

Integrating the perspective of women and men into EU policies: the case of the Lithuanian Presidency

1 July–31 December 2013



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EIGE is a European Union agency which supports the EU and its Member States in their efforts to promote gender equality, to fight discrimination based on sex and to raise awareness about gender equality issues. Its tasks are to collect and analyse comparable data on gender issues, to develop methodological tools, in particular for the integration of the gender dimension in all policy areas, to facilitate the exchange of best practices and dialogue among stakeholders and to raise awareness among EU citizens. Further information can be found on EIGE's website (<http://eige.europa.eu>).



Introduction

Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 July–31 December 2013)

The **Presidency of the Council of the European Union** rotates among Member States every 6 months. As the Presidency assumes political responsibility in all areas of European competence and plays a vital role in negotiating high-level political decisions, it offers a unique chance to push forward solutions to the challenges that are crucial for all Europeans.

The Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (second semester of 2013) provided an opportunity for **the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)**, which is based in Vilnius, to establish strong cooperation with the Presidency in its efforts to **mainstream gender equality** into all policy areas of the European Union. It offered a unique opportunity to further strengthen gender equality as one of the fundamental values of the European Union in traditionally important areas, such as employment, and enabled new initiatives to cut across policy areas in which gender equality is less visible.

During the Lithuanian Presidency, EIGE cooperated intensively with a wide range of government institutions and civil-society organisations. The institute took a leading role in some of the events

devoted to gender equality and was represented at and contributed to more than **15 events**, which were attended by **2 000 participants**. One of the major events of the Presidency was when EIGE presented the main findings of the report '**Gender equality and institutional mechanisms — Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU**'.

The involvement of EIGE and its cooperation with both the Lithuanian government and the EU institutions (the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission) was an appreciated attempt to **introduce a gender dimension into other policy areas** discussed during Presidency events. It was also a great example of the added-value to a Member State when an agency is placed there. Agencies can get closer to the citizens to mutually gain an understanding of the real challenges of policy implementation.

This publication emphasises the value of promoting gender equality during the Presidencies in being able to reach the citizens of each Member State and taking advantage of the unique opportunity the term offers to communicate to them.



Events

High-level conference 'Gender equality de facto as a contribution to reaching Europe 2020 targets: the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms'

13 September 2013

'[It is not enough] to make the life of women and men free of discrimination based on their sex. To give women and men the same opportunities to realise their aspirations, to create the necessary conditions to enable women and men to achieve the same results, the same positions in society, in the economy, in politics — this is why the EU, and the Commission in particular, has through the years put in place specific and comprehensive strategies for the promotion of gender equality'; said Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director of the Equality Directorate, DG Justice, European Commission.



*Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea,
Director of the Equality Directorate,
DG Justice, European Commission.*

The **high-level conference 'Gender equality de facto as a contribution to reaching Europe 2020 targets: the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms'** aimed at addressing the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms as a crucial precondition for accelerating the process of achieving gender equality, as well as discussing changes and challenges within institutional mechanisms since 2006 in line with agreed indicators. Participants had an opportunity to exchange good practices and lessons learned.

The main findings of several studies conducted by EIGE in support of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council were presented and discussed: the implementation of gender mainstreaming and use of gender impact assessments in the EU Member States; and the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU, which focused on the institutional mechanisms for the advancement of gender equality. The findings of the conference were considered by the Council in finalising



its conclusions on the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms, drafted by the Lithuanian Presidency. The Council conclusions were adopted in December 2013 by the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO). The conclusions call on the Member States to pursue the advancement of gender equality by, among others, ensuring an effective and efficient functioning of institutional mechanisms (e.g. equality bodies at governmental level).

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Algimanta Pabedinskienė**, Minister for Social Security and Labour of Lithuania; **Virginija Langbakk**, Director of EIGE; **Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea**, Director of the Equality Directorate, DG Justice, European Commission; **Mikael Gustafsson**, Chair of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) Committee of the European Parliament.

EIGE representatives: **Barbara Limanowska**, Senior Gender Mainstreaming Expert; **Priya Alvarez**, Gender Expert; **Thérèse Murphy**, Head of Operations.



High-level conference 'Gender equality de facto as a contribution to reaching Europe 2020 targets: the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms.'



