

EU / Turkey / Bulgaria / France

Turkey launched its EU accession negotiations on 3 October 2005. Turkey has been an associate member of the EU since 1963 and an official candidate since 1999. Turkey's accession negotiations are officially opened on 17-th of December 2004. The Commission presented its negotiating framework to Ankara in June 2005, and the EU-25's foreign ministers finalized the document in October 2005. And Turkey accepted the terms. According to the mutually agreed negotiating framework, these negotiations are "an open-ended process, the outcome of which cannot be guaranteed".

Bulgaria established diplomatic relations with the EEC in 1988. In 1993, the European agreement on association was signed and enters into force in 1995. In December 1995, Sofia submitted its application for EU membership, and two years later preliminary negotiations were launched. Accession negotiations between Bulgaria and the EU started on 15 February 2000. Sofia concluded its accession talks on 15 June 2004, six months ahead of schedule. . Bulgaria, along with Romania, is on course for joining the EU on 1st of January 2007 Safeguard clauses may be applied for Bulgaria unless immediate and decisive actions in a number of critical areas are not taken.

France in 1951 signs the Treaty of Paris establishing the Community of coal and steel (ECSC). In 1957, France and other 5 countries sign the Treaty of Rome creating the European Economic Community. In 1986 by the European single Act, in 1992 by the treaty on the European Union, in 1997 by the treaty of Amsterdam, then in 2001 by the treaty of Nice the Member States created close legal links. In 2004, treaty establishing the Constitution for Europe was signed in Rome. But France didn't ratify the draft EU Constitution.

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Young Women are Building Bridges for EU Project

Turkey
Bulgaria
France



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YOUNG WOMEN are
BUILDING BRIDGES
for EU Project

Turkey - Bulgaria - France

'Young Women are Building Bridges for EU' project aims to inform people and raise awareness among young female university students regarding EU, to share information about EU, to talk about its dynamics, enlargement process and one specific policy area: **gender equality**. Furthermore to exchange views and share experiences about EU, under the light of accession processes of Turkey and Bulgaria as well as the guidance of a member state, France.

Partners of the project are Flying Broom/Turkey, Center of Women's Studies and Policies/Bulgaria and Center of Documentation and Information on Women and Family/France. Associates of the project are Middle East Technical University/Turkey, Sofia University (Sofia-Bulgaria) and Nimes University (Nimes-France).

The primary target group of the project is young female university students in the Middle East Technical University METU (Ankara-Turkey), Sofia University (Sofia-Bulgaria) and Nimes University (Nimes-France).


Project's activities involve three forums in each country to inform young people about EU, enlargement process, and gender equality, producing visual material in order to analyze the impact of possible accession of Turkey to EU, enhancing the interest of young women about EU and facilitating the exchange of information on important issues regarding gender equality, encouraging the target group and specifically young female university students to suggest new programs and policies in order to increase their participation in decision-making process during the enlargement of EU.

FLYING BROOM
TURKEY



Flying Broom was founded in 1996 with the aim of increasing communication, cooperation and solidarity among women's NGO's. Flying Broom works for the establishment of a network between women's NGOs as an information and documentation center. By promoting women's empowerment, it also aims to contribute to the process of democratization and development of a civil society in Turkey.

CWSP
BULGARIA

Center of Women's
Studies and Policies 

Center of Women's Studies and Policies is a women's foundation working for the support of women's movement in Bulgaria and promoting women's issues since 2003. CWSP's areas of strategic interests are; Gender Equality Monitoring Agency, The Women's Leadership Institute, Virtual Resource of Gender Issues, website, funds and projects.

CEDIFF
FRANCE



CEDIFF is a center of documentation and information on women and family in France, Nimes. CEDIFF's aim is to develop the information about women in the country and to ease women to gain their rights and to facilitate also access of information about all gender issues. CEDIFF by using the information skills provides services for women in order to maintain gender equality.

EU commitments to gender equality

- 1957 - the Rome Treaty lays down the principle of equal pay for women and men
- 1997- the Amsterdam Treaty -assigns the promotion of equality between women and men as one of the fundamental tasks for EU.
- The EU's Charter on Fundamental Rights, signed in 2000 reaffirms the obligation to ensure equality between women and men in all areas.
- The Draft EU Constitution - 2004 contains provisions similar to the Treaty of Rome as regards equality between men and women, but it also contains references to equality and non-discrimination in the values of the EU, and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- EU has adopted 13 Directives on Gender equality since 1970.

Affirmative measures

- EU recommendations - each country regulates the issue independently and coordinates its efforts with the other members for introduction of gender equality principals in national law within an agreed deadline.
- Each country develops its Action Plan for encouraging women's participation.

Financial Support for promoting
gender equality in EU

- EU Framework Strategy for gender equality (2001-2005) - represents the focus of the EU policy for democracy: equal representation of all citizens
- Gender Equality Programme - the financing program linked to the EU Framework Strategy allocates EUR 50 million to fund activities in five fields: economic life, equal participation and representation, equal access and full enjoyment of social rights, civil life and gender roles and stereotypes.
- 2007 is declared by the EU Commission for European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

