

Karat Coalition

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KARAT ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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I. INTRODUCTION

Karat Coalition for Gender Equality is the regional coalition of women's NGOs that aims at improving the situation of women in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) by advocating and lobbying for gender, social and economic justice. Karat was established 10 years ago after the Beijing Conference and during first years of its activity focused on monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and on lobbying at the UN level (mainly within the Beijing + 5 and Beijing + 10 process) for the rights of women living in CEE/CIS countries. The EU enlargement process that embraced some of the states of the Karat member organizations motivated Karat to enhance the scope of its activities. Due to that Karat has been:

- monitoring the impact of EU accession on the situation of women in the region, including those living in candidate countries before 2004,
- building capacity to lobby and advocate for EU gender equality standards as well as for including the gender component in the EU development and neighborhood policy, also by:
- strengthening cooperation with EU networks and organizations.

During last years the main activities of Karat has been focusing on economic position of women in the region of CEE/CIS but also on strengthening its capacity through trainings and publications on economic literacy from gender perspective and women's working conditions.

KARAT's statutory mission, objectives and structure:

According to the statute of the Karat the mission, objectives and activities through which they are pursued are the following:

The mission:

KARAT is a regional coalition of organizations and individuals that works to ensure gender equality in the CEE/CIS countries, monitors the implementation of international agreements and lobbies for the needs and concerns of women in the region at all levels of decision-making fora.

The objectives:

- promote gender-responsive policy, decision-making and alignment of national policy and legislation in all countries in the Region with international standards and agreements
- contribute to the stability and peace in the Region
- strengthen Karat's capacity to deliver its mission

These objectives are being reached through:

- Monitoring the implementation of international standards and agreements at national level (e.g. PFA, Outcome documents of Beijing+5, CEDAW, others).
- Lobbying policy and decision-makers and/or organise campaigns on aligning national policy with EU accession criteria on gender issues.
- Strengthening capacity and share resources (thematic, human, financial, information, best practices, lessons learned) in different specialised areas of expertise in support of engendering policy and decision-making and legislation.
- Facilitating the participation of women leaders from the Region in global and inter-regional networks and events, building on existing leadership programs at all levels.
- Using Karat electronic and printed media as a tool in support of reaching its objectives.
- Monitoring and lobbying for the implementation of the Platform for Action's recommendations on peace and of other internationally agreed documents.
- Supporting solidarity and collaboration across national, ethnic, religious and other boundaries.
- Enlarging Karat membership towards larger representation, credibility, etc.
- Building strategic partnerships with networks and NGOs at ECE and EU level.
- Developing strong lobbying mechanisms.
- Strengthening Karat's internal expertise.

- Strengthening solidarity among Karat members.

Structure

Karat Coalition is a registered regional network governed by an international Board with its secretariat based in Warsaw, Poland. Karat carries out its activities on the basis of voluntary work of its members. At present Karat has over 50 member organizations coming from 23 countries from CEE/CIS region. Karat's main bodies are: the General Assembly, the Board, the Executive Director and the Advisory Body. The Board which is the decision making body between the General Assemblies is elected for two-year-term with one-year alternation. In case the face-to-face meetings of the governing bodies cannot take place, decisions are being made by electronic and other means of communications. The same rule applies to voting during the General Assembly election of the Board members. The rules for the electronic General Assembly are being defined by the Board. The detailed information on Karat's governing bodies is included in Karat's statute which is available on our website: www.karat.org

II. KARAT'S PROGRAMME: GENDER, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Karat's work in 2006 was related to the following complementary axes which often overlap:

- Networking
- Capacity building
- Awareness raising, advocacy and lobbying

1. NETWORKING

In 2006 the networking activities of Karat Coalition covered:

- Maintaining the communication tools and websites
- Organizing and co-organizing strategic meetings and conferences
- Partnership with other NGOs and networks
- Statutory meeting and network management

1.1. Communication tools

1.1.1 KARAT's News

In 2006 Karat produced and disseminated 11 issues of Karat News, a monthly electronic publication available on Karat's website that covers diverse information on women's and gender issues relevant to women and women's organizations in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS). Apart from the English edition of the Karat News, 3 Russian and 8 Polish issues were published. While the main target group of Karat News are women and women's organisations from CEE/CIS, other subscribers include individuals, organisations, academics, decision makers, journalists, and gender experts from EU, US and Australia interested in gender issues in CEE/CIS and co-operation with the region. Beside information on gender issues in CEE/CIS, Karat News also includes related information from EU and updates on various activities undertaken by Karat.