Strategic planning meeting on data collection on gender-based violence

17–18 September 2013

In the EIGE's strategic planning meeting on data collection on gender-based violence the needs of the European Commission and the EU Member States in the field of data and information on gender-based violence (GBV) were discussed by 35 representatives, including from the European Parliament, the European Commission, government ministries of the EU Member States and EU agencies. The main topics of discussion were the challenges in gathering comparable data on GBV, commonalities in data gaps, EU priorities in the area of GBV and proposed further steps. The meeting was the first step to designing EIGE's approach to support the EU in combating GBV and the collection and usage of data.



*Frédérique Fastre,
European Commission, DG Justice.*

EIGE's contribution to the implementation of the Commission's strategy for equality between women and men (2010–15), in particular ending gender-based violence and Eurostat's engagement in the processing and usage of its data on measuring gender-based violence. Recommendations on how to improve data collection at national and EU levels and EIGE's role and tasks in this regard were developed.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: Frédérique Fastre, European Commission, DG Justice; **Sigurlaug Hauksdóttir**, European Commission, DG Health

and Consumers; **Joanna Goodey**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA); **Raluca Popa**, Council of Europe.

EIGE representatives: Virginija Langbakk, Director; **Jolanta Reingardė**, Senior Researcher/Analyst; **Thérèse Murphy**, Head of Operations; **Jurgita Pečiūrienė**, Gender Expert on GBV.

Seventh EU Anti-Trafficking Day: 'Exploring the links between trafficking in human beings and the Internet: cyberspace for prevention'

18 October 2013



*Donna Hughes,
Professor of the University of Rhode Island
(United States).*

In her keynote **speech on prevention of trafficking in human beings online, Professor Donna M. Hughes** highlighted sexual exploitation as one of the root causes of trafficking: 'In the EU, 80 % of all victims of human trafficking and 96 % of victims of sexual exploitation are women and girls. Sexual exploitation involves a violation of a different sort than forced labour. Sexual exploitation is more than gendered labour. It is a form of **violence against women.**'



On the occasion of the **Seventh EU Anti-Trafficking Day**, 150 experts from different governments, law enforcement, EU agencies and institutions, national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms, civil society organisations and academics, as well as the private sector and the media, discussed the role of the Internet in the trafficking of human beings. The widespread use of the Internet for recruiting victims was explored. Proposals for solutions to the problem of demand in cyberspace were debated, such as campaigns for raising public awareness and other ways of prevention. The debate also focused on investigation into these crimes and criminal prosecution, as well as the provision of services to victims of human trafficking.

The representative of **EIGE**, **Thérèse Murphy**, presented the results of EIGE's studies on the domain of violence in the Gender Equality Index, stressing the

link between gender-based violence and trafficking. The presentation was followed by a discussion on the impact of the media, the importance of role models and how young people can be influenced to accept 'norms' or stereotypes that are detrimental to their own well-being.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Loreta Graužinienė**, Speaker of the Seimas of Lithuania; **Dailis Alfonsas Barakauskas**, Minister of the Interior of Lithuania; **Julius Sabatauskas**, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the Seimas of Lithuania; **Myria Vassiliadou**, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, European Commission; **Donna M. Hughes**, Professor of the University of Rhode Island (United States).

EIGE representative: **Thérèse Murphy**, Head of Operations.

International conference 'Structural Change Promoting Gender Equality in Research Organisations'

21–22 November 2013

The President of Lithuania, **Dalia Grybauskaitė**, in her opening remarks, noted that: 'Balanced representation of women and men in all fields of research is needed for the enhancement of European competitiveness and better realisation of the European innovation potential. Every European citizen, regardless of gender, must be ensured equal opportunities to contribute to building a modern society. Scientists contribute strongly to modernisation, economic and cultural development of nations. The balanced representation of women and men in all fields of research is needed for the enhancement of European competitiveness

and better realisation of the European innovation potential.'

The conference 'Structural Change Promoting Gender Equality in Research Organisations' aimed to enable and enhance **dialogue and knowledge sharing between all stakeholders of the Europe 2020 strategy**, in particular promoting gender equality in research and among policymakers, executives from research funding agencies, academia, research institutions and scientific society in general. The conference covered themes related to science policies and political measures supporting gender balance in science institutions.

