

## "BRING THE EU HOME"

These monitoring reports were prepared in the framework of the Network Women's Program "Bringing the EU Home" Project. This is a three-year project (2004-2006) which aims to promote awareness, advocacy and enforcement of equal opportunity legislation at the national level and to build the capacity of national actors in civil society to use EU-level mechanisms effectively. The project further aims to help increase the importance of equal opportunities on the European agenda.

## THE NETWORK'S WOMEN PROGRAM

The Network Women's Program (NWP) promotes the advancement of women's human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment as integral to fostering open societies. It seeks to raise public awareness of gender issues, influence policymakers to develop gender-sensitive policies, and eradicate violations of women's rights.

## THE OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE

The Open Society Institute, a private operating and grantmaking foundation, aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform. OSI was created in 1993 by investor and philanthropist George Soros. The Soros foundations network encompasses more than 60 countries.

## MONITORING REPORTS

These 2005 monitoring reports detail changes in legislation since the 2002 reports Monitoring the EU Accession Process: Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (Open Society Institute, EU Accession Monitoring Program, 2002).

The research and statistics highlight ongoing areas of concern such as the widespread and further expanding gender pay gap; a segregated labour market; the persistence of gender stereotypes in education; women's weak representation in decision-making bodies; the low number of men taking advantage of parental leave opportunities; the obstacles faced by women in reconciling family and professional life and the limited public awareness of 'gender equality' in daily lives. The reports also identify a lack of political will and of adequate resources which continue to hinder the enjoyment of gender equality in practice.

The reports describe existing institutional mechanisms, policies, and programs on gender equality, and show that shortcomings remain in terms of compliance with EU legislation on equal opportunities.

This publication is comprised of an introduction, an overview and individual summary country reports. It is available online, together with the full country reports, at [www.soros.org/women](http://www.soros.org/women).

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Country reports were prepared by national experts in cooperation with NGOs as NWP partners: *Center of Women's Studies and Policies* (Bulgaria); *The Open Society Fund Prague* (Czech Republic); *Open Estonia Foundation* (Estonia); *MONA-Foundation for the Women of Hungary* (Hungary); *Center for Equality Advancement* (Lithuania); *OSKA-National Women's Information Center* (Poland); *Center for Partnership and Equality* (Romania); *Open Society Foundation Bratislava* (Slovakia).

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria's governments have not yet adopted a Gender Equality Strategy.
- In Lithuania, only two government ministers are women, in Poland only one and none in Slovakia;
- Approximately 9 % of Hungary's Members of Parliament are women;
- Only 1% of all people taking parental leave in Estonia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic are fathers;
- The gender pay gap in Bulgaria, Estonia and Slovakia is between 25% and 30%;
- The Romanian National Council on Combating Discrimination imposed only one fine related to a sex-based discrimination case during 2004.

*To National Governments:*

- Ensure the full implementation of all EU legislative measures on gender equality;
- Establish independent gender equality bodies and guarantee their necessary financial and human resources;
- Adopt a national strategy on gender equality and monitor its fulfillment;
- Regularly monitor the implementation of the equal pay principle;
- Identify and remove obstacles to women's participation in economic, social and political decision-making processes;
- Adopt targeted national plans of action addressing violence against women;
- Financially support awareness raising campaigns on gender equality and on violence against women;
- Collect gender disaggregated statistical data;

*To the European Union:*

- Adopt legally binding instruments addressing gender equality in decision-making;
- Systematically collect data on violence against women;
- Strengthen the monitoring of the transposition and implementation of EU legislation related to gender equality;
- Ensure the annual EU report on equality between women and men reflects implementation concerns and refers to the commitments made by national governments.

Please send me a complimentary copy of the volume "Equal Opportunities for Women and Men"

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The full reports as well as executive summaries are available online.

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