AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN
WOMEN IN ACTION
AEWiA

Funded by
the European Union

ERASMUS+ VIRTUAL EXCHANGES
PROJECT 101139352 · ERASMUS-EDU-2023-VIRT-EXCH

EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN WOMEN IN ACTION

THE AEWiA MANIFESTO

From dialogue to action:
six commitments for women,
heritage and sustainable
communities.



330+
participants

60%+
young women
(18–30)

3
digital outputs

6
advocacy
campaigns

10
virtual exchange
activities

1,560
people reached

Women's Empowerment
Intercultural Dialogue
Intangible Cultural Heritage
Sustainable Development
Europe–Africa Cooperation
Community Participation

01.02.2024 — 31.01.2027
36 months

6 partner countries
Europe ↔ Africa

D3.1 — Manifesto "European and African Women in Action"
Lead beneficiary: SOS Europa APS | R - Document, report | PU - Public

DELIVERABLE D3.1

European and African Women in Action

A public manifesto translating AEWiA's learning, dialogue and Project Work into six practical advocacy plans and a long-term community agenda.

PROJECT	African and European Women in Action (AEWiA)
PROJECT NUMBER	101139352
CALL	ERASMUS-EDU-2023-VIRT-EXCH
PERIOD	1 February 2024 - 31 January 2027
LEAD BENEFICIARY	SOS Europa APS
TYPE	R - Document, report / PU - Public
DUE	Month 32

Purpose. The Manifesto presents the results achieved and highlights their positive medium- and long-term impact. It brings together six advocacy plans as the final systematisation of the WP2 learning, Forum discussions, T2.3 training and collaborative Project Work pathway.



Our Journey

From learning to action across Europe and Africa

Through training, dialogue and collaboration, AEWiA has built a vibrant community of young women and youth workers who turn knowledge into action.

330+
participants

60%+
young women (18–30)

10
virtual exchange activities

3
digital outputs

6
advocacy campaigns

1,560
people reached

Project timeline

2024
Project start
1 February 2024

2024–2025
Implementation
WP1, WP2, WP3

2026
Advocacy plans and finalisation

2027
Project end
31 January 2027

> Across different cultures and realities, we discovered that our diversity is a strength and that change is possible when women connect, learn and act together.
>
> **AEWIA Community**

The AEWiA Academy

A digital learning space for women, by women

The AEWiA Academy brings together all the training materials, tools and resources developed during the project. It connects young women and youth workers across Europe and Africa through learning, reflection and action.



Visit the AEWiA Academy
https://www.soseuropa.it/aewia_academy/

- Microlearning modules
- Practical tools
- Video lessons
- Resources for action

Join the Community

Stay connected. Keep the dialogue moving.

The AEWIA community is a space to share ideas, exchange experiences, discover opportunities and continue working together beyond the project.



Facebook Group

Join the AEWIA community on Facebook to share ideas, news and opportunities.

Join the group →

https://www.facebook.com/groups/2309948660103295

Telegram Channel

Follow updates, news and opportunities on our Telegram channel.

Follow updates →

Available through AEWIA channels

Project website

Discover news, events, resources and results from the AEWIA project.

Visit the website →

https://www.soseuropa.it/aewia/



ADVOCACY PLAN 01

HER VOICE, HER CHOICE

Strengthening women's autonomy and voice in family and community life

THE CHALLENGE

Across different cultural contexts, young women can face expectations about family roles, care responsibilities, acceptable behaviour and life choices. Traditions may create belonging and continuity, but they can also become restrictive when women's perspectives are absent from decisions that affect them.

THE CHANGE WE WANT

Women are recognised as active participants in family and community decisions, with the confidence, information and support needed to express their choices.

ADVOCACY GOAL

Promote women's agency and meaningful participation in decisions affecting family and community life while encouraging respectful intercultural dialogue about traditions and change.

