

## **KARAT 2009 Annual Report**

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Karat would also like to thank all the partners involved in its initiatives.

### **1. Introduction and context**

This document describes activities and initiatives implemented by KARAT Coalition in 2009. It refers to both project based as well as non project based (statutory) activities and positions them in the broader context of the strategy, goals objectives and achievements of the Coalition.

KARAT Coalition is a regional network of 57 NGOs and 11 individuals from 24 **countries of Central, Eastern & Southern Europe, and Central Asia (in this document referred to as “the Region”)**. Full list of Karat members is available at KARAT’s website [www.karat.org](http://www.karat.org). The Coalition has been established in 1997 as a response to the **need for cooperation of Region’s women aimed at ensuring the advancement of their rights and social & economic justice**. The General Assembly, International Board, Executive Director, Advisory Body and the Registered Board are governing bodies of KARAT. KARAT’s International Board consists of 7 representatives elected by the Coalition Members. The Secretariat of the Coalition is based in Warsaw. The work of the KARAT governing bodies in 2009 is described further in section 6 of this document. Additionally, a detailed information about the KARAT’s governance structure is provided in the Statute available also available on KARAT’s website. ([www.karat.org](http://www.karat.org))

In 2009 as in the previous **14 years of its existence KARAT** has focused on promoting a holistic gendered view of economic and social development and on ensuring that women's rights and achievements in the Region are recognized and not jeopardized by the processes of liberalization, transformation, and aspects of EU enlargement undermining solidarity of Region’s women. In order to respond quickly to the latest changes in the socio-economic environment, in 2009 KARAT also focused on the impact of current economic crises on the socio-economic position of women. KARAT addressed the above issues through implementing project based, as well as non project based (statutory) activities grouped into three programs: Women’s Rights, Economic Justice and Gender and Development. **In 2009 seven large projects and 8 smaller projects were implemented**. All of the projects implemented in 2009 had were largely education centered projects and were either focusing specifically on education and awareness raising of general public or increasing knowledge and capacity of specific target groups.

Year 2009 was not only a continuation in terms of the issues addressed by KARAT but also in terms of the development of the organisation. The previous year - 2008 was a very important and extremely challenging year for KARAT. As the consequence of fundraising successes organisation has rapidly grown in terms of the budget, number of long term projects as well as number of staff employed in the Secretariat. Consequently a lot of energy of the Board and Secretariat staff has been directed towards adapting to those changes including some substantial changes to the manner in which organisation has been managed and governed. **2009 as far as development of the organisation is concerned was a devoted to stabilisation and building on the achievements and lessons learned during the previous years.**

## **2. Main achievements of KARAT Coalition in 2009**

In 2009 KARAT’s had number of important achievements. **A number of multi-year projects has been successfully concluded in 2009** including two first KARAT’s projects co-funded by European Commission. KARAT has also started a number of new projects and initiatives.

Other important achievements of the Coalition:

- 2.1 Development of Coalition's first ever four year strategic document (**Strategic Program for years 2009 – 2012.**) Development of this document is important as it creates a base for strategic, long term planning of the activities of the organisation related to clearly identified needs and objectives defined by KARAT members and Board rather than allow KARAT activities to be a collage of diverse activities for which dictated by the availability of funding for specific actions.
- 2.2 Beginning of the preparation for a **General Assembly of KARAT to be held in Romania in June 2010.** Due to financial issues the last General Assembly was held seven years ago in 2003. Since then the Coalition as well as the environment in which it operates has undergone very significant changes. Consequently a face to face meeting of its members followed by some statutory changes is very much needed.
- 2.3 After approximately 10 years of cooperation with CCC (Clean Clothes Campaign) and implementation of number of project focusing on working conditions of women employed in garment production KARAT together with four other Polish organisation has established **Clean Clothes Polska.**
- 2.4 In the academic year 2009/2010 KARAT conducted lectures (one separate unit) as a part of **post-graduate gender mainstreaming course at Polish Academy of Science** in Warsaw. In its unit "From Theory to Practice" KARAT showed the students how the feminist theory and ideology and gender equality policies and laws can be reflected in projects and activities implemented by a gender focused NGO.
- 2.5 As a consequence of ongoing efforts made in previous years, in 2009 the **Coalition was very visible in media.** In Polish context this was largely connected to the project focusing on working condition in supermarkets as well as establishment of Clean Clothes Polska. In the context of Poland and EU states it was the project "Through Their Eyes Through Ours" which was very visible in media.
- 2.6 **Enhancing human rights program focused on Central Asian CIS** countries through winning OXFAM Novib's support for the follow-up three year project.
- 2.7 KARAT being recognised as an **important stakeholder** and having an opportunity to contribute to initiatives aimed at **improving working conditions in production of garments and electronics.** This is demonstrated by an increasing demand for KARAT's participation in initiatives related to this topic already after the completion of the projects addressing gender aspects of electronics and garment production.

