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What’s new in KARAT ?

Debate on priorities for Polish Presidency

A public debate on priorities for EU Polish Presidency was organized on the 28th of January 2011 in Warsaw by the Heinrich Boell Stiftung Warsaw Office. The aim was to discuss whether the program of Polish Presidency would include a policy of equality and counteraction of discrimination. The representatives of government responsible for these policies as well as civil society organizations (CSOs), including two KARAT members, were invited to take part in the debate. The fact that both invited governmental representatives withdrew their participation in the very last moment was quite indicative of the position of equality issue at the governmental level. KARAT’s representatives took active part in the debate:

Aleksandra Jachanova-Dolezelova from Czech Gender Studies (KARAT member) shared the experience of Czech Presidency. The Czech CSOs working for equality were disappointed by the governmental program “Europe without barriers” related only to the economy (“3xE: Economy, Energetic and Europe”) and lack of inclusion of the social issues. They prepared an alternative program on human rights for Czech Presidency. Elaboration of the alternative program significantly contributed to the media debate during the Presidency.

Kinga Lohmann (KARAT Secretariat) highlighted the fact that the organizer included the development cooperation in the public debate which is very rare in the Polish discussions on gender equality. She pointed out that the success in reducing poverty (it is a key of development effectiveness) is only possible if gender equality and women’s rights are at the centre of the development agenda. Hence, the Polish Presidency who will preside the EU also during the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Bussan (South Korea, November 2011) should comprise gender equality as one of its priorities.

[More information](#) (in Polish only)

National Dialogues about gender and development in Bulgaria and Romania



Two national dialogues were held in Sofia, Bulgaria (the 7th of February) and in Bucharest, Romania (the 9th of February) within the project: “CONNECT! East/South/West women for development”. The first one was organized by Gender, Education, Research and Technologies Foundation (GERT), the second one – by AUR - A.N.S.U.R. These events contributed to achieving the main objective of the project: building bridges between the women’s movement, non-governmental development organizations and decision makers.

The dialogues were organized under the title: “Practicing the Promises: Gender equality and Women’s rights in EU New Member States development cooperation”. The aim of the events was to present the international obligations made by the new donor countries (Bulgaria and Romania are among them) regarding the development cooperation and to highlight the importance of including gender equality as a cross-cutting issue in their agenda and also in practice.

Each dialogue was an opportunity to give the floor to various actors in the process, especially partners from global South: Chipo Kanjo from the Coalition of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (Malawi) and Atupele Chirwa from Malawi National Women's Lobby Group cooperating with One World Action' project's lead organization. The representatives of the Romanian Senate, Parliament and Ministries as well as Bulgarian Ministries and Norwegian and Dutch ambassadors in Bulgaria took active part in the dialogues and contributed to the discussion with the decision makers' point of view.



To find out more about the dialogues please contact Marta Gontarska at marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl.

The materials and photos from the events will be available soon on sub-page of the CONNECT! project linked to KARAT's website www.karat.org.

Development Cooperation - consultation with civil society organizations

KARAT takes part in the consultations with civil society organizations (CSOs) on the frame of the first multi-year program on Polish Development Cooperation for 2012-2016 which were initiated on the 8th of February 2011 by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

It is a beginning of the process which foresees consultations of various actors working on development issue in Poland as well as study visits to the Polish aid's recipient countries aimed at assessing the needs of the potential beneficiaries.

KARAT as a part of Polish Platform of Concord - Grupa Zagranica - is actively engaged in this process with the aim to contribute to elaboration of gender sensitive program of Polish development cooperation.

The MFA's initiative of wide consultations with CSOs is promising and appreciated especially in the context of giving up such good practices by the governmental bodies responsible for equality and counteraction of discrimination for the last four years.

For more information, please contact Kinga Lohmann at: kinga.lohmann@karat.org.pl

Civil society organizations enquire the Government on the CEDAW reporting process

Within the framework of KARAT's project: "Advocacy for the implementation of CEDAW in Poland 2010 – 2012" a coalition of 7 women's rights organization has been established. The main activities of the coalition include: advocacy for the full implementation of CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations, elaboration of the shadow/alternative report and engaging in constructive dialogue with the Government on critical women's rights issues.

