



MINUTES OF THE MEETING – Athena Working Group 3A
3rd of July 2008
Madrid

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

Organisation of the meeting in Madrid: Carmela Sanz-Rueda – Athena network and organizers WW08.

Participants: Martha Franken, Chris Zwaenepoel, Barbara Bagilhole, Anna Cabo, Eniko Magyari-Vineze, Carmela Sanz-Rueda, Giovanni Vingelli, Nadine Plateau, Sara Clavero, Katarina Blomqvist, Kontxi Odriozola, Mervi Heikinnen, Marta Garro, Mariagrazia Leone, Rikke Randorff Hegnhøj, Claudia Colonello, Elisabet Rogg, Karina Valle Olsen, Alison Woodward, Maria Stratigaki, Ingrid Pincus, Susana Pavlou, Donatella Barrazzetti, Gunnel Karlson, Marina Calloni, Tilly Vriend, Inge VanderStichelen, Maria Gronroos, Hilda Romer, Kirsti Lempianen, Harriet Silius, Thorgerdur Einarsdottir;

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The one day of the meeting of our working group was dedicated to presentations that were discussed with the whole group. Different topics and themes were investigated and we had more or less organized them around three themelines : gender politics, a swot analysis and a panel on multidiscrimination. Also the WINE panel delivered a short presentation about their activities.

In the **panel on Gender Politics** the following presentations were made :

Claudia Colonello : Guidelines for Equal Opportunities in the fields of politics and trade unions

Reported about the recent ASDO research project about women and decision making; the project dug into the reasons why women drop out of politics, or stay away from it, and set up an experimental hypothesis for a solution to the problem. The analysis was made and the

experiment executed with 6 micro projects that were carried out, with a separate budget and support. 18 guidelines were set up into 4 themes : Interpretative Negotiation, Institutional Negotiation, Symbolic Negotiation and Operational Negotiation.

Sara Clavero : Assessing Gender Democracy in the EU

In the same theme Sara Clavero presented the research project RECON that is set up to bring EU democracy debates to the test and is developing a set of indicators of democratic performance in EU ; within this project an attempt is made to define gender democracy

Alison Woodward : The Importance of Monitoring after Implementation of Gender Policies

In her presentation she showed the importance of 'Gender Watchdogs' on the overall of gender equality policies in Europe. She showed the data itself of what EU produces and put them under a critical eye from a feminist point of view.

Giovanna Vingelli : A critical review on Gender Budgeting in Italy

The main goal of the paper is to analyze the contemporary situation of gender budgeting in Italy, launching a comparative analysis of some implemented initiatives. In Italy, the gender budget exercises have gradually encompassed the administration involved, providing more detailed information on the status of women. Clearly, however, they do also reveal the difficulty administrations have in grasping and incorporating concerns over gender equality. The paper offers some insights on the current development of the "velvet triangle" in Italy, stressing some critical points on the implementation and the future of the gender budgeting initiatives.

Panel on SWOT analysis :

Rikke Randorff Hegnhøj and Elisabeth Rogg : What kind of Heaven ? SWOT analysis of Gender Equality Policy in Norway 1998 – 2008

For the SWOT analysis the methodology developed in this working group was applied and atuned to the Norwegian situation. There was a lively discussion with several participants eager to update their own older SWOT analysis.

As usual for Swots the paper presented critical notes on the gender equality policies and recommendations can be drawn from this exercise.

Panel on multiple discrimination :

Eniko Magyari-Vincze : Romani women's multiple discrimination through reproductive controle

The paper and the related film that was presented at the ATHENA meeting from Madrid (Red Poppis, 2006, 55 minutes), addresses the phenomenon of social exclusion and the underlying mechanisms of discrimination through the specific problem of reproductive control. It observes that within a racist and sexist ethno-patriarchal social order the Roma women are suffering of the shortcomings of multiple and intersectional discrimination. The author deals with this broad issue through the case of the Boyash Gypsy (*baies*) women from a South-Transylvanian town. She describes the ways in which they are subjected to what we may call a racialized gender discrimination and a gendered racial discrimination, on the one hand facing the discriminatory practices regarding generally women, while being also the victims of racist prejudices and practices; and on the other hand experiencing discrimination on the ground of their "race" as women, becoming for example the targets of racist fertility control. The paper concludes that through their particular way, Roma women face a problem known by any other human being that is the issue of acting at once a social person and an individual agency.

As the one-day time slot for our working group in the Madrid meeting was running out the presentation of the movie was interrupted for the presentation of the WINE statement, and resumed afterwards for many participants who were willing to watch until the end of the movie, in spite of the fact that we overran the time limits.

On the website of the 3A working group the abstracts and ppts of these presentations are gathered for those who want more information about the different projects.

The Round Table 3A at the WW08 "Where is Gender after The European Year Equal Opportunities for All in 2007 : Intersectionality to the Rescue ?"

This Round table was one of the activities that was officially presented from the working group 3A into the Women's Worlds 2008 in Madrid.

It consisted of 4 papers : Martha Franken introduced the 3A working group to the wider public of the Conference and gave an input from a policy makers point of view about the achievements of the European Year Equal Opportunities for All; this presentation was followed by the Report by Rikke Randorff Hegnhøj (Where is Gender? Anti-discrimination Politics in the Nordic Countries) on the current situation of EO Policies in the Nordic Countries, Maria Stratigaki : The politics of backlash. From gender mainstreaming to mainstreaming equality for all, and concluded by

Barbara Bagilhole : Intersectionality as a Model and methodology for Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policies: A Case Study of the UK.

Next to this round table several participants in our working group were active in other sessions or panel with presentations from their research. The information we received from these other activities was spread among the participants of 3A to give them the opportunity to follow up on those panels

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

Due to a lack of time for the workinggroup meeting, there was no real discussion about the future working methods and planning; however several points were discussed in the framework of other discussions or announced as new to come activities for 3A in the last year of the network.

a. SWOT analysis

will be continued as a methodology for those participants who want to update their analysis; An update is expected in the coming year by Ingrid Pincus who developed the methodology and is refining it further.

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

As Intersectionality proves to be the theme best linked to the actual themes in equal opportunities policies it is announced that a separate seminar on Intersectionality : Gender as a Red Thread will be organized for our working group in February 2009. The seminar will be an open seminar (open to the public in Barcelona) and will be followed by 2 or 3 time slots for separate meetings of the working group 3A.

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

Anna Cabo presented again 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 activity. 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.

Different members of WG3A present their activities in the past year concerning the involvement of non academic partners.

d. other activities

Homework is given to all participants for half of September. 3A expects abstracts for the Intersectionality seminar and meeting, and also input for the different homeworks that the central Athena network is asking from the different working groups. (The Tuning exercise, new publications) and input of ideas concerning a continuation of this network. (Athena4)

Summary TO DO:

- Everyone who hasn't filled it **the expert database yet**, is kindly asked to do so asap;
- **SWOT analysis** 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 in Barcelona or Utrecht.
- All the participants who presented a paper either in the working group meeting or the 3A Round Table are asked to send their papers /abstracts / ppt in before September 15th so that the activity report can be made and the website updated.
- All participants are asked to send in ideas for Athena4 by 15th of September.

Anna, Barbara, Martha and Chris