The annual report is structured around the four thematic programs currently implemented by KARAT: economic justice, women's rights, gender and development, and organizational & strategic empowerment. Each section reports on the project based but also non project based activities. It is important to highlight here that most of the project could fall under more than one program but for clarity of this report each project or activity is mentioned only under one of the programs.

Further, activities addressing the same issue but implemented under different projects (ie funded by different donors are described together). This is caused by the fact that while in many cases smaller projects are of supportive nature both in terms of funds and activities related to larger project, they are in themselves integral and important part of KARAT activities.

Finally it needs to be mentioned that although in all the cases implementation of activities requires time consuming tasks such as partnership building, fundraising, project development etc., and while each project and activity involves ongoing coordination tasks as well as preparatory activities the report focuses predominantly on the outcomes of such tasks: concrete actions and events carried out in 2009. Detail accounts of tasks associated with coordination of and preparation can be found in project reports prepared for specific donors.

### **3. Women's Rights**

Women's Rights Program focuses on monitoring the implementation of international government commitments (e.g. CEDAW Convention, Beijing Platform for Action, and EU gender equality legal standards and policies). One of the sub-program has been focusing on labour rights of women.

#### **3.1 Eastern European and Central Asia NGOs Coalition on Optional Protocol to CEDAW**

The activities described in this section have been implemented as part of the project "**Building towards Eastern European and Central Asia NGOs Coalition on Optional Protocol to CEDAW**" funded by Oxfam-Novib which started in January 2008. In 2009 the partnership between KARAT and organizations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was established. Parallel to that, the cooperation with 2008 partners was continued.

##### 3.1.2 Main achievements.

- the long term strategic partnership with International Women's Rights Action Watch IRAW Asia Pacific, an organization dealing with CEDAW for over 15 years, was established;
- 26 women from 10 CIS countries (Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan as additional) were trained to use the optional protocol to CEDAW as a tool to forward women's rights during 2 trainings organized in cooperation with IRAW Asia Pacific;
- the follow up activities to two regional OP CEDAW trainings implemented in 8 project partners' countries (trainings, seminars, round tables, development of anti-discrimination educational scenarios) resulted in increased capacity of women's groups and raised gender awareness of other social actors
- the Russian version of OP CEDAW educational materials were developed, including the IRAW Asia Pacific OP CEDAW guide and KARAT's e-toolkit [www.karat.org/op\\_cedaw](http://www.karat.org/op_cedaw) (translated also into national languages of partner organizations) was developed.

##### 3.1.3 Main Activities

### *3.1.3.1. Identifying leading partners and establishing cooperation.*

Partners identified in 2009:

- Women's Rights Center, Armenia;
- Azerbaijan Gender Association "Symmetry", Azerbaijan;
- Public Foundation "Panorama", Tajikistan;
- "Istiqbolli Avlod" Tashkent and its network in 8 regions of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan.

### *3.1.3.2 Strategic Meeting*

A strategic meeting was held on 27-28<sup>th</sup> of March 2009. The meeting was attended by three out of four national coordinators and other representatives of the project partners from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and representatives of KARAT Secretariat and IWRAP Asia-Pacific.

### *3.1.3.3 The development of the e-toolkit on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and translating it to national languages*

The e-toolkit, designed to provide the basic information on CEDAW and the Optional Protocol, has been published in a form of an easy to up-date, bilingual website (English, Russian) ([http://www.karat.org/op\\_cedaw/](http://www.karat.org/op_cedaw/)). The text was prepared by KARAT in consultation with project partners. The partner organisations who have their own websites made their language versions available.

### *3.1.3.4 OP CEDAW training*

The training on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW convention took place in Warsaw, Poland, on 15-18 September 2009. The training was organized jointly by KARAT Coalition and IWRAP Asia Pacific and was intended for women's rights activists and lawyers. It was attended by 14 participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan; one from Turkmenistan and one from Italy.

### *3.1.3.5 Activities on the national level.*

In 2009 following activities were undertaken by project partners on the national level:

Armenia:

- training on OP CEDAW for representatives of NGOs, ombudsman, etc.
- training for lawyers and judges;

Azerbaijan:

- 2 trainings on OP CEDAW addressed to lawyers and representatives of the non-governmental organizations, including those working on reproductive rights;

Tajikistan:

- roundtable at national level focused on the OP CEDAW ratification (representatives of Parliament, civil society actors); initiating women's groups coalition campaign for ratification of CEDAW, including issuing the letter to president of the republic;
- 1 seminar in one of the regions in Tajikistan;

Uzbekistan:

- training for trainers focused on lobbying techniques for OP CEDAW (for Committee of women and regional partners);
- 10 trainings on CEDAW for local partners in different regions in Uzbekistan and 2 in Tashkent.

#### *3.1.2.6. Final project meeting*

The meeting took place in Warsaw on 3-4 December 2009 and was attended by 14 participants from all 8 project countries as well as 2 representatives from Women's Support Center, Kyrgyzstan, and 3 KARAT staff members. The main objectives of the meeting included sharing experience & conclusions related to OP CEDAW promotion, evaluating the concept and implementation of the project as well as exploring the possible strategies for future cooperation. The need for further cooperation focused on CEDAW was emphasized by all participants.

