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Eastern European Women’s Organisations in times of EU enlargement

**The impact of EU accession on Women’s NGOs in Eastern European
countries, which have women as their target group, and the impact on those
women.**

A view from Western Europe to Bulgaria and Slovakia.

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III List of Abbreviations

| | |
|---------|--|
| AWID | - Association for women's rights in development |
| BG | - Republic of Bulgaria |
| CBO | - Community Based Organisations |
| CCI | - Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| CEE | - Central and Eastern Europe |
| CEEC | - Central and Eastern European Countries |
| CIDA | - Canadian International Development Agency |
| CONECCS | - The database for Consultation, the European Commission and Civil Society |
| EAGGF | - European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund |
| EC | - European Commission |
| ERDF | - European Regional Development Fund |
| ESF | - European Social Fund |
| EU | - European Union |
| FIFG | - Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance |
| GDI | - Gender-related Development Index |
| GMI | - Gender Empowerment Measure |
| GPD | - Gross Domestic Product |
| HDI | - Human Development Index |
| IDA | - International Development Association |
| IBRD | - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development |
| IPA | - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance |
| ISPA | - Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-accession |
| LPD | - Law on Protection against Discrimination (BG) |
| MLSAF | - Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family (Slovak Republic) |
| MP | - Member of Parliament |
| NGDO | - Non Governmental Development Organisation |
| NGO | - Non Governmental Organisation |
| NIS | - New Independent States of the former Soviet Union |
| NPO | - Non Profit Organisation |

| | |
|--------|--|
| ODACE | - Official Development Assistance in Central Europe |
| OSI | - Open Society Institute & Soros Foundations Network |
| PC | - Personal Computer |
| PHARE | - (originally) Poland and Hungary Assistance for the Reconstruction of the Economy |
| PPP | - Private Public Partnership |
| SAPARD | - Special Accession Program for Agriculture and Rural Development |
| SCP | - Swiss Cultural Programme |
| SDC | - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| SK | - Slovak Republic |
| UNDP | - United Nations Development Programme |
| UNWCW | - United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women |
| WANGO | - World Association of Non-Governmental Organisations |
| WIDE | - Women in Development |

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Hannah, Lilly, Laura, Sophie

*and my stepdaughter **Nathalie**.*

Their existence and their beliefs and the faith in living a life

according to their wishes, dreams and hopes,

- in our world of inequality -

remind me every day, that besides all efforts and progress in women’s issues,

there is still a lot to do!

1 PREFACE

In 2007, after the accession of Bulgaria and Romania the European Union will have about 482 millions inhabitants¹, half of them are women. The enlargement of the EU in the last decades changed the inner structure and the outer shape of the EU. External borders were moved, internal borders were dissolved, old borders re-emerged, and new borders were established. It is becoming clear that these processes influence not only the political and economic situation, but to a large extent the social conditions as well.

Without any doubt all states, which newly joined the EU could profit overall from the accession, at least measured on the economical indexes as for instance the growth of the GDP. But is this indicator significant for the sustainable improvement of the daily life of the women living in the Union? Will women participate in the increase in prosperity and does the legal equality framework of the Union achieve sustained success for the legal situation of women in the new member states?

For women the transition time seems to be an exceptional challenge to cope with. With their traditionally bad access to resources and the responsibility for children, reproductive work and family life, women could in many cases not develop new strategies as quickly as men. For men for instance, divorce has been one of the successful possibilities to survive transition.² With that strategy men immediately broke clear from the responsibility for their children and their wives, which led to more economic freedom as well as freedom in the sense of arranging their lives during the hard time of transition. They could be in the front line of the newly raised private economy and the reconstruction of public and political life. Women with the burdens of raising children, reproductive work and care work in the community could simply not be that flexible in taking new chances, even if, they were offered to them.

¹ http://www.europa.wfg-hagen.de/europa_klick/osterweiterung.htm; [5.10.2006]

² Information given by Marina Blagojevic in a seminar on Sep. 10th 2006

Being deeply involved in the daily life of their social environment, they became aware of the negative effects of the changes and therefore started to cooperate in order to ease the situation – their own and that of their environment. In that respect it is questionable whether the formation of several (women’s) NGOs was actually the only way out of the misery rather than a voluntary choice. Nevertheless women and Women’s NGOs in CEEC have done extremely important work for the development of civil society and the improvement of the social and legal situation of the inhabitants.

The development of a meaningful civil society is one of the priorities of the EU. NGOs as an important part of the civil society are mainly dependent on donors and therefore often beholden to the viewpoint of their donors, which sometimes causes less effectively in promoting their own agenda of change. As a consequence NGOs are vulnerable to imperialism, neo-colonialism and, in the case of Women’s NGOs, female imperialism.³

Although political participation is often unattractive to women and the gender topic is still underestimated in formal political spheres, yet women dominate the NGO development in CEEC.⁴ Thus besides women themselves, Women’s NGOs are profoundly effected by the transition period. It is worth it to have a look at the changing conditions for Women’s NGOs with the EU accession. And it is thought provoking that a lot of analogies between the status of women within a state and the status of (women’s) NGOs within the European Union can be detected.

1.1 Objectives of this Thesis

With this work I would like to address the broadest readership as possible. Therefore the aim of this work is on the one hand to shed light on the situation of women and i.e. Women’s NGOs in Bulgaria and Slovakia and on the other hand to initiate considerations about the analogies and the mechanisms that keep the valuation of women’s work and the achievements of Women’s NGOs low and mostly invisible to the broad public. All chapters elaborated were chosen according to those topics, which were mentioned in most of the interviews conducted.

³ Funk (2006), P. 70

⁴ Sloat (2004), P. 5-6

Additionally I tried to bring together as much information about the Women's NGOs in both countries as possible under the framework of this master thesis. This effort should make the Women's NGOs' landscape, their activities and achievements in those countries more visible, especially for foreigners. It mainly derived from my unsuccessful research to find exhaustive or at least actual lists of Women's NGOs in both countries.

And for completion of the topic, as a service for the Women's NGOs themselves, I will give an overview about the donors' landscape.

1.2 Structur of the Thesis

For entering the topic I will give a short overview about the EU's enlargement process. The third chapter will explain the current situation of women in respect to the labour market and the legislation in both countries chosen for the research, and some basic facts and definitions about transition, civil society, NGOs and the EU's declared relationship to NGOs. As for chapter four, the current situation of Women's NGOs in Bulgaria and Slovakia within the framework shown in the chapters before are described. Their standing and activities as well as the hindrances and limitations to become more powerful are analysed and the analogies between the work of women for their families, which has been taken for granted for centuries, will be explored as will the work of Women's NGOs' for the society.

In the annex I the methodology of undertaking the interviews is described and all of the approved interviews can be read.

Annex II shows an enumeration of Women's NGOs and organisations, which are acting for improving the situation of women in Bulgaria and Slovakia, with short descriptions of their activities, as far as available.

With annex III I tried to review the donors' landscape and the financing instruments and programmes of the European Union, which might be of interest for Women's NGOs in transition countries.

1.3 Criteria for Selection of Countries for the analysis

I have chosen Bulgaria and Slovakia for my research as I have various private as well as business connections there, which I could use for preparing and conducting my field studies. My connections to and experiences with the NGO environment in Bulgaria are better developed than those in Slovakia, which had without any doubt an influence on the access to information.

Furthermore it was interesting to compare the situation of Women's NGOs in the long time span before the accession to EU and shortly after, and to check if the changes associated with the accession to European Union were according to the expectations of Women's NGOs.

Bulgaria is currently in the midst of EU ascendance and struggles heavily to cover all of the requirements of the planned full ascendance on January 1st 2007.

Slovakia joined the EU in May 2004 and the transition process is (officially) as far as possible completed.

The number of inhabitants in Bulgaria is about 2 million higher than in Slovakia (7,4 million in Bulgaria and 5,4 million in Slovakia). In comparison to the EU applicant Bulgaria and taking into account that Slovakia has already been a member of EU for more than 2 years, the main socio-economic indicators show interesting developments since 2002.

The GPD (Gross Domestic Product - measuring the value of all goods and services produced in one country) per capita in Slovakia 2005 was US \$ 7.600, ⁻⁵ in the same year Bulgaria reached a GDP per capita of US \$ 3.599, ⁻⁶.

But two years before the accession to EU (2002) Slovakia's GDP per capita was US \$ 4.070, ⁻⁷, thus it was only about a 10% higher level than Bulgaria in 2005.

5

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/SLOVAKIAEXTN/0,,menuPK:305126~pagePK:141132~piPK:141107~theSitePK:305117,00.html>; [26.09.2006]

⁶
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/0,,contentMDK:20965912~pagePK:146736~piPK:146830~theSitePK:258599,00.html>; [26.09.2006]

⁷
<http://www.iaea.org/inis/aws/eedrb/data/SK-gdpc.html>; [26.09.2006]

In the Human Development Index (HDI) for 2005, measuring achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income, both countries ranked in the last third of the those countries with high human development, Slovakia ranking at the 42nd and Bulgaria at the 55th position, overall there are 177 countries listed.⁸

In 2002 Slovakia was ranked 36 and Bulgaria ranked 62, with a total of 143 countries listed.⁹

The gender-related development index (GDI), ranking for 2005 a total of 140 countries around the world, shows nearly the same picture: Slovakia ranked 37th and Bulgaria ranked 45th.¹⁰ The indexes for GDI are: average life expectancies of women and men at the age of zero, literacy rate of adults, crude education rate and GDP averaged by purchasing power per capita. In 2002 Slovakia could be found ranked at 34 and Bulgaria ranked at 53, in total 146 countries were listed.¹¹

For the GMI – the Gender Empowerment Measure, which is evaluated by rate of representatives in parliaments, rate of professionals and technicians, rate of controllers and managers and GDP averaged by purchasing power per capita, a quite similar picture is drawn for 2005:

Bulgaria ranks 29th and Slovakia 33rd out of 80 ranked countries.¹² In 2002 Slovakia's GMI was at position 29, but Bulgaria was not listed in the GEM table until 2005 (66 countries were listed 2002).¹³

Based on my private and business interest for Slovakia and Bulgaria I have decided to focus on these countries. Furthermore the efforts and the impacts of the Community framework, which have taken, place in Slovakia as a new EU member state and how Bulgaria, as a future member state of the Community, will be affected. The GMI index in Slovakia shows that two years prior to their joining their GMI was better than it was in the year of joining the EU.¹⁴ How will the accession of Bulgaria now - to the EU - influence their GMI? How will the other previously described measurement indexes diversify?

⁸ UNDP: HDI (2005), P. 219

⁹ UNDP: HDI (2002), P. 149-150

¹⁰ UNDP: HDI (2005), P. 302

¹¹ UNDP: HDI (2002), P. 225

¹² UNDP: HDI (2005), P. 306

¹³ UNDP: HDI (2002), P. 229

¹⁴ In 2002 the GMI for Slovakia was absolutely 0,545 while in 2004 it was only 0,607 (UNDP: HDI 2002, 2004). Note of author: the lower the absolut figure, the better the situation.

1.4 Research Interest

The first approach to the topic was to analyse the situation of women, i.e. apart metropolitan areas in both countries and the changes in and respectively after the transition period.¹⁵ But as my interviewees from both countries reflected additionally intensively on the situation of those NGOs dealing with women's issues, I became aware that the situation of women in (transition) societies bears a certain resemblance to the situation of Women's NGOs in (transition) economy. Nevertheless the interviews do partly give answers to both questions, the situation of women and that of Women's NGOs.

I would like to emphasize on the question whether the exclusion mechanisms, which are keeping women under suppression, are also used to keep Women's NGOs less powerful. The World Development Report of 2006 states out:

"Patterns of domination (over women)¹⁶ persist because economic and social differences are reinforced by the covert and overt use of power. Elites (men) protect their interests in subtle ways, by exclusionary practices in marriage and kinship systems, for instance, and in ways that are less subtle, such as aggressive political manipulation or the explicit use of violence. These inequalities are perpetuated by the elite (men) and often internalised by the marginalized or oppressed groups (women), making it difficult for the poor (women) to find their way out of poverty (inequality). Inequality traps can thus be rather stable, tending to persist over generations."¹⁷

The sources of the gender inequality traps are various, often difficult to detect and pervasive. Some of the exclusion factors can obviously be found in the economy and labour market, social institutions, the educational systems and the political parties and their political attitudes. Other sources of inequality have persisted over generations in mainstream norms and values and in traditional, religious and cultural habits and practices. These hidden traps are still neither fully explored nor seriously tackled. Thus the perpetuation of power of men over women may occur in

¹⁵ for definition of this time span see chapter 2.1

¹⁶ (Here and further brackets in this paragraph): Note of author

¹⁷ World Development Report, 2006, P. 2-3

very subtle ways. Even women are often not aware of it; they have internalised and accepted their own exclusion. Or they justify this situation by arguments derived from culture, tradition and religion or simply by appealing to the “natural” necessities of (their own) motherhood. The whole range of gender inequality traps lead to an exclusion of women from participation of economic and public life on an equal footing.¹⁸

The second interest of research came up directly while doing this work. On the one hand it was in both countries very hard, almost impossible, to find detailed lists of Women’s NGOs. And I’m quite sure that I still haven’t manage to gain clarity about their connections and umbrella organisations – a “who is who” in the Women’s NGOs’ landscape would be highly desirable, at least for foreigners. Hence I decided to start the effort of listing as many Women’s NGOs and women’s organisations located in Bulgaria and Slovakia as possible, in order to give a review of the situation. For that chapter I used all available sources, but with the restriction of a linguistic barrier.

On the other hand since the question of financing sources is very important for the economic survival of NGOs and was an issue in nearly all of the interviews, I also included an overview of the most active donor organisations in the region. Both lists do not claim to be exhaustive, nor can it be guaranteed that the data listed in the annex and the links are still up to date.

During the research activities and the elaboration of the outcomes, the similar situation of both women and (women’s) NGOs became evident. As a result this raised the question of whether both women and the respective NGOs are being put in the “waiting loop” not only with their needs but also with the appreciation of their work and their right for equal chances. The effects of unequal treatment of women are on the one hand generally clear visible exclusion factors in the economy and on the employment market. On the other hand there are plenty of exclusion factors, which are more hidden such as the difficult access to institutions and resources in general.

In those countries where the field research was made it was rather difficult to find accurate information on Women’s NGOs, thus the information gathered is being processed in the following chapters.

¹⁸ Kardam (2005), P. 2-3

1.5 The Dilemmas of being a researcher from Western Europe doing research in Eastern Europe

Perhaps when one is from a different country and has a different cultural, political and historical view on both women and Women's NGOs one is granted unbiased opinions from the respondents thus in actuality giving greater access to the topic. But I was certainly aware of the fact that with this research in Bulgaria and Slovakia I could only capture a small piece of the whole picture. And even this small part I can only see with my eyes and describe with my words, both of which are highly influenced by my socialisation in a wealthy, highly developed western European country. A lot of difficulties hampered my research and influenced the conclusions drawn:

- I'm not a citizen of one of these countries; I'm from a western European country, which is known as a donor country.
- I neither speak Bulgarian nor Slovak, thus the interviews and the correspondence were in no single case held in a language that was the mother tongue of both partners of the communication. The languages used were Bulgarian, Slovak, English and German, with sometimes twofold translation. This produces without fail misunderstandings.
- I'm not familiar with the culture, the traditions, the social habits and the mechanisms of society, economy and legislation in those countries. Therefore in some cases my implications might be wrong.
- And I'm not working in a so-called NGO, although I'm working in cooperation with NGOs.

