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Dear KARAT News Readers !

I have a great pleasure to present you new re-shaped issue of KARAT NEWS ! At the same time I am very sorry for missing KARAT NEWS in April. Since I was on my sick leave I was not able to proceed with this.

I am constantly calling for your contributions of information. I will be more than happy to present your news in KARAT NEWS content. I hope you will like the new layout. Have a nice reading !

Kasia Staszewska, KARAT Networking officer & News Editor

What's new in KARAT ?

New Project: Gender and Development in NMS

Great news! After overcoming many challenges we have a great pleasure to announce the start of a new 3 year EC co-funded project: *Building Support in New Member States for Gender-sensitive and responsive European Development Co-operation*. The project's leading organization is One World Action – an international development agency based in London, UK. Activities are going to be implemented in partnership with KARAT and in collaboration with four KARAT member organizations from: Bulgaria (GERT), Czech Republic (Association for Equal Opportunities), Slovakia (Slovak Center for Communication and Development) and Romania (Org 'AUR'). The first strategic meeting for the project is planned in July.

The project is one of the pioneering initiatives aiming to contribute women's voice to development cooperation debates in the EU NMS. The objective is to build the capacity 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's activities will include: regional and national dialogues, visit of the Sub-Saharan women advocates to the NMS, briefings on aid and gender, preparation of the case studies and finally a large international conference in Brussels. Want to know more? Write to Kasia at: kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl

KARAT and WIDE for CEDAW +30

With the primary objective to celebrate the 30 years of The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) KARAT has joined newly established WIDE's ad hoc task force on CEDAW +30. Although the framework of the joint activities on the European level is still under discussion the main focus is to make CEDAW better recognised at the local level and among the politicians and decision makers at international level. Linking CEDAW focused campaigns with the Beijing + 15 was also a part of the first discussion between the task force members. To learn more about this initiative write to Gea from WIDE at gea@wide-network.org or Ola from KARAT Secretariat at: aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl

KARAT at WIDE WG on gender and trade

KARAT Secretariat representative joined WIDE ad hoc Gender and Trade Meeting held in Brussels on the 21st of April. Although KARAT's agenda is not focused directly on trade we are very interested in cooperation and extending our work as far as the issues of decent work, migration (GATS Mode 4) and global financial crisis are concerned. The meeting was a great opportunity for strengthening of capacity, networking and identifying new alliance. To know more about the meeting, write to Kasia at: kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl

Expertise in worker's rights

Coordinator of the KARAT's project „Labor Rights Protection from Gender Perspective in Super/Hypermarkets in Poland” was invited to a group of experts established within a project led by International Commission of Jurist (ICJ) “Access to justice for human rights abuses involving corporations”. The invitation was a recognition of KARAT's experience, achievements and experience in the area of fighting for rights of supermarket workers..

The ICJ project was elaborated as a response to the more and more frequent human rights violations committed by the international companies. The ICJ project aims at understanding practices, emerging standards, identifying critical issues, trends and patterns in access to justice for victims of human rights violations/abuses involving companies/corporations and identifying potential recommendations in relation to national legal and judicial systems. ICJ plans to outline an agenda for legal and judicial change and propose the appropriate measures to enhance access to justice in this context. Polish report is expected in October 2009.

If you want to know more about it write to Agnieszka at: agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl

Exercising female leadership

The Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA) team at Oxfam Novib together with KARAT Secretariat organized the “Female leadership” seminar for women NGO leaders from Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Georgia, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The seminar took place on April 27-28 in Warsaw, Poland, with the primary objective to promote and enhance female leadership and achieve more effective gender mainstreaming in the ECA region.

The participants were sharing their experience concerning the topic through group discussions, stories-telling, theatre techniques and other creative exercises. They discussed the concepts of female leadership, identity, gender, change/transformation, power and relationship between the “personal”, “professional” and “political” spheres of their lives. The participants stated that they strengthened their individual leadership during the seminar and enthusiastically agreed to conduct follow-up actions in their countries which will definitely contribute to advance female leadership and promote gender justice in the ECA region.

To know more about the seminar write to Agnieszka at: agnieszka.poplwaska@karat.org.pl

makeITfair: ongoing campaign



More than half of all mobile phones in use worldwide are produced in China. Migrant workers, most of them women, work up to 12 hours a day, earning only around 40 Euro cents an hour, which is not enough to cover their basic living expenses.