#### *3.1.2.7. Participation in the 44<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session*

Project coordinator participated in the 44<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session, New York, within the IWRAW A-P program 'From Global to Local' (20-26 July) aimed at facilitating the engagement of women's groups in the review process of the State reports on implementation of the Convention. The project coordinator also attended the 'Global to Local' workshops for women's rights activists (16-19 July).

## **4 Economic justice**

KARAT's activities within this program include building the capacity of its members, partners and other stakeholders through trainings, production of manuals and other publications; research and analysis; monitoring of working conditions in selected industries; involvement in the campaigns and advocacy for the improvement of working conditions and in lobbying different stakeholders including transnational corporations.

In 2009 KARAT has implemented economic justice activities focusing on the following issues:

- Labour rights in super/hypermarkets in Poland
- Working conditions in sportswear industry
- Working conditions in electronic industry

### **4.1. Labour rights in super/hypermarkets in Poland**

The activities focusing on working conditions and labour rights in super and hypermarkets were implemented by KARAT as part of the project **"Labour rights protection from a gender perspective in super/hypermarkets in Poland"** launched in March 2008 and concluded in October 2009. Its aim was changing permanently the employment environment in Poland in order to strengthen the protection of labour rights of workers, mainly women, employed in the super/hypermarkets chains and at empowering them to exercise their rights.

Majority of the project's funding was provided by Open Society Institute, with additional financial support provided by Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

#### 4.1.1 Main achievements.

- Establishing an effective platform for cooperation (Strategic Action Advise Body - SAAB) bringing together the main actors committed to improving the observance of rights of female employees in the super/hypermarket chains;
- Identifying the gaps in the legal system and developing common recommendations covering all identified area and forms of violations of rights of women working in the super/hypermarkets in Poland;
- Wide media coverage of the problems and issues raised within the project;
- Winning the support of the National Labour Inspectorate for the actions of Strategic Action Advise Body (SAAB<sup>1</sup>).

#### 4.1.2 Main Activities in 2009.

##### *4.1.2.1 Seminar: Women labour rights protection in super/ hypermarkets in Poland*

On January 15, 2009 KARAT held a seminar in Warsaw titled *Women's labour rights protection in super/ hypermarkets in Poland*. During the seminar the results of the research conducted in 2008 as well as the report *Working conditions and labour rights protection from gender perspective in supermarkets in Poland* were presented. During the seminar the recommendations for the amendment to the law and its implementation aiming at elimination of the violations, identified by the research conducted earlier, were presented by the SAAB experts. Following the seminar the recommendations were past to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Work Protection Council at the Parliament, the National Labour Inspectorate.

##### *4.1.2.2 Women's rights in supermarkets: Round Table*

The Round Table was organised by KARAT on 26 February 2009 and following stakeholders were invited: state institutions (parliamentarians, representatives of ministries, National Labour Inspectorate, Ombudsman Office), employers and employers' organisations, trade unions, NGOs, lawyers and researchers. Importantly, for the first time KARAT invited the representatives of super/hypermarket chains and employers' organisations in order to hear the their opinions about recommendations focusing on more effective protection of the employees' rights developed by KARAT's experts (SAAB). The recommendations and conclusions from the Round Table were sent in a form of a letter to Chairman of the Three-Sided Commission (government-employers-trade unions).

##### *4.1.2.3 Conference on working conditions in supermarkets*

On June 19, 2009 a conference: "Labour Rights of Women employed in Supermarkets – preventing infringements, protection, improvement of the working conditions" took place in Warsaw. It was attended by 50 persons. The aim of the conference was to emphasise the poor working conditions in super/hypermarkets and the ways of protecting labour rights and preventing the abuses and violations. The conference met as well great media interest.

##### *4.1.2.4 Publications on women rights in supermarkets in English*

In response to great interest two reports produced in 2008 in Polish were translated to English: Research report "Situation of female employees in super- and hypermarkets" and an abridged

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<sup>1</sup> The Strategic Action Advise Body (SAAB) was a group of experts set up in the first year of the project. For more information go to <http://www.karat.org/karat.8.About+the+project.SAAB.en.html>

version of the report “Work conditions and respecting of employees’ rights in supermarkets in Poland from the gender equality perspective” . The English versions of the report were available (and distributed) in an electronic versions. An essay “Women organising for changes in working conditions – Biedronka case” was also made available in English.

#### *4.1.2.5 SAAB and women NGOs meeting*

On October 8, 2009 in Warsaw an evaluation meeting of the project” took place.

#### *4.1.2.6 Media*

One of the great successes of the project was wide media coverage. The project was covered by press and internet web services, but also by national radio and TV. After the Conference 10 articles directly devoted to matters discussed there were published. KARAT also had an 1 hour live radio broadcast in Polish Radio Program 3 (“Club of 3”). All together 63 media articles mentioned project’s activities, research results, and the SAAB recommendations.

