



Gender Dynamics

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Quarterly trilingual newsletter of the programme "Enhancing equality between men and women in the Mediterranean region," funded by the European Union.

Editorial

The establishment of the new Programme Enhancing Equality between Men & Women in the Euromed region is further evidence of the EU commitment to promotion of gender equality in the region.

The Euromed Gender Programme as it is called for brevity's sake - builds upon the achievements of the Euromed Programme the Role of Women in Economic Life (RWEL) which is coming to an end in January 2009.

We will be conversing with all our stakeholders through this quarterly newsletter and through other media on a regular basis and we look forward to a lively and productive exchange of ideas and information over the next three years!

Jane Hailé

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Message from the editorial team

Gender Dynamics is a quarterly trilingual newsletter of the Programme "Enhancing Equality between Men and Women in the Euromed region," funded by the European Neighborhood Policy. This newsletter is meant to be a space of information and exchange of experiences and ideas on a regional scale. It will strengthen existing synergies and encourage those emerging with all actors involved in the Programme's themes, namely the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and related instruments, and strengthening the strategies on fighting gender-based-violence/against women as well as ensuring follow up of conclusions and recommendations of the Istanbul framework of Action.

Gender Dynamics will highlight not only the obstacles, opportunities, good practices and success stories but also strategies and dynamics of change that will prepare the future.

Good reading

WHO WE ARE?

Enhancing Equality Between Men and Women in the Euro-Mediterranean region:

The European Commission has contributed over the past ten years to promote equality between men and women in many countries which are partners in the framework of bilateral agreements to support the dynamics, reforms and actions for the promotion of conditions and status of women.

"Enhancing Equality between Men and Women in the EuroMed Region", with a budget of 3,342,000 Euros, is the continuity of the Regional Programme on the Role of Women in Economic Life (RWEL (2006-2009) . This second Regional Programme was launched through an international tender won by a consortium of three partners from the EuroMed Region.

Under the title of "Equality between Men and Women in the Euro-Mediterranean Region" there is a willingness to involve countries from the two shores to entrench the value of Equality as a common pillar of

development. The title also refers to the dialogue that can be stimulated by our Programme around a shared interest and common priorities in order to exchange experiences and create together synergies for change that can only be profitable for the future of individuals and nations.

The success of this Programme will depend largely on the strength of its team and its partners as well as their ability to make the most of a very interesting "heritage" which the RWEL Programme has managed to establish strategic partnerships with various actors, not to mention the databases developed to facilitate access to information.

The level of commitment of the national actors targeted by this Programme and their willingness to capitalize on the results and achievements will represent the crucial element to attain the expected change ●●●

Work team, operating team...

Jane Hailé



Team leader. She is a social anthropologist with BA and MA from Cambridge University and Ph.D from the school of Oriental and African studies, London University. She has a 38-year career in international development in Asia, the Caribbean, West Africa, the Balkans and the Middle East with UNDP, UNICEF and other UN agencies. She is currently an independent consultant in Gender, Human Rights and Social Development to the European Commission, the European Parliament, the United Nations and several bilateral foundations and international NGOs. She is author of several publications on gender and development and expert in training, including online training.

Faiza Benhadid



Gender expert. She is a holder of a doctorate in clinical psychology and anthropology from the University of Paris X and has an experience of over 38 years including 20 years in regional, international and UN institutions, within the areas of Gender and Development, Empowerment of women at different stages of life, violence against women, human rights and reproductive health. She is also recognized as an expert in international training in strategic planning, results-based management, gender mainstreaming in planning and budgeting, gender auditing, integration of the human rights approach in Programming ... areas where she has developed adapted methodologies and materials. She has supported Arab countries and international organizations for training in gender, design and evaluation of Programmes including cooperation Programmes (UN), the development of national strategies (fight against violence, promotion of the status of Women, Gender equality ...) to name just a few examples.