1.1.2 Websites

Apart from the regular website www.karat.org, in 2006 two additional websites have been up-dated on regular basis. The websites – in English www.womenslabour.org and in Polish www.kobietypraca.org – are focused on women and the labour market in Central and Eastern Europe. The English website has provided non-governmental organizations and individuals with information about the economic position of women from the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). It includes statistics, graphs, analysis, international regulations related to the labour market, as well as case studies, information on current events and related links. A particular emphasis is placed on the link between the European Union enlargement process and the position of CEE women in the labour market. The website was produced due to the support of the Global Fund for Women. The Polish website is similar to English version but

focuses exclusively on the situation of women in the labour market in Poland. It provides Polish NGOs and individuals with information on international, regional and national labour law and employment policies which are relevant to the Polish labour market. The website was produced by the secretariat to ensure that Karat's work is utilized as much as possible.

1.2 Strategic meetings

1.2.1 Strategic meeting on strengthening cooperation with members from CIS countries, 28.10. 2006.

The meeting, which took place in Karat Secretariat office, was focused on the needs of CIS members of Karat. It was attended by representatives of CIS countries (Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), Karat Board members and a representative of German network Womnet. The meeting was preceded by the research conducted by Karat Secretariat among 13 Karat's member organizations from CIS focused on identifying the areas of interest for common projects and activities. Out of 13 CIS member organizations 11 responded to the questionnaire. Respondents indicated that Karat CIS projects should focus on the labour market and socio-economic issues particularly those connected to demography. There was also an increased interest in the EU issues. The participants of the meeting discussed the possibility to undertake joint projects involving Karat CIS countries and ideally CEE countries that would focus on 1) demography and social reform and 2) migration. The outcomes of the meeting included the recommendations for that area of Karat's activity.

1.3 Conferences

1.3.1 WIDE Annual Conference hosted by KARAT, Warsaw, 1-3 June 2006

The WIDE Annual Conference 2006 – "What 'state' are we in: Women's lives, changing states, expanding markets" was hosted in Warsaw by Karat Coalition. For the first time of its 21 years' of history the WIDE AC took place in Central and Eastern Europe. The conference was attended by around 120 women who discussed the interlinkages among the different social, cultural and economic facets of their lives in both the productive and the care work in today's rapidly changing and interconnected world, while linking those to trade and development issues. The event, which was a great success, initiated an intensive interaction and networking among women from the East, West and South. All participants agreed that the 'trialogue' between the South, East and West, which was started with this conference, is a milestone in the development of both KARAT Coalition and WIDE. It was declared by both partners, that it will be carried further. The Conference participants signed a final statement which was widely distributed.

1.3.2 WOMNET conference on new EU external policies, Bonn, 7-8 September 2006

In 2006 KARAT was one of the partners co-organizing the European Conference "EU-Enlargement and the New EU Policies for the period 2007 - 2013: Opportunities to Strengthen Civil Society and Gender Equality?" The conference focused on the EU-Enlargement and civil society activities and in particular addressed gender equality in the context of EU external policy namely – European Neighborhood policy. It was attended by Eastern and Western NGOs, scientists, experts and politicians who analyzed new challenges, chances and risks to strengthen civil society participation, to endorse gender justice and to reduce any kind of discrimination. The conference provided the Karat's member organizations from Eastern European neighboring countries opportunities for networking and also to fit in the wider international activities related to the NGOs involvement in the process of the implementation of ENP and ENPI.