But as I'm a woman, there was and still is definitely at least one connection to the target group of my interest.

The above-mentioned restrictions caused some troubles from the very beginning of my research and had a strong influence on the overall work.

-
1. Most of my first interview partners asked to not be tape-recorded, which forced me to take notes immediately during the interviews. Later I didn't ask for that any more, because I gained the feeling that informal communication would deliver better outcomes. Therefore maybe something got lost or some statements I did not closely write down because the speed of talking is usually more rapid than that of writing, hence precisely nothing could have been added.
 2. As I worked in those countries before on behalf of donor organisations, some of my interview partners maybe thought that they needed to do a favour by giving the interview in order to keep connections to further financing sources. I'm sorry if that happened although I always mentioned that I was there only as a private person interested in their work and situation, and further more I do not have any access to aid money.
 3. I'm not really sure whether the interviews would have delivered the same outcomes, if a Bulgarian/Slovak conducted them. It takes a lot of trust and confidence to give information to someone coming from abroad and even in some cases to a stranger.
 4. Although I asked all the interviewees in advance, whether I could use their interviews for my thesis, I sent everyone his or her transcript of the interview per email requesting revision as well as permission for publication. Additionally I offered to make all the interviews anonymous. For the Bulgarian interview partners the time span between conducting the interviews and transmitting the texts for correction was about three months. The Slovak Interviews were sent for correction two weeks after my research visit in Slovakia.

The final result of all these adverse effects was, that I could not use all the interviews I had taken. In total there were 17 interviews conducted.

- Five interviewees accepted the notes of their interviews without any revisions.
- Three interviewees never answered my request for revision, thus I took their agreement in publishing the interviews without revisions for granted.

- Six interviewees agreed to the publication according to their corrections.
- Two interviewees made such heavy changes in their interviews that I could not use the texts any more as the conclusions became less significant to this thesis.
- One interviewee refused totally the publication, even anonymous.

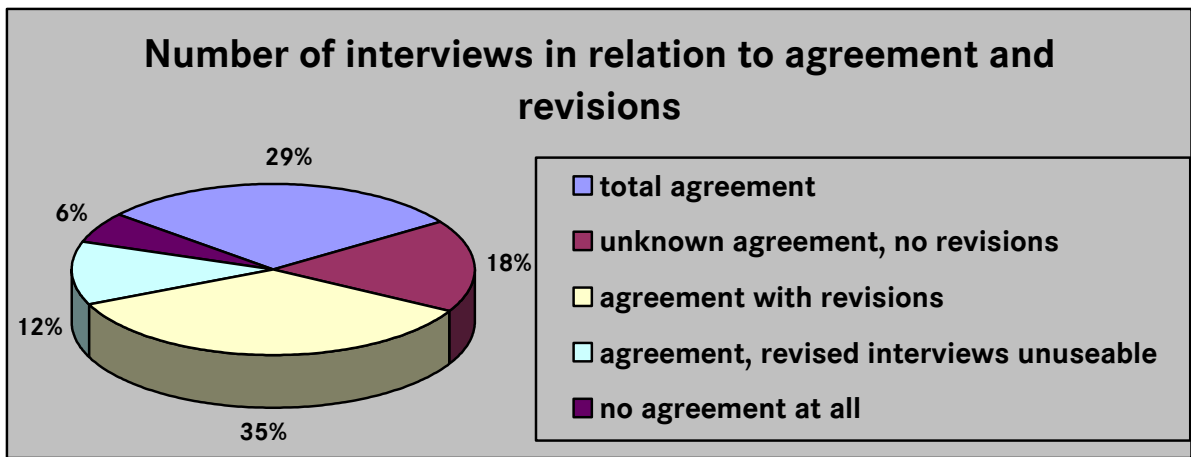


Chart 1: Number of interviews in relation to agreement and revisions

According to the explanations and the chart shown above 82% of the conducted interviews could be utilized.

Being outside a culture provides the ability to have different access to a society. This opens various sources of information, which otherwise may not have been given to such great extent to someone within the same society.

As a matter of fact this requested support was granted, however, despite clear communication expectations raised in a great number of instances and approval for printed interviews was reluctantly given. Most of the untainted and clear opinions of the locals were only given due to the fact that the conversation was informal or that the interview was anonymous.

As a consequence, there are clear advantages from being from another culture, but there are additional barriers as described before, which make it more difficult for a researcher from Western Europe to get the full picture of the actual status.

1.6 Approach to the Topic – Methodology and Tools

For this research and in order to analyse the situation of Women's NGOs and their target groups I used the following information sources and tools:

1. Identification of relevant institutions and organisations being engaged with women's issues in the targeted countries.
2. Identification of national/regional multipliers for conducting the interviews and arrangement of interview dates.
3. Development of a guide for the semi-structured interviews.
4. Field study – semi-structured interviews were made face to face in both countries.
5. Data entry, transcription and reporting of interviews.
6. Detection of those topics mentioned by the majority of interviewees.
7. Research and collection of relevant data material about the topics chosen for elaboration: literature, studies, reports, internet research.
8. Interpretation of the inquiry's output and comparison with already available data material.

After conducting the interviews I analysed them and detected the most significant topics, which had been mentioned by the majority of the interviewees. The chapters of the thesis reflect on these topics, yet only some statements of the interviewees are directly integrated into the text. To mention all the parts of the interviews reflecting on the most important topics would go beyond the scope of this thesis. For those who are interested in the interviews I recommend reading them in annex I.

2 INTRODUCTION

Referring to the European Commission the enlargement of the EU should have a positive impact on all citizens. The aim is on the one hand to make it possible for the new member states to participate in the advantages of being an EU member, and on the other hand to generate benefits for the existing member states and its citizens.

At least half of the community population within the EU and the new member states are women. Will they benefit from the enlargement equally? Will the combined efforts of the EU's Community and the local governments match the burning women's issues?

Women's NGOs, which have been extremely active and successful in the last decade with analysing, monitoring and improving the situation of women in CEEC, are on the one hand acting as multipliers and on the other hand effected by the changes in transition as well. Hence their situation in transition countries does influence the advancements for women generally and thus they are a kind of indicator for the overall situation of women in CEEC.

2.1 EU's Enlargement and it's Limitations

The idea of a United States of Europe had been posed by Sir Winston Churchill in 1946 and was driven forward by Jean Monnet and the French politician Robert Schuman during the 1950s. In 1957 six founding countries (France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) founded the European Union (EU) with the aim of creating "an ever closer union between the peoples of Europe". The initial intention was to improve the economic co-operation between member states. In the meanwhile the EU has expanded its influence to areas of policy that had traditionally been the reserve of nation states.

Several waves of enlargement widened the Union up to 27 member countries:

1973: Britain, Ireland and Denmark

1981: Greece

1986: Portugal and Spain

1995: Austria, Sweden and Finland

2004: Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Cyprus, Malta, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

2007 (January 1st): Bulgaria and Romania (the entry was approved on September 26th 2006)

Other countries from southern and eastern parts of Europe and some of the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union would like to follow, and with some of them the negotiations about the accession were already started. Nevertheless on September 26th 2006 José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, stated out that the Union has to resolve its institutional impasse before it could expand further:

*"With the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, I believe that an institutional settlement should precede any future enlargement. This is the way to ensure that our enlarged Union will function in an efficient and harmonious way."*¹⁹

Thus in the last decade and into this decade, our society in Europe and all spheres of its citizens' lives were highly influenced by the transition processes of different countries.

As women count as at least half of the population of Europe it should be questioned whether the promises of a better living due to accession are yet true for them. How do they survive in economies of transition? Do women participate in and profit from the financial aid for those economies? Does the community framework strategy on gender equality ensure or at least improve the gender equality? And what obstacles and hindrances do affect the women's rights of participating in a highly developed and prosperous Europe?

¹⁹ [http://eupolitics.einnews.com/news/european-parliament; \[29.09.2006\]](http://eupolitics.einnews.com/news/european-parliament; [29.09.2006])

NGOs - in this thesis mainly Women's NGOs - as multipliers, representatives and intercessors of the civil society do give a voice to the requirements, needs, fears and hopes of the citizens of Europe. As they are usually working very close with their target groups they are best informed about the daily lives and overall situation of women. Furthermore NGOs as part of the civil society do play an important role in the European community as facilitators of a broad policy dialogue.²⁰

In this respect Women's NGOs can answer the above posed questions according to their daily experiences with women as target groups of their activities. And furthermore they themselves are concerned by the answers in dual respect. Therefore the analysis of the situation of Women's NGOs can draw some conclusions about the situation of women in those countries.

The focus for answering at least part of these questions will rest on the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC), as they are at the moment in the middle of transition. Some of them already joined the Union, others as Bulgaria and Romania will do so at the beginning of next year, and for some of them it is currently not clear whether the aim of being a member of EU will ever be achieved.

²⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/civil_society/consultation_standards/index_en.htm#_Toc46744740; (30.09.2006)

3 GENDER DIMENSIONS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

This chapter aims to convey the frame of the situation of Women's NGOs in CEEC. Therefore the most important definitions or rather terms for this thesis, transition, civil society, NGO, the work of NGOs and the EU's officially declared relationship to them are explained and at the same time questioned.

Besides two crucial points are elaborated in order to explain roughly the current situation of Bulgaria and Slovakia in respect to gender issues – the situation of women in economy and the work force, and the legal situation of women and their political participation.

In order to meet the requirements for entry into European Union the Central and Eastern European Countries have made ambitious efforts on reforming their social and economic systems. This requires several provisions in different spheres of society and state policy. Although all changes have impacts on women's lives, the performance of some of the challenging tasks of transition countries have crucial impacts on the situation of women, i.e.:

- reconstruction of the labour market,
- adoption of laws and policies that ensure equality between women and men in all spheres of life,
- development of a democratic political system as well in terms of political participation of women,
- rebuilding and fortification of a civil society with NGOs as important part of it.

3.1 What is Transition?

“Transition” taken literally means nothing more than a crossover from one condition of a matter to another. Concerning the democratisation process of CEEC it is used to describe more or less all changes in those countries: economy, labour market, society, political systems, educational structures, etc.

In connection to the accessing countries the interesting point is the self-evident assumption that all transition processes in CEEC are basically believed to end up in an overall better situation for all inhabitants. For sure attention is invited to the negative secondary actions of transition but those voices querying the whole process are precious few.

One of these detractors is Sonja Lokar, who described the analogy between transition and re-colonization. According to her arguments the “... *countries in transition are importers of values, knowledge, technology, capital, cheap goods for wider use and luxury items for the new rich and a thin layer of statesmen and profiteers. These same countries have become exporters of their best brains, natural resources, cheap labour, economic emigrants, refugees and slaves.*”²¹ Concerning the brain drain of CEEC in the last decade this opinion was also shared by one of the interviewees.²²

The egalitarianism of the former political system was displaced through extreme social differences within a few years. The open markets ruined the domestic industry and as domestic goods were replaced with cheaper imports, numerous factories had to close. A high percentage of the well educated people have to earn their living on the black market or in poorly paid jobs, as the institutions they used to work for have closed or are not able to pay for their work. In this respect transition can be seen rather as a power of de-construction of already developed human and industrial resources than a strategy of development.²³

The de-construction of the established systems in CEEC accepted with the hope of a "promised" healthy free economy looks hence to some extent similar to the de-construction of the African,

²¹ Lokar (2005), P. 4-5

²² see Interview 10

²³ Lokar (2005), P. 4-5

American Indian and many other societies. Certainly, for centuries it has not been the people native to these countries who profited from the de-construction, and it could, as well should be, questioned how long it will take till the inhabitants of CEEC will profit from the current changes.

The EU used and still uses its position to play the part of a mentor for the countries in transition, with shaping the process and delivering requirements in order to ensure the compatibility of new member states with the so-called “*acquis communautaire*”²⁴ (EU *acquis*). The EU’s funding for the transition countries is hence destined for stabilizing countries, aiding the most disadvantaged, building democracy and making accession countries compatible with the EU’s *acquis*.²⁵ Although formal and legal requirements of equality directives have to be proofed, the EU’s declared strategy of gender mainstreaming needs to be not fully adopted.²⁶

Interesting is the fact, that the clear moments of starting and ending a transition process are nowhere defined precisely. Some papers even talk about transition before 1989, others do not declare this process completed for the country concerned for years after accession to the European Union. What certain standards have to be met remains unclear. If we presume that every country and its society is to a certain extent always in transition towards something, a transition process will never be finished unless an outer authority accounts the end of this term. This option would on the one hand be an additional argument for Lokars theory of transition being a process of colonization. The colonial powers used to abandon a country once it was totally exploited and destabilized. On the other hand, this raises the question about the power of definition. Who defines the end of the process? If an outer authority can define whether transition is completed or not, this implicates an hierarchic system with suppressors and underdogs.

For this thesis the working term “transition” specifies the time span between the applications for access or rather the beginning of accession negotiations and the full entry to EU.

²⁴ The Community *acquis* is the body of common rights and obligations which bind all the Member States together within the European Union. Applicant countries have to accept the Community *acquis* before they can join the Union. To integrate into the European Union, applicant countries will have to transpose the *acquis* into their national legislation and implement it from the moment of their accession.

²⁵ Funk (2006), P. 73

²⁶ Bretherton (2002), P. 2

3.2 Women in Economy and Work Force

Before the changes in 1989 the majority (up to 94%) of working age women in CEEC were in full-time paid employment. This high participation in the labour market was supported through several measures such as paid maternity leave, annual paid leave to care for sick children and heavily subsidised kindergarten provision.²⁷

During the transition period the employment rate of the countries in CEE dramatically declined. After a sharp drop in the early 1990s - from 87.6% in 1989 to 48.2% in 1993 - the female employment rate especially has still not recovered.²⁸ Millions of women have lost their jobs in the transition process as many state industries were privatised or closed down altogether. Many others are in low-paid work or exploitative jobs. According to the threatening economic situation, women had and still have the urgent need to obtain work, thus they are highly vulnerable to sexual harassment and exploitation.²⁹ Only very few women have been able to take advantage of the new opportunities provided by their changing economies.³⁰ The inequality in payment averages out at only 76% of men's earnings for women in the region.³¹

Anyhow it has to be mentioned that the recently visible feminisation of poverty in transitional countries is just the deepening and widening of a situation, which already existed before the changes of 1989.³² Traditionally women always had very limited access to financial resources, simply during transition period the differences in opportunities and income levels became more pronounced and this had a negative effect on the social and economic status of women.³³

One significant strategy of women to survive the economic crises of transition was the third sector. Women created service programs for people who needed the services. Otherwise, they had no access to the services. Women built up the third sector, founded NGOs and informal

²⁷ Bretherton (2002), P. 6

²⁸ <http://www.unifem.sk/>; [28.09.2006]

²⁹ Bretherton (2002), P. 7

³⁰ ETF (2006), P. 19

³¹ <http://www.unifem.sk/>; [28.09.2006]

³² Lokar (2005), P.6

³³ Moulechikova (2004)

networks under extremely hard conditions. They worked for the community, took jobs for which they were overqualified and worked for low wages, without legal contracts and unprotected.³⁴

Nevertheless we have to draw the conclusion that women suffered disproportionately from the consequences of the process of economic transition. This conclusion was also drawn by many of my interview partners.