Atidel Mejbri



Expert in information and communication. She has 16 years of experience as a journalist and broadcaster. After earning a degree in Communication from the University of Tunis, she made a career as producer and host in TV and radio. She is also Head of Information and Communication at the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research/ CAWTAR, where she coordinates a regional Programme "Gender and Arab Media" covering 22 countries. She received several awards at national and Arab levels for her television productions dealing with social and legal issues ●

Women on the Web

www.roleofwomenineconomiclife.net:

A unifying site of exchange



The programme "Role of Women in Economic Life" RWEL funded by the European Union since January 2006 and whose closing is scheduled for January 2009, has posted its results, its knowledge and its accomplishments on the internet. The Web has thus been enriched by one site that could play a unifying role for the exchange of information and resources from and to the Euro Mediterranean region and the world as a whole. Available in English, Arabic and French, the site is organized into several sections: Publications, projects, databases, Gender Media Network, News, a newsletter and contacts.

The thematic areas which are subject to specific pages are four: Gender, Marketing and Exchange, Gender and Mass Media, Micro-credit and business development, and finally capacity building and economic empowerment. Other links lead to a very rich documentation on the various projects supported by RWEL, allocated by country, and on other sites including the Euro-Aid.

A calendar of events and reports of events and meetings as well as manuals of procedures are accessible and downloadable. Some publications and events are highlighted as it is the case presently with the Euro-Med conference on "economic rights of women: Making a Difference in the Mediterranean" which is being held in Brussels on November 17 and 18, 2008 ●

At the Front Page...

Women making the difference in the Mediterranean

"The Economic Rights of Women: Making a Difference in the Mediterranean" is the title of the Euro-Med Conference currently held in Brussels. This conference is of crucial importance for the Role of Women in Economic Life. Indeed, it crowns three years of work and achievements both in technical support and strengthening projects in Euro-Med countries and at the level of knowledge production and links between research and policies.

Through a human rights approach, RWEL sought, for 3 years, to build projects that may help decision-makers in devising their policy of strengthening the economic participation of women in the region.

The conference will be attended by nearly 150 policy-makers, advocates of human rights including of women, members of international and regional organizations, representatives of chambers of commerce, trade unionists and journalists from the region. It will be an opportunity to discuss the achievements and define the obstacles that hinder the effective participation of women in economic life. During the conference, a space is reserved for the introduction of the new regional Programme "Enhancing Equality between Men and Women in the Euromed Region," logical and strategic continuity of RWEL ●

Institutions:

Tunisia: Comprehensive Institutional system

Tunisia has been a pioneer in the Arab world both in legislation and at institutional level to promote a process of equality between men and women. Indeed, a comprehensive institutional system of mechanisms and programmes has been established: The Ministry of the Affairs of Women, Family, Children and the Elderly, a national commission on "Women and Development" (since 1992) set up to contribute to the design, implementation and follow up of the five - year national plans and looks after gender mainstreaming in Planning and a National Council for Women and Family, which includes 3 thematic committees responsible for equal opportunities, women's image in the media and the advancement of rural women.

Thanks to a system of strong references and values made up of its Constitution, its laws, its mechanisms and its institutions, Tunisia showed commitment to ratifying the Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratification, which occurred in June 2008, thus marking the continuous and consistent legal reforms triggered in 1956 and an institutional tradition established since 1985, when the Ministry of Women was created for the first time.

<http://www.femmes.tn>

RWEL : ACHIEVEMENTS

- Technical support to 7 consortia of NGOs in the region in capacity building in order to improve opportunities in economic life in the areas of marketing, networks and partnerships, sustainable development of ways of marketing, business management ...
- Evaluation of national women machineries through 10 national studies and a comparative analysis.
- Analysis of the economic situation of women in eight countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Tunisia. Jordan and Turkey have been covered by two studies of the World Bank.
- Exhaustive legislative census through a comparative study of laws, regulations and practices in 10 countries of the program: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Tunisia and Turkey.
- Data collection on good practices, people, resources to serve as a baseline for policy makers and planners.

News in brief

Women's right to nationality

Groups of women, NGOs and women rights associations and parliamentarians have prepared a statement to the meeting of the International Organization of the Francophonie on the equality of women in the Frenchspeaking space.

The statement condemned "the inexcusable delays in the implementation and realization of the human rights of women" and called to amend and enforce women's rights to nationality, without further delay.

<http://www.genre.francophonie.org>

Equal citizenship

Six NGOs in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco have joined efforts to conduct a campaign against discriminatory laws that deny women equality in terms of nationality and women's access to an equal right to nationality. A Web log was designed to collect testimonies and updates for each country.

<http://www.learningpartnerships.org>

Who does what?

