

In the MAINSTREAM

1. Regional Strategic Consultative Meeting "Gender, Citizenship and Participatory Governance: Ongoing Challenges for Central and South East Europe" Zagreb, September, 24-26, 2004 and Regional Strategic Framework

The SP GTF together with the Royal Tropical Institute from the Netherlands organized a Regional Consultative Meeting with the aim to discuss the present state of affairs on gender equality and identify common elements for future action, in particular regarding European Integration. The meeting was funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). Twenty Government, Parliament and NGO Representatives from different Central and SouthEast European countries from the Region were present (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, R.Macedonia, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia). The outcome of the meeting is a report including a *Regional Strategic Framework*, expected to be completed by the beginning of March.

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2. GTF Consultations with Roma Women in SEE

In preparation for the continuation of the **Roma Women Can Do It** Project in 2005, the GTF has undertaken 10 Consultation Meetings in SEE from September to November 2004. The meetings had the aim of mapping the current priorities / initiatives of Roma Communities and Roma women in particular, and to establish partnerships for the future work of the GTF with Roma women and the Government / Parliament / Mainstream NGO's who work on Roma (women's) Human Rights. These meetings also provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the ODIHR Project: **"Roma Use Your Ballot Wisely"** and the first elections for the **European Roma and Travelers Forum**.

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3. UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for Beijing +10 in Geneva December 11-14, 2004;

The new SP Chair of Working Table One for Democratization and Human Rights, Goran Svilanovic, spoke during the Opening Ceremony of the UNECE Prep Meeting in Geneva, where he noted the GTF's impact on democratic changes in SEE. The SP GTF Chair, Sonja Lokar, represented the GTF in NGO and Government sessions, and will attend the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (Beijing+10 Conference).

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4. SP GTF Meeting with Donor and International Organizations: Geneva, December 14, 2004

Taking advantage of the large number of Gender Equality actors present in Geneva, for the **Beijing +10** prep meeting, the Stability Pact called together a meeting to present the GTF accomplishments and current activities as well as a discussion on experiences and practices of SEE countries. The meeting was chaired by Goran Svilanovic, Chair of Working Table One. Jean-Daniel Bieller, the director of the SP Working Table 1 and a number of GTF associates from SEE and representatives of Governments and International Organizations participated.

During the course of the meeting a real synergy between SEE Government, Parliament and NGO actors was recognized, although improved legislation does not guarantee implementation, nor does the media or **public opinion** follow the changing/improving environment for gender equality in SEE. The meeting concluded with an agreement to pursue inclusion of gender issues into the agenda of the next **Ministerial Conference on European Integration** which is expected to take place in **Tirana** in the first week of April 2005. This Conference would then serve as a good platform for launching the **SEE Ministerial Conference on Equal Opportunities** later in 2005.

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5. GTF Project: Gender, Trade Unions and Social Dialogue in Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the context of the SP GTF Project: ***Social Dialogue and Women's Empowerment in Trade Unions in Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina***, a final meeting was held to wrap-up the sub regional project and to coordinate further actions with Jasna Petrovic, Head of the ICFTU CEE/CIS Women's Network. The project significantly impacted the women trade unionists involved therein and initiated legislative change in Bosnia and Herzegovina and improved social services in Montenegro. This project was funded by the Dutch Independent Trade Unions (FNV). During the meeting, agreement was reached on expanding cooperation with ICFTU, as well as with the implementer of the follow-up project in Serbia in 2005, Marija Gajicki.

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6. Strengthened Cooperation of the SP GTF and OSCE

In 2005, the SP GTF has plans to strengthen cooperation with the OSCE, currently under the Slovenian Chairmanship. The SP GTF has proposed to undertake jointly with each SEE OSCE Mission one modest, but strategically important gender project. These projects were prepared in the fall of 2004 by SP GTF governmental and NGO partners and are intended to be an element of the new OSCE Action Plan for Gender Equality adopted in December 2004. The SP GTF Chair will also play an instrumental role in the set up of the next OSCE Gender Conference in Paris, planned for April 2005. The conference theme will be **violence against women**. The conference will be co-organized by the OSCE Chairman in Office, Council of Europe, and the Dutch and French Governments.

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Contact us:

GTF Regional Center for
Gender Equality

Savska 41/2
10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel: +385 1 6137 783

Fax: +385 1 6137 784

<http://www.gtf.hr>



gtf@zg.htnet.hr