ADVOCACY PLAN 01

Strategy & action

HER VOICE, HER CHOICE

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Create safe spaces for young women to articulate experiences and priorities.
- Promote dialogue that distinguishes cultural heritage worth preserving from practices that limit women's agency.
- Increase awareness of women's right to participate in decisions that shape their lives.

WHO WE WANT TO REACH / WHO CAN ENABLE CHANGE

Young women 18-30; families; youth workers; community organisations; educators; local institutions; cultural and community leaders.

KEY MESSAGES

- Tradition is strongest when women can shape it, not only inherit it.
- Listening to women strengthens families and communities.
- Choice, dignity and dialogue can coexist with cultural identity.

ACTION PACKAGE

ACTION 01

Collect short first-person stories on choice, tradition and change.

ACTION 02

Run moderated online dialogues linking women from African and European partner countries.

ACTION 03

Publish a 'Listen before you decide' content series.

ACTION 04

Invite local organisations and educators to host reflection sessions using AEWiA materials.

HOW WE MEASURE CHANGE

Stories collected; online dialogues held; participants engaged; organisations reusing materials; qualitative feedback on confidence and perceived voice.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Short term: stronger self-expression. Medium term: more spaces for intergenerational dialogue. Long term: community norms that increasingly recognise women as co-authors of social and cultural life.



ADVOCACY PLAN 02

WOMEN AT THE TABLE

Participation and leadership in civic and social decision-making

THE CHALLENGE

Women's participation can be visible without being influential. Attendance at meetings, projects or consultations does not automatically mean that women shape agendas, decisions or follow-up actions.

THE CHANGE WE WANT

Women participate not only as beneficiaries or attendees, but as contributors, organisers, spokespersons and decision-makers.

ADVOCACY GOAL

Strengthen women's civic leadership and create more meaningful opportunities for women to influence community and organisational decisions.

ADVOCACY PLAN 02

Strategy & action

WOMEN AT THE TABLE

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Make women's leadership visible through stories and examples from different contexts.
- Encourage organisations to measure influence and contribution, not attendance alone.
- Create pathways from participation to facilitation, representation and leadership.

WHO WE WANT TO REACH / WHO CAN ENABLE CHANGE

Young women; civil society organisations; youth organisations; municipalities; educational institutions; community networks; programme managers.

KEY MESSAGES

- Representation matters when it comes with influence.
- Leadership is participation, responsibility, courage, empathy and connection.
- Communities make better use of their talent when women can lead.

ACTION PACKAGE

ACTION 01

Launch a digital portrait series featuring women leading change.

ACTION 02

Create a participation checklist: who speaks, proposes, decides and follows up?

ACTION 03

Organise peer exchanges on leadership barriers and enabling practices.

ACTION 04

Invite organisations to make one concrete commitment to expand women's leadership roles.

HOW WE MEASURE CHANGE

Leadership stories published; commitments collected; peer exchanges; women taking facilitation or spokesperson roles; organisations adopting participation checks.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Short term: increased leadership confidence and visibility. Medium term: stronger pathways into responsibility. Long term: more inclusive civic and organisational decision-making.



ADVOCACY PLAN 03

HER WORK, HER FUTURE

Fairer opportunities in employment and professional leadership

THE CHALLENGE

Women may encounter stereotypes, unequal access to networks, limited visibility of skills, care-related constraints and barriers to professional progression. These challenges differ by context, but they can reduce both individual opportunity and community resilience.

THE CHANGE WE WANT

Young women are better connected to skills, networks, mentors and opportunities, and employers and organisations are encouraged to recognise women's contribution and leadership potential.

ADVOCACY GOAL

Promote fairer access to employment, professional development and leadership opportunities for young women.

ADVOCACY PLAN 03

Strategy & action

HER WORK, HER FUTURE

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Increase visibility of transferable, digital and leadership skills developed through non-formal learning.
- Connect women with peer networks, mentors and opportunity ecosystems.
- Encourage organisations to examine barriers that limit women's progression.

WHO WE WANT TO REACH / WHO CAN ENABLE CHANGE

Young women; employers; training providers; universities; business networks; civil society; career services; local institutions.