3.3 Women's Rights - Legal Situation and Political Participation

An immediate effect of the demise of the socialist regime in CEEC was the heavy decrease of women participation in parliaments, from 26 percent to 7 percent. In the meantime the proportion of women parliamentarians increased but is still below the EU Member State average of 20.5 per cent. This tremendous fall in women's representation in CEEC is explained by the now much valued status of parliaments and parliamentarians. As quotas do not work any more, the traditional gender stereotypes have legitimised women's relative absence from the public sphere of politics.³⁵

After the changes of 1989 the Central and Eastern Europe Countries (CEEC) began reforming their political and economic institutions according to the principles of democracy and free market economy. The prospect of the goal to achieve membership in the European Union was a strong stimulus during the transition process. By the decision of the European Council of Copenhagen (June 1993)³⁶ and the Madrid European Council in 1995³⁷ the candidate countries were required to fully implement all social, economic, and legal chapters of Community legislation (the *acquis communautaire*). But to simply transpose the *acquis* into a country's statute books does not mean it has been fully implemented or enforced, especially the equality legislation is often a marginalized but crucial point.³⁸

³⁴ Lokar (2005), P. 8

³⁵ Bretherton (2002), P. 8

³⁶ European Council of Copenhagen – Conclusions of the presidency (1993), P. 13-15

³⁷ European Council of Madrid – Presidency Conclusions (1993)

³⁸ Sloat (2004), P. 5

3.3.1 Women's rights in Slovakia

Concerning the official political participation of women in Slovakia the comparison between 2003 and 2005 shows a light improvement:

“There were 29 women parliamentarians in the 150-seat Parliament; however, there were no women in the cabinet. There were 604 women among the 2.618 candidates in the parliamentary elections (23,1%), of whom 4,8% were elected. Of the country's mayors, 428 (15%) were women.”³⁹

In 2004 there were 23 women in the 150-seat parliament, 33 women on the 68-seat Supreme Court, and 1 woman in the 16-seat cabinet.⁴⁰ Since October 2005 the Slovak government had only two female ministers, one succeeding the other in the same position as head of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family (MLSAF).

The UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was joined by the Slovak Republic already in 1993. But the implementation of the CEDAW principles seems to make only slow steps forward. Weak political participation, remaining gender stereotypes in society, hindrances in accession to reproductive rights and violence against women still evidently exist. In the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 was stated:

“Violence against women was a problem. The law prohibits domestic violence, however, it was pervasive, and activists claimed that the government did not enforce the law effectively. [...] Domestic violence was often underreported because of the social stigma associated with being a victim. [...] The law prohibits rape, including spousal rape. Although the government enforced the law effectively, rape was a problem. [...] Prostitution is legal; however, the law prohibits related activities such as operating brothels, knowingly spreading sexually transmitted diseases, or trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation. It was unclear to what extent prostitution occurred. [...] The law does not prohibit sexual harassment, and there were no

³⁹ US-Department of State: Slovak Republic – Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2003, P. 10

⁴⁰ US-Department of State: Slovak Republic – Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2005, P. 5

statistics available to measure the frequency or severity of its occurrence. The government took no action during the year to combat sexual harassment.

Women and men are equal under the law, including family law, property law, and in the judicial system; however, discrimination against women remained a problem in practice. [...] Women, particularly those aged 35 to 39, typically earned 25 percent less than men.”⁴¹

In March 2005 the MLSAF was reformed and the Department of Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination as well as a new Department for Family and Gender Policy were founded. This department is staffed with only four employees directly responsible for gender issues and deals mainly with social aspects and benefits of family life. The proposals and comments of the Committee for Equal Opportunities and the Situation of Women, which is an advisory subcommittee at the Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights, Nationalities and the Situation of Women, have not been accepted or mentioned in any legal proposals.⁴² And there is still no special women ombudsperson or executive committee dealing with gender equality problems.

The so-called anti-discrimination bill was adopted 2004 by the National Council of the Parliament, containing important anti-discrimination provisions and the proposing affirmative actions⁴³. After the claim of the Minister of Justice at the Constitution Court that the proposed affirmative actions for ethnical and racial minorities are “positive discrimination“ which is against the principle of equal opportunities proclaimed in the Slovak Constitution, the Constitutional Court decided in favour of the minister’s proposal⁴⁴.

The main gender related policies in Slovakia are contained in three different documents: the National Action Plan for Women, the Concept of Equal Opportunities for Men and Women, the National Action Plan for Employment and the Anti-discrimination Act. But there is no accountability (political or other) foreseen for the non-fulfilment of the tasks. Furthermore the policies are not supported by sufficient institutional mechanisms, neither including appropriate expertise of the actors involved nor by sufficient budgetary resources.⁴⁵

⁴¹ US-Department of State: Slovak Republic – Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2005, P. 7

⁴² Information given by Olga Pietruchova via Email on 10.09.2006

⁴³ Slovakia: Implementation of the Beijing Platform For Action (1995) and the Outcome Of Twenty-Third Special Session Of The United Nations General Assembly (2000)

⁴⁴ Pressrelease Constitutional Court, October 2005,

http://www.concourt.sk/S/Tlacove_spravy/2005/TS_20051018.pdf [26.08.2006]

⁴⁵ Information given by Olga Pietruchova via Email on 10.09.2006

3.3.2 Women's rights in Bulgaria

The representation of women in parliament has made a step backwards after the elections of 2005. Out of the 240 members of the parliament (MP) now only 51 (21,3%) are women, in the previous parliament there were 63 (26,3%) women represented. The representation of women within the parties remained unchanged, whilst the number of seats taken by parties with a low ranking in having women MPs increased. Parties with a high number of women in their list were not successful with entering the parliament.⁴⁶

After the local elections in 2003, 9 percent of mayors, 16 percent of chairs of municipal councils and 24 percent of municipal councillors were women.⁴⁷

Bulgaria was the first country in the southeast European region to sign the UN Women's Convention (CEDAW) in 1982, but until the end of 2002 no national mechanism for equal opportunities for women and men had been created. Although the Article 6 of the Constitution provides equality of citizens before the law the stereotypes concerning the position of women in political life are still very strong.⁴⁸ Six years after the signature of CEDAW the 40th National Assembly finally ratified it and the act of ratification was published in State Gazette No. 62/ of 1 August 2006.⁴⁹

A Bill on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men was elaborated in 2000 and submitted to the National Assembly in 2001, but was at this time rejected on grounds that a comprehensive anti-discrimination law was on its way to be drafted.⁵⁰ This law should regulate public relationships, related with measures of ensuring equal opportunities for women and men and determine mechanisms and organisms which implement the state policy for equal opportunities.

On 20 of July 2006 the council of ministers adopted a decision for approval of Draft Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.⁵¹ But the council of ministers does not have legislative power; laws can be adopted only by the parliament. That means that this law has not been voted

⁴⁶ Information available on the website of WAD: http://www.women-bg.org/index_en.html; [25.09.2006]

⁴⁷ Ilieva/Delinesheva (2005), P. 65

⁴⁸ Marinova/Gencheva (2003), P. 23-24

⁴⁹ <http://www.bgrf.org/en/publications/>; [18.09.2006]

⁵⁰ Ilieva/Delinesheva (2005), P. 7

⁵¹ <http://www.cwsp.bg/htmls/home.php>; [07.09.2006]

yet. Since July this law has passed through the Commission for civil society and media, which is another step before the Parliament. In order to be adopted it has to pass the first and the second reading of the Parliament and only then will it be a reality.⁵²

Until 2005 there was a progress in the gender equality legislation through amendments and new provisions in already existing laws, such as the Labour Code and the Social Insurance Code. But the adoption of a new act was the most important step forward – the Law on Protection against Discrimination (LPD), which was promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 86 of September 30, 2003, and entered in force on January 1st, 2004.⁵³

This law provides protection against all forms of discrimination. The most significant parts are:

- Introduction of a non-exhaustive list of discrimination grounds and it is planned to develop this list constantly in separate laws.
- Provision of legal definitions for ‘harassment’, ‘victimization’, ‘sexual harassment’, ‘race segregation’, ‘unequal treatment’, ‘multiple discrimination’, and for ‘direct and indirect discrimination’.
- Provision of an exhaustive list of explicitly given cases when unequal treatment shall not qualify as discrimination and difference in treatment is justified.
- Affirmative actions are laid out in the law although not exhaustively as being extremely important instruments in combating discrimination.

The LPD can be seen as a development of the principle for prohibition of discrimination proclaimed in Article 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, and it is the basic instrument for implementing the key EU directives related to gender equality and equal treatment as regards employment, working conditions, remuneration, vocational training, and burden of proof:

- Directive 76/207/EEC (amended by Directive 2002/73/EC) on the Implementation of the Principle of Equal Treatment for Women and Men as Regards Access to Employment, Vocational Training and Promotion, and Working Conditions;

⁵² Information given by Jivka Marinova via Email on 21.09.2006

⁵³ Ilieva/Delinesheva (2005), P. 7

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- Directive 97/80/EC (amended by Directive 98/52/EC) on the Burden of Proof in Cases of Discrimination Based on Sex;
 - Directive 75/117/EEC on the Approximation of Laws of the Member States Relating to the Implementation of the Principle of Equal Pay for Women and Men;
 - Directive 2000/43/EC on the Implementation of the Principle for Equal Treatment of Persons, Irrespective of Their Race or Ethnic Origin;
 - Directive 2000/78/EC on the Creation of a General Framework for Equal Treatment as Regards Employment and Professions;
 - Directive 92/85/EEC on the Measures for Encouragement of Improvements in the field of Health and Safety Labour Conditions for Pregnant or Breastfeeding Employees.⁵⁴

The implementation of the LPD (and other laws regulating equal treatment) is controlled by the Commission for Protection against Discrimination. It is an independent specialized state body for prevention from discrimination, protection against discrimination and ensuring of equal opportunities. This commission is proclaimed to be a legal person on budget support, having its head office in Sofia. It reports annually to the national assembly and consists of nine persons, of which at least four are jurists. The national assembly appoints five and the president of Bulgaria appoints four of its members. The members' selection and appointment is effected on the principles of balanced participation of women and men and participation of persons belonging to ethnic minorities and the mandate of the members is five years.⁵⁵

Apart from the LPD, Bulgaria continued to transpose the Directives of the EU related to equal treatment for women and men by means of amending and supplementing existing legal acts.⁵⁶

A sector on equal opportunities for women and men was established in March 2004 at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy being responsible for monitoring state policy in the field of gender equality.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Information on the purpose and content of EU directives is taken from the EU website for DG Employment and Social Affairs on Equality Between Men and Women: <http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/s02310.htm>; [18.08.2006]

⁵⁵ Ilieva/Kmetova/Delinesheva (2005), P. 19

⁵⁶ Ilieva/Kmetova/Delinesheva (2005), P. 8-10

⁵⁷ Ilieva/Kmetova/Delinesheva (2005), P. 18

There was established a Consultative Commission on Equal Opportunities at the National Council for Promotion of Employment which itself is established at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and chaired by the Minister. The establishment of this commission was envisaged in The National Action Plan for Employment 2003. The Commission started its work at the beginning of 2003 and consists of representatives of the state authorities, the social partners and NGOs. The Commission focuses on measures aiming to promote women's participation in the labour market. It is chaired by the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. The Deputy Chair is a representative of the NGOs, working in the field of women's issues. The Commission is a part of the gender mainstreaming strategy in the process of working out and implementing gender equality policies and aims at improving the coordination in the process of gender and social equality in Bulgaria. But as the work of the Commission is primarily consultative – advancing proposals and making recommendations –, and there aren't any controlling functions installed, the Commission is not able to ensure sufficient results in achieving gender equality.⁵⁸

Irina Moulechko summarized 2004 the situation of the Bulgarian gender equality legislative and mechanisms in an information sheet of WIDE:

“Well-functioning and transparent regulations and institutions have not been established in Bulgaria: the ombudsperson for equal opportunities was not supported by the Parliament Act on equal opportunities; a commission against discrimination was not included under the Act on Protection against Discrimination (in force since 1 January 2004); and the envisioned consultative body on gender equality - the consultative council on equal opportunities - was not approved by the government.”⁵⁹

As a conclusion for both countries I would like to refer to one of my informal conversations with one representative of a Women's NGO, who said, *“There is some improvement of the law, but still not the mechanism.”* Which means that the implementation of gender equality is not possible due to lack of experience, bodies and willingness.

⁵⁸ Ilieva/Kmetova/Delinesheva (2005), P. 18

⁵⁹ Moulechko (2004)

3.4 NGOs as important part of Civil Society

In the informal part of the interviews very different definitions of “NGO” were given. Although this was not a question itself, some of the interviewees reflected on this topic, as they wanted to point out that their organisation is an NGO. The reasons for that can be various, one explanation is that NGOs do have quite a good reputation in the population⁶⁰ as they are known for being charitable, honest to their clients, not being corrupt and not working for profits, not to say for free. Another reason might be that being an NGO implies having some financing sources, which are not available for other organisations.

In order to get a clearer picture about NGOs and their position in civil society, and the meaning of civil society itself the immediately following pages are being used to define these terms according to official sources.

The social areas of countries are divided into three sectors: the state, the market and the civil society. As there is no legal or at any rate commonly accepted definition of the term "civil society organisations" the Economic and Social Committee of EU explains the specific role of civil society organisations in modern democracies to be closely linked to the fundamental right of citizens to form associations in order to pursue a common purpose, as highlighted in Article 12 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights⁶¹ This definition of civil society includes the following types of organisations:

- the so-called labour-market players (i.e. trade unions and employers federations, also called the social partners),
- organisations representing social and economic players, which are not social partners in the strict sense of the term,
- NGOs (non-governmental organisations) which bring people together in a common cause, such as environmental organisations, human rights organisations, consumer associations, charitable organisations, educational and training organisations, etc.,

⁶⁰ Weidel (2004), P. 31-34

⁶¹ http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/unit/charte/en/charter-freedoms.html; [29.09.2006]

- CBOs (community-based organisations, i.e. organisations set up within society at grassroots level which pursue member-oriented objectives), e.g. youth organisations, family associations and all organisations through which citizens participate in local and municipal life,
- religious communities.⁶²

As an important part of the third sector NGOs are defined as non-profit, voluntary citizens' groups, which are organized on a local, national or international level. They perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocate and monitor policies, encourage political participation through provision of information, provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help to monitor and implement international agreements.⁶³

The World Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (WANGO) established criteria, which should be met by NGOs or NPOs:

1. **Public interest or public purpose.** The private organisation should be serving some cause related to “the good of the society.”
2. **Organized.** The organisation should be institutionalised to some extent, such as a formal charter of incorporation. The organization cannot be an ad hoc, informal, or temporary gathering of people.
3. **Private, non-governmental.** The organisation is to be institutionally separate from government, or any apparatus of the government, and must not be controlled by government (i.e., not governed by a Board of Directors dominated by government officials.) The organisation may receive government support and the board can include government officials, as long as the organisation remains a private, non-governmental organisation.
4. **Self-governing.** The organisation is to have its own internal procedures for governance, and is not to be controlled by outside entities.

