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.femisphera.com and Facebook profile Femisphera o.s.

Some of the documentary films produced by Femisphera are:

- “Latim-circumcised”, www.obrezane.cz

7. Useful contacts

Femisphera, civic association
Olbrachtova 1061, Praha 4, 14000 Czech Republic
Tel. +773606718, http://www.femisphera.com
Statutory representative: Olga Šilhová, association chairperson
Project leader and coordinator: Markéta Tauerová, marketa@bio.cz

8. Comments