## **4.2 Women and garment industry – working conditions and consumers’ awareness**

KARAT’s activities focusing on the working conditions in garment industry were largely connected to the project “**Fair Play in sportswear industry**” which is EC co-funded awareness raising project targeting consumers of sportswear. The idea of the project is to promote sport rule of ‘fair play’ also in relations between sportswear producers and workers. By implementing this project, **KARAT continued its cooperation with Clean Clothes Campaign-** the global NGOs’ and trade unions’ initiative for the improvement of working conditions in garment industry. KARAT’s role in the project involved further monitoring of working conditions in the garment factories in Poland, as well as initiating consumers’ campaign in Central and Eastern Europe by using CCC’s experience and framework. The project started in 2007 and concluded 2009. It is implemented in cooperation with partners from Austria (Sudwind Agentur) and Germany (Inkota). Importantly **it was a the one of two first KARAT’s project co-funded by European Commission.**

The issues of working conditions of women in garment industry as well as companies responsibilities in this area and awareness of the consumers of cloths were also covered by two other projects: “Fair Play always in fashion” funded by Women’s Day of Prayer as part of the project and another EU co-financed project implemented by KARAT in partnership with Christliche Initiative Romero (CIR) from Germany and Sudwind Agentur from Austria. The latter focused on Corporate Social Responsibility. KARAT was involved in the activities related to the garment industry.

### 4.2.1 Main Achievements

The main achievement of the project was connected to the fact that this was a larger one of the two first projects implemented by the coalition of organisation and co-funded by the European Commission. The fact that that this large and complex project addressing new topic for KARAT and for the Region was successfully completed and what is important positively evaluated by the external evaluator was a great success in itself. Implementation of the project was a great learning experience for KARAT as for as EC funded project implemented in partnership are concerned.

There were also number of other achievements:



- establishment of Clean Clothes Campaign Polska (first national CCC Coalition in Central and Eastern Europe) which enables to continue the work started by the garment industry related projects
- successful implementation of first consumer campaign in Poland related to working condition in sportswear industry and contributing to increasing consumer awareness in Poland
- production of large number of materials in Polish addressing responsible consumption of sportswear, which until now was not available and which will be used also after the end of the project
- establishing working relations with stakeholders with whom KARAT did not cooperate in the past (activist, trade unions, sportswear producing companies, universities, NGOs) and who are active in the fields relevant to the project

#### 4.2.2 Main Activities

##### *4.2.2.1 Networking.*

In 2009 the partnership with other NGOs and individuals involved in the consumers' campaign in Poland has been strengthened significantly and developed further. An important outcome of the project was 'formalising' of this cooperation by **establishing Polish national Clean Clothes Campaign coalition** and becoming a part of the international network focussing on improvement of working conditions in global garment industry, CSR and consumers' campaigns. This is the first such coalition in Central and Eastern Europe joining the network of 13 coalitions functioning in other European countries. The members of Polish coalition are: Polish Humanitarian Organization, Polish Green Network, Grupa eFTe Warszawa and KARAT (the coordinator of Clean Clothes Poland). On 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2009, two events aimed at launching CCP were organized in Warsaw and Toruń. Both events met with a great interest of consumers, activists and journalists. About 40 people attended the in Warsaw and about 120 participants of Toruń event. About 15 journalists joined and covered both events. The newly established coalition has its profile on facebook and over 400 fans/supporters. This forum is used for distribution of various information and on-line campaign actions (incl. urgent appeals).

##### *4.2.2.2 Actions and support for activists.*

Apart from the actions related to the launch of CCP, a number of other events, campaign and education activities was organized, co-organized and supported by KARAT.

An education action was organized June in Warsaw, the activists and interested consumers met with clothes designer experienced in work for largest Polish brands acting globally and producing in developing countries as well as smaller garment companies producing in Poland. The participants have also watched the movie 'Nasza ulica' (Our street) showing the impact that the transition of Poland from a garment producing to the mainly consuming country had on garment workers in Łódź. The meeting and the movie was followed by discussion with participants and their later involvement in consumers' cards action targeting Polish largest garment companies.

Around October 7<sup>th</sup> – the World day of Decent Work KARAT conducted a capacity building workshop for NGOs, media and activists on working conditions and consumer campaigns as a part of the event organized by partner organization – Polish Humanitarian Organization, supported the campaign on decent work run by NSZZ Solidarność (Polish Trade Union).

During the International Day of Fair Trade on May 10<sup>th</sup> a number of awareness raising actions (workshops, urgent appeal action, consumers' cards sending etc.) were undertaken by activists cooperating with and supported by KARAT. KARAT has organized a workshop within the cyclical education program of Łódź Social Centre and Gender – Łódź group (Łódź, December 5<sup>th</sup>). Actions of activists' in Poznań, Kraków and Wrocław were supported with education and campaign materials and presentations. KARAT and its activists have also participated in a conference on 'Ethics in garment industry' organized at the Łódź technical University in cooperation with Polish Humanitarian Organization (March, 2008) as well as meetings with the Bangladeshi workers in several towns in Poland (May, 2008).

