

## Stability Pact Gender Task Force Report May 2003

**SPGTF Mission Statement:** *The Gender Task Force is dedicated to advancing gender-balanced sustainable development in South Eastern Europe.*

**SPGTF Structure:** *Chair + Co-Chair + Advisory Board + Associate Director + Government Focal Points + NGO Focal Points + Parliamentary Focal Points*

**Participating States/territories:** *Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia(FYRoM), Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia*

### SPGTF Priority Areas (4)

<b>Engendering Key Policies (Security, Labor, Social, Economic)</b>
<b>Gender Equality Machinery</b>
<b>Active Women's Citizenship / Political Empowerment / Cross Border</b>
<b>Information Technology / Publishing / Operations (Field Organization)</b>

### [Regional Project Update](#)

#### **Women Can Do It II (Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Party Politics)**

Likewise in July 2002, the Gender Task Force undertook an evaluation of progress in the Norwegian-funded *Women Can Do It II Regional Project*, a project to improve gender equality in parliamentary political parties of SEE. In nine countries and territories of SEE, the Gender Task Force has worked with almost 70 parliamentary political parties towards achieving this goal. While improvement was noted in all countries where the GTF implemented the project, Serbia and FYR Macedonia marked the most dynamic improvements, with a 30% Quota measure for minority gender on candidate lists passed through parliament, while in Serbia for the municipal level in the new electoral legislation. Elections in Southern Serbia increased women's participation in Local Councils to approximately 30%, up from 2%, while in FYR Macedonia 18% women were elected, up from 6%. In Slovenia, The first pre-electoral women's campaign with cross party support was initiated with the goal of promoting women candidates regardless of party affiliation.

#### **Women Can Do It I (Grassroots Women's Political Empowerment)**

Through support from the Austrian and Norwegian Governments, WCDI I was implemented successfully in Moldova , Romania and Hungary in advance of Municipal Elections. In Moldova the project was continued through Canadian Government Support.

### **Women Voters Can Do It (Get out the Vote Targeting Women Voters)**

In FYR Macedonia, funded by the Austrian Government, the GTF WVCDI project had a direct nationwide outreach to 60,000 households and over 200,000 voters, (approximately 1/5 total voters reached). The project included indirect voter motivation through a nationwide media campaign, including TV spots, radio jingles, billboards, postcards, posters, etc. in the Macedonian and minority languages. Theme: "My vote is my future, Choose hope and dignity, For Equal Opportunities"

The Stability Pact Gender Task Force organized its first Regional Election Observation Delegation to FYR Macedonia from September 10 – 18, 2002. The Delegation was made up of GTF Experts and Focal Points from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Montenegro. Overall the GTF Election Observation Delegation concluded that:

- The Macedonian Parliamentary Elections were free and fair;
- The nationwide effort to get out the women's vote was successful, as women voted in equal or greater numbers than men;
- The passing of a gender quota in the electoral legislation (facilitated through the GTF WCDI II Project) helped to improve women's participation from 3.5% to 18.3%, one of the highest in Southeast Europe;
- On the basis of democratic principles, and in the interest of stability and prosperity in FYR Macedonia, the GTF Delegation recommended that women be represented with at least 30% in the new government and that the Gender Equality Machinery already in place be given additional resources in order to meet new demands of stabilization and accession to the European Union.

### **Women Can Do It in Trade Unions**

In spring 2003, the GTF Pilot Project completed implementation in 2 Cantons of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through funding from the Netherlands Independent Trade Unions, FNV. By targeting Textile, Healthcare, and Teachers Unions, the project aimed to empower these unions to establish constructive dialogue with the Government and public so as to seek new solutions to outstanding social problems. The ICFTU was a partner in the project implementation and Montenegrin NGO and Trade Union representatives participated so as to ensure transfer of experience and knowledge across borders.

The Pilot Project in two Cantons of BiH accomplished a number of key steps:

1. opened the social dialogue in two BiH cantons with women's perspective integrated
2. strengthened existing and encouraged new women trade union leaders
3. developed and tested useful training materials; experienced trainers prepared to implement further
4. brought "a regional perspective into a local environment" through Montenegrin participation in both Cantons
5. established strong working relationship with the ICFTU Regional Office in Sarajevo

Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina plan to implement the full follow-up project jointly in late 2003 – 2004, pending donor support.

### **Gender Equality Public Awareness Campaigns**

Serbia (Serbia and Montenegro) has completed a campaign focusing on lobbying for economic and social women's rights, funded by the Italian Government. The GTF in Croatia has started a series of media trainings and is preparing a National Pre-electoral Campaign on Gender Issues as well.

### **Gender Equality Machinery**

The *Establishment of the Montenegro Government Office for Equal Opportunities* has been made possible through a donation from the Italian Government. In spring 2003 the Office has been established by a decision of the Government of Montenegro, to be headed by Nada Drobnjak, former MP and head of the Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality.

### **Women Mayors Link Project**

Through German and Austrian Government Funding, the project has completed its implementation nationally in the entire SEE Region. SEE Countries organized national networks of women mayors in preparation for the Regional network. This project is open to all European countries in terms of establishing sister-city relations or other forms of cooperation between local governments on gender issues.

### **Women's Role in Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution, and Post-Conflict Dialogue**

Following the field activity of the *Regional Post-Conflict Dialogue Project* in FYR Macedonia and Kosovo, implemented from a Swiss Government contribution, The GTF implemented its continuation (Southern Serbia and Montenegro) in September 2002, through a Danish Government contribution. In its fieldwork phases the project has already initiated dialogue between ethnic majority and minority women, including Roma, as well as

exchange of experience between Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees, and Domestic activists, through facilitation of SEE regional grassroots peace activists.