'It is a leadership responsibility to get action plans for gender balance in place, and to ensure that those plans are translated into good practices,'
Bjørn Haugstad, State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, said at the conference.





More than 250 participants discussed best practices and next steps in implementing structural changes in research organisations, promoting gender equality and developing more efficient partnerships between funding agencies, research organisations and universities.

EIGE's representative **Dr Anna Rita Manca** gave a presentation on '**Boosting gender equality in research: the importance of targeted decisions for Europe**'. Among the other significant contributions to the event were the discussions on the relevance of gender indicators in research and highlighting the importance of applying more effective measures to monitor gender equality in research.

The participants in the conference adopted recommendations for the Council, which will contribute to

the development of a roadmap for reforms on structural change in research institutions and in relation to Horizon 2020 and the European research area.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Dalia Grybauskaitė**, President of Lithuania; **Máire Geoghegan-Quinn**, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science; **Rimantas Vaitkus**, Vice-Minister for Education and Science of Lithuania; **Bjørn Haugstad**, State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research; **Saniye Gülser Corat**, Director of the Division for Gender Equality of Unesco.

EIGE representatives: **Jolanta Reingardė**, Senior Researcher/Analyst; **Anna Rita Manca**, Statistics Officer; **Barbara Limanowska**, Senior Gender Mainstreaming Expert.



Saniye Gülser Corat, Director of the Division for Gender Equality of Unesco; Bjørn Haugstad, State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research; Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of Lithuania; Rimantas Vaitkus, Vice-Minister for Education and Science of Lithuania; and Prof. Juras Banys, Rector of Vilnius University.



International human rights conference 'Towards a European Roadmap for LGBT Equality'

26 July 2013

The 1-day **international human rights conference 'Towards a European Roadmap for LGBT Equality'** was organised in the framework of Baltic Pride 2013. It was a unique opportunity to view the progress of LGBT rights across Europe and evaluate and anticipate activities **to ensure the rights of European citizens**. The conference covered challenges that the Baltic states and other countries face when seeking to incorporate LGBT concerns into policy-making processes. More than 150 participants had an opportunity to discuss European Union political guidelines and the European Council's recommendations on the implementation process for protecting LGBT rights. The participants shared good practices in the field of LGBT inclusion.

EIGE, which was represented at the conference by its Director, Virginija Langbakk, also held three side events. On the eve of the conference EIGE's **Gender**

Equality Index was presented to the participants. Discussion focused on the existing data gaps, in particular in the domains measuring violence and intersecting inequalities, which would include the LGBT community.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Birgitta Ohlsson**, Minister for European Union Affairs of Sweden; **Marija Aušrinė Pavilionienė**, Member of the Lithuanian Parliament; **Nicolas J. Beger**, Director of the Amnesty International European Institutions Office; **Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos**, Head of the Equality and Citizen's Rights Department of the FRA; **Leonidas Donskis**, Member of the European Parliament; **Anne Gaspard**, Executive Director of Equinet; **Ulrike Lunacek**, Member of the European Parliament.

EIGE representative: Virginija Langbakk, Director.

EU Conference on Gender Equality in Sport

3–4 December 2013

The **Conference on Gender Equality in Sport** provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss ways to promote and advance gender equality in sport, not just in participation but also in decision-making, and thereby contribute to the development of a new EU strategy in this field.

Reaching 40 % of women in decision-making positions by 2020 was one of the key topics. One hundred and twenty experts participating in the conference

were also asked to identify concrete actions to improve equal representation in sport governing bodies and coaching (of both women's and men's sport), increase media coverage of women's sport and **fight against sexual violence and harassment in sport**. International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President **Sir Philip Craven** shared his views on the IPC's goal to **increase female leadership** within the Paralympic movement and to create partnerships with relevant organisations to help further progress gender equality.

'The election [of the IPC Governing Board] showed that, although we have made great progress since the Women in Sport Committee was formed in 2002, much work still needs to be done', said IPC President Sir Philip Craven.





The European Commission, EIGE, representatives of the Paralympic Committee and other institutions discussed the media's role in gender equality, stressing the importance of spreading the message that sports are for all, without regard to sex, age, race, religion, sexual identity or ability of the athlete, coach, leader or spectator.