KARAT provided NGOs, trade unions, individuals and schools with the information and education materials produced as a part of the project. Project materials are used by various NGOs and some schools in their training programs and publications.

*4.2.2.3 Multipliers' Seminar: Made in Eastern Europe, Warsaw 26-27 June, 2009, attended by 36 participants mainly from Austria, Germany and Poland.*

KARAT organized the seminar: "Made in Eastern Europe for multipliers from Austria, Germany and Poland. The Seminar consisted of presentations, discussions, movie screening and participatory workshops. The issues covered included: introduction to the region - garment industry and consumers' campaign in Central and Eastern Europe, general presentation and 'case studies' of Poland, Romania and Macedonia, presented by the experts from respective countries. The event was attended by 36 multipliers and 3 external experts.

*4.2.2.4 European Activists' Seminar: "Made by Women" and consortium meeting. Łódź, 16-18 October 2009*

European Activists' Seminar organized by KARAT on October 17-18 in Lodz, the centre of Polish garment industry. The seminar "Made by Women" focused on gender aspects of the working conditions, CSR and consumers' awareness related to global garment production. During the seminar the participants could improve their knowledge on gender aspects of the problems they work on, plan gender sensitive actions, meet with practitioners, such as clothes designer and seamstress, and watch a movie illustrating garment industry transformation in Poland, and its impact on workers. The seminar was attended by 10 activists from Austria, 11 from Germany, 13 from Poland.

*4.2.2.5 Publications: "Nabijanie kasy" (Cashing Inn), additional printing of "Mój styl, moja odpowiedzialność" (Activists' guide)*

KARAT has published 500 copies of Polish version of the report: Cashing Inn – the publication of the Clean Clothes Campaign illustrating the practices of giant retailers such as: Walmart, Carefour, Tesco, Aldi and Lidl in the garment sector.

KARAT has also done additional printing of 500 copies of the project publication from 2007 - Activists' Guide. The publication proved to be very much in demand and after having exhausting the number of copies printed in 2007 KARAT decided to adapt the publication and publish it again in 2009.

*4.2.2.6 Production of campaign materials*

In 2009 KARAT has produced four issues of the Polish version of the Fair Play Newsletter. Additionally KARAT has produced around 115 pages of articles, campaign tools and other information materials translated and used in publications, website, campaign etc. Various

information and campaign materials for the use of the project have been translated into Polish on regular basis. These include: articles for the project website and newsletter, urgent appeals as well as other publications which after being translated into Polish are published in electronic version, placed at the project website and circulated through electronic mail. Throughout the year the project's websites run by KARAT are regularly updated: in Polish [www.kobietypraca.org/fairplay](http://www.kobietypraca.org/fairplay), in English: [www.womenslabour.org/fairplay](http://www.womenslabour.org/fairplay).

#### *4.2.2.7 Lobbying Companies and sporting bodies*

Throughout the project duration KARAT has printed 10000 consumers' cards. Many of distributed cards were sent to the main Polish garment brands, also during actions organized by various activists, organizations and schools. The letters sent to the companies at the end of 2008 as well as the consumers cards action were answered by one on the main Polish garment company: LPP and the dialog with this company has started. KARAT in cooperation with organizations involved in Clean Clothes Poland aims to continue this dialog and try to organize a meeting with the company. Further, in December 2009, 31 letters were sent again to 31 companies. The letter contained practical guidelines on Code of Conducts development and implementation and a brochure: Full Package Approach to Labour Codes of Conduct.

#### *4.2.2.8 Cooperation with Media*

In 2009 two press releases have been sent: on October 7<sup>th</sup> (World Day of Decent Work, combined with the launch of Asian Floor Wage Campaign supported by Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) ) and on December 9<sup>th</sup> (launch of the CCC Poland combined with education actions and press conference co-organized by KARAT). The latter resulted in a11 press articles (including on-line articles), 1 radio and 2 TV features. KARAT is closely cooperating with 4 journalists but 250 additional journalists were informed about project activities.

### **4.3 Working conditions in electronic industry**

Activities implemented by KARAT related to **gender and working conditions in electronic industry** has been implemented as part of two projects. The main one was "**MakeITfair**" is a European campaign focusing on mobile phones, laptops and MP3 players. The project started in 2007 and was completed in 2009. KARAT's main role in the project involved coordinating research concerning working conditions in electronic industry (where majority of the production workers are women) in Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary; organising Capacity Building workshops for NGOs and institutions in Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary; developing and disseminating of awareness raising and educational materials. The project was conducted in partnership with other EU based organisations led by SOMO from the Netherlands. The second project was "**PrecureITfair**" focusing on rising awareness on the link between working conditions in production of IT and public purchases. In case of both project the funds used by KARAT has been provided by EC.

