

KARAT NEWS

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Our News

Dear KARAT readers,

We have a pleasure to put in front of you the joint issue of KARAT News March/April. From now on, you should expect to receive new issue in the second week of each month.

We have also some good news for you – KARAT secretariat has just moved to larger and much more convenient office where there is enough room for the whole secretariat's team. Settled down and with fresh energy we are looking forward to cooperate with all of you. We would also like to introduce our new staff members: Monika Matus, Joanna Pieczyńska and Ewa Pintera.

Monika is the new coordinator of two KARAT's projects: makeITfair and procureITfair. For many years she has been involved in global education and awareness raising campaigns, cooperating with many Polish and European NGOs, yet this is the first project concerning gender aspects of IT branch that she works on.

You can contact Monika at: monika.matus@karat.org.pl

Joanna is coordinating our new project titled Labour Rights Protection from gender perspective in the super/hypermarket in Poland.

Joanna can be reached at joanna.pieczynska@karat.org.pl

Ewa coordinates the project "Through Their Eyes, through Ours" - Rising Public Awareness about development problems faced by women from developing countries from EU Eastern Neighbourhood, Balkans and Central Asia". This 3-years project co-financed by European Commission, covers 13 countries (CEE/CIS and EU), involves 5 partners from EU and non-EU countries, including KARAT's members.

In the past Ewa has been working in NGO sector and focusing projects on immigrants and refugees. Working on gender issues is new challenge for her and she feels very enthusiastic about it.

You can get in touch with Ewa at: ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl

As in the last issue, in the *Update from members* section, we have a pleasure to present profile of the KARAT member organization. This time it is NCWM – UWOM from Macedonia.

Let me also remind you that we accept your contributions and we strongly encourage you to submit news to KARAT's newsletter.

If you have any suggestions regarding the content, do not hesitate to contact me at:

magda.pochec@karat.org.pl

KARAT secretariat has moved! Change of address

Please note that our address has changed. All the post should be directed at:

KARAT Coalition

Solec 85

00 – 382 Warsaw/POLAND

Tel. 00 48 22 628 20 03

We are looking forward to seeing you soon in our new, lovely office!

New project: 'Women in supermarkets'!

We have a pleasure to announce that the new project study called: Labour Rights Protection from gender perspective in the super/hypermarket in Poland has been launched last month. It aims at changing permanently the employment environment by the means of strengthening the protection of the labour rights of workers, in majority women, employed in the large hypermarket chains. The project activities include: establishing and facilitating the work of the strategic action advisory body, preparation of the report analyzing the cases of workers right violations and identifying the weak points of the working conditions protection system, lobbying (also through media campaign) and monitoring of workers' rights.

For further questions you can contact project coordinator Joanna Pieczynska at:

joanna.pieczynska@karat.org.pl



Forward the flame
towards Beijing!
Visit catchtheflame.org

Update: Fair Play in sporting goods industry project: Catch the Flame!

As a part of KARAT's project that focuses on the working conditions of women in the sportswear production and being a supporter of the international campaign Play Fair 2008 (www.playfair2008.org) KARAT is participating in the Catch the Flame initiative. It is an alternative torch relay that aims at pressuring sportswear and athletic footwear companies, the International Olympics Committee (IOC), its organising committees (OCOGs), the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and national governments, into taking identifiable and concrete measures to eliminate the exploitation and abuse of workers in the global sporting goods industry.

We strongly encourage you to support this important initiative by signing up at:

www.catchtheflame.org

For more information please contact us at: fairplay@karat.org.pl

Update: Optional Protocol to CEDAW project

On 27-28 March Karat Coalition hosted the first strategic meeting of the project partners working together to "Build the Eastern European and Central Asian women's NGOs Coalition on Optional Protocol to CEDAW". During the meeting, attended by project partners from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, IWRAP Asia-Pacific and Karat secretariat, the project strategy was thoroughly discussed and the decisions on the next project activity – training on OP CEDAW - made. The training supported by IWRAP Asia-Pacific and addressed to women's activists and lawyers from Belarus, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, will contribute to building the capacity of women's NGOs to counteract the discrimination against women. The call for applications for participation in the training will be announced soon. During the meeting the idea of supporting the implementation of concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee was presented by the representative of IWRAP Asia Pacific. The idea was found valuable and as a follow up the decision was made that a workshop for Central and Eastern European women's NGOs focused on the issue will be organized this year by IWRAP Asia Pacific in cooperation with Ukrainian Women's Fund.

