



GENDER EQUALITY IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Ministry for Equal Opportunities, Luxembourg

With support from the European Community: Programme relating to the Community Framework on Gender Equality (2001-2007)

1) The European context

The action programme relating to the Community Framework Strategy on Gender Equality (2001-2007) is supporting:

- activities in the field of economic life, equal participation and representation, social rights, civil life, gender roles and stereotypes
- policies and actions aimed at achieving gender equality, including gender mainstreaming policies and specific actions targeted at women.

The European Commission has defined "the promotion of gender equality, particularly in local development " as priority theme for 2007 with the objective:

- encourage balanced participation of men and women in the various aspects of local development, both economic and social
- implement policies at local level in order to encourage, on a daily basis the promotion of gender equality.

Possible initiatives:

- Identification, development, and exchange of strategies, good practices and detailed and integrated tools relating to the promotion of equality, particularly those implemented, or to be implemented, by regional and local administrations and public authorities
- Awareness-raising campaigns and seminars, including in the media, dealing with the promotion of gender equality in the context of local development policies
- Support for initiatives taken by various parties to encourage the participation of women in local development, with a view to achieving balanced participation of men and women
- Development of education and training tools concerning equality policies, aimed particularly at managerial staff in regional and local public administrations

2) The national context

- Implementation of the of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality
- Main objectives to be achieved by the project of the Ministry for Equal Opportunities:
 - analyse policy-making processes at local level in order to develop quantitative and qualitative indicators
 - define quality criteria concerning the implementation of equal opportunity policies at local level
 - arouse the awareness of the importance to integrate gender dimension in local development and environment
 - overcome traditional gender roles and stereotypes in local environments
 - exchange strategies and good practices with the partner countries

3) Partners:

National partners :

- Ministry of the Interior and Spatial Planning, Luxembourg
- Ministry for Culture, Higher Education and Research, Luxembourg
- Luxembourg Association of Cities and Municipalities, Syvicol
- National Council of Women of Luxembourg, CNFL

International partners :

- Ligestillingafdelingen, Department of Gender Equality, Denmark
- Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Office for Equal Opportunities, Slovenia

4) Project activities:

- analyse policy-making processes in local governments to identify gender mainstreaming in local development (SI, LU)
- develop a booklet of guidelines targeted at local authorities with quantitative and qualitative indicators aiming to define quality criteria concerning the implementation of gender equality policies (LU)
- develop toolboxes targeted at local authorities on gender equality policies, on gender balance in decision making at local level and on gender mainstreaming in local development (DK, SI)
- organize awareness and training seminars for local authorities about gender mainstreaming strategies in local policies (SI, LU)
- create a label/ an award for local authorities for their initiatives promoting gender equality at local level (LU)
- support initiatives (start networks, mentoring projects for women) in order to promote gender equality at local level and to encourage women to participate in decision-making in local development in various fields: politics, education, economic life, social and cultural affairs (DK)
- develop awareness and training methods for gender mainstreaming for policy – and decision makers on a local level (SI, LU)

- produce video and educational material on the basis of the experience of the project partners (DK)
- a seminar in each partner country with exchange of strategies and good practices
- publication of guidelines on good practices and dissemination in each partner country (LU)

5) Target groups:

municipalities, local authorities, local commissions, policy-and decision-makers in local administrations, employees in local administrations, civil servants, social workers

6) Expected results:

- strengthen the awareness of the importance to integrate gender dimension at local level
- increase the number of women in decision-making in the various fields of local development
- show the importance of gender equality policies at local level for society and economic life