Complementarity prevails

THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY (ENP)



The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned. The European Neighbourhood Policy allows building of deeper partnership, sustained dialogue and close relationships. The ENP applies to the EU's immediate neighbours by land or sea: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The central element of the European Neighbourhood Policy is the bilateral ENP Action Plans agreed between the EU and each partner. These set out an agenda of political

and economic reforms with short and medium-term priorities. The EU offers to its neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development). The ENP serves as a catalyst for the perspectives of an increased cooperation based on differentiation which allows respect of the specificities of each country from one part and the ownership which requires a collective support from another part.

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/welcome_fr.htm

TRANSTEC



TRANSTEC, leader of the Consortium, is a consulting and technical assistance firm in the areas of social, economic, commercial and private sector development public, institutional strengthening, European integration process Humanitarian Assistance as well as

gender and human rights issues (e.g. DAPHNE I and DAPHNE II Programme 2000-2008, sponsored by the European Commission). Based in Brussels, Transtec opened its Representation Office in Beirut, Lebanon in 2006 which contributed to reinforce its presence in the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

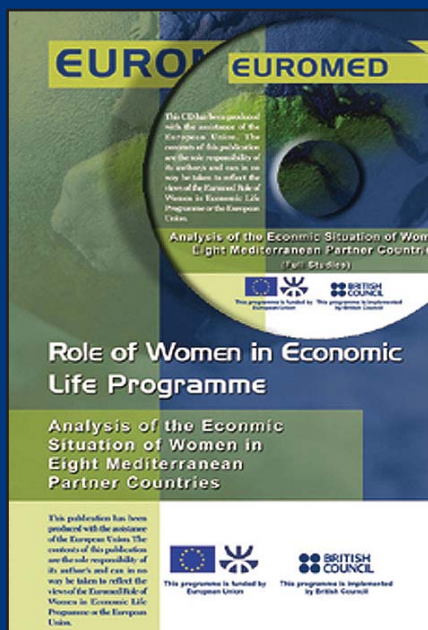
<http://www.transtec.be/>

CAWTAR



CAWTAR The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) is a regional NGO founded in 1993, in Tunis. Its main mission is to participate to the creation of an environment conducive to equality between men and women in the Arab region and to contribute to the promotion of the status and conditions of Arab women and the enjoyment of their human rights in both public and private spheres.

www.cawtar.org/



Publication

An analytical publication contains eight country studies commissioned by the EUROMED Role of Women in Economic Life (RWEL) Programme, covering Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia, as well as a comparative analysis of the eight studies in addition to two World Bank studies on Jordan and Turkey.

The studies examine the economic participation of women in Mediterranean partner countries' economies-both in the formal and informal sector, examining the intertwined socio-cultural, economic and political dynamics of gender discrimination in the economic sphere.

Available at www.euromedwomensrights.net

Extracted from EUROMED "Role of Women in Economic Life" Programme quarterly Newsletter, n°6, April-June 2008.

The floor is to...

Carla Montesi :

«...The new Gender Programme will bring about tangible results...»



«*Enhancing Equality between Men and Women in the EuroMed Region*» is a new Programme funded by the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP). The project is spread over a period of three years beginning in May 2008 and covers nine countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In looking more into the content of the programme, we immediately notice a difference with other Programmes: Tangible results are expected on the full implementation of the Convention against all Forms of Discrimination Against Women "CEDAW," combating violence against women and the implementation of the outcome of the Istanbul Conference held in 2006. Carla Montesi, Head of Unit in charge of regional Programmes and Neighborhood. EuropeAid, European Commission, tells us more.

A new Programme for women's equality within the Euro-Med partnership, what added value?

Its added value is born of a need to consolidate Gender equality as one of the fundamental pillars of development on one hand, and the process in which it was designed and launched, on the other hand. Indeed, the Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Barcelona in 1995 has kicked off a strong partnership based on ownership, dialogue and cooperation between countries of the Mediterranean, which was at that time a real turning point in relations between the European Union and the region.

The Barcelona Declaration itself has recognized "the key role of women in development" and called for "promoting the active participation of women in economic and social life and job creation." Ten years later, we felt it appropriate to "take the necessary measures to ensure gender equality, combat all forms of discrimination and guarantee the protection of rights of women."

As you pointed out, the first Euro-Mediterranean ministerial conference on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society" was held in Istanbul in 2006.