⁶² http://ec.europa.eu/civil_society/coneccs/question.cfm?CL=en; [30.09.2006]

⁶³ <http://www.ngo.org/ngoinfo/define.html>; [30.09.2006]

5. **Voluntary.** The organisation is to have some meaningful degree of voluntary participation, either in the conduct of its activities or in its management.
6. **Non-profit or not-for-profit** (also, non-profit distributing). The organisation should not be returning any profits generated to its owners or members of the governing board. Profits may accumulate in any given year, but must be plowed back into the basic mission of the organisation, not distributed to owners or governing boards. (In other words, the organisation does not exist primarily to generate profits.)⁶⁴

3.5 The EU's Relationship to NGOs

The European Union sets priorities on its special relationship to NGOs. As NGOs are currently the most important organizations on the third sector between the state and the economy, they are indispensable partners for further development and implementation of EU policy. According to their close connections to different target groups, NGOs could accumulate tremendous knowledge and experience. Their good expertise in several specific fields as well as their monitoring functions about the legislation system and the labour market is much valued and required. For the EU this expertise is extremely important for the implementation of target-oriented projects. Besides NGOs are known to be quite flexible in developing solutions for social problems, thus they have a high potential of innovation. And additionally their services are rather low-priced in comparison with profits or public bodies.⁶⁵

Especially in the transition countries NGOs play a major role in reconstruction and development of the civil society. And they are multipliers of the EU's concerns, values and objectives. According to their daily fight for financial sources NGOs have in many cases developed special expertise of EU structures, the funding possibilities and the application as well as the project documentations procedures. Therefore they can be seen as the first EU specialists in all of the transition countries. Some of them spread their knowledge through counselling, conferences, networks and projects.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ http://www.wango.org/members/ngo_criteria.htm; [30.09.2006]

⁶⁵ Weidel (2004), P. 31-34

⁶⁶ *ibid*

4 CURRENT SITUATION OF WOMEN'S NGOS IN THE SELECTED COUNTRIES

With reference to the previous clearly defined frame the following chapters will glance at the palpable situation of Women's NGOs in Bulgaria and Slovakia, their work and activities, their achievements, their power and financing situation and their appreciation within the states and the EU. As a conclusion I would like to emphasize my considerations concerning the similarities between the unrecognised and unpaid work of women in the private sector and the work of Women's NGOs for civil society.

For the better understanding of these chapters the term "Women's NGO" is needed to be looked at closer.

4.1 What does it mean to be a "Women's NGO"?

Currently women are very active in the whole NGO sector, especially in the last few years, and women head many NGOs.⁶⁷ Most women's organisations/NGOs appeared on the scene shortly before and after the Beijing Conference.⁶⁸ Only few Women's NGOs appeared before the Beijing process.⁶⁹ Some Women's NGOs are affiliated with political parties, though they have an independent status as non-political organisations and in Bulgaria there is also a political party called Party of Bulgarian Women, which has a parliamentary representation within the National Movement "Simeon II".⁷⁰ Despite a lack of enthusiasm for participating in formal organisations, as they were involuntarily organised in political groups in the former regimes, women across CEEC have become involved in numerous groups. They mainly founded small and local organisations, organised around issues such as domestic violence or human trafficking, previously unacknowledged problems in CEEC.⁷¹

⁶⁷ www.ihf-hr.org/viewbinary/viewdocument.php?download=1&doc_id=2055; [22.09.2006]

⁶⁸ The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China - September 1995; for achieving the stated conference goals of "equality, development and peace for all women everywhere" the Beijing Declaration about women rights was adopted and the Platform for Action (PFA), one of the most progressive agendas, was generated; for further information see: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/beijingdeclaration.html>

⁶⁹ www.ihf-hr.org/viewbinary/viewdocument.php?download=1&doc_id=2055; [22.09.2006]

⁷⁰ Ilieva/Kmetova/Delinesheva (2005), P. 26

⁷¹ Bretherton (2002), P. 8

“Women’s NGOs” are mainly determined by their activities directed to women’s issues. All women’s organisations do have the common goal to improve the situation of women. Sometimes they identify themselves as feminists, but in many cases they explicitly do not. Women’s organisations are diverse in terms of their objectives, their structures, and their political and ideological positions. But the majority these organisations are managed by women and their staff members are mainly women, with few exceptions.

Generally women’s organisations/NGOs can be divided according to their main activities or their targets as⁷²:

- Lobbying and financing organisations
- NGOs struggling against domestic, sexual and emotional violence
- NGOs supporting marginalized, minority or other types of non-traditional groups
- NGOs oriented towards charity work and donations
- NGOs of women in academia
- Women’s unions as parts of the political parties

Women’s NGOs are in most cases issue oriented, with a penchant for education and awareness raising activities. They have acquired good expertise of the human rights approach to women’s issues, and thus are able to influence civil society in terms of gender equality and equal opportunities.⁷³ For improving the situation of women in CEEC especially Women’s NGOs did a good job in the last few decades. Their achievements in the region of CEEC, thus being limited by structural conditions, were very important and had sustainable influence on women’s lives: bringing closer the concepts of equality for women and men, implementation of the principle of equality, changing patterns and stereotypes, framing the public discourse by introducing concepts of “sexual harassment”, “domestic violence” and “discrimination in employment”, increasing women’s political participation and monitoring of market, employers and laws.

⁷² www.soc.cas.cz/download/45/nadeja_alexandrova_feminist_mobilisation.ppt; Feminist Mobilization – The Bulgarian Case, EGG, Prag June 2005; [22.09.2006]

⁷³ www.ihf-hr.org/viewbinary/viewdocument.php?download=1&doc_id=2055; [22.09.2006]

Women's NGOs cover a great variety of topics with several measures:

- Awareness-raising on gender issues, problems, and principle of equality between women and men. The NGOs organize regular free access to discussions and public lectures.
- Participation in work groups drafting legislation in the field of equal opportunities for women and men, as well as lobbying in the field.
- Participation in the work of governmental and national bodies and authorities.
- Dissemination of information, booklets, posters, electronic and printed materials on the issue of equality between women and men; organization of campaigns.
- Assistance to the victims of domestic violence: legal consultations, psychological support, and hot line telephones, social support, etc.
- Participation in national and international forums on the issue of equality of women and men, cooperation with the Member States of the EU and the candidate countries for accession to EU, etc.
- Drawing up and carrying out projects in the field of gender equality including training, educational and counseling programs; implementation of various measures oriented to disadvantaged groups, excluded persons, etc.
- Conducting surveys and research on the participation of women in the public and political life, analysis of the policies oriented to equality of sexes on the labor market.
- Promoting the achievement of gender equality and participation of women in the public and social life as well as in the decision-making process. Most of the NGOs have their websites, where they publish up-to-date information on their activities, projects and recommendations.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Ilieva/Kmetova/Delinesheva (2005), P. 22-26

4.2 The Power of Women's NGOs

The current and the following chapter will expound the situation of women and Women's NGOs in Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) with focus on Slovakia and Bulgaria.

Particularly significant for the development of a powerful NGO sphere has been the development of trans-national networking by CEE women's groups.⁷⁵ The united efforts and the consolidation of Women's NGOs led to the foundation of several networks and umbrella organisations. In working together, Women's NGOs' objectives are easier to be achieved and their influence on policies and decisions taken in the field of equal treatment and problems of women is widened.

In 2005 four national networks of Women's NGOs in Bulgaria were identified:

- the National Network for Equal Opportunities, which united 72 Bulgarian NGOs,
- the National Network of Organisations in Support of Women Survivors of Violence in Bulgaria, which presented an informal coalition of 24 NGOs,
- the Bulgarian Platform to the European Women's Lobby, with 15 member organisations, and
- the Bulgarian Gender Equality Coalition, which united representatives of civil society, institutions, political parties and media.⁷⁶

And currently there are two platforms for Women's NGOs in Slovakia:⁷⁷

1. Slovak Women's Lobby (Part of European Women's Lobby)
2. Association Forum 2000 (founded in 2000 as an umbrella organisation for women in political positions, public life and women entrepreneurs)

⁷⁵ Bretherton (2002), P. 8

⁷⁶ Ilieva/Kmetova/Delinesheva (2005), P. 25

⁷⁷ see Interview 14

In 2000 the number of Women's NGOs in Bulgaria was counted at about 100.⁷⁸ As mentioned in one of the interviews,⁷⁹ currently there should be about 60 active women's organisations in Bulgaria. According to my research there should be for sure more than 85 organisations dealing with women's issues, that is the number of women's organisations I could get information about, although I do not know whether all of them are still alive and thus active. Because I could not list those who have their websites only in Bulgarian, and those who have no website at all, I'm quite sure that there are many more, especially very small and only locally active groups. For Slovakia I could get information about 47 women's organisations through various sources.

It was quite surprising, not to find lists or catalogues of Women's NGOs, neither in Bulgaria nor in Slovakia. Although in a couple of sources concrete quantities of Women's NGOs are mentioned, in no single case was I successful in finding exhaustive enumerations of the organizations behind these numbers. In respect to the outstanding importance of Women's NGOs for the construction of civil society and for monitoring the accession process in terms of implementing gender equality into the new legislation systems, that lack of visibility of the driving forces of these improvements seems to be fairly strange. Even if assuming that nobody has any interest in this enumeration of Women's NGOs, at least they themselves should set value on advertising their numerousness and great variety of lines of action.

Beyond this it was not even possible to find actual lists of all NGOs, but this was probably (hopefully) only a linguistic barrier, as all NGOs have to be registered in the court.

Nevertheless, I could find for Bulgaria an online available NGO Catalogue⁸⁰ with 660 NGOs (not only Women's NGOs) documented. This catalogue was realized in a project with the financial support of the American Agency of International Development, but has not been updated since July 20th 2004. This database can be used as an information source, it includes a search function. But it is neither possible to be registered explicitly as an NGO active in women's issues nor in gender issues. The inquiry⁸¹ for registration does not have these categories. Women's organisations as all other NGOs do, have to register under one of the following spheres:

⁷⁸ www.ihf-hr.org/viewbinary/viewdocument.php?download=1&doc_id=2055; [22.09.2006]

⁷⁹ see Interview 8

⁸⁰ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng>

⁸¹ full inquiry see <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/inquiry.doc>

Art and Culture, Education, Health care, Social activities and charity, Media, Environment, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Religion, Information sharing, Scientific research, Economical analysis, Economic development support, Sport activities, Training and consultations, or “Other”.

From 144 NGOs listed in the above mentioned database there is only information available in the Bulgarian language, thus they could not be taken into account. Out of the remaining 516 NGOs, 29 call themselves either Women’s NGO (the words “women” or “lady” in the organisations name) or do have women as target group and/or are working on women’s issues. But in none of the data set entries the word “gender” is mentioned. 22 out of these 30 Women’s NGOs were listed under the category “human rights and minorities”. It has to be repeated that the categories „Women“, „Gender“ or „Equal Opportunities“ do not exist in this online available database, neither does “Political Activity”.⁸²

Interesting in this context is the combination of human rights “and” minorities. If the category were human rights for minorities, the meaning would be clear. But the “and” in-between these two terms can mean generally that human rights do have a minor position or in connections to Women’s NGOs, that women are seen as a minority, or better to say, that women’s issues have a minor meaning. Furthermore one could get the idea that only minorities do have troubles with implementing their human rights. And those, who have the power to define what the official understanding of “human rights” and “minority” is, are certainly not affected by these categories. Thus, using these categories for declaration of Women’s NGOs implies firstly that women’s issues are marginalized and secondly Women’s NGOs are pressed into a hierarchic system, where Women’s NGOs do neither have the right nor the power of definition.

All of the listed Women’s NGOs in the previous mentioned database are operating on grants. Most of them were founded between 1997 and 1999 (12), only 7 are older (the oldest one was founded in 1991), and 9 are younger, 2 NGOs have not stated their founding year.

Half of these 30 NGOs work without permanent staff, so to speak do not have employees. 11 have up to 5 employees, 4 NGOs have between 6 and 10 employees. Therefore nearly all of them

⁸² <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/search.asp>

are dependent on voluntary work and most of them declared to have more than 10 volunteers (18 NGOs).

In Slovakia it seems to be the same situation⁸³, most Women's NGOs depend on volunteers as their financial situation does not suffice for employing permanent staff.

Nevertheless Women's NGOs already have a great influence in social life and they have managed to establish strong relationship with state authorities, public organizations and the media. Their lobbying guarantees that gender equality issues remain a topic of state policy and the increase of women's status in the social, economic and political life of CEE countries.⁸⁴

Women's NGOs have been very active since the beginning of the transition period, participating in the monitoring of EU Accession Plan in the fields of Equal Opportunities for women and men, in several initiatives and events against trafficking in women and children, preventing domestic violence and peace building. And they took part in the initiatives of Stability Pact, such as political and economic empowerment, participation and decision making of women.⁸⁵

Anyhow, in relation to the overall number of Women's NGOs, very few do concentrate on changing the situation of women through participation on a political level.⁸⁶ This can be argued with the historical situation of women in CEEC, when for forty years the only women's organisations officially permitted were those of the Communist Party. Therefore one aspect of women's newly acquired freedom has been the freedom not to organise themselves in politically active groups.⁸⁷ But despite that historical burden women will have to take the chance and participate responsibly in politically active groups whenever possible in order to create a sustainable change of gender stereotypes, the wage gap, violence and the overall situation of women. As it was stated in one interview in Slovakia *"The politics is bad if women do not want to become politicians! But women should go into bad politics to improve it, too!"*⁸⁸

⁸³ see interview 14

⁸⁴ Ilieva/Kmetova/Delinesheva (2005), P. 22-26

⁸⁵ Marinova/Gencheva (2003), P. 21-22

⁸⁶ Sloat (2004), P. 6

⁸⁷ Bretherton (2002), P. 8

⁸⁸ see interview 14

4.3 The actual Work of Women's NGOs in contrast to the Declaration of their Work – a Change of Wording

Most of the initiatives run by women and for women are active in social affairs and are focused on support, consultation and training, but with a clear focus on improving the situation of women. In Bulgaria for instance *“most of them (NGOs⁸⁹) play a particularly important role in the field of social protection, since they largely represent and defend the interests of specific disadvantaged groups. Because most of these NGOs are familiar with the specifics of particular communities (live style, cultur, religion, labour and social skills and habits, health and similar problems) they play an equal role along with the State in the development and implementation of social protection and are able to ensure that assistance will reach every single target.”⁹⁰*

Thus in most cases and initiatives women are inseparably named in connection with care work and motherhood. Maybe it is true that the improvement of the mother's situation does have a big influence on the quality of children's lives. But firstly not all women are mothers and secondly it is questionable whether the argument stated before is true vice versa automatically.

Certainly it is easier to be given credit for social initiatives, which do not endanger the proportion of power in a male dominated society. And those NGOs, working in the historically gendered fields, are less likely to encounter resistance from the environment and officials, as it was pointed out by Ferree/Mc Clurg: *“Women are institutionally disadvantaged in contexts waged on men's terrain. Women are thus more likely to organize outside the formal polity, in those community and grassroots contexts that are gendered female.”⁹¹*

As shown in the previous chapter the inquiry about the Women's NGOs working in the fields in both countries arrived at the conclusion that most of the NGOs, which can be called “Women's NGOs”, are registered under the category of “Human Rights” or “Minority Groups”. Some are registered under “Social activities” and “Education”. Or the activities of Women's NGOs are often

⁸⁹ note of author

⁹⁰ Marinova/Gencheva (2003), P. 22-23

⁹¹ Ferree/McClurg (2004), P. 589

linked with the activities of development or human rights organisations⁹². Thus Women's NGOs, even if they deal mainly or exclusively with women's issues, seldom declare themselves as women's organisations, more often they call themselves human rights or developing organisations. This derives, not only, but also from the fact, that most databases delivering data about NGOs simply do not have any category for the topics of gender issues, women's rights or equal opportunities. Not even the EU's CONECCS - the database for Consultation, the European Commission and Civil Society - provides any gender related category in its search function.⁹³

With a critical view on this situation this can be seen as one of the strategies for making Women's NGOs and their work and achievements invisible or even not existing. Thus all the positive effects achieved by Women's NGOs can be assigned in media and official statistics under politically more suitable objectives, such as human development, social affairs, human rights, and many more. Precisely this strategy makes Women's NGOs vulnerable to suppression by political systems and mechanisms, established by men.