#### 4.3.1 Main achievements.

There were two main achievement related to working conditions in electronics industry. The first one was of an institutional nature: along with "Play Fair" project "MakeITfair" this was one the two first EC co-funded project implemented by KARAT with partnership with other organisations, and therefore gave KARAT an opportunity to gain experience in this area. The second achievement was an **opportunity to address working conditions of women in the area which has not be addressed as yet in Central and Eastern Europe (electronic industry)** and combining it with also new to the Region notion of consumer awareness.

Consequently the project contributed directly to **the increase of awareness of consumers in Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary related to the role consumers can play in improving the working conditions of women** employed in electronic industry. Further, the interest in the issue addressed by the project has been increasing steadily in Poland during the project implementation. KARAT has been contacted by number of stakeholders interested in inviting KARAT to trainings (as facilitator) and other events related to the working conditions in electronic industry. In 2010 KARAT has already participated in one such event and plans to continue its involvement in the issue if only statutory obligations of the Coalition as well as human resources will allow it.

#### 4.3.2 Project Activities

##### *4.3.2.1 Capacity Building session in Budapest, Hungary*

On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009 KARAT has organised one Capacity Building session in Budapest, Hungary. The workshop was attended by multipliers from Hungary, Poland and Czech Republic. It was facilitated by Germanwatch. The multipliers were provided with material in Czech, Polish and Hungarian and related information, case studies, proposals to support awareness raising in each country. An important outcome of the event was that a number of organizations from Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary<sup>2</sup> decided to independently organize follow up of the Action and include makeITfair campaign into their activities.

##### *4.3.2.2 Production and dissemination of awareness raising materials.*

- An update for project Partners on working conditions in Poland (interviews conducted in Łódź with women workers from DELL).
- Dissemination of the hard copies of report “Gender aspects. Production of next – generation electronics in Poland” (60 copies)
- Production and distribution of electronic version and hard copies of summaries of three reports focusing on socio-economic and environmental impact of mining related to IT production. 1500 copies (500 each of Polish, Czech and Hungarian)
- An article “Marzenie o sprawiedliwym telefonie komórkowym” (“Dream about the fair mobile phone”) published in “Bez dogmatu” (“Without dogma”). (1500 copies).
- Translation and dissemination of Consumer Guides (“China calling: makeITfair!” and “make IT green”) in Polish, Czech and Hungarian. Further dissemination of Consumer Guides produced in previous years. In total in 2009, 6000 copies Consumer Guides were printed and distributed before the end of the project (1000 each of Consumer Guide nr 3 and 4 in Polish, Czech and Hungarian).
- Development and dissemination of Polish and Hungarian version of the makeITfair webquest and a scenario of the workshop for other teachers.
- Dissemination of mouse-pads, buttons and stickers with the message “we are not machine” and “Made in Congo” stickers.

##### 4.3.2.3 Production and dissemination of reports on working conditions in IT sector in Hungary and Romania

In 2008 research focusing on working conditions in IT production was conducted in Hungary and Romania. In 2009 this research was used and disseminated. In case of Romania research

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<sup>2</sup> This organisations were; eFTe (FairTarde Group), Społeczny Instytut Ekologiczny (Social Ecological Institute), Młodzi Socjaliści (Young Socialists), Łódź Gender (Gender Group in Łódź, Poland), Stowarzyszenie Zielone Mazowsze (Green Mazovia Association), Polska Zielona Sieć (Polish Green Network), Amnesty International, ZHP (Scouting Union) (from Poland); INEX SDA, Fair Trade Center Brno and Ekumenická Akademie (from Czech Republic); Association of Conscious Consumers, Institute of Sociology (Gender Studies), Center for Environmental Studies (from Hungary)

it was published (electronically) as research Labour Rights in Global Production Networks. An Analysis of the Apparel and Electronics Sector in Romania.

#### 4.4 Other Activities

KARAT has prepared the **terms of reference for CEE Bankwatch Network** and its partners to follow when carrying out **research on labour rights observance in the supermarkets** financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in the former Eastern Bloc countries. The research would primarily focus on examining possible discrepancies between the employee rights and working conditions of female and male supermarket workers.

### **4. Gender and Development**

An important element of KARAT's activities implemented under this program is an **opposition to the simplistic North-South, division often used in the context of development as this approach omits the significance of the gender and development issues present in Eastern Europe, Balkans and Central Asia**. It is important to note that number of KARAT's activities focusing on economic justice and described in the previous section of the report (namely those related to working conditions in production of garments and in production of electronics) are development education projects. Other development education activities undertaken by KARAT in 2009 are described below.

