

Minutes of the meeting ATHENA II- 3B

20 august 2003

Attendances:

Barbara Hey, Anna G. Jonasdottir, Eniko Magyari-Vincze, Vappu Sunnari, Rosa Erlangsdottir, Jeanette Van Der Sanden, Claudia Krops, Nadine Plateau, Ada Garcia, Ingrid Pincus, Beatrice Halsaa, Magda Michielsens, Christine Michel, Jalna Hanmer, Carmela Sanz-Rueda, Martha Franken, Sonja Spee

Report: Martha Franken and Sonja Spee

Agenda:

1. Inventory of the working group tasks and days per person;
2. Discussion of the project and its products;
3. Planning and timing.

1. Inventory of the working group tasks and days per person

The participation of the different partners was discussed. The project managers will check with the participants/partners who could not attend the meeting if they are still willing to participate in the 3B-project and how many days a year they are willing to invest. Any changes in participation should be sent to the project managers (Martha Franken, Magda Michielsens, Sonja Spee). A final list will be send by them to the Utrecht coordination.

2. Discussion of the project and its products

Out of the discussion it became clear that the scope and aims of the project need to be clarified to some of the participants. Stream 2 on Equality at the Feminist Research Conference will deal with the different aspects of the 3B Working Group and thereby forms a preliminary phase of the project. All the abstracts and some of the papers can be found on the website of this conference: <http://www.5thfeminist.lu.se> (look for: Workshop streams, Stream 2). All participants are invited to follow the presentations and discussions in this stream and to read the electronically available papers.

Existing documents will be forwarded to all the project participants:

- Discussion papers based on the theoretical discussion of the concept of Equal opportunities - from the International Seminar on Equal Opportunities organized by the Policy Research Centre for Equal Opportunities in Antwerp (4 July 2002);
- The original (full) document of the project proposal.

On the content of the project:

The participants agree that this is a very broad, interesting but also ambitious project with more participants than foreseen. The working methods need to be revised. In the follow-up of the meeting and different separate discussions the project coordinators decided to prepare an extra document to describe the scope and different angles from which the project can be approached (see attachment: the scope of the project.doc). This document can be discussed electronically (via a mailing list) and/or at the next meeting.

Products/output:

- The database of experts on equal opportunities: As already many databases exist it will be necessary to make an inventory. The participating information and documentation centres are experts in the field of databases. A small group of participants will work on this product together, eventually coordinated by the University of Antwerp.

- The Platform:

- For the papers we will focus on “reconceptualising” the notion of equal opportunities (theoretical and empirical);
- We can already start with existing country reports;
- Several participants gave ideas of input they are able to give, and some of the cases will be presented at the Next Athena Meeting in Helsinki;
- It is the main aim of the project to bridge the gap between the different actors in the field of equal opportunities policy, but perhaps the outcome of the project will be that there are too much gaps to bridge. No participant will be held responsible for not succeeding in “bridging the gap” on a local or national level.

- The teaching material: due to a lack of time this topic was not discussed.

3. Planning and timing

HOMEWORK

all participants send us an inventory of the specific input (expertise, products) they (think they) can provide within the framework of this project before the end of September 2003. The engagements concern the universities (the input of work of students etc. is welcome) and the information and documentation centres. In the attachment to this report (homework inventory.doc) you will find a schedule of the timing of the project and you can fill in your plans and project days provided (for the next 3 years).

All participants let the program managers know if they have other financial resources or ways for fundraising for travel and accommodation so that we eventually are able to organise more working group meetings (besides the two meetings a year sponsored by Athena II) or that more participants than 1 per institution can attend the meetings.

NEXT meeting: after this Lund-meeting the program managers planned to organise a next meeting in Antwerp, Belgium, in February 2004. This meeting will be the first official meeting of this working group 3B for the first year of Athena II. We will let you know the exact dates as soon as possible. The Helsinki Meeting in May 2004 will be the second meeting of this year 1.

The first meeting of the year 2 will be held in Antwerp, linked to the International Conference on Equal Opportunities that will be organised by the Research Centre for Equal Opportunities in late autumn 2004.