An additional reason for Women's NGOs not to identify themselves with women's issues was mentioned in the interview number 14, as there has been a "*changing of wording*" in the past few years. This was done first in order to have better access to funds and secondly because the gender topics are not highly regarded in the public opinion. Therefore Women's NGOs and their projects have to be covered by suitable objectives and project topics, which guarantees financing sources and public acceptance.

4.4 The Standing and Appreciation of Women's NGOs

For Slovakia the work of NGDOs (Non Governmental Development Organizations) was documented in 2005 in the project "TRIALOG", which was financed mainly by the European Commission, where the work of NGOs active in the gender movement is called "*doing some development related work*".⁹⁴

Using these words is twice undermining the importance of Women's NGOs for improving the situation of women, human rights and for development at all. First it implies that working on

⁹² Blister (2005), P. 3

⁹³ http://ec.europa.eu/civil_society/coneccs/listedomaine.cfm?CL=en; [28.09.2006]

⁹⁴ Blister (2005), P. 3-5

women's issues is only somehow related to development, and secondly it's not clear whether this is really to be called work. How should the most valuable work of women and Women's NGOs ever become visible and appreciated if in reports of gender related projects of the EU this work is undermined?

Therefore it does not astonish that in Slovakia the campaign, "Fifth Women", working in the field of violence against women, has been presented by government officials as "the first media campaign against gender based violence organised for the purpose of public awareness-raising". The fact that the campaign was run by NGOs, while no financial or moral support from the governmental side was provided, was not mentioned at all.⁹⁵ Such an approach, presenting the work and achievements of Women's NGOs as the outcome of government activities is often a strategy by official and public bodies to hide the successes of NGOs in case they overrule the authorities.

Furthermore the knowledge and experiences of Women's NGOs are not taken into account for the cooperation between the local governments and the institutions of the European Community. For instance, shortly after the changes of 1989 the US granting foundations had been one of the major investors in the development of civil society through the work of NGOs, they surely influenced the early objectives and projects. But without any doubt the NGOs profited immensely, especially because of the necessity to have perfect English knowledge and specific know how for writing applications. Both are quite advantageous in the EU.⁹⁶ At the same these skills have not, or at least not to the same extent, been developed by the authorities. But unfortunately the officials only rarely make use of the expertise of Women's NGOs. Maybe they fear losing power, maybe they only do not want to cooperate or maybe they just are not aware of the tremendous experiences of NGOs. Anyway due to that refusal of cooperation, the knowledge, experience and skills, which have been developed for more than a decade, get lost.

Within the website of the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice there is a special site for NGOs – The Central Register of NGOs. There are several application forms online deliverable, for registration, submitting documents, for cessation and for expunction. One can also search for NGOs according to the NGO's name, the organisation form, the location, the court where they were

⁹⁵ Information given by Olga Pietruchova via Email on 10.09.2006

⁹⁶ Weidel (2004), P. 31-34

registered and keywords in “objectives and activities”. Unfortunately the search itself is only possible in Bulgarian.⁹⁷ But there the Bulgarian “Law For The Non-Profit Corporate Bodies”⁹⁸ can be downloaded. According to this law, chapter three, section one “non-profit corporate bodies for socially useful activity” determined for carrying out socially useful activity shall spend their property for:

1. the development and strengthening of the spiritual values, the civil society, the health care, the education, the science, the culture, the technologies, the equipment or the physical culture;
2. the support of the socially weak, of the disabled or the persons needing care;
3. the support of the social integration and the personal realisation;
4. the protection of the human rights or the environment;
5. other goals determined by a law.”⁹⁹

This might presume that gender related work or women’s issues are not regarded as being socially useful.

An other possibility to hamper the work of Women’s NGOs happens in Slovakia, where an NGO has to be registered for at least 2 years in order to be eligible for applying to the open tenders of the ministries.¹⁰⁰ Due to the fact that NGOs are not allowed to make profits and therefore are not able to accrue savings, they are mostly dependent on project based financing sources and nearly all projects require co-financing as well as preliminary financing, this regulation is most questionable.

And additionally as mentioned in many interviews the information about project tenders is either not properly announced and/or not available in the native language, and the application procedure is in many cases simply too difficult and lengthy and hence does not take into account the lack of resources of smaller Women’s NGOs, especially in the countryside. “*At present there*

⁹⁷ <http://www.mjeli.government.bg/ngo/search.aspx>

⁹⁸ Prom. SG. 81/6 Oct 2000, amend. SG. 41/26 Apr 2001, amend. SG. 98/16 Nov 2001, amend. SG. 25/8 Mar 2002, amend. SG. 120/29 Dec 2002

⁹⁹ <http://www.mjeli.government.bg/ngo/doc/law.htm>

¹⁰⁰ Information given by Ildiko Pongoova in Nitra on 17.08.2006

*is a lack of information about projects and supporting possibilities for women. Those projects seem to be not properly announced and all programmes we have [...] are not gender-oriented.*¹⁰¹

But this does not cover everything; additionally Women's NGOs in CEEC suffer from the continuous decline of financing sources within the last few years, as it is elaborated in the next chapter.

4.5 Financing Sources for Women's NGOs

As most Women's NGOs heavily depend on funding, the current situation concerning the sourcing was one of the most important issues of nearly all interviews. And despite one single interview partner all of the representatives of women's organisations experienced a decline in funding levels over the last few years. This matches accurately the outcomes of a study published by AWID in February 2006.¹⁰²

In the 1990's, after the crash of the former Soviet Union, many trans-national organisations, western states and private foundations invested in the creation of civil society with active Nongovernmental Organisations (NGOs).¹⁰³ Through the first years of this process the funding of the newly emerged Women's NGOs was quite easy and there were nearly no limitations for project topics addressed to the organisational structure of the Women's NGO.¹⁰⁴ For many years, grants from American foundations¹⁰⁵ and the Open Society Institute¹⁰⁶, historically the most important fund provider of women's rights work in this region; have been a very important source of funding for NGOs.

Most of the donors, which supported the improvement of women's situation in the transition period of Bulgaria and Slovakia started to cut down their programmes, so did foreign governmental donors, almost immediately after the European Council announced the intended

¹⁰¹ see Interview 1

¹⁰² Clark et al. (2006), P. 86

¹⁰³ Funk (2006), P. 68

¹⁰⁴ see Interview 12

¹⁰⁵ Blister (2005), P. 7

¹⁰⁶ Clark et al. (2006), P. 90

entry of each of these countries into the EU. For Bulgaria this was at midyear 2003¹⁰⁷. *“Another problem is, that after midyear 2003 there was no more bilateral financing of projects any more, like before Austria and other countries did. So now in the pre-accession period we are in a worse living condition than before – valid both for men and women”*¹⁰⁸

Possibly the reason for that crucial development in NGOs’ funding derived from the general sense that due to the forthcoming accession, democratisation is already ‘underway’. Therefore the focus of the official development assistance was either focused on anti-poverty or many donors have pulled out of the region entirely. This shift has affected women’s organizations considerably, many of whom are relatively young having started after the 1995 Beijing conference.¹⁰⁹ It seems to be some kind of common agreement in the donors’ community that in pre-accession times the EU itself is mainly responsible for development of civil society and funding of the NGOs.

However, one of the EU’s strategies for strengthening the local and national governments is, to shift the financial aid agendas to these governments. Also bilateral and multilateral aid agencies are now directing more funds through national governments rather than directly to NGOs, as they did before.¹¹⁰ The national authorities, mostly the ministries, themselves have to build commissions, who decide what the money is spent for. Although these commissions need to involve representatives of NGOs, universities and local governments, someone of the responsible ministry always heads them.

This forces the women’s groups to look to their governments for funding, which presents obvious challenges if they take a critical stance on official policies. Additionally the preferred topic of the transition governments is reconciliation of family and working life.

¹⁰⁷ (note of author): Although the European Parliament gave its assent to the application by the Republic of Bulgaria to become a member of the European Union only on the 13 April 2005 in Strasbourg (European parliament legislative resolution AA1/2/2005 – C6-0085/2005 – 2005/0901(AVC)) the entry of Bulgaria to EU was already irreversibly announced at the Thessaloniki European Council on 19 and 20 June 2003:

“Bulgaria and Romania are part of the same inclusive and irreversible enlargement process. [...], the objective is to welcome Bulgaria and Romania as member in 2007. [...] Discussions or agreement on future policy reforms, or the new financial perspective, will neither impede the pursuit and conclusion of accession negotiations nor be prejudged by the outcome of these negotiations. [...]” (Presidency Conclusions – Doc. 11638/03, paragraph 37.)

¹⁰⁸ see Interview 1

¹⁰⁹ Clark et al. (2006), P. 90

¹¹⁰ Clark et al. (2006), P. 2

Furthermore as stated in one of the interviews “*gender equality is not a preferred topic. Neither in project calls nor in the public opinion.*”¹¹¹ And it is not sure whether organizations working in the field of women’s issues can use the available governmental sources if they call themselves “Women’s NGO”, as elaborated on in previous chapters.

The only possibility to get financial resources explicitly for gender topics is within the European Social Fund. But the procedures for project implementation are critical because due to a lack of expertise and human resources the managing authorities within the ministries are not able to provide the agreed financial support.¹¹²

And the neo-liberal economic policies, imported with the transition, have gradually reduced the capacity of governments to distribute resources fairly and to deliver basic services.¹¹³ These services are shifted to the NGOs as the Gender Assessment of the Impact of EU Accession in Bulgaria, published in 2003, put on record: “*[.....] The government relies heavily on such NGOs to cover basic social services, without providing any financial support so far.*”¹¹⁴

The same situation prevails still in the Slovak Republik; the Slovak government does not generally provide financial support to NGOs.¹¹⁵ Some of the NGOs can get state subsidies to cover their expenses from different ministries, mainly the Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs (MLSAF), when registered for doing specific work, for instance prevention of violence, for social services.¹¹⁶

Due to lack of financing sources smaller Women’s NGOs have already died in the pre-accession period.¹¹⁷ An additional risk is put on Women’s NGOs because of government limitations, which hamper the work of Women’s NGOs in transition times through expensive registration rules and tax laws. The impact of currency changes is risky for their survival, too.¹¹⁸

¹¹¹ see Interview 14

¹¹² see Interview 8

¹¹³ Clark et al. (2006), P. 18

¹¹⁴ Marinova/Gencheva (2003), P. 22-23

¹¹⁵ Information given by Olga Pietruchova, Vienna, 07.09.2006; and see interview 12

¹¹⁶ Information given by Olga Pietruchova via Email on 11.09.2006

¹¹⁷ see Interview 13

¹¹⁸ Funk (2006), P. 74

Currently Slovak Women's NGOs can benefit a little from the regulation that the Slovak tax system allows. Slovak employees and companies can donate 2% from their income taxes to a list of civil society institutions. But as there are also educational institutions and churches included in this list, women's organisations are not the prime beneficiary of these donations.¹¹⁹

Women's groups in general welcome the accession process as an opportunity for advancing the equality agenda, but the structures and funding mechanisms of EU remain a mystery to most of them.¹²⁰ The complex procedures of EU applications and project implementations were named very often as an obstacle for i.e. smaller Women's NGOs in the conducted interviews. Especially the EU's accounting rules, late payment schedules (forcing NGOs to cover the costs to be repaid only later), co-financing of 20% of the project's budget, bureaucracy and inaccessibility seriously undermines local NGOs' ability to do much. EU grants often have to be shared with foreign (NGO) partners in EU member states, often as lead partners, leading to fewer funds for the local NGO.¹²¹ As the EU's financial assistance is in general always a co-support, with the average of 50 percent of the supportive costs, Women's NGOs are permanently forced to look for new funding possibilities. And additionally the aided organisation is not allowed to have any profits out of the projects supported¹²², which makes savings for the needed co-financing nearly impossible.

Another crucial point with the EU's projects are the eligible supportive costs. It is significantly easier to raise funds for media, technology and communications work, leadership development, and linking and networking than for staff salaries, administration and capacity building.¹²³ The criticism on EU's strategy of covering project expenses was summarized clearly in one of the interviews: *"Also projects should be long term (at least 3 years) otherwise it is a loss of experience and human resources. The project budgets have to cover all expenses, including institutional support. Included in these fund should be the payment for the NGO's equipment, premises and administration. In most cases only 7% of the overall budget can be used for these expenditures. When this money of one project runs out, the NGOs cannot pay the rental fees and if they are not immediately successful with another application they have to close down their structures. This is*

¹¹⁹ Information given by Olga Pietruchova via Email on 11.09.2006

¹²⁰ UNIFEM 2006), P. 16

¹²¹ Funk (2006), P.75-76

¹²² Weidel (2004), P. 31-34

¹²³ Clark et al. (2006), P. 12

not sustainable at all; especially taking into account what huge amounts of money is paid for conferences, daily expenditures and food.”¹²⁴

The lack of understanding about the centrality of women’s rights to addressing poverty and promoting democratic processes is reflected on many levels. Although the European Union spends billions of dollars for transport, energy and communications and other major development ‘investments’, gender-related funding in basic education, health, including reproductive health, water and sanitation receives only a small part, of which only about 16 percent has gender equality as the principal objective.¹²⁵ The absolute and relative amounts spent by EU on Women’s NGOs is less than in the mid 1990s, except for trafficking and domestic violence grants.¹²⁶ And Bulgaria did not at least until 2004, receive funding from EU programmes such as PHARE¹²⁷ targeted to gender equality issues and no accession funds have been allocated to gender issues.¹²⁸ The 2007 – 2013 financial framework currently developed by the European Commission sets out objectives and budgetary resources for the European Union for the next planning period. The proposals presented so far do not mention women’s rights and gender equality objectives, nor do they suggest any special programs for the promotion of women’s rights and gender equality.¹²⁹

As a conclusion of this chapter I wonder how it should ever be possible to implement gender equality in the European Community, if first, as described in the beginning of this thesis, the full implementation of the EU’s equality legislation is not increasingly forced, and secondly, despite all commitments to the importance of civil society, one significant part of it - the Women’s NGOs - hardly manage to survive the transition period. This question should not only be posed to the European Commission but also to the bilateral, private and independent donors, who do have gender equality on their agenda. Civil society being proactive needs organisations with a certain existential basis with sustainable financial resources. Are donors, i.e. the EU aware of the fact that the permanent fights for money weakens those organisations that blessedly provide social, legal and consultative services for the citizens of CEEC, which the countries themselves are not capable of providing?

¹²⁴ see Interview 8

¹²⁵ Clark et al. (2006), P. 23

¹²⁶ Funk (2006), P. 77

¹²⁷ The PHARE programme is one of the three pre-accession instruments financed by the EU to assist applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe in their preparations for joining the EU.