For more information you can contact Aleksandra at: aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl

Update:makeITfair

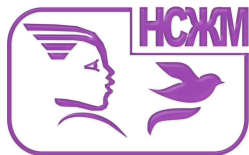
Polish version of the report "Gender aspects. Production of next-generation electronics in Poland" is now available online at http://www.kobietypraca.org/fairplay/publikacje/IT_PL.pdf

The English version is available at the website of makeITfair campaign (<http://makeitfair.org/the-facts/reports>).

makeITfair is a EU funded project focusing on consumer electronics like mobile phones, laptops and MP3 players, aim at informing consumers across Europe about the current working conditions issues and environmental problems around the world caused by our demand for new electronic gadgets. KARAT is a partner in the campaign that is run in Poland, Czech Republic & Hungary and focuses its activities on gender aspects of working conditions in production of new generation electronics.

UPDATE FROM MEMBERS

Learn more about KARAT members!



We have a pleasure to introduce **NCWM – UWOM from Macedonia** which is a grass-root network of 95 independent women's organizations. The NCWM - UWOM is one of the most active Macedonian NGOs. It has been established in October 1994 on an initiative of 13 women's organizations foreseeing the need to network in order to promote the advancement and empowerment of women as well as safeguarding their (human) rights. Since its establishment the organization has been focusing on developing the women's civil sector throughout the country in cooperation with various local, national and international stakeholders in the framework of its various programmes (i.e., women's participation in politics, gender mainstreaming, economic development, youth, combating violence and trafficking, international cooperation, research programme and similar) and activities. The vision is building of a society with equal opportunities for women and men in different spheres of public and private life, including socio-economic development and political arena.

In March 2008, NCWM – UWOM has just started new project called informal education of primary school girls and boys in rural communities.

We strongly encourage you to learn more about the organization at the website which is also available in English: www.sozm.org.mk

If you have any questions you can also contact Savka Todorovska, President of the NCWM – UWOM at: sozm@mt.net.mk

National/Members' News

BELARUS: Intrusion of KGB into Adliga office

On March, 28, KGB entered and searched Adliga office, which is a non profit organization advocating for women's rights. The organization had to destroy the archives (10 years old) so that they would not get into KGB hands. KGB snatched the report on gender street theaters, including the financial

documents and the list of participants. It also snatched all office equipment. What is even more alarming is that human rights activist Pavel Levinov was kidnapped and now is kept at the enforcement facilities of power structures. Enforcement officer Skorinovich accuses him of 'swearing in public' and 'disobedience to legal demands of law-enforcement officers'.

KARAT is deeply concerned of the repressions faced by women's rights activists in Belarus.

Balkans: Strengthening civil society

On March, 4 in Skopje, Macedonia the conference on the government cooperation with the civil sector took place. The aim was to strengthen capacity of the governments in Balkans to establish special bodies responsible for facilitating constructive dialogue with NGOs this is obviously also women run organizations. The conference was attended by both: civil society representatives and the governmental delegates from Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. It has been agreed that promotion of the civil society's participation in the decision making process as well as recognizing its consultative role are crucial for the development of sustainable democracies in the region.

You can read more about this event at:

<http://www.uzuvrh.hr/vijestEN.aspx?pageID=1&newsID=430>

GEORGIA: Initiative to introduce gender quotas

On March, 22 Georgian Women NGOs Coalition (GWNC) launched an action to introduce the quota system into political parties. The aim is to ensure that on electoral lists there is a certain percentage of women. It is necessary to collect 30 thousand signatures under the appeal to amend the Georgian law on political unions and citizens. GWNC plans to mobilize the essential number of supporters in 45 days. The initiative has been recognized by the parliament's procedure committee during its session on March, 19. KARAT Coalition is crossing the fingers for the success of this action that will significantly empower women in Georgia.

For more information go to: <http://www.wcg.org.ge/eng/index.php>

You might also contact Maya Kuprava maiakuprava@yahoo.com or Tamar Abramishvili tamar@caucasus.net for further queries.

Lithuania and Slovakia will report to CEDAW

At the next, 41st session of the UN Commission on the elimination of discrimination against women scheduled for June, 30 – July, 18 two countries from the CEE region will report. Periodic reports of Lithuania and Slovakia that you can access at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws41.htm> will be reviewed.

EU News

Macedonia ready for accession negotiations

On March, 12 – 13 at the session of the European Parliament the opinion on the Macedonian policy towards social society strengthening and development has been approved by the European Economic and Social Committee (ECSC). It says the Macedonia has done significant progress in this field and that the country has established stable relationship with the European Union. It has been concluded that

Macedonia is ready to start EU accession negotiations even in 2008 with the ultimate goal of joining the EU. For this purposes a joint consultative committee should be established with the strong representation of various civil society organizations. Future accession and negotiations as such might have positive impact on women's rights in Macedonia.

To research more on this issue go to: www.eesc.europa.eu.

