

Report of the Meeting ATHENA II – 3B
27 – 29th of May 2005
Barcelona

“Reconceptualizing the Notion of Equal Opportunities and Rethinking the Policy Aims and Instruments – a Joint Effort of Women’s (Gender) Studies in the Academia (research and training), Policy Makers and Women’s Organizations”

Project Coordinators:

Martha Franken, Sonja Spee, Chris Zwaenepoel

Organisation of the meeting in Barcelona :

Anna Cabo

Participants present :

Eva Cendon, Barbara Hey, Eva Schömer, Carmela Sanz-Rueda, Alessandra Vicenti, Mervi Heikkinen, Sheila Quaid, Susana Pavlou, Petr Pavlik, Maria Strategaki, Claudia Krops, Frances Camilleri-Cassar, Barbara Bagilhole, Giovanna Vingelli, Nadine Plateau, Gunnel Karllson, Anna Jonasdottir, Ingrid Pincus, Martha Franken, Sonja Spee, Chris Zwaenepoel, Anna Cabo, Andrea Peto, Marina Calloni, Inge Vanderstighelen, Rosa Erlingsdottir, Irma Erlingsdottir, Kontxi Odriozola

Agenda:

1. On May 27th : plenary session + workshop on education + workshop state of affairs;
2. On May 28th : SWOT analysis of country reports for the countries that participate today
3. On May 29th : practical arrangements for the further project planning for 3B

Proceedings on May 27th

1. Plenary session

Working group 3b had the honour to organise one of the two plenary sessions at the Barcelona Meeting. The title of this session was: *(Re) thinking Equality and Equal Opportunities in a wider but more conservative Europe*, which reflected the different focuses on equal opportunities in EU-countries.

Martha Franken gave an overview of almost ten years of equal opportunities policies in Flanders and showed the various direct and indirect effects of these policies, sometimes with a positive but also with negative results.

Marina Calloni discussed the social and political dynamics of equal opportunities in Italy, stressing the progresses but also the backlashes over the last decades.

Barbara Bagilhole went deeper into the relation between the so called family friendly policies and equal opportunities. And Andrea Peto analysed the appearance of women’s equal opportunities in the Conservative Political Discourse of the countries of state feminism.

Afterwards a lively debate, chaired by Sonja Spee, showed that many Athena participants felt involved in this discussion of the evolution of equal opportunities in the EU. The output of this plenary workshop will be published in the next Athena Manual 'The Making of European Women's Studies – Volume VII.

2. Workshop on Education

Chair : Andrea Peto.

Paper presentation of Nadine Plateau: *Gender equality in education policies in Belgium - 1970-2000*. Very interesting and broad overview of 30 years of education policies. The powerpoint will be available at the Rosadoc website (paper's Archive).

A discussion was held on the document « **Inventory on Education** »

Agreements : Andrea will adapt the document with the remarks of the participants ; it will then be sent to all participants to be filled in. The document will also be placed on the rosadoc website, so it can be filled in on line.

3. Workshop : State of Affairs :

Chair : Martha Franken.

In this workshop all participants gave an overview of the work they have done and are doing in the past year (since Helsinki meeting)

Each participant will send in a small document with the resumé of these activities

A presentation was held by Frances Camilleri-Cassar: *Gender Equality in Maltese Social Policy*. This presentation was based on her PhD-project and is also published under the same title.

Proceedings on May 28th :

Workshops on SWOT analysis :

Chair : Sonja Spee.

She introduces the SWOT analysis as a methodology (ppt presentation see rosadoc website) with a "correlation matrix" and proposes to continue this exercise in the future via this matrix.

The following countries then made their presentation on their SWOT analysis :

- Austria,
- Sweden,
- Greece,

We will not go into the details of what was shown and the discussions for each of these countries – ppt presentations are put on the rosadoc website.

Susana Pavlou presented her paper : **Equal Opportunities Policy in Cyprus (also available online)**

Carmela Sanz-Rueda : presented the current state of affairs of the research project "**Equality Policies : From the Academia to Society**" and asks all participants to surf to the website of the project and give comments <http://www.ucm.es/info/instifem/>

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Magda Michielsens was invited by the project coordinators to present her paper: “The Rhetorics of Equal Opportunities”

Inge Vanderstighelen presented the database “Elektr@” of the Amazone Women’s Centre. You can find more info at www.amazone.be

Proceedings on May 29th :

Chair : Martha Franken

During this meeting the further planning of the project is discussed.

The following agreements were made :

- the workplan for year 3 will be changed into : Collection and Assessment of Teaching Materials on EO and the implementation ... (instead of “Development”...)
Further will the development of new “tools” be deleted so that only “development of Policy Recommendations on EO” remains for the products to be delivered.
- The Inventory on Education will be coordinated and followed up by Andrea Peto
- The Collection of Teaching Materials will be coordinated and followed up by Eva Schömer. We might also organise a seminar on “Teaching Equal Opportunities Best Practices”
- The SWOT analysis will be continued; countries will try to go deeper into the assessment of policies;
- A comparison will be made between National Mechanisms and Institutions since 1995 with the SWOT technique – Ingrid will make up a small questionnaire so that everybody answers the same questions. The technique of the ‘shadowreport’ used by Petr for Czech Republic can be used : http://feminismus.cz/download/shadow_report/
- The focus of next seminar will be on “Mainstreaming”. The seminar and work group meetings will take place at the end of November (or beginning December) in Cosenza (Italy)
- In Spring 2006 the working group will meet again at Panteion University in Athens – the theme will be “Connection between Gender Studies and the Women’s Movement”

Summary To Do :

- send in a small account of your activities in the past year (annex for this report)
- fill in the expertdatabase on www.rosadoc.be/site/maineng/athena.htm
- Fill in Inventory on Education on same website or send in to athena3b@rosadoc.be
- Collect Teaching Materials and send them to athena3b@rosadoc.be after instructions from Eva Schömer
- SWOT : assess National Mechanisms and Institutions since 1995 – follow the examples/questionnaire made by Ingrid Pincus
- SWOT : continue with assessment of your country policies