



MINUTES OF THE MEETING – Athena Working Group 3A
1 - 3rd of June 2007
Budapest

Project coordinators: Barbara Bagilhole, Anna Cabo, Martha Franken, Chris Zwaenepoel.

Organisation of the meeting in Budapest: Andrea Peto

Participants: Martha Franken, Chris Zwaenepoel, Barbara Bagilhole, Anna Cabo, Livia Popescu, Eniko Magyari-Vineze, Carmela Sanz-Rueda, Claudia Krops, Eva Schömer, Giovanni Vingelli, Nadine Plateau, Sara Clavero, Katarina Blomqvist, Inge Vander Stichelen, Kontxi Odriozola, Nicky Le Feuvre, Annamaria Tagliavini, Mervi Heikinnen, Marta Garro, Mariagrazia Leone, Carmen Leccardi, Tilly Vriend, Eeva Raevaara, Beverly Kemp, Maria Gronroos, Rikke Randorff Hegnhøj, Salvör Gissurardottir, Giovanna Declich, Elisabet Rogg, Karina Valle Olsen, Heidi E Sandnev, Annuka Jamisto,..

Apologies from: Maria Stratigaki, Ingrid Pincus, Marina Calloni, Alison Woodward, Petr Pavlik, Thorgerdur Einarssdottir,

Agenda

1. On June the 1st : getting started again with the new project
2. On June the 1st: afternoon : Athena Plenary Seminar on the “European Year Equal Opportunities for All in 2007”
3. On June the 3^d : discussion about the working methods and -programme for this project; presentations of research projects by Giovanna Declich (ASDO), Sara Clavero (University of Belfast) and Anna Cabo (Bonnemaison Barcelona)

Proceedings on June 1st 2007

Chair: Martha Franken, and Barbara Bagilhole

1. state of the art of our working group

Martha welcomed all of the old members of the former working group 3B and also the new members that came from other working groups in the former Athena project and have now merged with our group. She presented a powerpoint presentation clearly showing the position of 3A in the new Athena project, the subthemes that the group will be working on in this project, and the output that is expected from this working group in the 3 years, of which the first is due to be finished at the end of September 2007.

Especially for the new members she stressed that working group 3A is working on the contents of the Equal Opportunities policies and that in this meeting research projects (ongoing or finished) are always discussed with the goal to develop new tools, instruments and strategies for Equal Opportunities Policies in Europe. What really counts in this group is working from the heart with the aim to further the opportunities for feminism by all actors in the policy process. It is also within this framework that we look for new members (individuals) that can join in our discussion. (For the ppt. presentation with the goals and outputs, see the renewed website of the workinggroup on www.rosadoc.be/athena)

A few members of the former 3A group, namely the WINE group, used the floor to express their feelings of being uncomfortable to be merged with the former group 3B, and raised questions about the communication and the coordination of this working group.

WINE prefers to be split off from 3A again as it was before, and will discuss internally a proposal for cooperation with 3A during their separate WINE-meeting at June 2nd. It is agreed that WINE will join 3A again after the coffee-break during the meeting on Sunday June 3rd.

2. The Athena Plenary Seminar “The European Year Equal Opportunities for All in 2007”

This Plenary Athena seminar was held at the premises of the Central European University and consisted of two parts :

1. a seminar containing the following papers, Martha Franken about the European EO Year on itself: the goals and objectives, critical papers by researchers Mieke Verloo

and Barbara Bagilhole, and two examples (Finland and France) of the round-up for activities that was made by several participants

2. the launching of a new book "Balance Sheet – Disadvantaged Social Groups in Hungary in 2007" edited by Andrea Peto (member of our working group). The book is a contribution to the actions for the European Year of Equal Opportunities. For the programme and the different presentations in this seminar see the separate page that is set up at our new website on the project, in which all of the seminars that 3A organizes will be gathered.

The plenary seminar received many positive reactions and opened up new discussion lines for the working group (see further).

3. Discussion on the working methods and further planning for 3A.

a. SWOT analysis

New participants in this working group expressed their commitment to making a SWOT analysis for their country if this does not exist yet, or update the existing SWOTS (e.g. Norway, France, Netherlands, Ireland). The technique of the SWOT analysis for Equal Opportunities as it had been developed and refined by Ingrid Pincus (Sweden) and the discussions in the working group were explained again. All documents can be found on the website, but the coordinators will send the most relevant documents – that explain SWOT or easy examples to follow – again to all participants.

b. follow-up of the seminar

- The Utrecht secretariat has asked 3A to publish the proceedings of the seminar on Friday in the next Athena volume. All participants of 3A are asked to reconsider sending in comments on the EO Year in their country, because in the publication we will have more space to elaborate on more countries than we had time for during the seminar. The Finnish presentation can count as an example of the questions we want to see answered, but other formats were also agreed upon (some members are thinking of holding interviews with key actors in the Year). The coordinators will send a "homework-mail" to all participants with concrete questions to be answered. (the Finnish example can be found on the website of the working group under the seminar). Deadline for this homework will be September 15th 2007.

c.- Intersectionality and the other subthemes of the working group.