¹²⁸ Moulechkoval (2004)

¹²⁹ Clark et al. (2006), P. 25

5 CONCLUSION – THE STATUS OF WOMEN’S NGOS IN THE EU’S COMMUNITY IN COMPARISON TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

To round out this thesis I would like to share my impressions and conclusions. They arose step by step while writing. I finally arrived at the conclusion that there were a lot of substantial similarities between the role of women in society and the private sphere and the role of Women’s NGOs in the European Community. These similarities are obvious both in terms of the positive effects and influence of their work and in the sense of being treated fairly and appreciated. I gained the impression that the official attitude towards (women’s) NGOs in transition countries and the way of treating them are misdirected. Not only in transition countries, but there the negative consequences for Women’s NGOs, women working in NGOs and women as target groups of NGOs are well observable.

➤ **Freedome of choice in respect of work**

As mentioned in a previous chapter is questionable whether the formation of several Women’s NGOs after the crash of 1989 was more of an only way out of the misery than a voluntary choice for women. It is comparable to the “choice” of millions of women to stay at home with their children, as the labour market does not give them any chance for participating at all or on any level, that could assure an economic subsistence for their families.

➤ **Care and social work**

Women’s NGOs in CEEC accepted the task to deliver lots of social services, either because there was an urgent demand for these services or this niche was the only possibility to earn at least a moderate income in the economic crises. In any case the CEEC governments were not able or willing at that time to provide its citizens with these services. People’s minds are still haunted by the thought that women and mothers are the only ones who have to care both for the social needs of their environment and for the necessary daily reproductive work. Women are made responsible for raising the children, without being asked. The responsibility

of women for this care work is taken for granted and argued with the “natural competences of women in reproductive issues” the killing argument of any feminist deconstruction efforts.

➤ **Payment**

Neither Women’s NGOs nor women are as a matter of course paid for that work. NGOs in CEEC were mainly used for caring and for substituting the role of the state in social issues and welfare.

And those who executed this work were women, in most cases volunteers, without any payment or even refunding of their expenses. Even if those services are delivered within the frame of a financially supported project, the payment for the staff (women) will be extremely low and often not all the costs are covered. Additionally NGOs are not allowed to make profits out of the projects, which would be highly necessary for accruing savings in order to survive times without projects or only small projects. We have to face quite the same situation in the private sphere where women are used for child caring and reproductive work, again without any payment or social insurance. And even if there is maternity leave paid by the state for care work, the payment will be extremely low and will not cover the expenses.

➤ **Dependency**

The economic situation explained above causes for both the women and the Women’s NGOs, deadlocked structures of dependency and hierarchic patterns. Women’s NGOs have to constantly fight for funds and therefore are vulnerable to the influence and targets of their donors. As a consequence, they cannot develop their whole potential and are kept under control. Women are kept under suppression by the same patriarchal system. Those who stay at home with the children suffer from not having an income as well as from financial dependence on their husbands. Even those women who are working in the paid economic sphere must additionally care for children and perform reproductive work, which causes a permanent lack of time and resources and thus completely limits their control over their own lives.

➤ **Triple burden**

Luckily there are women who have a paid position. They do have their own income and social assurance but also the trap of the triple burden – paid job, unpaid care work and unpaid

reproductive work. The “success” of both the last two mentioned working areas are neither measurable nor is there a certain point in time when this success is obvious. The triple burden for Women’s NGOs is not so easy to detect. But besides their poorly paid work, they have to “care” for the donors (unpaid) in sense by keeping close connections and they have to reproduce and demonstrate permanently their own experience and knowledge in terms of writing proposals and developing new projects (unpaid) for applications. Again the success of these efforts is not really measurable in advance and the outcomes are incalculable.

For both women and Women’s NGOs I would say that they have to invest heavily with no certain return on investments.

➤ **Status and Appreciation**

Women’s social, care and reproductive work is taken for granted, as if this is the natural purpose and disposition of women. This work is said to be highly valued by the society and the state. But in fact it is neither paid nor valued. Our society would crash immediately without this women’s work. Making the potential problems worse, the social care sector is growing twice as quickly as industry and private companies, yet governments and the EU are not investing in that sector at all. Working mothers still have to face prejudices and drawbacks, which cause remorse, although in the meantime several studies proofed that children of working mothers are not disadvantaged in their development compared to children of fulltime mothers. About the missing appreciation of Women’s NGOs and their work see chapter 4.4, where the dismissive interaction of governments and the EU with them are briefly explained. Additionally I would like to mention, that the services of NGOs are rather low-priced in comparison to profits or public bodies. But as NGOs may not have any profit the for-profit partners of such cooperations often afterwards profitably market the outcomes and new developments of Women’s NGOs within EU’s cooperation projects.

The above-enumerated similarities are only some of the most visible. The relationship of the state and the society to their women bears lots of resemblance to the relationship of the European Community to its Women’s NGOs. Within the frame of this thesis these similarities can not be analysed further, nor was it possible to evaluate the assumptions on the basis of the reports of scientific research, simply because I could not find any published studies about that topic.

6 SUMMARY

The current situation of Women's NGOs in transition countries of CEEC, at least in Bulgaria and Slovakia, has to be classified as being precarious. Due to the fallback of the historically important private, independent and bilateral donors, the EU with its policy and supportive measures is becoming more and more decisive for the survival of the working activities of Women's NGOs. Especially for small Women's NGOs and for those located in rural areas the EU's application and the project requirements as well as the eligibility criteria can hardly be met. They do neither have the resources nor the capacities and often not even the proper equipment for participating. Furthermore the information policy is a decisive, not to say, exclusion factor, as the information about the supportive lines of the EU often does not reach the Women's NGOs, due to the linguistic barrier of not using the native language, not being properly announced or because the information is only available online or in print versions only in the metropolitan areas. The criterias for supportable organisations, projects and structures do have their origins in the private economy, as minimum turnover, number of staff, size, time of existence or possibilities of co-financing. These criteria are reproducing the traditional gender gap between men operating in the formal sector with good access to resources and women acting on the informal sector with bad access to resources and different working structures.

Furthermore the EU's supportive lines are rarely addressed to Women's NGOs, the overall budget for equal opportunities and women's rights is beyond 0,1 percent of the EU's budget. After accession (and briefly before) the EU's money is allocated directly by the national governments, whose first priorities are clearly not gender issues. Thus critical NGOs might have disadvantages or difficulties with being successful with applications. Therefore Women's NGOs started to apply and work under different names avoiding "women", "gender" and "equality".

Because of the precarious financial situation many Women's NGOs disappeared in the past few years, although others have developed. The experiences and knowledge of those who failed is lost, whereas the experience and professional skills of successful Women's NGOs are not used or integrated into the new ones in order to develop access to the EU's financial assistance through

administration and management. Hence I frame four assumptions, which are worth to be submitted to a careful examination.

1. EU funding policy causes a permanent reconstruction of the prevalent hierarchical structure. Although the programmes are targeted to prevent discrimination, the structural mechanisms are “doing gender”.
2. The so-called empowerment of the civil society does have a (well) defined limit. Empowerment is most welcome and supported intensively as long as the empowered people or organisations do use this new gained “power” in the sense of self accountability and thus the state doesn’t need to accept its responsibility for social issues any more. But this empowerment does not naturally include participation of power or wealth or freedom of choice.
3. The unpaid reproductive, social and care work of (mainly) women, which is at least in some European countries already a discussion topic, is switched to (women’s) NGOs, with the same results of exclusions, restrictions, prejudices and precariousness. It is obvious that this work has to be done, but best voluntarily (by private or somehow organized women).
4. NGOs in transition countries are used as the maidservants or sub worker servants of the EU’s states. Comparable to the 19th century, when the first profession opened for women was the maidservant profession, or later in the twenties of the last century, when the secretary or the assistant were further professions for women. At that time, girls were taught home economics in schools, as this was argued to be their “natural” inclination. Now (women’s) NGOs in the transition countries are taught “how to build civil society” such as networking or counselling and social and care work, precisely because this is assumed to be their “natural” mission. Whereas “natural” is always what the dominate class (men, state, business groups) does not want to do themselves, as it is either not valued or not paid or both. Anyway, fulfilling these tasks, although they are undoubtedly extremely important for the society, means always a withdrawal to privacy, invisibility in the public sphere and economic and political discrimination.

ANNEX I - INTERVIEWS

For the interviews I used a semi-structured guide. Some of the questions were posed to every interview partner. In some cases I had to be responsive to the specific situation of my interview partners and asked additional questions, for instance about their daily work. The answers of these individual questions were extremely informative and very helpful for drafting this thesis. Nevertheless they are not included in the here-published version of the interviews, as this would endanger the anonymity of the interviewees.

The interviews were usually undertaken in English, some even in German. With those who did not speak English I was glad to have a translator with me.

As tape recording the interviews was in many cases refused I decided to take notes. The interviews were written just as I heard and understood the answers, there weren't any additions or evaluations of the interview partner's opinions and statements made.

All interview partners got their interviews per email for revision and were asked for permission for publishing before including them into this thesis.

Unfortunately some interviews have been corrected in a very restrictive way by the respondents, thus some very interesting statements got lost in the published version of the interviews, as they are included in this thesis. One of my interview partners did not give at all the allowance of publishing their material; two interviews could not be used after revision. Nevertheless I'm aware that the impression I have gained by the face to face situation and the statements *viva voce* have at least influenced the interpretation of the information gathered.

Besides the written interviews there have been several informal meetings whose outcomes were taken into account in this thesis. Some very important information I got via emails, but they are not available as written documents.

Questions asked in the semi-structured interview

The questions asked in the interviews focused on 5 topics: the situation of the NGO or rather of the organisation of the interviewee, the impact of transition on women, the impact of transition on (women's) NGOs, the financing sources for (women's) NGOs and the availability of information about EU programmes.

The following was requested, in some cases with other words:

1. Questions about the organisation/NGO:
 - *“What is your organisation doing?”*
 - *“What are your projects and the main targets for women in Bulgaria?”*
 - *“What would make your work more successful?”*
 - *“In which women's platforms is your NGO a member?”*

2. Questions about the impact of transition on women:
 - *“What impact has the transition had on women in your country?”*
 - *“Considering the whole period of transition are there certain periods of improvement or worsening of the situation of women observable?”*
 - *“Is there any area where women have an advantage because of the accession?”*
 - *“Is there an awareness of the triple burden problem?”*
 - *“Is there any obvious change in trafficking women or domestic violence in the last 10 years?”*
 - *“Is there a visible difference between men and women in entrepreneurship?”*
 - *“What could be done in advance in transition countries in order to prevent negative effects?”*
 - *“Do there studies or reports about the impact of EU accession on the status of women already exist?”*

3. Questions about the impact of transition on (women's) NGOs:
 - *“What is the situation of Women's NGOs and women's networks?”*

- *“What can you tell me about the impact of the transition period on NGOs in your country?”*
- *“Has the situation for NGOs been improved since the accession of Slovakia?”*
- *“Can you give me an outlook for Women’s NGOs in your country for the next few years?”*
- *“Does an exhaustive list of all Women’s NGOs in your country exist and where could I find that information?”*

4. Questions about the financing sources for NGOs:

- *“How are NGOs financed?”*
- *“Do international financing sources still exist for NGO projects?”*
- *“Are there any problems with getting funds?”*
- *“What differences are there between the former private donors and the EU funds and financial possibilities?”*
- *“Which topics are now most likely to be financed in EU projects in your country?”*

5. Question about the availability of information:

- *“What can you tell me about the information policy about EU projects?”*

Interviews in Bulgaria

The interviews in Bulgaria were made between the 3rd and 14th of May 2006 when I was on internship hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Vratza. They mainly took place in Vratza or Sofia; some informal meetings were outside of these two towns.

Interview 1

Question: "What impact has the transition had on women in your country?"

They (*women*¹³⁰) work more! Not only in business to prove that they are good enough or even better than men in their jobs or as entrepreneurs but also at home – caring about the children and the house, although women (those we had in our surveys and courses, mostly entrepreneurs) have higher educational level than men.

At present there is a lack of information about projects and supporting possibilities for women. Those projects seem to be not properly announced and all programs we have in Bulgaria are not gender-oriented. Another problem is, that after midyear 2003¹³¹ there was no more bilateral financing of projects any more, like before Austria and other countries did. So now in the pre-accession period we are in a worse living condition than before – valid both for men and women but the burden is heavier for women:

- a) women have more tension,
- b) more work, less payment
- c) and no safety any more.

The higher tension exerted on women derives from several changes in the living conditions, for instance: A lot of our kindergartens were closed in the last years, now there is often only one kindergarten place for 200 kids applying.

¹³⁰ (*note of author*)

¹³¹ (*note of author*): Although the European Parliament gave its assent to the application by the Republic of Bulgaria to become a member of the European Union only on the 13 April 2005 in Strasbourg (European parliament legislative resolution AA1/2/2005 – C6-0085/2005 – 2005/0901(AVC)) the entry of Bulgaria to EU was already irreversibly announced at the Thessaloniki European Council on 19 and 20 June 2003: "Bulgaria and Romania are part of the same inclusive and irreversible enlargement process. [...] , the objective is to welcome Bulgaria and Romania as member in 2007. [...] Discussions or agreement on future policy reforms, or the new financial perspective, will neither impede the pursuit and conclusion of accession negotiations nor be prejudged by the outcome of these negotiations. [...]" (Presidency Conclusions – Doc. 11638/03, paragraph 37.)

Or we are confronted with problems in fields of working places: less job opportunities, wages decreased in the last years, the age and the sex is often a problem when applying for a job although there is an antidiscrimination law, but we do not have something like an arbitration board for equal treatment; the wage gap between male and female incomes are higher than 30%. And there is a lack of feeling secure and safe, there isn't any more a social safety net. One cannot rely on having the opportunity of a good job or a job at all after the education. Even highly educated academics can't find appropriate jobs.

Interview 2

Question: "What is your organisation doing?"

We are an NGO implementing projects and offering activities and consultancy against trafficking women and domestic violence.

Question: "Is there any obvious change in trafficking women or domestic violence in the last 10 years?"

Yes, the trafficking problem increased and the affected girls are younger now. About domestic violence there is no official statistic and no information, so I can't say anything about that. But the problem is evident although we have 3 new laws signed shortly:

- 1) protection against domestic violence
- 2) prevention of human trafficking and
- 3) the antidiscrimination law.

Question: "What is the impact of transition on women in general?"

Principally we, as a NGO, can profit from the transition and the accession, because we have better contacts with colleagues from other countries and with other national NGOs. And there are more possibilities to gather money for our activities. But in the moments it is difficult to apply for money (projects) at the EU, because the main policy of EU is business support but not social affairs and the English language is very often a problem. In rural areas women and the staff of NGOs cannot speak English. There are now only some US funds like from Global Fund for Women.

Before pre-accession period about 3 years ago there were the possibilities to apply directly in the EU for support and projects, now all funds (EU money) must go through the Bulgarian ministries.

So we now totally depend on our ministries what for they would like to spend the money what projects they prefer, and this topic – trafficking women – is not their prime topic. Besides the procedures are even longer than before. But there is an urgent need of dealing with this problem of trafficking, the ministries do only have some kind of commissions in each region, but they do only observe the situation, they do not implement any activities.

The girls need information to prevent any danger of being concerned by trafficking as early as possibly. And they have to learn English in order to read and understand the information given by international organisations. They mostly are trapped because in rural areas there are no jobs and the wages are very low. So they apply for a job abroad and they cannot know which kind of job this really is. But also older women between 30 and 50 are affected, all of them are hired under wrong promises and job descriptions, none of them knows, what will be in the foreign country. But there is another problem with those who are already abroad. They hesitate to look for help and they refuse to talk about their situation, because of two reasons, first they are ashamed and secondly they earn more than they could earn here. Mostly the girls are between 13 and 22 and they get trapped by criminal networks.

