



Focus on Gender Equality

"The promotion of equality must not be confused with the simple objective of balancing the statistics: it is a question of promoting long-lasting changes in parental roles, family structures, institutional practices, the organisation of work and time, their personal development and independence, but also concerns men and the whole of society, in which it can encourage progress and be a token of democracy and pluralism."

DG Employment and Social Affairs – Gender Equality Unit.

According to a recent report of the European Commission, **the persistent gender disparities in the EC could endanger the realisation of the Lisbon objectives**. This report of the Commission will be examined by the leaders of State and government of the EC during the European spring council which will be held on March 25th and 26th 2004. It shows that important disparities always exist between men and women, notably on the labour market. If no solution is brought to this problem, the EC could not reach all the objectives fixed during the council of Lisbon in 2000, such as the realisation of a rate of feminine employment of 60 % in the EC before 2010. The Commission will continue to promote gender equality by the implementation of Structural Funds, in particular to the European Social Fund, which had a catalyst effect on the national policies in gender equality. The report considers that the gender equality has to remain a priority within the framework of the next period of programming of the structural capital.

Initiatives

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSAL - DG EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (Deadline: June the 7th 2004)

This call for proposals is intended to finance **transnational exchanges** to promote gender equality involving a range of players from at least three countries among member state of the EU, the ten acceding countries, the European economic area countries or Romania and Bulgaria. The proposal is presented by a promoter which takes the overall responsibility for it and is contracting party with the commission as European NGOs, European social partners, transnational networks or partnerships or consortiums of regional or local authorities, transnational networks of organisations which aim to promote gender equality. 2004 priority theme: "promoting change in gender roles and overcoming gender stereotypes". This theme can be developed across the intervention areas of the programme, i.e. economic life, equal participation /representation social rights and civil life. It addresses the stereotypes images of women and men and the need to change behaviours attitudes, norms and values which define and influence gender roles in society through for instance education, training, culture, science, sport and media.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/calls/2004/vp_2003_31/tender_en.htm

« FOLLOW THE WOMEN » BIKE RIDE (17/26 April 2004)

Unique event organised by a group of women to cycle across a number of countries in the Middle East. Why? To raise awareness of how the current situation within the Middle East affects the lives of women (and children) as well as to raise support for a move towards peace and greater understanding. **Women being less involved in decision making are often the ones who are socially oppressed and suffer consequences of those decisions.** "Follow The Women" will give women the opportunity to have a say, be in control and have a powerful and influential impact on those around them. Hundreds of women all cycling at the same time is not the norm in the Middle East and will attract attention and people will take notice. This is what we are aiming for in order to gain publicity, sponsorship and to capture the hearts and minds of as many people as possible. It will show commitment and support by women throughout both Europe and the Middle East, and educate a wide audience as to the situation facing all women living in an area of conflict. www.followthewomen.com/

WOMEN AND SCIENCE

In most European countries, **the numbers of female graduates are proportionately higher than those of male graduates**. However, the scientific labour market remains male-dominated. Women are under-represented in the sciences.

Achieving equal and full participation of women in all scientific disciplines will go beyond women currently working in science, or aspiring to work in science, to help create a more inclusive European scientific research area, for the benefit of the economy and society as a whole. A large range of initiatives and projects supporting women in scientific fields can be found on the website of the "DG Research"

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/women-science/women-science_en.html

Reading

MAGAZINE COYOTE N° 2 (May, 2000)

"**Gender Equality and Education - Gender Sensitive: Why Important?**" by Ulrika Eklund. This article proposes the point of view and the questions naturally arising when a female trainer face the issue of "gender equality in training". The fact of being aware and to speak freely about this controversy is already a step forward! The author proposes examples of methods to work on the question in training. In her "**Gender Equality issues: where do you stand?**" she suggests an exercise to open a debate by using a series of question to bring participants to reflect and to express their opinions.

www.training-youth.net/site/publications/coyote/coyote02/index.htm



KOMPASS

This "**Manual on Human Rights Education with Young People**" edited by the Council of Europe dedicates a section to the issue "gender equality" by redrawing a short historical investigation on the question and by putting in evidence several cases of violation of the fundamental women rights in the world. The section "Activities Associate" proposes interesting step by step exercises which approach tough subject as different wages, sexuality, equality at work and so on

www.eycb.coe.int/compass/en/chapter_5/5_7.html

FIL D'ARIANE

Gender equality **newsletter** edited by the Committee on women's right and equal opportunities of the European Parliament. More than a simple newsletter (twenty pages approximatively) this delivers all sort of information publications, events, calendars, debates linked to the question www.europarl.eu.int/comparl/femm/newsletter/default_en.htm

"**WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE**" HOMMES et MIGRATIONS (n°1248 in March / April, 2004)
Special issue of this magazine dedicated entirely to this topic (French only)

Websites

Some fundamental websites - such as United Nations development fund for women (UNIFEM), or Amnesty International for a long time engaged in the fight to stop the violence against the women which represents « **the biggest scandal of our time in human rights** »

- UNIFEM www.undp.org/unifem
- Amnesty International <http://web.amnesty.org/actforwomen/index-fra>
- WomenWatch www.un.org/womenwatch/
- Women against Violence Europe (Wave Network) www.wave-network.org

we suggest also:

EUROPEAN COMMISSION - DG EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS – GENDER EQUALITY UNIT

The official website proposes a global overview on activities, specific measures and the projects of the European Commission in relation the thorny subject of the gender equality. You will find a series of reference texts, information and the useful links.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/eq_u_opp/index_en.htm

VOIX D'ELLES-REBELLES (THIER REBEL VOICES)

Sarah Oussekin, manager of this small feminist structure in Saint-Denis (near Paris) created there a female space for meeting and a reception centre to welcome "angry" socially disadvantaged women "with something to say"! Together they will try to fully develop **active citizenship and women participation**. www.voixdelles.org

VIDEO CLIP

Egyptian promotional short length film (5 min.) on the place of women in society available at the Salto Youth EuroMed resources centre. The images (without text) tell the story of several women's generations and its recent evolution. Very moving and talking images!