

ACTIVITY REPORT

UBC WORKING GROUP ON GENDER EQUALITY

October 2015-september 2017

1. General description

The Working Group on Gender Equality does not stand up for a particular commission, its aim is to strengthen the gender equality perspective in the work of all the different UBC commissions.- Therefor there is no chairperson in the workgroup but two coordinators, Hanna Maidell from the city of Helsinki and Malgorzata Tarasiewicz from Network of East-West Women in Gdansk. They are also responsible for the secretariat tasks.

The working group wants to ensure a stronger presence of gender issues in the work of UBC and focuses on three main areas:

- Eradication of all forms of gender-based violence
- Elimination of gender stereotypes resulting in discrimination at decision-making level and labour market
- Social and urban planning

The working group work with different strategies such as; awareness-raising, lobbying, support and spread best practices (during this period focusing on The European charter for equality of men and women in local life) arranging conferences, seminar and meetings.

2. Meetings/seminars/conferences

Gdansk June 21/6-23/6,2016. Members taking part in the meeting Helsinki, Gdansk and Panavezys. All together there were 3 participants. The focus for the meeting was to discuss strategies on gender mainstreaming in the UBC cities. The meeting was dedicated to think through the priorities for the nearest future of the group and make a short preliminary description of the seminar to be then followed up in the more detailed form during the next meeting.

Stockholm November 9, 2016. Members taking part in the meeting; Helsinki, Gdansk, Kristiansand, Liepaja, Kalmar and Panavezys. All together there were 6 participants. At the meeting the participants agreed on the action plan for 2017 and started planning a seminar with CEMR on the European Charter for equality.

Kristiansand, February 15-17, 2017. Members taking part in the meeting; Helsinki, Gdansk, Kristiansand and Kalmar. All together 4 participants. The focus for the meeting was further planning of the Gdansk seminar.

Gdansk April 11, 2017. In partnership with the City of Gdansk and European Solidarity Centre, GW organized the conference Attractive and Inclusive Cities, promotion of Gender Equality of men and women in local life. The main concern of the conference was to get more cities to sign the European Charter of Equality of women and men at the local level, by informing the participants what it means to sign and implement the charter. Over 50 participants took part in the event, including local authorities, prominent politicians and representatives from Ngo's.

Berlin June 14-15, 2017. Workgroup meeting, e.g. secretariat and one memebercityparticipant. Purpose of meeting was to start preparing theme and arrangement for the Vaxjo-conference in October.

3. Projects

Building a stronger presence of gender issues in the work on UBC in the cities by strengthening the cooperation with commissions i.e. participation in meetings of other commissions (per invitation)

Three representatives of the WG (Hanna Maidell, Kaspar Varping and Toril Hogstad) have attended some of the other commissions meetings to introduce gender equality issues and the gender relevance for the commission's thematic fields. The commissions have been interested in further cooperation and further steps will be taken to secure such cooperation.

4. Cooperation with other organisations

Close cooperation with European Solidarity Centre and the City of Gdansk organizing the Gdansk Conference in April 2017.

5. Communications

The WG has decided to put extra resources to improve communication, especially through the internet and information on UBC webpage. And first steps have been taken in that direction.

6. Other activities

One person taking part in the meeting in Rostock (21-22 of September 2017) to work on the idea of the conference regarding immigrants and refugees in Baltic region that will take place in March 2018. Representative of the WG Group took part in the meeting to ensure the organizers that the gender perspective should be well represented during this planned conference next year and participate in the detailed deliberation on the programme.

Małgorzata Tarasiewicz

27.09.17