

Center of Women's Studies and Policies

30 November 2004, Velingrad



Training Monitoring Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the EU Accession Process

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30 November, Velingrad

[*Joint Monitoring and Training Program*]

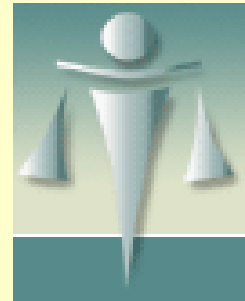
of women's non-governmental
organizations in Bulgaria and Turkey
on *acquis communautaire* in equal
opportunities for women and men

[*Partners:*]

*Center of Women's
Studies and Policies
Foundation, Sofia*

and

*KA-DER Association for
Supporting and Training
Women Candidates,
Ankara*



Financial support

The project is financed by the Civil Partnership for European Integration Program of the Open Society Institute, Sofia.

Aim of the project

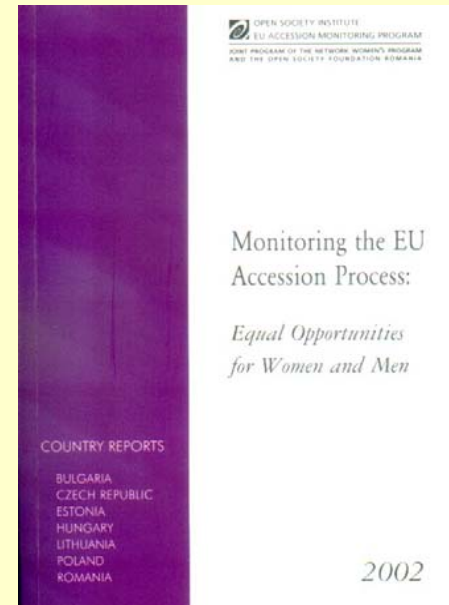
- To encourage the civil participation in the accession process in Turkey and Bulgaria as well as initiating a bilateral network of NGOs in both countries for joint initiatives in the field of equal opportunities.

Previous experience

- In 2001 the OSI NWP initiated and supported financially the preparation and presentation to decision makers and the public of reports on monitoring the EU accession process in respect of equal opportunities for women and men.

Previous experience - 2

- The monitoring methodology was initiated by the Romanian partners in NWP and further developed by local experts from the EU accession countries – Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Romania.



Project justification

- Based on this experience CWSP proposed the joint initiative in order to extend the monitoring of the EU directives in the field of equal opportunities in the EU accession process of Bulgaria and Turkey.

The first phase: *January – April 2004*



The two teams discussed the methodology for monitoring the legislation and training Turkish women's NGOs in EU equal opportunities legislation.

Expert meeting: 1 May 2004, Sofia



The expert teams discussed several issues, which were considered important for monitoring the process of harmonization of the EU directives into the national legislation of both countries.

Expert meeting - 2

- The Bulgarian team presented the results and achievements of the OSI NWP Monitoring the EU Accession Process Initiative.
- The Turkish team presented their experience in monitoring the national legislation and status of women in Turkey.

Enhancing the project

Two experts from the Partnership for Equality Center, Bucharest, were invited to share their experience in methodology development for the monitoring of the legislation.



Issues discussed:

- Do Monitoring reports fulfill their goal to monitor legislative, policy-making process and social dynamics?
- How Monitoring reports measure the impact of legal provisions?
- Is policy aspect present in the focus of the Monitoring process and Monitoring reports?
- Who are the veto players in the European integration process?
- How to use the Monitoring reports for advocacy?
- What are the advantages of our previous experience in using Monitoring reports as tools for advocacy?
- How to increase the in-house capacity of women's NGOs to implement the respective policy on gender equality?

[*Decisions*]

- Both teams agreed on the topic and the agenda of the next meeting in Turkey including the contents of the materials that should be presented to Turkish NGOs.

[*Media coverage*]

The Turkish partners were interviewed by a team from the most popular program for political review on Channel 1 of the Bulgarian National Television - Panorama.