As a Central and Eastern European partner in the makeITfair campaign KARAT participated in the round table on the electronic industry and civil organizations hosted by GoodElectronics in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (7 – 8 May). The Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC), the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) as well as many individuals from certain companies and many representatives of civil society organization discussed effective strategies to bring about lasting improvements of labour conditions and respect for labour rights in the global electronics industry. Discussion had it public follow up a week later, when on the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on May 17, eight thousands of people sent postcards and in this way pressured the mobile phone companies across Europe to pay greater attention to fair labour standards in their supply chains.

To know more about the campaign write to Marta at marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl

Social Watch: new resources



The Basic Capabilities Index 2008 and the Gender Equity Index 2008 with detailed statistics are now – for the first time - available in the Polish , in both printed and electronic format!

The Basic Capabilities Index (BCI), published annually by Social Watch since 2004, is a summary index which compares and classifies countries according to their progress on social development. BCI is based on three indicators: deliveries attended by skilled health personnel, mortality among children under five years old, and number of children remaining in the school system up to the fifth grade. The latest set of BCI illustrates that progress in basic social indicators slowed down in 2007 and that the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved if the rate of progress remains the same.

The Gender Equity Index (GEI), developed and calculated by Social Watch, ranks 157 countries in a scale where 100 would imply complete equality between women and men in education, participation in the economy and in decision-making bodies (empowerment). The highest-ranking country in the world, Sweden, has an index of 89 and the world average is of 61. Poland, with an index of 71, is above average result. However, in comparison with other EU countries this result is not impressive. The new EU members states like Bulgaria or Romania, for example, have reached a higher level of gender equality.

If you wish to receive the printed version of our publications, do not hesitate to contact Magda: magda.pochec@karat.org.pl

Gender Studies o.p.s. (Czech Republic): round table on ADL



The Czech Republic is one of the worst performing countries as far as the effective protection against discrimination is concerned. It has already been condemned by the European Court of Justice, since the Czech legislation has not transferred the EU standards of equality between men and women into its social security schemes. There was also no proactive stance towards approving the anti-discrimination law (ADL) even during the Czech presidency of the EU. In relation to this Gender Studies o.p.s., KARAT member organization, organized the Czech Women's Lobby Round Table on Anti-discrimination Legislation. Focused on the gender aspects of ADL and multiple discrimination it aimed to continue substantive discussion on the given problematic and encourage the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation.

To know more about round table outcomes and ADL battle in Czech Republic write to Linda at Linda.solacova@genderstudies.cz

Serbia: participation in WWG on FfD consultations in New York

Mirjana Dokmanovic, WIDE and KARAT individual member joined The Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD) consultations held in New York on April 24-26 and contributed to the special statement on the global financial crisis introduced later to the delegates attending the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organisation and the UNCTAD.

The WWG on FfD calls for more inclusive process: not one lodged in the International Financial Institutions that have created the crisis, but in the UN, where women's rights and human rights are enshrined, and where each country, large or small, has a voice at the table. This is particularly important with regard to the UN Conference on Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development planned for 24 – 26 June in London, UK. There is now a worldwide call for heads of states and governments to attend the June conference and agree on how to reform the international financial architecture, and make it accountable to the wider international development architecture. WWG of FfD encourages women's groups to share the statement with their government and constituencies. The statement is available at: : <http://www.awid.org/eng/Women-s-Rights-in-the-News/Women-s-Rights-in-the-News/A-call-for-structural-sustainable-gender-equitable-and-rights-based-responses-to-the-global-financial-and-economic-crisis>

SCCD (Slovakia): exhibition in Bratislava



On 11th of May Slovak Centre for Communication and Development, KARAT member organization, launched the "Through their eyes" exhibition in foyer of Apollo Business Centre in Bratislava. This is the same exhibition that was shown in Warsaw in Januar and is a part of regional project "Through their eyes, through ours: Rising Public Awareness about development problems faced by women from developing countries from EU Eastern Neighbourhood, Balkans and Central Asia" carried out by KARAT Coalition in partnership with organization with Slovak Centre for Communication and Development (Slovakia), Womnet (Germany), WIDE (Belgium), PPC (Macedonia) and GMC (Georgia). It consists of photographs taken by female photographers from Balkan, Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe that were asked to express their own perspective on economic situation of women in their respective countries and, simultaneously, undermine existing stereotypes related to the economic status of women.

"This project should point at economic situation of women in those countries," says Zuzana Jezerska, Director of Slovak Centre for Communication and Development. "The second phase of the project would be working travel of selected candidates from the European Union countries who would search for their own view. Thus, the name of the project is derived from the aspect of confrontation of perspectives," she sums up.

