

A CALL FOR STORIES:

Gender mainstreaming in the BSR cities

Gender mainstreaming involves the integration of a gender perspective into the policy-making processes with a view to promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination. At the same time, it requires addressing the issue of representation of women and men in the given policy area.

Gender mainstreaming is not a policy goal itself, but a means to achieve gender equality. Equality between women and men is recognised by the EU as a fundamental right, a common value of the EU, and a necessary condition for the achievement of the EU objectives of growth, employment and social cohesion.

Local and regional authorities have a substantial role to play in ensuring a balanced development. The UBC, since its beginning, has been committed to promote democratic values, including equality between men and women. Gender dimension has not yet, however, received appropriate attention. There are still countries and cities where gender equality is not prioritized.

UBC Working Group on Gender Equality aims at strengthening the gender equality perspective in the work of UBC and its Commissions. One of the main goals of the working group is to promote the European Charter for Equality of Men and Women in Local Life among the UBC cities.

How would a portrait of a UBC city that takes gender equality into account in all of its policies look like? The Editorial Board would like to invite the cities to share their experiences, challenges and plans on integration of the gender perspective in the policy-making.

Some questions to be addressed:

1. Strategies of gender budgeting:
 - case studies of local governments implementing the strategies of gender budgeting;
 - what is instead of gender budgeting: discussing the other concepts.

2. The age of intersectional feminism:
 - considering gender, ethnicity and race in daily practice of local governments;
 - recognized patterns of multiculturalism and diversity in Baltic region;
 - migrants and refugees problems.

3. Pan-European tools to building local strategies:
 - European Charter for Equality of Men and Women in Local Life: changes and possibilities;
 - Istanbul Convention – could this work regarding the variability of local perspectives?;
 - other tools worth considering.

4. The map of grassroots organisations, institutions and initiatives regarding the gender equality issues:

- actual experiences of the NGO workers, academic experts, activists and politicians;
- the objects of interest, primary matters, the accomplishments to share.

5. What do the umbrella organizations bring?

- local projects that are visible internationally;
- cooperation and development;
- organizations related to the UE and other worldwide and regional structures.

6. Tendencies in giving support to gender violence survivors:

- what really works from the local perspective?;
- the greatest successes and fails.

7. Women's health and parenthood in the Baltic region:

- reports and analysis on local tendencies;
- programmes supporting in vitro procedures;
- tendencies regarding planned parenthood;
- standards of care in labour;
- preventive treatment of women – the new possibilities.

8. Historical view - 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (1917-1918):

- overview of the age of change;
- statements and personal stories, including interviews.

9. Brief profiles of outstanding local female figures:

- local herstories of activists, artists, academics and others;
- projects dedicated to make the female biographies more common and visible.

Please forward this message to your city officials and workers who work with the gender equality matters.

Looking forward to your reply,

Paweł Żaboklicki
UBC Secretary General

GUIDELINES

- Deliver the story by e-mail to: anna.dargiewicz@ubc.net in MS WORD format. Please expect confirmation of reception. Lack of confirmation means that the message is not delivered.
- Each member city may submit two articles - one related to the cover theme and one to the chapter "News from Member Cities". All stories shall be sent in English.
- Each article may have max 400 words, no more than 1 page A4, font TimesNewRoman 12pt. The editorial board sometimes needs to shorten the stories in order to include more stories into the Bulletin. It is also important to include the author's name and contact details for any follow-up questions related to the story.
- Please make all efforts to include 1–2 good quality photos to illustrate the article (JPG format, min. 300 ppi, one e-mail - one picture, the file should not exceed 3 MB).
- The deadline for stories to the Bulletin is **30 September 2017**. Please respect this timetable as we are unable to publish the stories received after this deadline.

If you have interesting issues to report, please do not hesitate to send them.

The bulletin will be published online.