1.4 Partnership with other networks/coalitions/organizations

Building partnership and strengthening the cooperation with different European networks, organizations and initiatives is one of the main Karat strategic goals. It aims to bridge the women's networks and organizations from old EU member states with organizations from new member states and non EU countries in Europe.

1.4.1 KARAT and European Feminist Forum (EFF)

Karat continues its involvement in the initiative of several feminist networks in Europe (including Karat) to organize the European Feminist Forum in order to depoliticize the feminist movement in the whole Europe. Karat is a member of Steering Committee and participates in the strategic meeting of EFF in Amsterdam (March 2006).

1.4.2 KARAT and WIDE

Karat links with European network Women in Development Europe (WIDE) becomes much stronger after WIDE Annual Conference hosted by Karat in Warsaw. Representative of Karat participates in WIDE's Steering Group meeting in November in Brussels in order to become the WIDE regional Platform.

1.4.6 KARAT and International Feminist Dialogue

Representative of Karat participated in the International Feminist Dialogue in Nairobi in August 2006, which aims at strategic preparation to the World Social Forum in 2007. Karat's involvement in this initiative aimed at building links with international feminist movement.

1.4.3 KARAT and Social Watch

Between 22 and 26 September Karat participated in the Social Watch General Assembly which was held in Sofia. Social Watch is an international network aiming at following up the fulfillment of internationally agreed commitments on poverty eradication and equality. The network is provided with information by national citizens' groups who report, through the national Social Watch report, on the progress - or regression - towards these commitments and goals. Karat was representing Poland in SW and has been cooperating with this network for almost two years by contributing to a common report of Social Watch, Eurostep, WIDE and KARAT, produced by EEPA: 'To the Farthest Frontiers: Women's Empowerment in Expanding Europe', participating in European meeting of Social Watch. Since Karat is interested in cooperation with SW in a broader context as a regional network of women NGOs from CEE/CIS region, the SW General Assembly was an opportunity to consider Karat's wider involvement in SW activities in the future.

1.4.7 KARAT and AWID (Association of Women in Development)

Karat participated in November 2006 in an International Meeting on "Money and Movements" in Mexico organized by in AWID and Semillas . It was days of intense reflection and debates about the current situation of funding for women's rights work and movement building: Where is the money to support these initiatives? What abilities do we need to develop within our movement to reach those funds? What kind of dialogues do we have to establish with donors? How can we respond to the current challenges we are facing?. Since then Karat is involved in this initiative lead by AWID.

1.4.4 Participation in TRIALOG "Partnership Fair"

In October 2006 the representatives of Karat participated in the Development Education Partnership Fair accompanied by the training and organized in Vienna by TRIALOG in cooperation with CONCORD and DEEP. The event provided the participants with the opportunity to establish partnership and long-term cooperation between European NGOs with the aim of undertaking the joint DE actions in EU NMS to be co-financed by the European Commission under the budget line 21-02-03.

1.4.5 Participation in the Annual Conference of Gender Media Caucasus, July 1-3, 2006

Karat was represented in the international Annual Conference of Journalists' Association Gender Media Caucasus entitled "Gender networks and Media: Integration and Mutual Empowerment" and organized in Tbilisi, Georgia. The main focus of the event was the issue of effective cooperation between the media and local gender networks in the CIS region. Journalists, working in gender field, as well as non-governmental sector activists from the region of CEE/CIS, in particular Caucasus, discussed the possibilities of mutual empowerment of women's network and journalists. Karat was invited to participate not only as the CEE/CIS network but also as a producer of the monthly newsletter.

1.5 Statutory meetings and network management

In 2006 three meetings of Karat Board and the election to the Board of Karat took place.