#### **5.1 Raising public awareness about development problems faced by women from developing countries in the EU Eastern Neighborhood, Balkans and Central Asia.**

The activities described below have been implemented as part number of projects: “**Through Their Eyes, Through Ours**. Raising public awareness about development problems faced by women from developing countries in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood, Balkans and Central Asia” and „**Economic rights of women are human rights!** Promotion of economic rights of women in the context of development in the countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova” funded by Minority Rights Group. The “Through Their Eyes, Through Ours” project is a three year initiative which started in 2008 and implemented by KARAT as lead organisation in partnership with WIDE, Gender Media Caucasus Association, WOMNET, Permaculture and Peacebuilding Centre Ppc Shtip and Center for Communication and Development. The goal of the project is to raise public awareness in the EU, and particularly in New Member States from Central and Eastern Europe about the development problems faced by women in the developing neighbouring countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Balkans. The project is the first EC co-funded. The other donors of the activities implemented described below in 2009 were: BRE Bank Foundation, Oxfam-Novib.

##### 5.1.2 The main achievements:

- The extremely wide (geographical) spread of the project activities (exhibition and other awareness raising materials),
- Involvement of large number of KARAT members and women from the Region in different aspects of the project

- Gaining of important experience in terms of being a lead organisation of a large EC funded project
- Production of awareness raising tools which can be used after the end of the project (the exhibition, photo bank, YouTube film etc)

### 5.1.3 Main activities of the project.

#### *5.1.3.1 Exhibition in EU states.*

The exhibition which was a result of the photo competition held in 2008 were 6 separate exhibition held in 4 different countries. The exhibition consisted of **39 large and impressive images and aimed to undermine the existing stereotypes associated with socioeconomic problems experienced by women from the EU Eastern Neighbourhood, Balkans and Central Asia** and mobilise EU public support for gender-sensitive strategies and policies for development. The exhibitions were held in:

- Warsaw, Poland (launch of the exhibition held at the Warsaw University Library between 23 and 8th of January). The exhibition was viewed by approximately 8000 persons.
- Poznan, Poland (held at the Spot Foundation's Exhibition space between 5 and 15th of March). In Poznan 700 persons saw the exhibition.
- Bratislava, Slovakia (held in the foyer of Apollo Business Centre between 11th and 29th of May) was seen by 5000 persons.
- Berlin, in Germany, (took place in European Academy Berlin 2-4 July, 2004) and was viewed by 3000 persons.
- Bonn, Germany (in Public Library between 25 September till 5<sup>th</sup> of October) and was viewed by 300 persons
- Geneva, Switzerland (at the Palais des Nations as the side event of the UN-ECE Beijing + 15 Regional Review Meeting, 30 October – 5th of November). Exhibition was seen by 3000 people.

#### *5.1.3.2 Production and distribution of development education awareness raising materials.*

Throughout the year diverse awareness raising materials focusing on the economic situation of women from the developing countries of EU Eastern Neighbourhood, Balkans and Central Asia were distributed both at the events associated with the project such as exhibition listed above, as well as at other events held and attended by KARAT and project partners as well as via other means (through post). All of the materials with the exception of the calendar were produced in the first year of the project. The distribution figures were as follows:

- Exhibition publication (in English, Polish, German, and Slovak) – total of 1900 copies of the publication have been distributed in 2010 (500 each in Slovak and German, 300 in Polish and 600 in English).
- Exhibition catalogue containing the small size photos and descriptions have been produced and distributed by a project partner Womnet have produced.
- Five different postcards with images from the photo competition and education development message relating the economic rights of women in developing countries of the Region in Polish and Slovak have been distributed. In total 2000 postcards were distributed.

- Calendar for 2010 including 12 images showing women in their economic context and connecting economic situation of women in the developing countries of the region and CEDAW. – 500 copies have been distributed and welcomed by its recipients.
- A YouTube movie focusing on economic rights development countries of women from the developing countries of the Region was produced and distributed via webpages and email.

#### *5.1.3.3 Web based tools and Cooperation with media*

The awareness raising activities of the project were conducted also using web based tool:

- All project publications and photo exhibition made available on KARAT's website.
- Selected information made available on the websites of the project partners in their appropriate languages (German, Slovak).
- YouTube movie addressing economic rights of women being human rights produced and distributed.
- PPS presentation containing slides with photos and slogans concerning socio-economic problems faced by women have been produced and distributed also among platform, NGOs, member organization etc.
- Facebook profile which currently has over 180 'fans' has been produced.

A constant contact with media aimed at issue related to the economic and development problems faced by the regions women being covered by media has been maintained. While the media interest in each partner country has been greatest around the exhibition periods in each of the country the project has been covered also at other times.

## **5.2 Building Support in New Member States (NMS) for Gender-sensitive and responsive European Development Co-operation**

This 3 year long project „Building Support in New Member States (NMS) for Gender-sensitive and responsive European Development Co-operation” is a pioneering initiative in the Region aiming to contribute NMS women's voice to development cooperation debates. The primary objectives of the project is to build the capacities of women's rights NGOs to advocate for the full implementation of the EU gender equality policy in the government's development assistance and initiation of the South- East -North cooperation on women's rights in development. The project leading organization is One World Action based in UK. Activities are going to be implemented in partnership with KARAT and in collaboration with four KARAT members from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania.

### 5.2.1 Project Activities

#### *5.2.1.1 First meeting of the project partners.*

The meeting took place in Warsaw on 16-17 July 2009. During the meeting partners discussed the aims and agreed on the action plan for the project. The partners have also come up with a new „friendly” name for the project – Connect !