At its first strategic meeting that was held on 1st of February 2011 in Warsaw, the coalition decided to jointly appeal to the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, that coordinates the elaboration of governmental periodic report on the implementation of CEDAW, to meet with civil society organizations to discuss the upcoming CEDAW reporting process scheduled for 2012.

Moreover, the coalition submitted communication to the Parliamentary Women's Group calling upon MPs to address the problem of lack of National Action Plan for Women. The last national plan was ceased in 2005 and since then the new one has never been implemented or developed.

To learn more about the Project and for the updates on the Coalition's activities, please visit:

<http://www.karat.org/karat,20,en.html>

Macedonian Women's Rights Centre-Shelter Centre and the National Council for gender equality-UWOM (Macedonia): Calling for responsibility regarding the miscarriage of the woman detained in "Spider-Web" investigation

At the beginning of February a group of people was detained under the suspicion of tax evasion (so-called "Pajažina" case). One of the detained women had a spontaneous abortion at the Skopje Investigation Prison and Detention Centre. The woman was taken to the hospital, but the doctors did not succeed to save her pregnancy.

Six Macedonian organizations - among them two KARAT's Member: the Macedonian Women's Rights Centre-Shelter Centre and the National Council for gender equality (UWOM) - expressed their concern regarding the way the detained persons have been treated. According to them, we can speak about the violation of basic human rights.

These six organisations, joined by women's rights activists and representatives of the women's sections of oppositional political parties, organized a protest in front of the Skopje Criminal Court. They also made a public statement, underlining that, ironically, the "Pajažina" case happened at the same time when the government started the anti-abortion campaign.

For more information please contact Daniela Dabeska (Macedonian Women's Rights Centre-Shelter Centre) at dabeska_daniela@yahoo.com

Slovak Centre for Communication and Development (Slovakia): Exhibition "How to Change the World"



We as individuals cannot influence the world too much but a lot of minor changes can. The exhibition "How to Change the World" prepared by Slovak Centre for Communication and Development (SCCD) is bringing up some thoughts on what we as inhabitants of the Earth could do for our planet and for the people living on it.

The exhibition was opened for public every day, starting January 16 until February 4, in Bratislava.

This global education exhibition consists of collection of posters created by graphic designer Róbert Szabó and photographer Viktor Szemzó. Their task was to couple with everyday decisions which could result into, metaphorically, changing the world. The exhibition can be adapted into another languages and exposed in other countries. You can find sample presentation [here](#)

Moreover, during opening the publication "Klimatické zmeny a environmentálna politika v Európskej únii: problémy, riešenia a reflexive" ("Climatic Change and Environmental Policy in EU: Problems, Solutions and Reflections") was launched. It is available [here](#) (in Slovak).

If you are interested in any additional information either on exhibition, or publication do not hesitate to contact Peter Ivanic at ivanic@sccd-sk.org

New UN Women Head gives 100-day Action Plan

During the first UN Women Executive Board meeting in January 2011, Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, unveiled her vision and 100-day action plan for the organization.

UN Women will focus on five thematic priorities:

- Expanding women's voice, leadership and participation,
- Ending violence against women,
- Strengthening implementation of women's peace and security agenda,
- Enhancing women's economic empowerment,
- Making gender equality priorities central to national, local and sectoral planning, budgeting and statistics.

The statement made by Michelle Bachelet is available [here](#).

Networking on World Bank's Gender World Development Report (WDR)

In 2012 the World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) will be devoted to gender for the first time. However, the draft outline of this publication by the World Bank lacks a women's and human rights framework and almost exclusively focuses on economic empowerment as the sole means to achieve gender equality.

Washington DC-based Gender Action and London-based Bretton Woods Project are co-hosting a discussion forum to inform global civil society about the gender WDR and coordinate responses. With this forum, Gender Action and the Bretton Woods Project aim to ensure that interested civil society groups have a platform for advocacy and campaigning on the WDR. Activists, campaigners, CSOs and researchers are encouraged to join the discussion.

To join the list, you need to click on this [link](#) and "Apply for membership".

Events

Amnesty International: Picture Europe without discrimination!