1.5.1 KARAT Board Meetings

The first one that took place on 3-4 February in Warsaw and focused on Karat's achievements and plans for future activities and directions. The Board evaluated current programs and financial situation of Karat, discussed the need of Karat structural adjustment/changes and the roles and responsibilities of the Board. Among others Karat Board decided that a new Advisory Body will be established in order to provide expertise and advices facilitating decision making process. It was also decided that Karat should focus rather on atomization of its members than enlargement policy, especially with an emphasis on CIS organizations. In terms of programme directions, Karat Board decided that the Coalition should be more involved in EU Development cooperation, particularly in the projects related to gender aspects of development and those focused on CIS region. During the meeting a new member organization was accepted by the Board as a new member.

The second Board meeting took place prior to the WIDE Annual Conference (June 1, Warsaw). The main topic discussed was using the opportunity of the WIDE AC and European Feminist Forum preparatory meeting, which accompanied WIDE AC, to strengthen the cooperation with WIDE, Karat new members and 'Southern' Partners. The meeting agenda also included: reporting on KARAT activities since the previous Board meeting, strategy planning for the next period in particular Karat further involvement in Development Cooperation (cooperation with Womnet), activities related to Corporate Social Responsibility issue (training organized by Karat in cooperation with IRENE in Poland), as well as further activities in Economic Literacy Programme etc.

The third one took place on October 29, Warsaw. The agenda of the Board meeting consisted of reporting on the activities undertaken by Karat since last meeting, acceptance of new Karat member, as well as accepting recommendations formulated by the CIS meeting held on 28th of October. It also made preparation necessary for 2006 Board elections.

1.5.2 Board Elections

At the end of 2006 KARAT Secretariat completed the process of Election to Karat Board, which was conducted via e-mail. The process of Board elections was a success since 65% Karat members (32 organizations out of 49) with voting rights have participated in the elections, which was the best result so far. Since two candidates received equal number of votes a second tour of elections, where members voted just for one of those two candidates had to be held. As a result of both tours following women have been chosen to be board members for the next terms of office: Pavlina Filipova (Bulgaria), Nadezhda Azhgikhina (Russia), Jivka Marinova (Bulgaria) and Maryna Saprykina (Ukraine) for the first time.

2. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building component consists of three main programs:

- European Union External policy
- Economic Literacy
- Women's working conditions

These programs are directed to Karat members and other gender NGOs from CEE/CIS and conducted by Karat Secretariat as well as the projects conducted by members organizations with input from Karat Secretariat or other members of the Coalition. Described below are main capacity building programs conducted by Karat in 2006:

2.1 European Union External Policy

Karat Coalition monitors the situation of women in CEE and CIS region in the context of EU enlargement and is extremely concerned by the growing gap between the living and working conditions of women in/from UE New Member States and non-EU states in CEE/ CIS region. The diminishing economic position of women as well as the lack of knowledge about the EU mechanisms such as relevant policy documents and EU gender equality standards in the states in the region that are not

members of European Union deteriorate women's ability to advocate and lobby for their economic rights and gender justice. One of the priorities of Karat Coalition is to increase the capacity of women living in CEE/CIS to mobilize the support of the EU decision-makers and general public for including the gender perspective into the EU external policies and strategies addressed to non-EU countries from CEE/CIS region.

2.1.1 East-East Project: *Building Capacity of NGOs from Eastern European Neighboring Countries related to monitoring gender equality standards in the process of European*

The project was launched in July 2006. It was coordinated by Karat Secretariat, and four Karat members from CIS region were involved in it: Women's Independent Democratic Movement (Belarus), Centre for Women and Development (Georgia), Gender Centre (Moldova), Women's Prospect (Ukraine). The project contributed to strengthening of cooperation between CEE and CIS countries and thus to preventing weakening of the link between women from CEE region and polarization between women living in 'developed' (i.e. EU members) and those living in the remaining parts of CEE/CIS. Such need has been expressed by CIS Karat members who, together with CEE Karat members, are extremely concerned about undermining of regional solidarity, identity and cooperation between women's NGOs from the region caused by joining of the EU by 8 CEE countries.