The conference resulted in the '**Vilnius call for strategic actions** in the field of gender equality in sport at national and European level' and conclusions that will have an impact on policies and initiatives at national level. The outcomes also contributed to defining political priorities for the European exchange programme Erasmus+ and for the next EU work plan for sport.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Androulla Vassiliou**, EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Sport,

Media and Youth; **Sir Philip Craven**, President of the International Paralympic Committee; **Marisol Casado**, Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC); **Clémence Ross**, Member of the UEFA Women's Football Committee; **Daina Gudžinevičiūtė**, President of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee; **Birgitta Kervinen**, President of the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO); **Raija Mattila**, Co-Chair of the International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG); **Marja Ruotanen**, Director of the Council of Europe.

EIGE representatives: **Virginija Langbakk**, Director; **Ana Sofia Fernandes**, Resource and Documentation Centre Officer; **Priya Alvarez**, Gender Expert; **Vera Fonseca**, Gender Equality Stakeholders and Networking Officer; **Jolanta Reingardė**, Senior Researcher/Analyst; **Thérèse Murphy**, Head of Operations.

EU Youth Conference and the meeting of the directors-general for youth affairs

9–12 September 2013

At the **EU Youth Conference and the meeting of the directors-general for youth affairs** more than 250 representatives of national authorities, the European Commission and youth delegates, as well as representatives from international non-governmental youth organisations (INGYOs) and the European Youth Forum, met to discuss questions related to the social inclusion of young people. A particular emphasis was put on young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs). The event facilitated dialogue between young people and policymakers, and provided an opportunity for direct input into policymaking at the EU level.

EIGE has brought a new perspective to the discussion by highlighting and emphasising the **relevance of the gender dimension of youth employment**. EIGE stressed how strategic it is to activate gender mainstreaming tools and approaches when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating youth policies.

The Youth Conference adopted 21 joint conclusions focusing on specific proposals to enhance the social inclusion of young people, especially of NEETs, into the labour market, the education system and social life. Proposals were presented in such areas as adapting education to the needs of young people and the demands of the labour market, informing and guiding young people in their transitions, facilitating the transition from education to employment and others.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Dalia Grybauskaitė**, President of Lithuania; **Androulla Vassiliou**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Sport, Media and Youth; **Algimanta Pabedinskienė**, Minister for Social Security and Labour of Lithuania; **Lloyd Russell-Moyle**, Vice-President of the European Youth Forum.

EIGE representative: **Anna Rita Manca**, Statistics Officer.



Meeting of the High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming

11–12 September 2013

At its regular meeting held during each Presidency of the Council of the European Union, together with the European Commission, the **High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming** discussed the planning of gender equality work for the next 6 months, both at EU and at global level, including the priorities of the Trio Presidencies and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at EU level.

Representatives of EIGE presented a comparative study on institutional mechanisms for gender equality in the EU Member States, conducted on request of the Lithuanian government. Based on a collection of primary and secondary data, EIGE's

report assessed the progress made by the 28 Member States on the implementation of critical area H of the Beijing Platform for Action and its strategic objectives.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea**, Director of the Equality Directorate, DG Justice, European Commission; **Algimanta Pabedinskienė**, Minister for Social Security and Labour of Lithuania; representatives of all 28 Member States' institutional gender equality mechanisms and the European Commission.

EIGE representatives: **Virginija Langbakk**, Director; **Jolanta Reingardė**, Senior Researcher/Analyst.



Philip Landon, Council of the European Union, General Secretariat DG G/II Employment and Social Policy; Dimosthenis Tremos, Greek Ministry of the Interior/General Secretariat for Gender Equality — Director of the Directorate for European Policy and International Cooperation; Virginija Langbakk, Director of EIGE; Algimanta Pabedinskienė, Minister for Social Security and Labour of Lithuania; Pauline Moreau, Chairperson of EIGE's Board of Management; Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director of the Equality Directorate, DG Justice, European Commission.



Meeting of the chairpersons of the committees on social affairs and labour 'Employment incentives to implement the Europe 2020 strategy'

10–11 November 2013

The meeting focused on **youth unemployment**, with 55 representatives of national parliament committees discussing ways to increase employment among the working age population, and youth employment in particular, by 2020, and the prospects for implementing the youth guarantee initiatives in the Member States. The meeting debated how to match labour market needs and youth skills more effectively and whether current policy measures to boost youth employment were effective.

