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Dear KARAT News Readers

*This month I would like to draw your attention to news about the important processes which are taking place at the United Nations level in relation to assessment of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and formulating the post-2015 development agenda. There is also a new section called "Funding opportunities" where you can check the current EC calls for applications as well as other calls relevant to the region of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.*

*Please remember that I always look forward to receiving your news (also in Russian), so do not hesitate to write to me at: [agnieszka.mazurek@karat.org.pl](mailto:agnieszka.mazurek@karat.org.pl)*

*Have a nice reading!*

*Agnieszka Walko-Mazurek, KARAT Networking Officer*

## KARAT & Members' News

### Staff changes

We would like to announce that the KARAT Secretariat's team has got smaller since two of our colleagues Joanna Szabuńko who was responsible for Gender and Development program and Magda Pocheć who was an expert in Women's Human Rights program have left KARAT. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them once again for their great contribution and commitment to KARAT over the years they work for the Secretariat. We wish them all the best in their careers. If you have any questions concerning the projects conducted by Joanna or Magda please contact Kinga Lohmann at: [kinga.lohmann@karat.org.pl](mailto:kinga.lohmann@karat.org.pl) or Aleksandra Solik at: [aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl](mailto:aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl)

### Macedonia: Women's rights in the post-2015 development agenda

Macedonian Association of Development and Integration – MADi has contacted the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with relation to his recent [report](#) on the post-2015 development agenda. In the letter MADi stresses that the agenda must effectively guarantee the full spectrum of women's rights and calls upon the Secretary-General for supporting: 1) a stand-alone goal on gender equality and the rights of women which includes a coherent approach to women's rights with a view to promote women's economic independence and the equal representation of women and men in all aspects of decision-making as well as ending violence against women, 2) a cross cutting gender equality perspective throughout the post-2015 agenda: gender mainstreaming in all goals, targets and indicators, 3) an adequate and sustainable financing for women's rights and gender equality guaranteed in regional, national and local government budgets.

[The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013](#) was released on June 2013 and stresses that a significant and substantial progress has been made in meeting many of the eight Millennium Development Goals. However, progress is uneven, particularly for women and girls, and in many areas far from sufficient. Too many women around the world are still dying in childbirth when we have the means to save them; only 53 per cent of births in rural areas are attended by skilled health personnel. In developing regions, women are more likely than men to work as contributing family workers on farms or other family businesses, with little or no financial security or social benefits. The report also acknowledges that persisting gender-based inequalities in decision-making continue to deny women a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

Read the letter of MADi to the UN Secretary-General [here](#)

For more information please contact: Nade Kachakova from MADi at: [madimacedonia@gmail.com](mailto:madimacedonia@gmail.com)

## World

### South Caucasus women involved in peace-building process

On 5-9 August 2013, the South Caucasus Young Women Experts' Network was established and a new project launched at the Regional Conference on Promoting Women's Participation in Peace and Security. The conference gathered the graduate and postgraduate students with the educational background in political and social sciences from Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan who will participate in the Regional peace-building process.

The Regional Project - "Support strengthening the role of young women in building peace and stability in the South Caucasus" aims to improve peace, security and democratic development in the Region of the South Caucasus via young women's increased participation in peace and security policy analysis and planning. This will be done through the application of the international instruments such as UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and many other international tools and mechanisms which will represent an important opening for the post-conflict Region of the South Caucasus to include women's issues in the political and security agenda - this will be an effective mechanism to advance more open and participatory process as well as effective and stable security and peace building activities in the post-conflict environment of these countries.

Source: [IGPN](#)

## UN: SRHR recognized as human rights

The participants of regional conference "[Enabling choices: population priorities for the 21st century](#)" organized by two United Nations organizations UNECE and UNFPA recognized the sexual and reproductive rights as human rights. More than 200 participants from governmental authorities, including high-level officials, academia and civil society organizations, as well as members of national parliaments and other national and international stakeholders gathered on 1-2 July 2013 at the United Nations in Geneva to review the progress that has been made towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action agreed upon at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 (ICPD PoA). The outcomes of the conference, compiled in the [Chair's summary](#), include strong language about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and clear links between gender equality, an end to violence against women and the enjoyment of SRHR for all.

Many NGOs are already mobilizing to advocate for a strong new agenda on population and development. On 3 and 4 July, NGOs were invited to discuss how to improve the situation in the European region and ensure that the challenges of the region are well represented within the global discussions. The meeting was called "[ICPD Beyond 2014 – From Promise to Action, CSOs Defining the Way Forward](#)".