The project aimed at:

- building capacity and knowledge among women's NGOs from Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia on:
 - European Union gender equality standards included in: directives, European Employment and Lisbon Strategies, European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument [ENPI] for 2007-2013,
 - civil society monitoring of these standards (example: National Action Plans related to ENPI in respective countries),
 - advocacy at national and EU level.
- strengthening the cooperation among women's NGOs related to European Integration, in order to discuss possible future joint advocacy strategies.

The project activities conducted in 2006 included:

1. Participation of project partners in WOMNET conference on *'Equal chances in Europe. EU enlargement- Gender Equality – Participation'* (Bonn, September 2006). The conference was focused on the issues related to ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy) and ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument) as well as IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession countries). It was a large scale event (around 130 participants) addressing the issue of EU new structure of external policies and financial instrument in the context of gender equality issues. The participation of the project partners in this meeting gave them the opportunity to become familiar with the subject, and gain really various perspective on this issues thanks to the presentations and discussions with representatives of different groups of NGOs and countries. ENP and ENPI issues are new area and not many actors are involved in it, hence it is not easy to find reliable partners. The conference provided the participants with the opportunity to establish new contacts useful in future cooperation. It also provided the partners with the basis for further involvement in these issues and strategizing on the project activities so that they not only meet the needs of the NGOs from Eastern Neighboring Countries but also fit in the wider international activities related to the NGOs involvement in the process of the implementation of ENP and ENPI.

2. During this conference the first Project Meeting was held. The partners set the date of the Coordination Meeting in Warsaw and discussed its content.

3. Partners Coordination Meeting (Warsaw, October 2006). The Coordination Meeting of the partner organizations was organized by KARAT Secretariat and was attended by Project Partners/Country Coordinators and the representatives of the Secretariat. The meeting aimed at needs assessment and preparation of the capacity building seminar for gender focused NGOs from EU Neighboring Countries as well as the concept of On-line Kit on European neighborhood Policy and

Gender. The outcomes of the meeting also included the detail timeline of project implementation as well as the rules of communication between the partners.

4. 'Kit on ENP and Gender' – first stage of preparatory process. In 2006 the first stage of the preparation of the 'Kit on ENP and Gender' was accomplished. The Kit aimed at providing the main information on European Neighborhood Policy and EU gender standards in an easy to understand manner. It was to contain short gender focused summaries of the main documents as well as the links to all EU and national strategy papers, regulations, reports and action plans relevant for Eastern Neighbors of EU.

5. The national activities. During the Coordinating Meeting the project partners decided on activities organized on national levels as a part of the preparation process for the Capacity Building Seminar. Some of these activities were conducted in 2006. Among them were *inter alia* consultation meetings on possible involvement of civil society in the implementation process of ENP (Georgia), research on awareness on of ENP issues among civil society organizations (Ukraine). The project is to be continued in 2007.

2.1.2 Participation in the European College EU Policy workshop, 23-26 January, Brussels

The Karat secretariat staff member participated in the workshop on Social, Employment & Gender Policies and Implementation organized by the College of Europe within the EU Policy Workshop Advanced Training Programme. The meeting provided the participants with the opportunity to improve their knowledge of EU social and employment policies, get a better understanding of the EU policy-making process and enabled them to strengthen their negotiation and representation skills vis-à-vis the EU. The participants had discussions with the European Commission and with members of the European Parliament.

2.2 Economic Literacy from gender perspective

Women in CEE/CIS are significantly underrepresented in the decision-making bodies dealing with economic issues on national and international level. Women's NGOs often avoid debates, projects and activities related to economic issues since they often lack self-confidence in the area which is being perceived by them as a quite sophisticated knowledge. Karat aims at providing women and women's NGOs in CEE/CIS region with skills and knowledge and thus building their capacity to undertake advocacy and lobbying actions for their economic rights and gender justice in the region.