In Italy there is an organisation, NGO, which deals with young girls living there (from all origins) and they have quite good connections to other national NGOs in all European countries. They gain access to the girls and women mostly over health issues, as drugs, perception or pregnancy and whilst consulting them in this field they find out about their history of diversion. Then they can try to help them over connecting those national NGOs who help via legal advice and preparation of new possibilities in their mother countries. This project is called “LA STRADA” and financed by EU, there are 7 countries participating, some of them act as donors, some as beneficiaries.

Question: “What would make your work more successful?”

First there is a high need to spread more information amongst the girls, about trafficking, about job possibilities abroad and about helping organisations in target countries of trafficking. The information should be given in schools, it would be best to have one obliging lesson every week in higher schools dealing with this problems. And the local NGOs should be integrated better in the school life.

Secondly it is very hard to gain money for projects preventing human trafficking. The financial tools are all collected in the Bulgarian ministries, and they can decide what for they like to spend the money. And the ministries don't give information, or they do but very late for proposing, and often they only do in English. We do not have a central information point/institution, which spreads information about European tenders and gives advice in applying.

If an organisation/NGO does not have Internet access or no PCs for them there will be no possibility of gaining aid money.

On the other hand the ministries give the money in the calls always only to one certain NGO. So if we built networks amongst small NGOs with different activities in social affairs and if one of them wins a tender they will share the money to all others. So they can survive over a longer time.

Question: "Considering the whole period of transition from 1989 until now are there certain periods of improvement or worsening of the situation of women observable?"

After the turn of 1989 until 1998 it was the most difficult time. Then until 2003 the situation became better because we had better access to social services, too. And now, since 2003, after the membership was clearly stated the situation again is worse, the social security situation is very bad, and the officials do not deal specially with women's topics. We only have one political party with its own association for women, and one other party has few activities for women, that's all.

Interview 3

Question: "What do you think is the impact of transition on women in your country?"

Through the enlargement of EU we have funds, a bigger self-confidence, an extend [extension] of business, more quality. Before the EU financing tools I could not buy machines for my business. Even advertising is possible, they give money for that, and so we can find new customers in the region. Before 2005 we only could rent the machines. My company was established 2001, first I was awarded a bank credit for renting my machines. After the full entry to EU the situation will be even better, because we will have better standards of production and higher quality of goods and maybe there will be funds for export. I do not have any fear about the higher competition because I produce best quality with raw materials of highest quality.

Joining the EU is good for us, because we do not have any national funding for entrepreneurs.

Question: "Is there a visible difference between men and women in entrepreneurship?"

Yes, we in Bulgaria live in a male world; people trust more in male business, in a male manager. But in the EU this is not, female entrepreneurs will have better options.

Question: "Are there any points for your business to be improved?"

There are some difficulties to apply for funds. First it is not easy to get the information about the programmes, then they are mainly in English and I do not speak English and at last the calls and tenders as well as the application is very complicated. For me it is not possible to understand the official calls, to find the right programme. I get the information and help from the chamber. The application forms are clear as they are in Bulgarian, but then they have to be translated into English, because in most programmes you have to apply in both languages in parallel. And this is a problem for many interested entrepreneurs, because they have to pay a translator several times, this is expensive and there is no guarantee to get this costs refunded.

And in all EU programmes for developing business you first have to make an application with fully developed business plan. Then, if you are chosen for participation, you are joining a training course where you learn how to make a business plan. That is a stupid situation because there should first be the training and then the application for financial support.

Since I have started with my business the situation went better each year and it will be even better with joining the EU.

Interview 4

Question: "What do you think is the impact of transition on women in your country?"

There is a change of the situation of women in BG as they are more active than men, a lot of them started with new businesses. They have more tension to feed their children and they are just more initiative. Women in BG are in the front now.

Before the transition times we had no ideas, there was no initiative, with the beginning of accession everything grew better, we now have access to EU funding, and with the entry the situation will improve even more. It will take time, I think 5 years after the entry and it will be difficult until then, but the former system was worse. And I do not think that there is a difference

between young and older people, the age is no barrier to entrepreneurship, of course it depends on their lives and their professions.

If you are active and initiative and you are working hard you can be successful today in BG. There is no difference for women and men.

Question: "Are there any problems with getting funds, what further support could you need?"

Yes I have problems with the programmes, not to get the information, because we have Internet access and the chamber gives me lot of advice, but without their translation and help I would not understand the calls and application modalities. There is no help from official side, one must go alone and search for programmes and information, and the biggest problem is the language. It would be helpful to have all the information about funding possibilities on one single homepage and that there should also be financial support for advertising, because I want to open a second shop.

Interview 5

Question: "What do you think is the impact of transition on women in your country?"

I can only tell you my own impression; this is not the official opinion of our organisation.

We recently have registered a new organisation in order to become a donor organisation. It will be mainly financed by Global Fund for Women which is founder of the Global Funding Network, but we also want to raise money from BG donors, both economical and private. And we have some contacts to Soros Foundation.

The money from the Global Fund we use for institutional building and for grants for the Women's NGOs all over BG. Our main task will be to decide which NGO will get financial support for which project. The women from these organisations come to Sofia to our donor organisation to be trained for applying for funds. Other working fields are assisting the women and consulting them for application of financial support, especially we target rural NGOs and women, because they do not speak English and they often have no computers and/or Internet access.

We just signed a project, applied at a foreign embassy under a call for supporting democracy, which is targeted to Roma Women's NGOs. They applied for funding their projects at our organisation, 5 of them were successful and each of them was supported with a grant of about 3.000 €, and they now work for instance on domestic violence.

Question: “Does an exhaustive list of all Women’s NGOs in BG exist and where could I find that information?”

I don’t think there is an actual one; the last NGO report was done 2002. But they should be registered in the court.

Question: “What do you think is the situation of women in your country and have there been changes in the last few years?”

In rural areas there is a lack of information about funding possibilities. Some of these rural NGOs have been existing for 10 years now and they never have got any EU money. Maybe it depends on our BG Ministries, because they manage all EU funds, there is in the moment no possibility to apply directly in Brussels for support.

And for the rural NGOs not only the language is a problem but the application procedures for EU money are too difficult. They need training on that topic. Shortly some ministries started with information campaigns in rural areas about how to fill in the requested forms.

And there is all over BG a lack of information about the EU in toto. Nobody knows, what it means to be member of the EU. People are angry about the raising prices (for instance electricity) but they are not given any information in advance. They just can not imagine about their future, they believe that the prices will be the same level like average EU but the wages will stay on BG level. The Bulgarian government does not make any marketing on the accession to EU.

The women are maybe more positive appointed to joining the EU because they believe that their children will then receive a proper education, computers, internet, future! But at the same time they are aware that realizing this future will last for at least one generation. And they think that the current situation for the women already in working age will go worse.

We have a women’s party in BG and it is represented in the parliament, but the topics they fight for are very traditional and mostly not connected to working or economic fields.

I think it really would be interesting to make a broadly based research about the situation of our women in all regions taking different groups of age, education, specific needs, local conditions, etc. into account.

Interview 6

We are a NGO and work close together with BG foundations. Our working contents are mainly targeted to women and women's networks; we run seminars and trainings for women in administrative jobs, schools and the party.

We can recommend for your research the following persons and institutions:

XXXXXXXXXX

There are a lot of Women's NGOs and agricultural women's associations in the countryside.

XXXXXXXXXX

The farmers' party should have a list of NGOs working in the rural areas.

And the Ministry of Labour and social Policy should know which NGOs and which projects for women have been financed.

We think that there are already a lot of studies done in the field of the impact of transition on women in rural areas, mostly from a sociological point of view.

Interview 7

Our NGO carries out projects mainly for minorities. In the moment we are implementing one project under PHARE-Civic Society, the target groups are mainly minorities as Roma, Turks and Moslems. Another project, again under PHARE is implemented in the region of tobacco industry and growing. There we hold courses and training sessions amongst young women for entrepreneurship, help them to develop business ideas and to make a business plan.

We also use money from USAID.

Question: "Do international financing sources still exist for NGO projects?"

Yes there are still bilateral funds from the UK, the Dutch government, Germany and Norway. The USAID is closing its activities by the end of this year (2006), the current budget is mainly used for closing down all structures and programmes.

And there is the possibility of applying for EU funds directly in Brussels, but for most of the NGOs this procedures are to difficult and an application needs too many resources.

Question: "What do you think is the impact of transition on women in your country?"

Before 1989 all women worked mainly in the agricultural sector or in factories, all of them had a job with a certain salary.

After 1989 the cooperatives were destroyed and women lost their jobs and salaries. They stayed at home keeping the children and managing the family and working in their own gardens.

Although they sold the crops of their small fields and gardens they believed themselves as being unemployed because they had no salary. We are now especially talking about the women of the region Krtscheli, which has still a strong tobacco growing industry. But although the government pays some money for growing tobacco, it is obvious that this branch will die with entering the EU. The people there hesitate to recognize this; they like to believe that their lives will stay the same after the accession.

In the last years some private investors opened factories in the south of BG, they are often from Greece, Turkey and Italy. But the conditions in the factories are very bad. The women there are often not regularly employed, paid very less, do not have a social insurance and have to work up to 14 hours a day. Although we have already the laws and regulations to prevent these situation and to punish the entrepreneurs and companies, nothing happens. There are few controls of these factories and in case the owners are informed in advance. And the occupied women will not complain about the situation because they fear to loose their jobs, which are the only possibility of an income, even if its poor.

Considering the whole situation we can say that women have to work more now. In the rural areas the men are often working far away in the bigger town or even abroad and the women have to care for everything at home: the children, the household, the family (older generation) and the daily income to survive.

The public opinion about the EU accession is: people have high expectations but no realistic view because they are simple not informed. They have no idea about what it will mean to be member of EU.

For the NGOs the situation after 2007 will be harder, we will have to compete with all other NGOs of the whole EU.

Interview 8

Question: “Are there any studies and reports about the situation of women in rural areas?”

Within the ministries there should be a lot of materials but mainly dealing with women in general not focused on the countryside and delivered only in Bulgarian. There is an association of rural women, an NGO, which probably has made specific researches.

Question: “Does an exhaustive list of all Women’s NGOs in BG exist and where could I find that information?”

There was an effort to create a database of Women’s NGOs by the women’s program of Open Society Foundation. This happened some years ago and the dynamic of the sector is such that it is difficult to follow the closing down and the inception of new NGOs. However I think there will be at least 60 active NGOs in Bulgaria dealing especially with women’s topics. It has to be noted that when you register at the court as a NGO you have to declare what you are active in, and specifically if you are working for public or private benefit. Most of women’s organisations are registered in public benefit and their list could be found in the public site of the Ministry of Justice.

Regionally there are networks of Women’s NGOs as KARAT Coalition or ASRA network or the Network of East-West Women (NEWW). For some reason the secretariats of all these networks are based in Poland and some national (Bulgarian) NGOs are reluctant to work under the umbrella of such networks. The competition between the NGOs is very high at this moment. Still there are no consortia and the scarce funds of international donors are distributed to individual NGOs. There are only few examples of Women’s NGOs being supported by State funding.

Question: “What do you think is the impact of transition on women in your country?”

The impact of the transition on women is substantial, especially for women of some age groups. For women under the age of 25 and over 45 the situation became extremely difficult. Those in-between these age somehow can manage their lives. The transition impacted women in all spheres: in the cities women were the first to be fired from “male” working places (ex. Engineering professions). Some low paid professions became completely feminised (teachers, nurses).

Already in 1989 many rural areas were depopulated but still there were jobs in big state farms and private yards. After the process of restitution/privatisation of property and land the farming suffered very much. As a result many women entered the informal economy in order to sustain their families. This created insecurity for old age and heavy dependence from working people. In the same time the age ration of the population is alarming: the birth rate and natural growth of the population is strongly negative. As a result many kindergartens and schools had to close down in the rural areas but in the cities as well after 1989. Now when the birth rate is slightly better it is hard to find a place in a kindergarten and women rely very much on the help of older generation (grand parents). This interrelation is also a kind of strategy for survival for older women. The closing down of schools in remote area caused another problem we never had before in Bulgaria. Our rate of illiteracy is strongly increasing! Until 1989 the literacy was more or less 100%. Now it decreases. This phenomenon is due to some extent to the situation mentioned before, no schools and kindergartens in some rural areas and no public transport or school buses, so the mothers keep their children at home and do not send them to school. The transition has affected not only women with lower education and living in rural areas. Many women with university degrees cannot find jobs according to their education. But in order to support the families they accept any jobs. Where a professional comparison is possible the wage gap is about 30%. In socialist times we had more or less no wage gap, same salary for the same work was reality, although the leading positions were mostly held by men. There is a big hope that EU gender mainstreaming policy will help, but we witness “affirmative actions” only for boys. An example for this is the existing quota in education establishments. When entering the university there is a 50/50 quota for boys and girls, which results in boys entering the higher education with much lower marks than girls. But when they graduate the University there is no quota for the jobs and many times girls are left aside.

Question: "What could be done in advance in transition countries in order to prevent these negative effects?"

First of all there is a need of sustainable policies in the field of gender equality. Concerning the NGO sector it would be helpful to spend the aid money in building the capacity of the civil society and develop a system of co-funding which will allow NGOs to participate in programs financed by the ESF. Also projects should be long term (at least 3 years) otherwise it is a loss of experience and human resources. The project budgets have to cover all expenses, including institutional

support. Included in these fund should be the payment for the NGO´s equipment, premises and administration. In most cases only 7% of the overall budget can be used for these expenditures. When this money of one project runs out, the NGOs cannot pay the rental fees and if they are not immediately successful with another application they have to close down their structures. This is not sustainable at all; especially taking into account what huge amounts of money is paid for conferences, daily expenditures and food.

To ease the situation and to provide sustainable development of the NGO sector there have to be 2 supportive lines. The first one dedicated to institutional building in order to develop fairly well organized NGOs. These projects have to last at least 3 years (up to 5 years), this is the time needed to establish an organisation. And the other financial support line should be on project base, but not including the money needed for running the office of the beneficiary NGO.

The State is not ready to deal with financial instruments where the cooperation with NGO sector is necessary. NGOs do have the capacities but they do not have the money. A lot of experience will be lost in the following years with the crash of several NGOs. The ministries are just now to handle all the EU tenders, but they are not experienced enough with project development and implementation. There has to be a closer cooperation between the public administration and the civil society. We still have no information center, which prepares, translates and delivers information about EU tenders and procedures. Some of the ministries just started to run some training on that topic, but they are themselves not experienced.

Interview 9

Question: “What are your projects and the main targets for women in Bulgaria?”

We are working on a political background. Therefore it is very important to have more women in policy. That means to convince the political leaders about the need to have more women in decision functions. One of our projects aims to development of gender equality and implementation of real gender policy in Bulgaria. The constitution of the social democratic party has been changed, now at least 30% of the members have to be women. And for the election of the 2 delegation members for the board it was stated out that one has to be a women and one has to be younger than 35. Since 2005 there is an own women’s organisation within the party. There was worked out a draft law about equal opportunity for the government but they did not accept it.

Question: "What do you think is the impact of transition on women, especially in Bulgaria?"