EIGE's Director, **Virginija Langbakk**, presented the findings of the Gender Equality Index and spoke about **work-life balance as a precondition for the equal participation of women** and men in the labour market.

The meeting adopted conclusions on tackling the problems of youth unemployment, which encouraged Member States to set up their youth guarantee implementation plans as soon as possible. It also stressed the need for the fight against social exclusion

to be an integral part of employment and social policy.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Loreta Graužinienė**, Speaker of the Seimas of Lithuania; **Kristina Miškinienė**, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Social Affairs and Labour; **Algimanta Pabedinskienė**, Minister for Social Security and Labour of Lithuania; **László Andor**, Member of the European Commission for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; **Brigitte van der Burg**, Chair of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment of the Dutch House of Representatives; **Tarja Filatov**, Chair of the Employment and Equality Committee of the Eduskunta, Parliament of Finland; **Pierre Mairesse**, Director-General of Directorate A, Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission; **Juan Menéndez-Valdés**, Director of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

EIGE representatives: **Virginija Langbakk**, Director; **Maurizio Mosca**, Gender Expert.



Chairpersons of the committees of social affairs and labour.



Meetings of the standing committees of the Euro–Latin American Parliamentary Assembly

16–18 July 2013

Meetings of the standing committees of the Euro–Latin American Parliamentary Assembly

were held in Vilnius to discuss the political situation in the EU and Latin America. They addressed citizens' participation and democracy, regional security, combating drug trafficking, gender equality and femicide in the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean. At the joint multilateral parliamentary assembly, 75 members of the European Parliament and 75 parliamentarians of Latin American counterparts discussed the EU–Latin American bi-regional relations from a parliamentary perspective. The committees laid down comprehensive approaches within a wide range of bi-regional issues. Various agreements with Latin America and negotiations with the Mercosur countries were concluded.

The **Euro–Latin American Women's Forum** provided the space for a bi-regional women's dialogue. It aimed at joint cooperation with the objectives of increasing women's participation in politics, reinforcing women's economic empowerment and acting against gender-based violence. At the assembly, EIGE's mandate and work on gender-based violence (domestic violence, sexual violence and female genital mutilation (FGM)) were presented. Participants were informed about EIGE's Resource and Documentation Centre, with its uniqueness as a single point of access for research, publications and articles related to gender issues and gender-based violence being emphasised.

Fiftieth Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (L COSAC)

27–29 October 2013

For the first time in 50 years, the meeting contained a unique session, during which a declaration on the founding of COSAC Women's Forum was adopted. The COSAC Women's Forum was initiated by the Speaker of the Parliament of Lithuania, Loreta Graužinienė, and the Vice-President of the Senate of France, Bariza Khiari. The aim of this meeting was to promote more active involvement of women parliamentarians in the activities of COSAC. Bariza Khiari, participating in the organised Women's Forum,

The meeting stressed that, with regard to violence against women and children, attention should be drawn to the urgent need for the development of joint public policies on preventing and punishing sexual exploitation, child labour and both the physical and the psychological ill-treatment of women, adolescents and children of both sexes. Furthermore, it was stressed that cooperation policies must be agreed upon for the purpose of preventing femicide, and penalising and punishing the perpetrators thereof.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Vydas Gedvilas**, Speaker of the Seimas of Lithuania; **Linas Linkevičius**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania; **Dainius Pavalkis**, Minister for Education of Lithuania; **Philippe Cori**, Director of Unicef, Brussels EU Office; **William Vélez Mesa**, Vice-President, Andean Parliament for Colombia; **Déborah Salgado**, Ambassador, President of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs of CELAC; **Alexis Goosdeel**, Head of Unit Reitox and International Cooperation, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction; **Bettina Trueb**, EU–LAC Foundation.

EIGE representatives: **Irene Riobóo Lestón**, Statistics Expert; **Virginija Langbakk**, Director; **Ana Sofia Fernandes**, Resource and Documentation Centre Officer; **Maurizio Mosca**, Gender Expert.

was excited that the idea born in her cabinet was being easily and quickly realised, because, in her view, cooperation among female parliamentarians would contribute to stimulating and strengthening democracy.

