



2007 EUROPEAN YEAR OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL in Estonia

We have set several objectives for the Year in Estonia. From the consultations between social partners, civil society organizations and various authorities, there were three main objectives and following actions picked upon in Estonia:

I Raising public awareness of discrimination and opportunities for seeking help in case of unequal treatment.

- The launch conference on 30th of March will concentrate on the work of equality bodies in different European countries, related problems and best practices.
- The activities of the Year of Equal Opportunities will be summed up in November at the annual Social Forum organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Forum will focus on the issues of equal opportunities and introduce the results of the conducted surveys; there will also be debates and panel discussions.
- Throughout the year, cooperation with public media channels and printed press is planned for covering different target groups or issues in radio and TV shows, magazines, and newspapers. A more specific media campaign is planned for the autumn to raise public awareness about their rights; the surveys carried out during the year will serve as an input to the campaign.
- A two-day international conference "Religion tolerance – opportunity, obligation, responsibility" will be held at the end of August. The aim of the event is to regard various religious groups in Estonia and intensify the dialogue between these groups, as well as to discuss different forms of religious discrimination both in Estonia and in the world. The conference will be held as a part of the annual Tartu Film Festival tARTuFF, where films on religious topics are shown under a separate program.

II Equal opportunities in minority groups – raising the awareness

- Discussions with stakeholders revealed that the subject of human rights and (social) minority groups (e.g. religious minorities) in Estonia should be regarded more profoundly already in basic and high schools, raising awareness among teachers is also important. Currently a new curriculum is being discussed and commented upon. A separate call for proposal was organized in order to compile additional study materials introducing these groups to be used in schools or carry out training sessions/events.
- In addition, a competition for small projects which would focus on minority groups was also organized in April/March for non-profit associations.

III Data collection

- The prevailing attitudes in the society and people's experiences with discrimination will be studied by conducting a survey among the population.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs is also carrying out a smaller survey on sexual minorities.
- A separate call for projects was held giving the researchers an opportunity to cover less-/not represented minority groups in Estonia, which have not been surveyed yet.