2.2.1 Economic literacy training at national level

In February 2006, as part of its Economic Literacy Program, Karat conducted two Economic Literacy workshops, the last of a series of Economic Literacy trainings conducted in 2005 and 2006. All trainings were possible thanks to the support by WIDE, although in some cases local organizers were able to secure additional funding and support. The first 2006 training took place on 6th and 7th February in Warsaw, Poland and the other on 25th and 26th February in Tbilisi, Georgia. The trainings were facilitated by Karat's trainers but also included presentations by the resource persons. The training in Poland was organized by Karat Secretariat with a help of Polish organization: PSF (Polish Feminist Association), the training in Georgia was organized in cooperation with Georgian member of Karat: Center for Women and Development. The trainings allowed Karat to strengthen economic literacy capacity of its member organizations. This had 'trickle down effect' with participants conducting trainings in their respective countries. Participants of the economic literacy workshop are now better equipped to undertake lobbying for economic justice, as well as to undertake research focusing on the issues. At the economic literacy workshop new teaching modules, developed specifically for that workshop were tried. Further, the needs and interests of the participants relating specific fields of economic literacy were established.

3.2.2 Economic Literacy publication

The Russian version of Economic Literacy Kit. This publication is a part of Karat Economic literacy program and it was produced thanks to the financial support of Women in Development Europe (WIDE). It is a translated and adopted version of the English Kit which was produced in 2005. The objective of the resource is to provide NGOs (and particularly gender focused NGOs) from CEE/CIS with information

on the basic economic concepts and processes relevant in the region. This kit also includes training hints and exercises for basic economic literacy training, which can be provided on national, organizational and community level. The Kit has been widely distributed among Karat member organizations and during the events organized and co-organized by Karat. The kit is available Russian: <http://www.karat.org/documents/KIT-russian.pdf> ; English: http://www.karat.org/publications/res_kit.html

3.2.3 WIDE's Economic Literacy Working Group

Karat continues its involvement in the WIDE international program on Economic Literacy and is a part of its international working Group. In April 2006 its representative participated in the meeting to develop a plans and activities for the next year.

2.3 Women's working conditions

Karat's involvement in monitoring women's working conditions is due to the post-1989 transformation of economic system in CEE countries which led to the development of capitalism characterized by very few regulations governing economic process or attention consideration for social justice. These early years of free market economy were characterized by lack of focus on democratic and social rules and standards and where making profit has been justifying all forms of activities, including exploitation of vulnerable groups and individuals. The women as a group became disadvantaged by the transformation process. In 2006 Karat conducts the following activities:

2.3.1 Seminar "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – Gender Equality in the Workplace", Warsaw, 28-29 September, 2006

Karat in cooperation with European Coalition for Social Justice and Ebert Foundation organized a workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility. The workshop took place in Poland and was part of a project of IRENE: "Building towards a European NGO Coalition on Corporate Social Responsibility". Although it was addressed to the representatives of Polish NGOs, trade unions and academics interested in CSR and gender issues, it was also attended by a few representatives from CEE since the workshop was designed as Karat "pilot project" to be implemented in future in other countries in the region. The workshop was focused on possibilities of using CSR as an instrument which contribute to respect workers' rights, especially women's rights and make companies 'socially responsible', as this kind of tools are still unknown and/or not used by NGOs in CEE. The possibilities for NGO involvement in this issue as well as opportunities of broader cooperation between different actors of civil society on national and international level were explored.

2.3.2 Research for WISOC Institute on work conditions of women in Polish cloth factories

In 2006 Karat conducted the research based on the interviews and questionnaires in three cloth factories in Poland producing sport garments for the German corporations. The survey was performed for the German Institute WISOC and its main goal was to gather the data on the work conditions of women employed in the examined factories in the context of EU labour market standards and Social Corporate Responsibility. The project was possible due to the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The result of the research was presented during the international seminar "Situation of the Romanian garment industry in the transition period – Promotion of the independent social auditing as an instrument for developing a socially responsible business environment" which was organized in Romania by ORG.'AUR', Karat member organization, in December 2006.