Source: [EWL](#)

## Beijing at 20: ECOSOC launches review of progress on women's rights

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has kick-started Beijing+20, a process to assess how far Member States and other stakeholders have come in implementing the commitments made at the [Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing](#), China, in 1995. The review and appraisal process launched on 24 July 2013 will include: comprehensive national-level reviews to be undertaken by all States of the progress made and challenges encountered; regional reviews to be undertaken by the five UN regional commissions; and a review and appraisal at global level, to be undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women at its 59th session in March 2015. At that time, the Commission will also assess opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda, currently under consideration by UN Member States.

Source: [UN Women](#)

## The World map of feminists

A group of feminist activists from France, Canada, Morocco, Germany, Tunisia and Spain has created a [Google Map](#) to show where feminist activists and organizations are located around the world. This is a first step to construct an international network. The main goals of the project are to strengthen feminist networking and increase the visibility of feminist activists around the world as well as to highlight the strength that feminists represent in each country and at the international level. The project's initiators welcome all feminist activists, movements, organizations and networks to get involved in this multilingual network. In order to appear on the map you have to simply fill out the [form](#). To date, over 1000 activists and organizations from 70 countries have signed on to participate in the network.

To see the World Map of Feminists go to <http://feministnetworkproject.wordpress.com/>

## Call for Action

### 28 September: Call for action in CEE region

September 28 Day of Action, NGOs, international organizations, individuals and other stakeholders from all over world mobilize on or around this day and prepare actions that call to end the stigma against abortion and demand for women's right to control their bodies without putting their lives, health and freedom at risk. The Central and Eastern European (CEE) region has long been silent and time has come to make ourselves visible and heard. This call to action is aimed at ALL activists from CEE region, as well Central Asia, the Balkans, the Caucasus, who believe that woman's right to a free choice – the right to abortion – is a human right and must be respected, protected and granted.

As one of the regional inputs ASTRA (Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health) proposes the idea to develop common messages which can be unique to the CEE region and address the developments of the past months. If you would like to contribute and/or already have a few ideas in mind please write to ASTRA Network at [federa@astra.org.pl](mailto:federa@astra.org.pl).

More about the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion at: <http://www.safeabortionwomensright.org/>

Source: [Astra Network](#)

## **Funding opportunities**

### **EC: Daphne III – Action grants 2013**

The Daphne III programme aims to contribute to the protection of children, young people and women against all forms of violence and attain a high level of health protection, well-being and social cohesion. Its specific objective is to contribute to the prevention of, and the fight against all forms of violence occurring in the public or the private domain, including sexual exploitation and trafficking of human beings. It aims to take preventive measures and provide support and protection for victims and groups at risk.

Deadline for submission of proposals 30.10.2013

More information at: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/just\\_2013\\_dap\\_ag\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/just_2013_dap_ag_en.htm)

### **EC: PROGRESS – NGOs organises at European level – Action grants 2013**

This call aims to support activities which contribute to the development, implementation and monitoring of European and national policies and legislation exclusively in one of the following areas: 1) non-discrimination and Roma integration, or 2) equal rights for persons with disabilities, or 3) equality between women and men.

Deadline for submission of proposals 1.10.2013

More information at: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/just\\_2013\\_prog\\_ag\\_ngos\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/just_2013_prog_ag_ngos_en.htm)

### **Batory Foundation: For Belarus Grant**

The program's objective is to support civic initiatives aimed at building an open society and preparing for democratic changes in Belarus. The grants are awarded in the following fields: 1) encouraging civic activity, developing self-government and self-organisation (also through educational and cultural work, and youth initiatives); 2) defending human rights, providing legal assistance, counteracting discrimination, and promoting tolerance; 3) conducting independent research and analyses; 4) broadening access to reliable information, developing traditional and social media. The applications are accepted at any time, with an evaluation period of approximately three months.

More information at: [http://www.batory.org.pl/en/grantmaking\\_programs\\_for\\_belarus](http://www.batory.org.pl/en/grantmaking_programs_for_belarus)

## **Resources**

### **Czech National Social Watch Report**

The Czech Social Watch Coalition released the new National Social Watch Report summarizing the development in the year 2012. The title of the report is *Czech Republic: Decline and Resignation* and it focuses on social development and gender

equity, particularly on the following areas: economics, family and social politics, Roma minority, gender and environmental issues.

Download the report in Czech language from [here](#)

### **ECHR: Factsheet on Violence Against Women**

The European Court of Human Rights have updated their fact sheet on Violence against Women - providing detailed information about case law.

Download the factsheet in English language [here](#)

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### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

KARAT Secretariat would like to sincerely thank the following for their contributions to the News (forwarding information and providing us with 'original' information): Macedonian Association of Development and Integration "MADI", European Women's Lobby, International Gender Policy Network, ASTRA, UN Women.

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