This new Programme "Enhancing Equality between Women and Men in the EuroMed Region" is part of the implementation of conclusions and recommendations of the Istanbul conference to strengthen existing dynamics and determine gaps in laws, institutions, policies and mechanisms in order to alleviate them.

It is obvious that we could cover a wide range of topics, but we opted for three entry points that were considered important carriers of any action for change in the status of women and equality: Participation of women in decision-making in both public and private life on the one hand and violence against women, on the other. These two issues will be addressed through the two prisms of CEDAW and the Conclusions and Recommendations of Istanbul, since the project will also monitor the implementation of the framework of action of the Istanbul conference and provide necessary support to concerned countries in this context.

Another added value that deserves to be raised is linked to the credibility of institutions that carry out this Programme because they have human, technical and financial resources to not only achieve the results of the Programme, but also

duplicate them in other countries. We have TRANSTEC on the one hand and CAWTAR on the other.

Finally, it should be noted that the last added value is the continuity that this Programme provides with the regional Programme nearing completion on the role of women in economic / RWEL (2006-2009).

The project is defined as the continuation of RWEL, could you tell us more?

The objective of RWEL is to provide governments and NGOs of the region assistance required to increase the economic participation of women and their empowerment and consolidate efforts by governments in this regard.

Studies conducted in this context are very rich and will be very useful for the new Programme which in turn will represent a privileged space for sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices of mechanisms, approaches, policies, networks of strategic players, State institutions, civil society and media, in addition to strengthening synergies between the different development agencies and donors working in the Euro-Med region.

Moreover, both programmes target the same groups which are largely decision-makers and particularly women machineries (ministries and committees). The work and commitment obtained by RWEL at this level will serve as a basis for analysis of the situation planned in the current project.

Furthermore, the legislative framework that RWEL established with these institutions is a very important element to ensure continuity. It is true that the entry point was economic, but these aspects could not be addressed without a "sweep" of all legislation dealing with the status and conditions of women. The introduction of the recommendations of the work done by RWEL in the process of implementing the findings of Istanbul is also provided for by the new programme

Are you confident about the future of the issue of gender equality in countries that certainly belong to the same region yet are very different?

We observed during the last decade positive changes and results that are more than significant, especially regarding the political will of different States. Their commitment to greater equality between men and women and the policies and strategies that are being implemented are more and more noticeable.

Legislative reforms have been initiated and strengthened in various countries. However much remains to be done hence the need for a programme like ours, which consolidates the achievements and illuminates the paths to follow. As a result of the turning point experienced by cooperation in the region, we can only be optimistic and believe in a constructive partnership that will lead to full recognition of the human rights of women and the importance of their integration into development on equal footing to men. It is true that our achievements are conditioned by the economic, social, political and cultural realities, but the consensus

on the importance of the principle of equality between men and women helps to move forward.

How important is the process of Istanbul to consolidate the efforts already made and in progress?

It is important to remind, on the one hand, that in the Declaration stemming from the Istanbul Conference, the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers emphasized that the equal participation of women and men in all spheres of Life is a crucial element of democracy, it was even considered a preliminary, and on the other hand, the policy framework of Istanbul, its conclusions and recommendations have helped creation of a common framework for coordination, collaboration and partnership. The European Commission, the EU Member States, the Mediterranean States and / or partners in the region are supporting or strengthening the commitments made at national, regional and international levels, whether conventions and international conferences on issues of human rights in general and women in particular or critical development issues (ICPD, Beijing, MD / MDGs...)

Most of the countries covered by the programme have launched a number of initiatives to fight violence against women, including the development of national strategies and conducting surveys on gender-based violence / GBV ... What correlations does the programme provide between what has been achieved and its own interventions?

Actually, one way or another, the interventions supported by the EU have contributed to all these initiatives. The new programme will build and/or strengthen what has been implemented or is underway. The analysis of the state of affairs which will be conducted will certainly help refine the interventions but we already know, through surveys and national strategies what should be done and what should not be, and this in full concordance with the concerns expressed by

States and our partners. Thus, we propose a) to take stock of the situation for all countries concerned so as to harmonize methodologies and tools used to collect data, conduct surveys, set national strategies and policies for advocacy and social mobilization...b) to initiate surveys in countries where data are not available, which would also allow to test new instruments proposed for harmonization; c) to put together all key players of governments, civil society and media as well as development partners to identify priorities whether specific (a country), common (within the region) or universal.

