmental organisation and aims to encourage all adults to engage in learning of all kinds. NIACE runs national, high-profile campaigns, engaging ministers and parliamentarians; supports networking with practitioners, policy-makers and researchers and delivers high quality development and research work.



The **South West Public Health Observatory (SWPHO)** is one of 12 Public Health Observatories working across the five nations of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland. We produce information, data and intelligence on people's health and health care for practitioners, policy makers and the wider community. Our expertise lies in turning information and data into meaningful intelligence to support decision-makers.



ÖREBRO LÄNS LANDSTING

The **Department of Community Medicine and Public Health, Örebro County Council** in Sweden is responsible for health care, dental care, support and service to the disabled, research, culture, education and regional growth. The Department is responsible for basic data for decision making and planning such as epidemiological data, evaluations, agreements, assessments and welfare accounts and also for strategic Public Health Work in cooperation with health care practice, municipalities and NGOs.



Civil Society Development Foundation

The **Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF)** is a Romanian nongovernmental, independent organization, established in 1994, at the European Commission's initiative. CSDF is an "organization for organizations", a supporter of the nongovernmental sector. CSDF's mission is to build the capacity of civil society organizations and communities through information, funding, training, research and advocacy, in order to improve people's lives.



European Commission
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion



Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini

Better HEALTH for Better INTEGRATION

BUILDING CAPACITIES TO
IMPROVE HEALTH EQUITY
FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES WOMEN

Funded by DG Employment,
Social Affairs and Inclusion

Duration: 2010 - 2012

www.bhbi.eu

■ THE PROJECT

“Better Health for Better Integration” is a project funded by the PROGRESS Programme of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and coordinated by Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, entrusted by Marche Region, Equal Opportunities Office (Italy). It started in December 2010 and it will end in December 2012. It is a project addressing women belonging to ethnic minority groups who often present higher risk of health inequalities with respect to the women in the native population or the minority men, due to: living and working conditions, vulnerable socio-economic status and to the multiple discrimination they face in relation to their gender and ethnicity. Partners involved in the project come from four different countries: Italy, Romania, Sweden and United Kingdom. The action will contribute to improving the capacity of partners and other relevant stakeholders in designing gender mainstreamed strategies to tackle health inequalities. The methodology adopted to pursue this objective is based on a mutual learning concept and on a participatory approach to policy design. On the basis of the analysis of their respective national/regional situations and of the learning process spurred by the exchange of best practices, partners will have the opportunity to discuss across the partnership the actions/strategies that could be developed.

Project website: <http://www.bhbi.eu>

■ CONTEXT

In 2007, the European Commission issued the Communication on EU Health Strategy, where, among its goals, it specifically addressed the problem of inequalities in health between and within the EU Member States. In October 2009, the Communication *Solidarity in Health: reducing health inequalities in the*

The project addresses women belonging to ethnic minority groups who often present higher risk of health inequalities with respect to the women in the native population or the minority men.

EU adopted by the Commission listed a number of factors which influence the persistence of these inequalities, mainly related to four categories: employment; income; length of education; ethnicity. Starting from the presupposition that these categories present strong correlation factors, the proposed action specifically addresses one of the four categories listed above, focusing on the problem of health inequality from the perspective of women belonging ethnic minorities. Cultural barriers are one of the most evident barriers to accessing healthcare for women migrants and women belonging to ethnic minorities. The EGGSI Report *“Access to healthcare and long-term care: equal for women and men?”* lists the main problematic issues faced by this group of people when accessing to health services: social status and level of education, cultural differences inherent in ethnicity and migration issues, religious practices, prejudice concerning sexual orientation, working culture.

■ OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to reducing health inequalities among women belonging to ethnic minority groups in countries covered by the action. In particular our work will aim to increase the capacity of partners and relevant institutional and non institutional stakeholders at the regional and national level in:

- i) identifying and understanding health inequalities linked to gender and ethnicity on their territories, its extent and determinants;

- ii) mapping and assessing the existing institutional and non institutional framework for tackling such inequalities on their territories;
- iii) learning from other partners and countries experiences through the identification and exchange of good practices for tackling health inequalities of ethnic minority women;
- iv) identifying and developing relevant integrated strategies that take into account the specific health needs and barriers encountered by ethnic minority women in accessing health services, including their impact assessment and evaluation
- v) raising general awareness, stimulating debate, promoting information on health inequalities

■ ACTIVITIES and OUTPUTS

Building the evidence basis and collecting good practices. The first phase of the project will be devoted to a desk and field analysis: partners will be required to produce a **country report**, analysing the situation of ethnic minority women from the point of view of health inequalities. This activity is aimed at describing the “state of play” in partner countries and at providing them with a benchmark for the activities that will be carried out during the second phase. In Italy, UK and Sweden the country report will have a regional focus, covering the regions of Marche, South West and Orebro County. Partners will also identify case studies and/or good practices implemented in their own countries/regions in the field of health inequalities for migrant and/or ethnic minority women.

Mutual learning and support to policy design. During this second phase, two main types of activities will be organised: **peer reviews** and **policy design seminars**.