Assessing accession – Central and Eastern Europe in the EU

New research networking initiative has been called 'Assessing accession' has been launched by the Department of CEE studies at the University of Glasgow. In June, 6 – 7 a symposium will be organized to evaluate mutual impact of the new member states and the European Union. It will gather different stakeholders, researchers and practitioners and hopefully women's rights activists as well. If you would like to participate in the symposium and help to influence the future of Assessing Accession then please send an mail to Eamonn Butler at e.butler@lbss.gla.ac.uk detailing your current research project and/or interests and how these relate to either the overall general workshop theme or specific session topics.

To get more information on the initiative visit: <http://assessingaccession.eu>

Information Sharing

The life of women and men in Europe – A statistical portrait

A new publication released by EuroStat provides diversity of gender statistics. It also describes situation of both sexes in different stages of live, including childhood. It provides very interesting overview of the variety of topics: family and professional life, career paths, retirement and health.

You can download it for free at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073,46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-80-07-135

What is feminist political economy? – online interviews with experts

Interviews with academics from different countries carried out by students of Muenster University can serve as educational materials. This is a unique way of sharing knowledge and experiences in the field of feminist political economy.

To see the interviews visit:

http://e-education.uni-muenster.de/gender/gipe_podcasts.htm

Useful resources on www.gendertatwork.org

In the resources section of the website you will find a bunch of interesting articles and larger publications for download that deal among others with the topics of gender mainstreaming, pieces of opinion on the United Nations policy on gender equality as well as development policy and gender. There is no particular focus on the CEE/CIS region but some of you might still find the materials very useful as they deal with global aspects of gender equality.

Here is a direct link to the resources section (articles and books):

<http://www.gendertatwork.org/resources.php>

WIDE News reflects on CSW

We strongly encourage our readers to take a look at the last issue of the newsletter of Women in Development Europe (WIDE). You will find there comprehensive review of the last CSW session. You can read it at:

http://62.149.193.10/wide/download/2008_News_3.pdf?id=592

New issue of CaucAsia magazine: Be Active!

We encourage you to take a look at the March issue of the CaucAsia Magazine that deals with the topic of being active for women's rights and countering gender stereotypes.

You can download the magazine at: <http://www.gmc.ge/images/PDF/Kavkazia2008-3E.pdf>

41st session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), The session will be held on April, 7 – 11, 2008 in New York, US. The priority theme of this year's CPD is 'Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development'.

Provisional agenda is available at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2008/comm2008.htm>

TRIALOG-CONCORD Conference

The conference: Are we on the right track?, May, 14 – 15, Prague, Czech Republic

The aim of the conference is the paradigm review by the civil society organizations as development actors. It will gather representatives from all geographical regions, especially from the global South and East, including EU new member states and neighbouring countries. The idea is to develop and agree upon the most promising development approaches. Registration is open until April, 10. There is a possibility to apply for reimbursement. For further information contact organizers at: office@trialog.or.at

You can also learn more about this event at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/start.asp?ID=139>

1st European Conference on Politics and Gender

Organized by European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), the conference aims at bringing together scholars working with different aspects of politics and gender. It will include roundtable on the current European Union – funded gender and politics project. Proposals for individual papers and panels should be sent by email to the conference secretary Jemima Repo (jemima.repo@helsinki.fi). Acceptance of papers and panels will be confirmed by 1 September 2008.

Detailed information is available at:

http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/standinggroups/ecpg_home.aspx

Conference on Feminist Research Methods, February, 4-9, 2008, Stockholm University, Sweden

The conference is open to researchers in all disciplines, inter-disciplines and directions of research. All interested participants are welcome to suggest sessions, workshops and other types of events.

For more information go to: <http://www.kvinfo.su.se/femmet09/>

or contact organizers at: femmet09@kvinfo.su.se

Seminar: A practical guide to the European Neighbourhood Policy, June, 11 – 13, Maastricht, the Netherlands

The seminar dealing with the topic of the new relationship between the European Union and neighbouring countries is organized by European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA). It is fully paid.

For registration or to view the whole catalogue of available trainings go to: www.eipa.eu or contact organizers at: d.claessens@eipa.eu

Job announcement: Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality

It is Vilnius – based (Lithuania) and the application deadline is April 22, 2008. The good command of English is a must. The term lasts 5 years. Only EU citizens are eligible to apply. Full information available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/personnel_administration/working_senior_mgt_en.htm#2008_10062

Job announcement: APRODEV Policy officer, Brussels, Belgium

APRODEV is looking for policy officer for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The main responsibilities concern promoting EU policies in these regions (poverty eradication, sustainable development, fundamental rights and the strengthening of civil society). Applicants should send their CV, references and a cover letter to: APRODEV, Boulevard Charlemagne 28, B-1000 Brussels or E-mail: aprodev@aprodev.net. Closing date is 4th April 2008.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

KARAT Secretariat would like to sincerely thank the following for their contributions to the News (forwarding information and providing us with 'original' information): WIDE; NEWW-Polska; EastChance, WUNRN; Balkan Civil Society Development Network, VAW Monitor

Edited by Magda Pocheć