If you wish to know more about the exhibition in Slovakia Write to Zuzanna at: zuzanna.jezerska@gmail.com If you would like to host the exhibition in your country write to Ewa from KARAT secretariat at: ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl

Eastern Partnership Launch

Eastern Partnership aims to strengthen 27 EU Member States contacts with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine and be a natural counterbalance to the EU neighbourhood policy. It was launched by the President of the European Council Mirek Topolánek and President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso on the Summit held in Prague, Czech Republic, on 7th of May. The Eastern Partnership objective is to support prosperity and multilateral building of confidence with the aim of contributing to territorial integrity and sovereignty of all partner countries. In addition, it should also support efforts to resolve regional conflicts peacefully. The Partnership launch was very much welcomed by the included countries, particularly Belarusian opposition that believes that it is a opportunity for gradually improving the democratic situation and maintaining interdependence from Russia. So far NGOs were careful with assessment of the Eastern Partnership outputs. According to KARAT, gender equality and women's rights are the integral part of democracy and that is why should be included in the Partnership agenda.

New CEDAW ratification

Qatar is the latest of 186 countries that have ratified CEDAW on 26 April 2009. Nevertheless, a number of reservations (Article 2 (a), 9 § 2, 15 § 1, 15 § 4, 16 § 1 (a, c, f)) and declarations were made. Qatar reserved itself a right to implement several articles of the Convention in accordance with its understanding and with the provisions of the Islamic Law. For the moment there are only seven countries that have refused CEDAW ratification: the United States, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Nauru, Palau and Tonga.

Update on financing for development

Disappointing updates from the high-ministerial meetings tackling the issues of development cooperation. First, UN Conference on Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development considered as a chance for International Financial Institutions reform has been postponed to 24 – 26 June in London, UK. It is said that postponement is due to the fact that several heads of state that wanted to take part could not come on the original dates and that there wasn't enough time to negotiate the outcome document. Second, European development ministers meeting at the General Affairs and External Relations Council ([GAERC](#)), held in Brussels on May 18 didn't bring any new far-reaching declarations to response to the financial crisis consequences that are dramatically hitting developing countries now. Effective and innovative actions are need, also from the side on emerging donors in EU NMS, after the crisis has caused the collapse of financial flows such as export revenues, private foreign investment and migrant remittances.

EURODAD 2 pager assesses the agreements reached by the European Council on development finance. It is available on:

http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/News/Eurodad%20Briefing%20on%20May%202009%20GAERC.pdf

Support IRAW Asia Pacific Campaign on OP CEDAW

IRAW Asia Pacific is the coordinator of a Global Campaign towards the ratification and use of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW - Our Rights Are Not Optional! An important part of the work under the campaign is to support women's groups lobbying for ratification of the OP CEDAW. With this regard IRAW would like to document the various experiences of women's groups around the world who have lobbied for their government to ratify the OP CEDAW.

How do we push a women's agenda with our governments and convince them that ratifying an international instrument on women's rights is a good thing to do? Your experiences will help enrich the work of other women's groups pushing for ratification and will be included in a publication of IRAW Asia Pacific which will be published this

year - your contribution in this publication will be recognised. Whether you have successfully managed to convince your government to ratify the OP CEDAW or you are still trying, IWRAW is calling women's groups worldwide to share their experiences and contribute by filling very SHORT questionnaire. KARAT joins IWRAW with this call for contributions. The SHORT questionnaire is available on <http://www.iwraw-ap.org> . For Russian version and other inquiries write to iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org or iwraw-ap@yahoo.com

Funding

Georgia: Eurasia Partnership Foundation

Eurasia Partnership Foundation invites Georgian civil society organizations to submit project proposals that will encourage and facilitate a resolution of the current political impasse through broad, inclusive dialogue among civil society organizations, political groups, and citizens with different viewpoints. Eurasia Partnership Foundation will receive proposals through the Open Door grant mechanism, which is designed to test short-term, innovative projects in new fields. There is no deadline for submissions through the Open Door mechanism. More information on: www.epfound.ge.