Barbara Bagilhole introduced a further working method. The questions that were raised by Barbara and the tables that Mieke Verloo presented during the seminar introduce the new ideas

for the working group 3A. In many countries “Intersectionality” is a hot item, and this theme is broad enough to be tackled from different angles and disciplines. Many policy makers and the documents produced by them across the EU are now claiming to follow an ‘intersectional approach’ to policy by including the six strands identified by the EU for anti-discrimination legislation; gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion and belief, and age. However, it will be useful for the working group to analyse policies in their countries to see if the rhetoric of these policy makers matches the implementation of real intersectional policies. Intersectionality is one of the subthemes of the working group, and it also connects clearly with the 3 other subthemes of the working group: the gap between the theory and the implementation, the impact of the EU legal framework and the role of International and Transnational Actors. The questions on Intersectionality will be transmitted in a separate “home-work” mail. Participants are asked to consult the full article by Mieke Verloo in the European Journal for Women’s Studies, and the Antwerp conference paper by Barbara Bagilhole on the website to further understand this area of analysis. The SWOTs will also be linked to this discussion or homework!

d. Identify and select new non-academic partners outside Athena

Anna Cabo presented the guidelines for continuing with this output. The idea of this output in the strategic plan is not meant for our working group to become so big that it becomes an unworkable instrument, but rather to involve new people in our discussions and to disseminate results of our research to a wider public. Therefore the activities and seminars that are organized in the home country of our participants (inside and outside the working group) count as output for this seminar. Non-academic partners can always be invited to activities and seminars. The reports on activities held that contain invitations for non-academic partners are exemplary for this output. But the final result that is expected after 3 years is however that more people are registered in our expert database that can be found on our website www.rosadoc.be/athena/expertdatabase (?)

To begin with : we expect all new members of the working group to go online and register in our database at once; and for those who are already registered we suggest to update the existing data (new research...photo’s etc...) if you know interesting individuals (researchers, policymakers, NGO-s) that might be interested to have their expertise registered in the database for the expansion of the international network, feel free to promote our expert database, and invite them to your activities at home and the seminars.

We decide to create “buddies” for new working group members if they join the actual meetings of 3A, so that they can be initiated into the group’s ways of working by an experienced member.

Several members of the group report on the contacts they already had.

e. future seminars

Participants were asked to consider offering a venue for the 3A yearly seminars. There is hardly any funding from the Athena network, but sometimes a seminar can fit into other programs that are subsidized by EU. (e.g. Claudia will look further into the possibilities in Socrates on Life Long Learning and disseminate her findings to all participants).

As a first concept two themes were selected for future seminars : “Violence on Women” (in the context of the 4 subthemes of 3A) and “Intersectionality” from different angles and disciplines.

So far there are proposals for offers by : Barcelona, Cyprus (?), Ireland, Greece (?), Finland (?). If you think you may have an offer to make please contact the coordinators of the working group on the emailaddress athena3a@rosadoc.be

4. Presentations by participants of 3A on ongoing research.

a. Giovanna Declich (ASDO)

“Women and Political Representation.From Rhetoric to Practice, Investigating the Gap between Design and Implementation in Gender Equality Policies ”

Giovanna presented the preliminary results of an ASDO research project. The ppt presentation can be found at the 3A website, and more papers and results of this project can be found on the projectwebsite www.donnepolitica.org and www.asdo-info.org

b. Sara Clavero (Queens University of Belfast)

“Gender Justice and Democracy in the EU” Sara presented the background of this new project that has just started in January 2007 and how she intends to introduce the gender perspective into this 5 year project. The ppt presentation can be found on the 3A website, and more information on the project can be found on the project website www.reconproject.eu

c. WINE proposal for co-operation with working group 3A ‘Societal Impact of Women’s Studies’

Beverly Kemp of the WINE group presented the proposal made by WINE during their meeting on June 2nd. The working group 3A took note of the proposal.

The document can be found on the 3A website www.rosadoc.be/athena

5. Summary TO DO:

- Everyone who hasn't filled it **the expert database yet**, is kindly asked to do so asap;
- The coordinators to send exemplary papers on the **SWOT analysis** to all participants – and the homework is that new SWOTS can be made or the old ones updated; Finished SWOTS will be discussed during the next working group meeting;
- All the plenary speakers on the seminar : **“the European Year Equal Opportunities for All in 2007”** and 3A participants that want their country to be added to the written publication in the next Athena volume are asked to send their papers to the coordinators at athena3a@rosadoc.be before the 15th of September at the latest;
- Everyone is asked to register in or update the information in the expertdatabase of 3A www.rosadoc.be/athena .. and to invite other interested individuals to do so too.
- Guidelines to the participants will be send out by the coordinators in homeworks about proceeding on the issue of intersectionality.
- Participants are asked to make links to the 3A rosadocwebsite with their own research projects and to report to the coordinators about ongoing research that they want to discuss during a future working group meeting.(the first to come will probably be during the women's World Conference and Athena meeting in Madrid July 2008).

Anna, Barbara, Martha and Chris