## **5.3 Social Watch**

The project “**Promoting Social Development: Building Capacities of Social Watch Coalitions**” was a multiyear year project that started in March 2008 implemented by KARAT with partners from Italy (UCODEP) and Czech Republic (EAP). KARAT's role in

the project is to mobilize civil society organizations in Poland to build national Social Watch Coalition. KARAT also was involved in production of Social Watch publications. The activities described below were implemented thanks to the funds provided by European Commission, Education for Democracy Foundation (Fundacja Edukacji dla Demokracji) and Embassy of Netherlands.

### 5.3.1 Main Achievement of the project

The main achievement of the project was establishing of strong Coalition of Polish organisations working on social development (Polish Social Watch Coalition).

### 5.3.2. Main Activities

#### *5.3.2.1 Training on campaigning, advocacy & media*

The training took place on 26<sup>th</sup> of March in Warsaw. It was attended by 13 participants – current and perspective members of Polish Social Watch Coalition. It consisted of two main parts facilitated by two trainers: media and campaigning & lobbying.

*5.3.2.2 Training on gender perspective in the international cooperation for development.* The training targeting took place on November 24<sup>th</sup> in Warsaw. It was conducted by the resource persons from KARAT Coalition and One World Action. It was attended by 25 persons.

#### *5.3.2.2 Contributions to report*

KARAT has coordinated production of contribution (written by experts and members of Polish Social Watch Coalition) to European Social Watch Report (on migration) and to international Social Watch Report (on global economic crisis).

#### *5.3.2.3 Production and launch of Polish Social Watch report*

Polish Social Watch Report titled “Social Development” has been written and 510 copies have been printed.

#### *5.3.2.4 Production of publication “Mini Guide for development cooperation from Gender perspective”*

The publication has been developed by KARAT and 1500 of copies in Polish have been published.

#### *5.3.2.4 Promotion and distribution of campaigning materials and cooperation with media*

Campaigning materials were electronically launched on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2009. A press release (mostly on GEI) was produced and distributed among media. Campaign materials produced during the project have been distributed among MPs, NGOs, academics and students, and media. Out of approximately 6000 (out of 7500 copies) were distributed by the end of 2009.

An article on PSWC was published in widely distributed newsletter targeting third sector – *Pomocnik NGO*

## **5. Organizational and strategic empowerment**

### **6.1. Integration and mobilization of member organizations**



Two organizations have joined KARAT in 2009 from Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan) joined KARAT . The efforts to strengthen the coalition through networking with the member organisation undertaken strategically in 2008 continued in 2009 and continue to produce evident outcomes. Thanks to the emphasis being put on communication with members (through the e-groups as well as KARAT news) as well as emphasis being placed on involving largest possible number of KARAT members in specific activities project implemented by the Coalition, the members continue to be increase involvement in KARAT activities related to their interests. The project which are particularly important in that regard were: “OP-CEDAW “ project, Through Their Eyes Thought Ours Project and “Connect” project. The debate related to the GA planned for June 2010 also played an important role in facilitating involvement of the KARAT members in activities of the coalition. In November members’ update questionnaire was sent to fifty seven organizations. It turned out that three of them no longer exist and the remaining fifty four are still active and interested in cooperation within the network. The countries with the biggest number of members are Macedonia (five organizations) and Romania, Russia and Serbia (four organizations). Karat has also 11 individual members, most from Poland (five).

As it was said before communication tools played an important role in keeping in touch with members and providing them with an opportunity to impact long term strategy of the Coalition. Importantly in each issue of KARAT News there were at least 3 updates/news from the members. In 2009 7 issues of KARAT news were published and there was 195 new subscribers to KARAT News.

## **6.2. Governance**

### *Board Meeting January*

Ex-Board Members and the newly elected members met on 23-24 January in Warsaw, Poland. During the meeting beside the report from the secretariat and ongoing governance issues the priority was given to further elaboration of the KARAT’s program for the years 2009-2012 based on the thematic objectives.

### *Board Meeting November*

The meeting of the Board took place on 19-20 November. The meeting included report from the Secretariat, ongoing governance issues and accepted new members. Importantly the Board Members also made a strategy for the General Assembly of the Coalition and WIDE conference both to be hosted by KARAT member organization from Romanian Org. AUR in June 2010.

### *Ongoing communication*

Ongoing communication with the Board related to its statutory obligation as well as ongoing information of the Board members was facilitated on ongoing basis by the Executive Director and Networking Officer.

## **6.3. Management of the Secretariat**

The number of staff has been diminishing since the end of 2009 (related to accomplishment of 4 important projects). Currently, there are 7 full time employees, 2 part time employees, and 2 persons cooperating on regular basis. The number of the projects was also diminished.

Currently, KARAT's implements 3 big projects, 4 complementary ones and 2 smaller projects (in 2009: 7 big and 8 complementary ones).

## **7. Financial Report**