KEY MESSAGES

- Talent needs access, networks and recognition.
- Skills gained through community action and advocacy are professional skills.
- Women's participation in work and leadership strengthens social resilience.

ACTION PACKAGE

ACTION 01

Create digital skill profiles and short professional stories.

ACTION 02

Run cross-border networking sessions focused on introductions, opportunities and peer mentoring.

ACTION 03

Publish practical content on professional branding, networking and communicating impact.

ACTION 04

Engage employers and training providers in conversations about entry points and progression.

HOW WE MEASURE CHANGE

Profiles created; networking connections; mentoring matches; opportunities shared; participant self-assessment of networking confidence.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Short term: stronger professional self-presentation. Medium term: wider networks and access to opportunities. Long term: more diverse leadership and improved economic participation.



ADVOCACY PLAN 04

WOMEN CREATE

Entrepreneurship, networks and women's economic initiative

THE CHALLENGE

Women with ideas for social, cultural or economic initiatives may lack access to networks, examples, collaborators and practical pathways for turning ideas into action. Isolation can be as limiting as lack of skills.

THE CHANGE WE WANT

Women are better able to transform ideas into collaborative initiatives and to connect entrepreneurship with community value, culture and sustainable development.

ADVOCACY GOAL

Support women's entrepreneurial initiative by strengthening networks, visibility, collaboration and practical action planning.

ADVOCACY PLAN 04

Strategy & action

WOMEN CREATE

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Encourage women to frame ideas around a clearly identified need and value proposition.
- Connect aspiring women entrepreneurs and changemakers across partner countries.
- Promote entrepreneurship that contributes to inclusive and sustainable communities.

WHO WE WANT TO REACH / WHO CAN ENABLE CHANGE

Young women; aspiring entrepreneurs; social innovators; business associations; incubators; training providers; local development actors.

KEY MESSAGES

- Ideas grow through connection.
- Entrepreneurship can create both economic and community value.
- Women need access to networks, not only encouragement.

ACTION PACKAGE

ACTION 01

Host an online 'Women Create' idea clinic.

ACTION 02

Build a directory of participants' skills, ideas and collaboration needs.

ACTION 03

Publish case-based content on women-led social and cultural initiatives.

ACTION 04

Create cross-country peer groups to test ideas and identify next steps.

HOW WE MEASURE CHANGE

Ideas mapped; peer groups formed; collaborations initiated; external organisations engaged; follow-up actions reported.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Short term: clearer ideas and stronger peer support. Medium term: collaborations and new initiatives. Long term: stronger women-led local and transnational ecosystems.



ADVOCACY PLAN 05

HERITAGE HAS HER VOICE

Women as custodians, creators and innovators of living cultural heritage

THE CHALLENGE

Women's knowledge, stories, skills, rituals and everyday cultural practices are central to living heritage, yet their contribution may remain informal, under-documented or disconnected from younger generations.

THE CHANGE WE WANT

Women's cultural knowledge is made more visible, transmitted across generations and used as a resource for dialogue, identity and sustainable community development.

ADVOCACY GOAL

Recognise and amplify women's role in preserving, transmitting and reinterpreting intangible cultural heritage across Europe and Africa.

ADVOCACY PLAN 05

Strategy & action

HERITAGE HAS HER VOICE

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Document women-led cultural knowledge and practices through respectful storytelling.
- Connect heritage transmission with youth participation and digital tools.
- Promote heritage as a living resource for intercultural dialogue and sustainable development.

WHO WE WANT TO REACH / WHO CAN ENABLE CHANGE

Women knowledge-holders; young people; cultural organisations; schools; youth workers; museums/libraries; community groups; local authorities.

KEY MESSAGES

- Heritage lives through people.
- Women's knowledge is part of our shared cultural future.
- Digital tools can help transmit heritage without freezing it in the past.

ACTION PACKAGE

ACTION 01

Collect short heritage stories focused on who keeps a practice alive.

ACTION 02

Create intergenerational digital conversations.

