

---

---

## PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

### **“Enjoy the Pregnancy: Listening space and support aimed at women at risk of violence during the perinatal period”**

#### DAPHNE III Programme

#### ABOUT MUNICIPALITY OF SARZANA

The Municipality of Sarzana is an autonomous body within the framework of the principles established by the Constitution and general laws of the Republic, which determine the functions, and according to the principles and provisions of its Statute. Overriding goals of the City are the cultural, social and economic community aimed at the affirmation of human rights and human values, recognition of the rights of the family in law and in fact, to meet the needs of the individual and the community, the protection the right to health, to the spiritual and physical welfare of the citizen and the community, and the protection and preservation of the environment, exploitation of local resources, the promotion of conditions to give effect to the rights of all citizens. These objectives are pursued through the promotion and management of direct and indirect services in the forms and in the manner described in the Statute, as well as through the activities of planning, programming and promotion with regard to public and private entities operating in the municipality according to the method of participation.

#### IPV E DV: THE ISSUE

For domestic violence is "any behavior within the couple relationship that results in physical injury, psychological or sexual subjects of the report" [WHO, 2002]. In the literature, the phenomenon is referred to by the term "Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)" is defined as an abuse ( actual or threatened), physical, sexual , psychological , emotional, or stalking by a partner in an intimate relationship. [APA, 1996]. The intimate partner violence (IPV) is a worldwide public health problem that causes a profound deterioration of the quality of human life for the victims. Sometimes it is also called spousal abuse and referred to as "Domestic violence" (Domestic Violence - DV), which is a broader term that can also include violence on children and the elderly. IPV and DV are serious forms of violence and growing characterized by multiple forms of abuse with the outcome to terrorize and control the behavior of the victims.

According to several studies it seems that the risk of IPV is higher during pregnancy and the frequency of abuse may increase in the postpartum period , especially the first 3 months after birth. Some authors speculate that the increased risk of IPV during pregnancy occurs because of the vulnerability physical, emotional and financial position of women (Saltzman, Johnson, Gobert and Goodwin, 2003) , while other studies argue that it is because of the psychological state of ' abuser , overwhelmed by the stress of having to support a child , from anger to an unplanned pregnancy , or jealousy for not having more attention to herself partners ( Brewer and Paulsen, 1999).

Violence during pregnancy is recognized as a risk to the health of the woman , for her fetus and the newborn , and from studies in North America show that between 3% and 17% percent of pregnant women reported being was the victim (Gazmararian *et al.*, 1996; Jeanjot, Barlow and Rozenberg, 2008). Risk factors for IPV during pregnancy, include geographical isolation , lack of resources (e.g. employment, education), poverty, gender inequality, and substance abuse by the male partner (Bhandari *et al.* , 2011).

The victims are often frequent users of health services with persistent pain and chronic , and often report physical signs commonly attributed to falls and accidents in the home. Sometimes the victims also report several mental disorders including depression, anxiety, panic attacks, self harm, phobias, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicidal ideation.

#### THE EXPERIENCE OF MUNICIPALITY OF SARZANA

The Municipality of Sarzana has been operating in the social sector, in collaboration with other bodies and organizations and between recent experiences there are several projects and services provided free of charge to the population. In 2004 he set up at the headquarters of the district social health, the Counselling Centre " Never Indifferent" against the mistreatment and abuse to children. The project is operated by operators: the municipalities of the District health and social n . 19, by the Local Health, by Freelancers and is directed to adults and children who suffer the consequences of dysfunctional families and all those involved (educators , teachers, etc. . ) Who feel the need for discussion of concrete situations or investigate the issues of abuse , so that the children are not left alone with their difficulties .

The selection of services against the ill-treatment against children was completed in 2008, with the establishment, in collaboration with the Health, of ' multidisciplinary team "Never Indifferent ." This team, which consists of psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers is dedicated to taking care of child victims of maltreatment and abuse and their families, to the accompaniment judiciary, the diagnostic evaluation and clinical treatment .

---

In 2007 he started a course of maternity support fragile by pregnancy (first phase) to postpartum (second phase) is dealing with secondary tertiary prevention of maternal mental health problems , dealing also of primary prevention of child development inharmonies .

In 2008 he started the Centre Entrust , within the District community health n . 19 Communities of Val di Magra Ameglia, Arcola , Castelnuovo Magra, Ortonville , Sarzana , S. Stefano Magra , Vezzano . The Centre entrusts works to promote and manage support activities for basic social services , in order to facilitate the use of custody family and encourage their efficient use , accommodate the availability of families and individuals, and create paths evaluation - training.

In 2009, as a partner of the Province of La Spezia has participated in the creation of the Centre Provincial Anti-Violence "Irene" listening space and support to women victims of violence. The structure , fully operational , can you carry out a first reception services consisting of listening and support for victims and hospitality thanks to a temporary collective accommodation for single women and/or children who, after the danger kill or hurt you and/or your children, require a limited amount of time to fit in the previous home or achieve full autonomy housing .

### **ROLES OF PARTNERS AND REQUIREMENTS**

We are looking for partners with these characteristics:

- organizations and institutions, public or private, legally established (non-governmental organizations, local authorities, university departments and research centers) with registered office in a country member of EU or EFTA States.
- with experience, or the desire to develop services to address violence during pregnancy are ideally nonprofit.
- may sign a declaration form and return it to the Municipality of Sarzana in time to meet the deadline of the application of DAPHNE: October 30, 2013.

### **PURPOSES**

Create a space for listening and support aimed at women at risk of violence during the perinatal period, with particular attention to women from other ethnic groups and migrants. It will work on the mapping of existing services in the area and the creation of a statistical database for women who experience violence during pregnancy. In doing so we will identify and reinforce the strengths of existing services and will work to fill any gaps identified.

### **PROGRAMME:**

It is expected that the project will be signed by all partners and submitted to the European Commission by 30 October 2013. Activities will take place in the period 2014-2016.

**The project is still in the planning stage. With the participation of all the partners in the detailed program and schedule will be decided and communicated.**

### **NEXT STEPS:**

If you are interested in participating in this project or discuss this further, please contact Giuseppe Martorana and/or – Marco Formato by Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **CONTACTS:**

Dr. Marco Formato – email address: [marco.formato@comunesarzana.gov.it](mailto:marco.formato@comunesarzana.gov.it)

Dr. Giuseppe Martorana – email address: [giuseppe.martorana@sibric.it](mailto:giuseppe.martorana@sibric.it)