Western Balkans: RRPP

The RRPP (Swiss Regional Research Promotion Programme) Management has launched a call for project ideas, open to researchers from the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and the FYR of Macedonia. Deadline for submission is June 22, 2009. More information is available on: www.rrpp-westernbalkans.net/calls

Black Sea region: ENPI and IPA

This is the first call on the Operational Programme Black Sea 2007-2013. The objective is to achieve stronger regional partnerships and cooperation for the purpose of promoting social and economic development in the Black Sea Basin. The priority areas include: culture, media, local development, environment, cooperation and development. Projects should support cross-border partnerships in the targeted topics and can be co-financed up to 90% of the eligible costs. The regions concerned include: Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, R. Moldova, Russia, Ukraine) and Turkey. The deadline for submission is 31st July, 2009. To know more check: <http://www.welcomeurope.com/fundings-2009-05-07-3208.html>

Events

WIDE AC Conference, Switzerland, June 18-20, 2009

Care Economy and Care Crisis is the title of this year WIDE (Women in Development Europe) Annual Conference co-hosted with the Swiss platform from 18 to 20 June in Basel, Switzerland. Information about programme, speakers and registration is available on <http://www.wide-network.org>
For more information, write to Patricia Meyer: patricia.meyer@cf-d.ch.org

KARAT Conference on 'Women in supermarkets', June 19, 2009

Labour Rights of Women employed in Supermarkets – preventing infringements, protection, improvement of the working conditions is the title of KARAT Conference to be held in Warsaw, Poland on June 19. For information about programme, speakers and registration write to Agnieszka at: agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl The language of the conference is Polish. Unfortunately KARAT can not reimburse the travelling and accommodation costs of the participants.

FoRS Conference , June 23-24, 2009

The International Conference on *Civil Society Organisations Development Effectiveness* will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, as the main event of the Czech NGDO platform FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Co-operation – during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union. For more information visit http://fors.cz/en/eu_presidency/seminars_conferences/international-conference-on-cso-development-effectiveness or contact Ineke Adriaens (asistent@fors.cz).

Women's Congress, June 20-21, Warsaw

On 20 and 21 June almost 3000 women from all over Poland will meet on the Women's Congress: *Women for Poland. Poland for Women. 20 years after transformation: 1989 -2009*. This is a big social event integrating women from various groups and backgrounds. One of the Congress' special guest will be Hillary Clinton. The aim is to celebrate women's role in the transformations since the end of the communism in 1989 and point out to the achievements of women in politics, economy, science, art, media as well as in every day life. If you wish to know more write to Kasia at: kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl

Conference on ENPI Mid Term review, 2nd and 3rd July, Berlin

With regard to mid-term review of the country strategy papers of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENPI Mid Term review) and reviews of: the Istanbul Conclusions 1996, MDGs, Beijing+15 and UN-resolution1325 WOMNET is organizing international conference on EU gender politics in an international context: *Gender perspectives and gender indicators. How can gender indicators of international action plans be used for the European Neighbourhood Policy?* The conference will be combined with an opening of the "Through Their Eyes Exhibition". There are still some places available, particularly for the resource persons and speakers on ENP. For the conference program and more information contact Sabine Gürtner, WOMNET Executive Director at: sabine.quertner@womnet.de

Conference on female labour participation, 4-6 November 2009, Amsterdam

The Taskforce Part-Time Plus initiated in 2007 by the Dutch government and its social partners (employers' associations and trade unions) is organizing International Conference on increasing female labour participation on 4-6 November 2009, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. With this regard researchers and professionals with academic and/or practical knowledge and expertise in the field of increasing female labour participation are invited to submit an abstract before June 15th, 2009. For more information about the taskforce and the conference please send an e-mail to proposal@24ormore.org.

Resources

ENP consultations & progress report

European Commission launched its annual European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) progress Reports. You can find all the reports at: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/documents_en.htm#3 Information about how to comment on the concept notes for the mid term review of the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) programming documents is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/mid_term_review/index_en.htm

Regional Mapping Studies for CIS

This EC/UN report provides an overview of the issues and trends that emerged from mapping studies on aid effectiveness, gender equality and women's empowerment in Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. The studies reveal sad picture

of deterioration of gender equality standards in both countries and point at strengthening the strategic planning capacities of government institutions and the policy-budget links are the priority actions to take.

Studies are available at:

http://www.gendermatters.eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=category§ionid=6&id=905&Itemid=87

IGPN report on development cooperation in the Region

The International Gender Policy Network (IGPN) released an in-depth regional report on advocacy for development cooperation and gender for Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The report is available on::

[http://www.igpn.net/download/IGPN%20Regional%20Report%20\(Dvelopment%20Cooperationa%20and%20Gender\).pdf](http://www.igpn.net/download/IGPN%20Regional%20Report%20(Dvelopment%20Cooperationa%20and%20Gender).pdf)

New Aidwatch report

New Aidwatch 2009 report is out now and available online at:

http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsENG/3_Topics/Topics/Aidwatch/AidWatch-report-2009_light.pdf You can check here how all EU NMS deliver their commitments on aid quantity and quality.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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