The programme has earmarked a quite important component to media, what role could be played by journalists beyond covering events?

It is undeniable that today the media play an essential role in the change and /or the consecration of a given system of values hence the need to ensure their sensitivity to issues of human rights especially those of women. They should also be able to identify stereotypes and obstacles that may obstruct change for the realization of these rights and sometimes their own resistance in relation to issues of equality between men and women. That is why we introduced the strategic partnership with the media as a crosscutting component of the project. It is not only a question of media coverage of various activities and publications, but it is essential for us to create a privileged collaboration with the media to strengthen their capacity and their enlightened commitment to the process of change we want to contribute and that we intend to strengthen.

7. What are the main challenges?

Above all, we should make visible and recognize the close relationship between democracy, development and equality between men and women. The new programme will focus on strengthening the integration of this approach in tune with the spirit and the process of Barcelona. ●

New dynamics

Hope generates work and change...

Anaruz, a Tamazight word, which means "hope", is the National Network of the Counseling Centers for Women Victims of Violence established in 2004 in Morocco.

This is a unique initiative which allowed the 37 member organizations of the network to unite their efforts to address against violence against women. Beyond its announced mission to contribute to capacity building of associations across Morocco, Anaruz is a real dynamics for harmonization of approaches and working tools allowing subsequently an exhaustive collection of data, a standardized documentation of cases of violence and a thorough analysis of the situation.

Using a manual of procedures recently published by the network, Anaruz has, after 4 years of coordination and discussion, established a charter of work in order to serve as a reference for all Counseling Centers.

The manual is part of a process that deserves special interest. After its successful start-up phase and its portal rich in resources, Anaruz considered the timing of the creation of a common reference work for the consolidation of efforts, the harmonization of tools, assessment of progress and especially the strengthening of advocacy around a subject that remains still taboo in most of our societies. No way to merely content with or continue complaining "What to do? How to act? ". The response is this manual of procedures.

<http://www.anaruz.org>

Events

UNFPA-Combating Violence against Women:

When the concentration of efforts bears fruit ...



A national-level multi-stakeholder planning workshop organized in Amman, Jordan was held on August 27 and 28, 2008, in Amman, capital of Jordan. The workshop, which was organized by the United Nations system with the leadership of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities / UNFPA and the concerned working group, aimed to develop a joint action plan to combat violence against women based on the results of the analysis of the situation which was conducted by a national expert. 66 representatives of government institutions, civil society, UN agencies and other international organizations and donors participated in this strategic event which is part of an initiative of the UN Secretary General implemented in 10 identified pilot countries selected for this global multi-stakeholder joint programming, including Jordan related to in-depth study on all forms of violence against women and different relevant data at legal and programmatic levels as well as in terms of services that lead to pilot planning actions. An inter-Agency working group of the United Nations and other national and international organizations has been put in place, gathering 15 international bodies.

The Gender expert was invited to attend and to contribute to the achievement of the stated workshop objectives as: review the findings of the GBV assessment and gauge the stakeholder landscape while assessing the gaps in the response at the national level; identify strategic entry points as well as linkages with already existing efforts/interventions on VAW to subsequently plan for multi-stakeholder joint programming at the national level for VAW initiatives, including in support of the implementation of national action plans on VAW (where such plans exist) and to help develop such plans (where these do not exist). The gender expert made a presentation on "Gender Equality, Human rights interlinkages: the case of Gender-based-Violence" which included information on the Programme as well as focused on Istanbul Conference present our Programme and how EU/EC is linking these three main Development dimensions. She was also asked to facilitate the whole workshop. The works, in plenary and in groups, allowed to discuss issues related to the absence of data, lack of coordination and duplication of work, the exclusion of regions in favor of the Capital and the need to strengthen existing national good practices, to only quote these examples. A momentum for consultation and coordination desired by all the protagonists has been established. Based on the results of the assessment and discussion including in working groups who reviewed in greater depth the various elements (definition and forms of Gender-Based Violence-gender /GBV in Jordan through the cycle of life approach; drafting the outline of a plan of action for the next 5 years), participants were able to identify obstacles and opportunities as well as the needs and priorities to be addressed in the framework of strategies and plans of action: to be continued ●