First Conference

Sofia, 30 April 2004

- The conference with the participation of the Turkish, Romanian and Bulgarian teams was attended by 35 participants from Bulgarian NGOs and representatives of different institutions.

Conference Agenda

- Presentation of KA-DER.
- Presentation of the status of women in Turkey and women's political participation.
- Discussion of common problems and good practices including discussion on Bulgarian and Turkish national legislation:
- Discussing the idea to enforce cooperation between women NGOs from Bulgaria and Turkey.

The Conference became



a bridge between cultures and women, who nevertheless of their differences found out they have common problems as well as common dreams.

Other events

The foreign partners were invited to meet government officials from the European Integration Department of the Council of Ministers, which is responsible for monitoring the harmonization of Bulgarian legislation on behalf of the State.



Second phase: *May – October 2004*

The second expert meeting was held in Ankara from 22-24 October 2004.

Both partners reported on their findings regarding the issues discussed in Sofia.



Second Conference

Ankara, 23 October 2004

The second conference with the participation of the Bulgarian team was attended by more than 40 representatives of Turkish women's NGOs, academic and other institutions.



Pilot training

Within the conference a pilot training on *acquis communautaire* in equal opportunities for women and men was held. It includes five power point presentations on:

- The objectives and results of the monitoring of equal opportunities
- Monitoring the transposition of the EU legislation to the national legislation by the state administration in Bulgaria
- Monitoring the EU accession process: Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Bulgaria, 2004
- The Veto Players in the Policy Making Process
- Monitoring reports as advocacy and lobbying tools

Training manual

- A special output – *Comparative Inventory on Gender Equality* was prepared in addition to the objectives of the project.
- Both teams agreed to use it as a training tool for women's NGOs.
- The inventory serves as an action plan for harmonization of the legislation in both countries with the *acquis* and can be easily updated by both organizations, depending on legislative and institutional changes.

Contents of the Inventory:

- *International Legislation*
- *National Legislation*
- *National Plans on Gender Equality*
- *Government Reports to UN Committees*
- *Gender Equality Machinery*
- *Political Participation of Women*
- *Media*
- *Educational Institution Working on Promoting Gender Equality*
- *Overcoming Gender Stereotypes*

Media coverage

- After the meeting with Turkish women's NGOs the Bulgarian team was interviewed by journalists from four national newspapers and shared information about the project itself and the future collaboration.



Balkan Network of Women

- The partners agreed to set up an information network, which will offer news on women's organizations in the region and different initiatives and opportunities for collaboration and partnership. The Network will be open for all women's organizations from the Balkans.

Memorandum of Understanding

- The three organizations involved in the project CWSP, KA-DER and the Romanian Partnership for Equality Center, decided to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to participate jointly in future initiatives and projects.

BNW web page

- The Center of Women's Studies and Policies will provide the newly established network with a separate page on its website, dedicated to this initiative.
- The new page will be launched by the end of 2004.

Contribution to the development of OSI NWP

- On the reference of the Bulgarian partner KA-DER was invited to Budapest Meeting of the OSI EONET, May 2004, which continues the monitoring program started in 2002. The EONET will prepare 3 consecutive monitoring reports in 2004, 2005 and 2006.
- The model of the inventory is offered to OSI NWP countries involved in the EONET project as a good practice.
- On the reference of the Bulgarian partner KA-DER is proposed to become the Turkish focal point in a future joint initiative of OSI NWP SEE members (2004-2006).

Dissemination – 1

- Information about the project and its activities was regularly posted on the CWSP website.
- Detailed information about the progress of the project and its results was published in two issues of the newsletter of the Open Society Institute, Sofia.

Dissemination - 2



Apart from the planned activities the project development and expected results were presented by the Bulgarian partners at the International Symposium *Raising mutual understanding: Women in Turkey and the EU*, held in Istanbul on 13 September 2004.

What did we learn from this experience?

- We found partners and colleagues, who treasure the same values and most of all we made friends.



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