The Wrap-up Conference for the Project took place in Podgorica, Montenegro from October 25-27. Local representatives from the project's target groups have set priorities for continued activity in their countries and across borders. These small projects have been distributed to SP National Coordinators for funding.

Based on the conclusions of the Post Conflict Dialogue Project, the GTF has prepared a follow-up project, Post Conflict Dialogue II for implementation in the post-conflict South-east European Countries.

### **EURO Regional Women's Cooperation**

The first Euro Regional Women's Project has begun implementation through Danish Funding. The triangle Novi Sad/ Kikinda – Szeged – Temisoara is the targeted Region. Exchange between women in local governance, media, and civil society between the three communities is expected to broaden the understanding also on issues of minority rights and good governance in addition to sharing good practices on achieving gender equality. The Gender Task Force is seeking strengthened cooperation with East West Institute and Council of Europe in order to ensure a gender mainstreaming component in all of SEE Euro Regions. Future plans include a follow-up project in Sofia/Nis/Skopje Euro Region.

### **SEE Women's Parliamentary Caucus**

Beginning in January 2003, made possible by a donation from the Swiss Government, the GTF has begun a project linking women MP's from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia (FYRoM) and Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro). The first Bilateral meeting between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro took place in Mart 2003, to be followed by two more bilateral meetings in May and June. The project also involves the opening of resource centers for Women MPs in their parliaments, and two such centers have already been opened in Skopje and Podgorica, with the support of the Montenegrin and Macedonian Parliament's In kind assistance. The project is seeking funding for 2004 -5.

### **Roma Women Can Do It**

In Spring 2003 the GTF has launched a new project for political empowerment of Roma Women in SEE. The project is currently preparing 25 Roma women trainers from 12 countries and territories of SEE to undertake 75 trainings for Roma women activists and politicians. This project is fully funded by the Norwegian Government.

### **Women Can Do It III**

This new project is targeting 50 communities in 12 countries and territories of SEE for exploring ways to improve gender equality in local governance. Funded by Norway, and using Norwegian, Swedish and other European countries' know-how and best practices, the project will link women in politics, local government, and civil society.

### **GTF Field Organization**

GTF Regional Center for Gender Equality in Zagreb, Croatia received in kind support from the Croatian Government in the form of premises in late January 2002, and these offices are now fully operational.

The GTF National Office in FYR Macedonia has already been granted premises from the Macedonian Government. The FYR Macedonia GTF National Office is still awaiting funds pledged in 2001 by the Greek Government. Preparations for the establishment of the GTF National Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina are underway and will be fully operational by summer 2003.

<b>GTF Financial Overview 2001-2003 in Euro</b>			
<i>(Total Contributions In 2000 = 693,000 EURO)</i>			
<b>Committed</b>	<b>In Kind</b>	<b>Disbursed</b>	
Greece <b>100,000</b>	Slovenia: <b>Computer</b>	Italy	<b>550,000</b>
	Canada: <b>5 Interns</b>	Denmark II	<b>128,000</b>
	Germany: <b>1 Intern</b>	Switzerland II	<b>75,500</b>
	Macedonia (FYRoM): <b>Office</b>	Switzerland III	<b>200,000</b>
	Croatia: <b>Office</b>	Netherlands (FNV)	<b>20,000</b>
		Germany	<b>50,000</b>
		Norway I	<b>70,000</b>
		Norway II	<b>270,000</b>
		Norway III	<b>530,000</b>
		Austria II	<b>80,000</b>
	Austria III	<b>188,000</b>	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,161,500</b>

<b>GTF Regional Center Budget Year 2004</b>		
<b>1. Engendering Key Policies</b>		<b>330,000 EURO</b>
<b>2. Gender Equality Machinery</b>		<b>240,000 EURO</b>
<b>3. Active Women's Citizenship / Political Empowerment / Cross Border</b>		<b>1,490,000 EURO</b>
<b>4. IT / Publishing / Operations (Field Organization)</b>		<b>210,000 EURO</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,270,000 EURO</b>
<b>2004 SPHERE I: Engendering Key Policies</b>		
<b>Security</b>		
Post Conflict Dialogue II, Reconciliation for the future		160,000
Women in Security SEE/EU Conference		20,000
Post Conflict Dialogue III Community Level		150,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>330,000</b>
<b>2004 SPHERE II: Gender Equality Machinery</b>		
Training Program Gender Disaggregated Statistics		110,000
Technical Support to Gender Equality Machinery		65,000
SEE Equal Opportunity Law Review		65,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>240,000</b>
<b>2004 SPHERE III: Active Women's Citizenship / Political Empowerment / Cross Border</b>		
SEE Women's Parliamentary Caucus		190,000
Pre-election Women Candidate Training		250,000
Women Voters Education / Empowerment / Election Observation		250,000
Gender Equality in Local Governance		120,000
Engendering pol parties towards EU		110,000
Social Dialogue /Trade Unions and Gender		220,000
Empowerment and Gender Equality in Education Reform		210,000
EURO REGIONAL Women's Cooperation II		70,000
EURO REGIONAL Women's Cooperation III		70,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1,490,000</b>
<b>2004 SPHERE IV: Information Technology / Publishing / Operations</b>		
IT / Publishing		30,000
Operations		180,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>210,000</b>
<b>2004 TOTAL BUDGET 2,270,000</b>		