Amnesty International invites you to take part in the photo competition "Yes to diversity, no to discrimination! Picture Europe without discrimination!". If you have powerful images that illustrate the importance of tolerance and respect, you are encouraged to submit them by the 31st of March.

The contest is open to everyone in Europe above the age of 14, excluding professional photographers. The winning 12 photos will be used in a calendar and other promotional material to support the Fight Discrimination in Europe campaign.

[More information](#)

Women's Foundation eFKa (Poland): Jump Over the Wall. Biographical Workshop for Women on the Transition Period

The aim of the workshop is to learn the most recent history of Europe from the perspective of biographies. Another aim is to present the history from the perspective of women, who are usually seen as passive participants of historical transformations. Participants of the workshop will learn from each other in which way the political changes have influenced their biographies. Especially older women are invited as providers of historical knowledge.

Costs of participation at this workshop are fully covered by EU Grundtvig Program for 15 women from the EU countries (except Poland) and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, Croatia, Macedonia or Switzerland. The workshop will take place in Cracow (Poland), on the 11th-19th of June 2011. Deadline for applying is the 28th of February 2011.

[More information](#)

Resources

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID): Women's Rights in 2010. Slideshow - Visual Overview

2010 was an eventful year for women's rights. AWID presents a slideshow that captures key moments for women's rights throughout the year and across the globe.

You can watch the slideshow [here](#).

ASTRA Youth: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Adolescents in Central and Eastern Europe and Balkan Countries (2011)

This publication presents the situation of youth in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Balkans regarding reproductive and sexual health. It covers topics such as sex education, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, abortion, contraception and youth health care. This report also evaluates official data and legal issues. The report covers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Macedonia, Poland, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

You can download the report [here](#).

Global Fund for Women (GFW): 20 Years of Transition: How are Women Faring?

Listen to an inspiring feminist podcast featuring Betsy Hoody, GFW's Program Officer for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States and Masum Momaya from the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID).

You can also read the transcript of their conversation [here](#).

Human Rights Watch (HRW): World Report 2011

The Human Rights Watch 21st annual World Report summarizes human rights conditions in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide. It reflects the investigative work undertaken in 2010 by Human Rights Watch staff, usually in close partnership with domestic human rights activists.

You can find report [here](#).

Social Watch: European Social Watch Report 2010

Social Watch has launched the European Social Watch Report for 2010 in the European Parliament. This year's edition entitled "Time for Action - Responding to poverty, social exclusion and inequality in Europe and beyond" examines social exclusion in Europe, including employment, healthcare, housing and financial exclusion. It also analyses the reality for groups of people that are particularly vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion, such as migrants and the Roma. Special attention is given to the gender dimension of poverty.

The report is available [here](#).

UN: Rural women face increasing inequality in agricultural employment

According to the report compiled by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Labor Organization (ILO), women face discrimination that limits both their economic productivity and their personal development.

The report – entitled "Gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: Differentiated pathways out of poverty" – notes that women need access to education, training, credit, markets, technical assistance and labour

protection. They also need equal, secure access to land and other assets and “social capital,” including the ability to participate equally in farmers’ organizations.

Given that 70 per cent of the developing world’s 1.4 billion extremely poor people live in rural areas, raising rural women’s economic participation is crucial for achievement of the global poverty reduction and social development targets known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the report adds.

You can find the report [here](#).

WIDE Annual Conference 2010 Report “Migration in the Context of Globalisation: Women’s Human Rights at Risk?”



Migration and globalization are key issues for the women’s movement as they are having serious impacts on women’s lives and rights.

Women from all corners of the globe came together at the WIDE conference to share and reflect on the open question of migrant women’s human rights at risk and to explore the links between decisions taken at a global level and the impact they have on the ground.

The conference offered a space for shared thinking, theoretical analysis, empirical knowledge, and to define a roadmap for political action.

The Conference was jointly organized by WIDE, KARAT Coalition and AUR (Romania). KARAT Coalition represented the concerns and needs of women from Central and Eastern European and Central Asian countries.

The report from the conference is available [here](#).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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ul. Rakowiecka 39A/14
02-521 Warsaw, Poland

www.karat.org

phone: +48 22 8491647

fax: +48 22 628 20 03

Subscriptions and news contributions are welcomed at: ewa.kaminska@karat.org.pl

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