

CZECH REPUBLIC

Good practices and success stories on mainstreaming gender equality in education and/or ESD

1. Name of country

Czech Republic

2. Name of organization/project/programme

Femisphera www.femisphera.com

3. Good practice (title)

Mapping of the situation of women in developing countries & the awareness of the wider Czech public (Mapování situace žen v rozvojových zemích a osvěta české veřejnosti)

4. Target group

Primary and secondary school pupils, university students, wider public

5. Brief description of good practice

Czech media still lag behind European and American media in informing the public about developing countries. This is primarily due to historical experience – for the Western media this topic is more familiar thanks to the West's colonial past and much greater percentage of immigrants arriving from developing countries, while for the Czech media this is a relatively unfamiliar topic. The aim of Femisphera is to document the problems of people from the global South, with an emphasis on women's issues, and raise awareness within the Czech population of these issues through publication activities (articles), interviews, photo exhibitions, lectures and film. Femisphera's mission is to present those issues in particular which require some assistance to understand – and the media can do this thanks to their power to attract attention to them. The project is based on the experience that people are better able to understand distant or even abstract subjects (such as poverty, human rights, conflict and violence, hunger and malnutrition) if they are shown particular examples and specific stories of women and children. Stories about the specific lives of women and children in developing countries help to arouse interest and inspire people to search for further information, as well as trigger their desire to do something concrete, contribute or be personally involved in projects to assist in Third World countries.

Femisphera has been active in raising the awareness of Czech society about gender issues in developing countries since 2008 and over the years 2014 - 2016 it is focusing on positive examples of strong women who are able to face adversity, find a way to solve their problems, and in addition also help others and their communities. Femisphera is creating a high quality documentary film based on the stories of strong women from four different countries of the global South. Collecting data and material for the film took two years; in the third year the film is to be produced and

screened at festivals and for the public, and will be offered to schools and Czech Television. In addition to the film material, a number of high-quality photos will be collected for several exhibitions that are being presented around the country and are being offered to schools in particular, e.g. "The Fate of African Women". Various organizations and schools throughout the country are thus being offered documents and lectures dedicated to various women's issues in developing countries. The Czech public is therefore being informed through these activities and is encouraged to become involved on a practical basis.

6. Useful links

www.femispha.com and Facebook profile Femispha o.s.

Some of the documentary films produced by Femispha are:

- "Iraqi Women" <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ivysilani/10119615714-fokus-ct24/212411058110010/>
- "Tears of Kongo" <http://www.obrezane.cz/page16/page16.html>
- "Latim-circumcised", www.obrezane.cz
- "Black Childhood", <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/10265737370-cerne-detstvi/>

7. Useful contacts

Femispha, civic association

Olbrachtova 1061, Praha 4, 14000 Czech Republic

Tel. +773606718, <http://www.femispha.com>

Statutory representative: Olga Šilhová, association chairperson

Project leader and coordinator: Markéta Tauerová, marketa@bio.cz

8. Comments