The anniversary provided a space for 240 representatives to discuss the **implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy** and **the digital agenda**. COSAC adopted the 20th biannual report prepared by the COSAC Secretariat and supported a closer



and more constructive inter-parliamentary cooperation and active participation of Parliaments in the EU policy shaping. It encouraged national parliaments to actively share best practices and information and to discuss the EU's political matters of common interest. Loreta Graužinienė expressed her view that women's engagement in politics led to a more harmonious political and social life. She encouraged active discussion of the goals and vision of the COSAC Women's Forum and wished the participants a fruitful debate in the future.

At this establishing meeting of the COSAC Women's Forum, Virginija Langbakk, Director of EIGE, **presented the results of EIGE's Gender Equality Index**, in particular the enormous gap between

women's and men's participation in political and economic decision-making. The findings of EIGE's study show only a slight increase in the number of women ministers in the EU Member States, from 22 % in 2005 to 26 % in 2012.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas of Lithuania; **Algirdas Butkevičius**, Prime Minister of Lithuania; **Loreta Graužinienė**, Speaker of the Seimas of Lithuania; **Laurent Fabius**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of France; **Bariza Khiari**, Vice-President of the Senate of France; **Marija Aušrinė Pavilionienė**, Member of the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of Lithuania.

EIGE representative: Virginija Langbakk, Director.



Bariza Khiari, Vice-President of the Senate of France, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas of Lithuania, and Marija Aušrinė Pavilionienė, Member of the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of Lithuania, at the COSAC Women's Forum in Vilnius.



EU conference 'Bargaining for Equality — Successful Strategies'

5–6 November 2013

The **EU conference 'Bargaining for Equality — Successful Strategies'** focused on wage transparency and job evaluation, work–life balance and successful strategies for bargaining for equality in the workplace and in favour of low wage earners. European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) project findings on bargaining for gender equality and the work of EIGE on were presented at the event.

The conference stressed the key role of trade unions in promoting social justice and combating discriminatory and unlawful behaviours in the workplace. It focused on the role of trade unions in promoting social and sustainable change, not only at work but also in society. It was noted that more needs to be

done to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives and integrated strategies are required to promote gender equality in the labour market and in trade unions. In order to achieve greater gender equality a dual approach of both implementing gender mainstreaming and initiating specific measures (policy action, projects, awareness-raising activities, etc.) in the field of gender should be followed.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Claudia Menne**, ETUC; **Algimanta Pabedinskienė**, Minister for Social Security and Labour of Lithuania; **Jane Pillinger**, Expert.

EIGE representative: **Vera Fonseca**, Gender Equality Stakeholders and Networking Officer.

Best Practice Conference of the European Crime Prevention Network and European Crime Prevention Award ceremony

11–12 December 2013

The **Best Practice Conference (BPC) of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)** focused on the topic of prevention of **domestic violence**. The conference offered the 80 participants the opportunity to network and learn about projects and organisations working on this theme across Europe. Presentations and discussions at the conference focused on violent behaviour modification and interagency cooperation, tactics and obligatory actions for primary reaction, social support mechanisms for victims and general awareness raising, risk assessment and early prevention programmes.

The **FRA** and **EIGE** gave a presentation on their work to provide reliable and sound European data and statistics on the prevalence of domestic violence. The survey being carried out by the FRA will be published in March 2014 and information was given on the scope of the project. EIGE's representative, **Maurizio Mosca**, gave a presentation on recent work on gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, sexual violence and domestic violence. EIGE's reports on good practices on preventing and

protecting from domestic violence, with special attention on the main data available for external users, were shared.

The **European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)** ceremony also took place during the conference. Eighteen countries participated with their best national crime prevention projects, focusing on the theme of prevention of domestic violence. The 2013 ECPA was awarded to the Swedish entry: 'Relationship violence centre'.

Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Sami Nevala**, FRA; **John Kwaks**, European Organisation for Probation; **Anne Groenen**, Thomas More Kempen (University College); **João Lázaro**, Victim Support Europe (VSE); **Elise Petitpas**, End FGM European Campaign, Amnesty International; **Eglė Kavoliūnaitė Ragauskienė**, Vytautas Magnus University; **Chiara Sgarbi**, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia; **Mark Burton-Page**, European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS).