2.3.3 Romanian international seminar on women's working conditions in garment industry

On 14 of December 2006 Karat member organization ORG. 'AUR' - National Organization of Human Resources Specialists held an international seminar "Situation of the Romanian garment industry in the transition period – Promotion of the independent social auditing as an instrument for developing a socially responsible business environment". The goal of the seminar was to raise awareness about the necessity to inform all the interested parts about the situation in the South-east region and create the framework for the development of a network of independent researchers-activists who are able to take part in local advocacy, to assist international multi-stakeholder initiatives in monitoring working conditions and also to check on the proper conduct of commercial social auditors.

2.3.4 Workshop on OECD guidelines

Karat participated in the workshop organized by Ebert Foundation and IRENE (Duch NGO dealing with labour market and working condition) in Warsaw April 2006. Karat's interest was to learn the international tools (OECD guidelines) and to use them in its work aiming at improving working condition of women.

3. AWARENESS RAISING AND ADVOCACY

Awareness raising and advocacy are important part of Karat's activities and are carried out at the different levels in order to influence the policy at global (WB), regional (EU) and national levels

3.1 Advocacy at the World Bank level

1. Karat participated in teleconference with president of the World Bank Mr Wolfowitz on January 2006. It was a first of this kind of conference of Mr Wolfowitz with NGOs. The three hours debate included NGOs from different sectors and different continents. Karat representative raised the issue of deterioration of situation of women in the labour market in CEE/CIS region (it's the only region that activity rate of women dramatically decreased in the last years) and formulate a recommendations on gender equality to be included in the WB policy. May Egypt

2. Karat's executive Director Kinga Lohmann is a member of External Gender Consultative Group at the World Bank and participated in the annual meeting of this group which took place in Egypt in May 2006.

3.2 Advocacy at EU level

1. Karat's representative participated in the meeting with Commissionaire Spidla from DG Employment and Social Affairs who visited Poland and met with few Polish Human Rights NGOs including women's NGOs (January 2006).

2. Karat as a partner in the EC funded project (Open Call for proposals VP/2003/31) took active part in the seminar/hearing in the European Parliament in Brussels in February 2006 to lunch a report on Labour market and entrepreneurship overcoming gender stereotypes.

3.3 Advocacy at Polish level

1. Cooperation with Lewiatan (employers' organization). Ad hoc coalition due to Polish Parliament proposal related to the maternity leave which could diminish women's opportunity of participation in the labour market was established between women's NGOs and Lewiatan – employer's organization. Karat participated in several meetings in order to develop strategy towards influencing the changes which could create equal opportunity for women (April-July 2006)

2. Parliamentarian Commission on social issues. Karat participated in the Parliamentarian Commission together with the representative of NGOs and Lewiatan to influence the amendments to the labour code related to the maternity leave and the protection period for women returning back to the labour market after maternity leave.

3.4 Contacts with media

1. Karat organized a press conference during the WIDE Annual Conference hosted by Karat in Warsaw.

2. Karat gave several interviews to the media (press, internet portals, radio) in relation to the outcome of the WIDE AC.

3.5 Presentations/interventions in the seminars/conferences

Karat participated in the panel discussion with Polish business on CSR. The seminar was organized by Ebert Foundation and Centrum CSR-Poland in the World Bank in Warsaw (June 2006). Karat's presentation included a critical NGO and gender perspective on CSR and described the outcome of the research on women's working conditions in garment industry in Poland.

III. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Accounts 2006

Funds' source	Funds in Euro	%
WIDE (NGO)	64 446	38,8 %
The Sigrid Rausing Trust	29 555	17,8 %
Global Fund for Women	14 983	9,0 %
AFAEMME (European Commission)	10 136	6,1 %
Ebert Foundation	10 121	6,0 %
Mama Cash	8 310	5,0 %
OXFAM	7 389	4,4 %
Batory Foundation	6 296	3,8 %
NGOs	5 610	3,4 %
Income from registration fees	2 709	1,6 %
SPI (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)	2 612	1,5 %
UNIFEM	1 993	1,2 %
IRENE (European Commission)	1 908	1,1 %
TOTAL	166 068	100 %

Annex 2: List of KARAT member organizations

Albania

-UNION GENDER TASK FORCE-ALBANIA

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