ACTION 03

Link selected stories to the AEWiA learning environment.

ACTION 04

Invite cultural and educational organisations to reuse the stories in learning activities.

HOW WE MEASURE CHANGE

Heritage stories documented; intergenerational exchanges; learning reuse; cross-country contributions; qualitative evidence of increased recognition.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Short term: visibility of women's cultural contribution. Medium term: stronger intergenerational transmission. Long term: living heritage used as a bridge for intercultural understanding and sustainable communities.



ADVOCACY PLAN 06

CONNECTED WOMEN, COLLECTIVE CHANGE

Digital advocacy and a lasting Europe-Africa community

THE CHALLENGE

Individual voices can remain fragmented. Digital platforms create visibility, but without shared purpose, relationships and continuity, attention rarely becomes collective action.

THE CHANGE WE WANT

Women and allies across Europe and Africa use digital spaces to exchange knowledge, build relationships, coordinate advocacy and sustain the AEWiA community beyond individual activities.

ADVOCACY GOAL

Transform the networks created through AEWiA into a durable community capable of supporting advocacy, peer learning and cross-border collaboration.

ADVOCACY PLAN 06

Strategy & action

CONNECTED WOMEN, COLLECTIVE CHANGE

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the AEWiA Community as an open space for discussion, resources and campaigns.
- Build participants' capacity to use digital tools strategically and responsibly.
- Create a repeatable cycle from dialogue to campaign to community action.

WHO WE WANT TO REACH / WHO CAN ENABLE CHANGE

AEWiA participants; young women; youth workers; civil society; educators; partner networks; new community members across Europe and Africa.

KEY MESSAGES

- A network becomes powerful when relationships continue.
- Digital advocacy connects stories to people, people to causes and causes to action.
- Europe-Africa dialogue should continue after the project ends.

ACTION PACKAGE

ACTION 01

Maintain six open thematic discussions linked to AEWiA priorities.

ACTION 02

Use a shared content calendar for advocacy stories, calls to action and learning resources.

ACTION 03

Create recurring community moments for exchange and peer support.

ACTION 04

Invite new members through partner networks and public dissemination channels.

HOW WE MEASURE CHANGE

Active community members; new members; posts/discussions; cross-country interactions; campaigns or collaborations initiated; repeat participation.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Short term: more connected participants. Medium term: an active cross-border advocacy network. Long term: a self-sustaining community that keeps AEWiA knowledge, relationships and campaigns alive.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

What should remain after AEWiA

OPEN KNOWLEDGE

Project knowledge remains accessible and reusable.

CONTINUED DIALOGUE

Europe-Africa exchange continues through stories, discussions and contributions.

REPEATABLE ADVOCACY

The six plans can be adapted, translated and reused in local contexts.

ACTIVE COMMUNITY

Relationships created through AEWiA are given space and continuity.

FOLLOW-UP

The Academy, Community and partner networks provide routes for future cooperation.

Preserve. Connect. Share. Advocate. Empower. Continue.

FINAL DECLARATION

Women in action

Heritage lives when it is shared and reinterpreted by the people who carry it.

Dialogue matters when it creates understanding, dignity and the possibility of acting together.

Knowledge matters when it becomes confidence, opportunity and participation.

Digital tools matter when they amplify voices, connect communities and support responsible collective action.

Participation matters when women can influence decisions, not simply attend.

Networks matter when they become communities capable of continuing beyond a project.

From Europe to Africa and from Africa to Europe, our experiences are different, but our future is connected. AEWiA continues wherever women find their voice, connect with others and transform that voice into action.

REFERENCE FRAMEWORK

Project sources

- Grant Agreement / Application Form - Project 101139352 - AEWiA - ERASMUS-EDU-2023-VIRT-EXCH.
- AEWiA T2.3 training materials - Advocacy Through Digital Technology.
- AEWiA official project website and Academy materials supplied by SOS Europa.
- AEWiA Community and public dissemination materials supplied for this deliverable.

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