EIGE representatives: **Maurizio Mosca**, Gender Expert; **Megin Reijnders**, Trainee, GBV team.



Closing conference of the European Year of Citizens 2013 'How to make every year a year for citizens!'

12–13 December 2013

Welcoming participants, the First Deputy Chairperson Vydas Gedvilas expressed his pleasure that the closing conference of the European Year of Citizens

2013 was also the final event of the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU.

Vydas Gedvilas, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, spoke at the closing conference of the European Year of Citizens 2013.



The focus of the closing conference of the European Year of Citizens 2013 was to evaluate the activities and initiatives undertaken and to discuss the European Year of Citizens Alliance's (EYCA) policy recommendations. More than 300 representatives from the non-governmental sector, universities and members of the Parliament and the Commission discussed the role of civil society organisations in building Europe's future, the cherishing of EU citizens' rights, 2014 European elections and new opportunities for citizens to influence policymakers. The conference focused on a bottom-up approach in shaping Europe.

At the conference, Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding was given a set of 80 policy recommendations on improving the situation on European citizens' rights. These proposals were prepared by the EYCA uniting more than 60 EU-level networks

representing over 4 000 national non-governmental organisations across Europe. The recommendations covered measures to help ensure that all citizens feel part of the European project, to educate about Europe, its values and its cultural diversity, to reinforce free movement for all citizens in Europe and others.

The launch of **EIGE's 'Women and men inspiring Europe' calendar 2014** took place during the event. The calendar includes 12 of the strongest profiles of inspiring women and men compiled from nominations received throughout the EU. In connection with the field of expertise of each of these role models, facts and figures extracted from the domains of the Gender Equality Index were presented. EIGE's representative **Alexandrina Satioianu** provided a presentation on the calendar and resource pool of EIGE at the conference.



Key persons attending the event were, among others: **Viviane Reding**, European Commission Vice-President for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship; **Emily O'Reilly**, European Ombudsman; **Algirdas Butkevičius**, Prime Minister of Lithuania; **Vydas Gedvilas**, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas of Lithuania; **Vytautas Landsbergis**, Chairman of

the Supreme Council of Lithuania — Reconstituent Seimas, former Head of State of Lithuania.

EIGE representatives: **Alexandrina Satnoianu**, communications team; **Virginija Langbakk**, Director; **Vera Fonseca**, Gender Equality Stakeholders and Networking Officer.



Paola di Nicola, Vera Budway-Strobach, Esohe Aghatise, Manuela Vollmann and Alexandrina Satnoianu (EIGE) presented EIGE's 'Women and men inspiring Europe' calendar 2014 during the conference.

Informal meeting of the Council's Human Rights Working Group

26–27 November 2013

The **informal meeting of the Council's Human Rights Working Group (COHOM)** focused on **new EU guidelines on freedom of expression online and offline**, aiming to reinforce the visibility of the EU commitment to freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of belief. The participants at the event discussed the implementation of the EU strategic framework and action plan on human rights and democracy. They also visited **EIGE** and familiarised themselves with its activities.

The Director of EIGE presented the work of the institute, focusing on expertise, research and re-

sources relevant to the areas of COHOM's work. The presentation also covered **similarities and differences between gender equality and human rights**, explaining the role of the Member States in promoting equality between women and men as a fundamental value of the EU and recent developments in the EU towards a legalistic approach to the validation of the rights of individuals. Gender mainstreaming, an approach to improve the implementation of human rights by integrating the aspects of both women and men in policies and legislation, was also discussed.



The Council's Human Rights Working Group.

Meeting of the European Social Fund Technical Working Group and the European Social Fund Committee

24–26 September 2013

At the **meeting of the European Social Fund (ESF) Technical Working Group and the ESF Committee**, representatives of authorities in charge of ESF aid, social partners and the European Commission met to discuss the readiness to administer ESF aid for the programming period 2014–20.

Building on the results of the studies on institutional mechanisms for gender equality, EIGE's representa-

tives gave a presentation on the **benefits of the ESF for increased gender equality in the EU Member States**. They provided recommendations for the ESF Managing Authority, focusing on cooperation with gender equality institutions and gender experts, the establishment of gender mainstreaming support structures, the provision of technical assistance (including training for policymakers and implementers) and the facilitation of exchanges of good practice.

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