

„EU gender politics in an international context“

Gender perspectives and gender indicators

How can gender indicators of international action plans be used for the European Neighbourhood Policy?

International Conference

European Academy Berlin (EAB), 2nd and 3rd July 2009

In cooperation with EAB and Deutsche Welle

2009 and 2010 are **strategic key years** for women and civil rights NGOs, social and development organisations to **review** and to **influence** gender dynamics in **international** and **European processes**: The mid-term review of the country strategy papers of the European Neighbourhood Policy (**ENPI Mid Term review**) will result in new national indicative programmes in the end of 2009. In addition, the **Istanbul Conclusions 1996** (women in the Euromed region) and their implementation will be evaluated in December 2009 in Rabat. The **Millennium Development Goals**, the Beijing Platform for Action "**Beijing+15**" and the **UN-resolution1325** on women, peace and security, will be reviewed in 2010. The European Union has committed itself to the implementation of the above referenced action plans and to reach out to gender equality in its internal and external relations.

Opportunity to engender European politics and analyze the appliance of gender indicators

The unique opportunity for NGOs to **engender European politics** and to **set milestones** will be from January 2009 until September 2009 – during this timeframe the programme and documents (Country Strategic Papers, Annual Action Plans) of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the EU neighbourhood countries will be reviewed and new indicative programmes for the period 2011 – 2013 will be developed and adopted.

In addition to the European Commission, the Country Governments and the European Parliament, Civil Society Organisations are important players in monitoring the implementation of the action plans and providing input for the adoption of the new indicative programmes. This will be the **chance** to include **social, democratic and gender equality issues** to the new programmes, which were mostly excluded in the first programmes. Furthermore it will be a strategic platform for women-NGOs and female politicians to implement gender perspectives and gender indicators.

In particular in EU-neighbourhood countries with high poverty rates and weak civil society structures, clear objectives and indicators are needed to monitor the **strengthening of civil society participation, women's rights, gender equality** between men and women and **social and sustainable development**.

In EU-neighbourhood countries, NGOs and academics do often not have direct access to official EU documents and government strategies, and in particular in their working language. Visa restrictions, limited options for communication and low financial resources prevent local and regional civil-society actors to contribute to the programming and to network efficiently. **WOMNET**

advocates since 2003 for **strengthening NGO-women networks** and **civil society cooperations** from the EU, EU candidate and EU neighbourhood countries.

In the context of the EU consultations with civil society around the Mid-Term Reviews and the new indicative programmes, WOMNET is going to host an international conference from July 2nd to July 3rd 2009. The appliance of a gender perspective and gender indicators of the first ENPI programmes will be presented and monitored. By elaborating the practicability of the gender indicators from internationally agreed resolutions in regard to gender equality, women perspectives, women specific milestones and recommendations can directly influence the new indicative programmes and the setting-up of indicators by the European Commission.

Combination with international skeleton agreements

At the same time, the conference and the workshops provide the unique opportunity to study **international skeleton agreements** in regard to **gender indicators** and its adaptability at a tangible national level (in selected fields) and analyse how they can be applied in the ENPI programmes. In this respect, the international conference does not only **contribute to the strengthening of the gender perspective** and the **partizipation of women NGOs** in the European Neighbourhood Policy, but also to the imminence **review of international agreements concerning womens rights in 2010**, for example:

- v *the Millennium Development Goals*
Especially goal 3 „**Promote gender equality and empower women**“ and goal 5 “**Improve Maternal Health**”
- v *the UN resolution 1325*
Four indicators of the European Council to „**Women in armed conflicts**“, which refer to financial setting and proportion at gender training or senior manager
- v *the Roadmap for gender equality between women and men (2006 – 2010)*
Chapter 6 “The promotion of gender equality in external and development policies”,
- v *the Platform of Action „Beijing +15“ der Aktionsplattform von Peking*
Above all the Platform of Actions provides many **indicators of the twelve main focuses**

The international conference is directed to **academics, experts** and **NGO representatives** from Europe and the European Neighbourhood countries. Beyond that, a **panel discussion** on the first evening with high-ranking experts will high-light the challenges in setting the right gender indicators. In the evening of the second conference day the **photo exhibition** “Through their Eyes” will be opened in Berlin.

For more information please visit the Womnet website: www.womnet.de

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