Women in transition countries have more tension. The former system had more female scientists and technically well educated women. Now there is a visible change of the structure of the female population concerning the education and the employment situation. On the one hand there are few very well educated women with good jobs and an high income. On the other hand there is the big group of low earners. And there is nothing in between; the middle class is missing. We cannot find that situation in the male population.

The local NGOs have big difficulties to survive now as a lot of funds were closed. But that can lead to less but more powerful structures and NGOs.

There are the laws for equal opportunities but they can't be implemented. The commission for this has just been founded at the end of the last year.

And there have raised big problems after 1989 with women's trafficking, BG has not very strong measures undertaken until now to prevent this phenomenon.

The unions here are mostly male structured, men do have more influence. And the situation is crucial because there doesn't really exist a social partnership.

For the discussion about the delay of the full membership it has to be pointed out that Bulgaria has not really fulfilled the criteria of Maastricht and Kopenhagen. And a big problem are the totally independent judges, but this will be changed soon, as it is obviously a hindrance for implementation of the existing law.

In the Bulgarian population the knowledge about the EU is low, nevertheless 66% of the population is pro EU minded. The selling of ideas seems to be a big problem here.

The key for improving the situation of women in transition countries is the labour market. If the situation on the labour market for women in Bulgaria cannot be eased up Bulgaria will become a low wage country for Turkey and Greece. Because of corruption the laws cannot be implemented. The state and its government have to protect its employees.

Interview 10

Question: "What is the situation of (Women's) NGOs at the moment in Bulgaria?"

The situation now is very difficult as all funds are closed. There is no bilateral financing, USAID will end its activities by the end of the year and the EU money goes through the ministries. The knowledge management will break down in the next years because the NGOs will disappear, their activities will be stopped. There will be a big gap when the structural funds of the EU will start, as the government has not the capacity of handling the procedures. They need the experience and knowledge of the NGOs but cannot accept this fact.

Question: "What do you think is the impact of transition on women in your country?"

There is a big difference of the period before 2004 and after that time. The positive effects are that women have more self confidence and more possibilities to express themselves, for instance in entrepreneurship. They can take their lives in their own hands. Some kind of neoliberalism has raised and is a good motivation for them. The negative points are numerous:

- 1) They are not prepared, especially not morally prepared for the changes of the situation and the paradigm. Formerly the working places, health care, just everything was sure, not are they now any more.
- 2) They are strongly affected by the consequences of change in the labour market, the shortening of job opportunities and working places causes big stress and on the long-term illnesses.
- 3) The brain drain is crucial for the whole country. Since 1989 about 1 million of mostly well educated people left the country.
- 4) Women suffer extremely by the disqualification of the experienced and the well educated. They have to take poor jobs in order to earn their living and therefore loose their knowledge. So they start to neglect their professions.
- 5) Jobs are mostly only open for very young applicants. The 45+ aged do not get any jobs. The reason for that is not a difference in the salary but just that the managers are not aware of the value of the experiences of the older employees.
- 6) The structure of education and training inside the labour market and working places/companies broke down.

Women are in all mentioned fields more affected than men.

Question: "What should have been done in advance, lets say 10 years previously, in order to avoid this outcomes?"

The close down of the industry within few years was crucial. That is the reason for the high unemployment. They should have created and prepared the new system before changing totally the old one. There is no strategy for spending the EU money there is even no action plan. This just occurs on the system of try and failure.

Interviews in Slovakia

The interviews in Slovakia were conducted between the 16th and 18th of August 2006 when I was on an internship hosted by the "Club of Professional Women" in Nitra. All of them were conducted inside the Agro institute in Nitra, where the office of this organisation is located, or at the Argo Fair in the area of Agrokompex Nitra.

Interview 11

Question: "How do you judge the situation of Women's NGOs in Slovakia?"

I think that the situation is quite similar in Slovakia as in Bulgaria. We have some bigger NGOs working in the whole country and some smaller ones, which are active on the countryside. Our NGO has been active since 2000 countrywide.

There is an exhaustive list of all NGOs dealing with women's issues in Slovakia.

Interview 12

Question: "What is the situation of Women's NGOs in Slovakia?"

They do not have any political power. The situation is changing but very slowly. Nowadays we at least can get a date with official bodies what has been impossible for the last years.

But the colleagues in Bratislava have more influence than we, their opinion is asked for instance when creating new laws. But it is doubtful if they really have influence.

Until the changes in 1989 we had no women's networks like the NGOs today but there was a socialist women's movement. After the change a lot of NGOs emerged and were financed by private donors like SOROS or by other countries like USAID. They showed us what the role of NGOs should be and this was a total new world for us. There were no laws or regulations for NGOs in that days.

Question: "Are there any differences for NGOs compared to the transition period before the EU-accession?"

Still the number of NGOs is increasing. The EU policy supports the NGOs as for most project applications a NGO has to be part of the consortium. But the people do not notice the NGOs, neither themselves nor their work, because most of them have to close after a short period of being active.

Before the changes the situation for everybody was better, we had social security and all of us had working places. With the change nearly half of the people lost their working places, especially women and elderly people. When the companies or institutions are sold to private investors the new owners first dismiss about half of the employees, and this concerns mainly women.

Question: "Has the situation for NGOs been improved since the accession of Slovakia?"

Those NGOs which immediately could deal with the new situation, who had connections to foreign persons or organisations and could catch the train are in a good situation now. But most of the NGOs and the women were fearing the changes and could not take any advantage of accession. It was very important in that time to have professional foreign contacts.

Question: "How are NGOs financed?"

There is no state financing for NGOs and nearly no money from membership contributions. Mainly they are financed by EU projects, but this money is allocated nationally through the ministries. There is nearly no possibility to apply directly in Brussels. And the language is a problem, because either the women cannot speak English well enough or if the tender procedure is in Slovak language it is a very complicated language. Only those who have high experience with these procedures are successful.

There is less information about programmes, no info point, but the NGOs help themselves one each other, they form networks. As the main financing comes through the ministries the allocation of the money seems to be somehow political, disagreeable NGOs are famished.

In transition period there was a high interest in training for EU programmes such as how to apply for money and so on. But now for the last two years there is no interest in the whole EU topic. Maybe they had no profit and advantages from these trainings.

And as we do not have any regulations or quality criteria it is hard to judge the quality of one NGO's work.

It is new to have some sponsoring of NGOs through private persons or companies, something like PPP¹³² does not exist here.

Question: "Is there any area where women have an advantage because of the accession?"

They now can speak about their situation; they do not have to hide any more. And they can get support from counsellors from NGOs. The women's issues are now a topic to speak about.

The young generation do not want to make career, they want to stay at home and care for the children, thus we have a very traditional opinion amongst the young women.

Interview 13

Question: "What differences are there between the former private donors and the EU funds and financial possibilities?"

With USAID and other private donors as SOROS it was quite easier to get money for NGOs work in comparison with the EU structures. They supported very practical things and projects. The EU programs have a very rigid structure and there is no flexibility possible. There is no money foreseen in the projects for the development of the implementing organisations and the programs do not care about the employees. More money is planned for consultants and trainers and less for employees. It depends on type of proposal, but in some cases the money for employees is the minimum. And the administration of that money and the projects is incredible, they ask for papers, no one ever will read.

¹³² (note of author): Public Private Partnership

Soon after the changes in 1990 we worked with the people, not only women, in rural areas. They believed that something could be changed to improve their lives. The private donors as Rockefeller and MOTT-Foundation spend a lot of money for projects and the target groups themselves could decide what for they would like to spend the money. And soon they developed good and useful projects. These donors did a lot for creating a civic society. One of possible and very successful ways to start communication and open discussion about public issues is so called "Listening project" - community survey, where local volunteers went from door to door in the villages and asked the people about their opinion and their wishes for the future. This was totally unknown because before nobody cared about their thoughts and opinions. Thus the people learned to talk about their problems and that their opinion is important.

There is a number of smaller NGOs that died in the transition period because of a lack of money. The most crucial thing for the NGOs is that the criteria for application for EU projects which mostly goes through the ministries or national agencies do not have the same criteria for different types of applicants and specifically in cases when the applicants are NON-profit representatives. For example: they are not eligible for pre-payments, they have to invest their money first - even though they are NON profit entities, and afterwards are re-paid the expenses. Governmentally supported institutions are eligible for prepayments. Today there is no program concerning the civic society to be applied for directly in Brussels, all projects are spread out via the ministries or national agencies. LEADER program has not started yet.

It is very common for big private companies to establish their own foundations. Unfortunately the culture of supporting established and well-known NGOs rather than setting up own and new foundations is "in its early childhood". This may lead to closing down of many smaller and very useful, especially locally based, civic organisations.

Question: "Is there an awareness of the triple burden problem?"

I would say there is an awareness but there is no time to think about it. When the women come to our courses they talk about it but as soon as they are back in their villages they are on the train of their lives and the problem is not a topic any more.

Interview 14

Question: "In which women's platforms is your NGO a member?"

Our NGO is a member of the European Women's Lobby.

There are two platforms for Women's NGOs in Slovakia:

3. Slovak Women's Lobby (Part of European Women's Lobby)
4. Association Forum 2000 (founded in 2000 as an umbrella organisation for women in political positions, public life and women entrepreneurs)

Some NGOs are members of both platforms. The sense of these platforms is to support the NGOs and to make themselves projects.

Question: "What can you tell me about the impact of the transition period on NGOs in Slovakia?"

In Slovakia the transition time was quite short, let's say about 2 years only, from 2002 to 2004.

The private donors closed their programmes and left in 2004.

One of possibilities to get financing for mostly small projects is the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, where is possible to get grants. At the ministry there is situated special department for organising and evaluating EU projects. The Ministries and Office of Government are a counterpart of the EU, they communicate with Brussels. And we have national contact points.

It depends on the specific programme who is responsible for what.

The decision, who will be selected for a project is not done by the ministry but by a commission created for this purpose. The members of that commission are named by the ministry. But there are also members out of NGOs, universities, regional governments, etc. But the head of this commission is always someone from the ministry.

Question: "What is the situation of Women's NGOs nowadays?"

It depends on their activities. Some of them are not speaking English and are working in small areas. If you are working in an active NGO you will have possibilities. In former times for the transition it was much more easier for small NGOs to get money. There were many sources of money, many ideas and topics, which were financed. Now there are only few possibilities to get money for projects and only big projects are financed.

It was a big handicap that all of us, the members of NGOs, were volunteers. We were only employed when there were projects. Still most of us do have a regular employment beside our work in the NGO. But this is a double handicap because the big tenders for instance PHARE ask

for at least 3 stable employees as an eligibility criterion. And other projects schemes have 20% co financing from the NGO. As we said before, only big projects are now financed and thus this means a lot of money for a NGO. And additionally the NGO has to pay the project in advance and the money from EU comes after the evaluations.

These criteria make it impossible for our NGOs to take part in the EU programmes.

Besides the NGOs have to have business partners, profit organisations for many of the projects programmes. It is still possible that profit organisations can participate in EU projects but there is already a discussion whether the business partners should be eligible in future. But for both sides, NGOs and business partners, is valid, that they can't make profits with EU projects.

There is a big interest in EU projects from all Slovak regions and at every call there are very many applicants.

Question: "What is the situation of Women's NGOs and women's networks?"

15 years ago there was only one women association, now we have 3 NGOs that are proclaiming themselves as working in area of women's human rights:

- ASPECT
- ESFEM
- ALIANZA ZIEN

With Soros (Open Society Fund) there were 4 to 5 organisations, which occupied all the money. These NGOs are still successful with EU projects because they have the right connections. But it is hard to get money for "women's" issues, thus most NGOs are working in "human rights" and do themselves not call "Women's NGO". So we can say the wording is changing.

The biggest problem for the NGOs is always the money, especially for the employees when there is no current project. Some NGOs try to work in agricultural environment because it is quite easy to receive money for cooperatives.

Question: "What can you tell me about the information policy about EU projects?"

The information about the social funds are in a quite simple Slovak language written. There are lot of materials: websites, folders, brochures. But it is important that one has Internet access to get the information. You can reach more money when you are not located in Bratislava because Bratislava is more developed and therefore gets less money.

Question: "Which topics are now most likely to be financed in EU projects in Slovakia?"

As the money from Brussels now goes through the ministries, they give the topics.

For instance it is a problem now to find money for "Women in politics", because the politicians do not want to have more women in politics. In general it is very difficult to get money for gender issues. If you want to make a gender project, you have to call it something like "family, labour or human rights". But usually the real topic, the content of the project, is not named in the title of the project. With this strategy – to do thing under cover – you have more chances to get money for your project.

Now there are 14 EQUAL projects about gender equality under progress.

The topics depend on the persons working in the ministries, they can decide about the project proposals. But the last decision about the proposal's topics does have the minister.

For the applying NGOs a lobby and to have the right connections and early information is most important.

Question: "Can you give me an outlook for Women's NGOs in Slovakia for the next few years?"

It needs 1 to 2 fulltime-employed persons for a NGO to be really active. But from year to year it is harder to find money for smaller projects, and it is hard to write proposals, it needs a lot of time, even in Slovak language. Another problem for small NGOs is the co financing. The rules of Brussels are only to promote bigger organisations. The NGOs would need a steady growing. But in reality those which can get a project have to grow very quickly and then they stay at the same size for a while, for the time of the project, and afterwards they usually decrease again. This circumstance can neither guarantee the survival of the organisation nor the continuous support of the target groups.

First the financing of NGOs was very uncomplicated. Then, from one day to another, there were very hard regulations and criteria adopted for getting financial support. And furthermore gender equality is not a preferred topic. Neither in project calls nor in the public opinion.

Now the reconciliation of family and working life is the priority of the government. But to achieve this goal it needs a good legislation and good employers. The ministry works hard on this topic right now.

In Slovakia it is very hard to speak about feminism, only 2 to 3 organisations call themselves feministic, but they are working very theoretical on a high academic level. The others say that they work on gender issues, for women and men, then they are better accepted.

We have already gender studies on the university. But grass root women do not understand feminist theories, they can do more with gender equality.

Question: "Is >triple burden< a topic in Slovakia?"

Sometimes yes, sometimes no. Emancipation is something other than gender equality. We work on these changes for three years now, but no outcomes. But the public opinion is changing slowly, and gender stereotypes are very strong.

For instance the argument that women are not interested in politics is not the truth; the circumstance that less women are in political positions is the responsibility of the parties and does not mean that women would not like to be active in politics. We can have equalization but this is the responsibility of the political parties.

The politics is bad if women do not want to become politicians!

But women should go into bad politics to improve it, too!

ANNEX II - ORGANISATIONS, NGOS AND NETWORKS, ACTING FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES

Besides the analysis of the interviews I tried to bring together as much information about the Women's NGOs in both countries as possible under the framework of this master thesis. This effort mainly derived from the outcome of the interviews and the analysis of the available information sources, that either

- Women's NGOs do not declare themselves to work in this field because this is more advantageous for them,
- or there is not the possibility to register as a Women's NGO as none of the available databases about NGOs featured the possibility to search for those NGOs, which are explicitly active in the field of women's issues,
- or because it was confusing not to find actual lists of Women's NGOs at other sources,
- or very different information about the number of Women's NGOs in the considered countries.

The following listings of Women's NGOs in both countries don't raise the claim to be complete nor does it have the meaning that some NGOs are better portrayed in their working fields than others. I just gathered information via the channels I had access to.

I can't even say that when publishing this thesis the information given here is actual, as a lot of web based information sources have not been updated for several months or even years.

Supranational Umbrella Organisations and Networks of the Region

→ **AFAEMME**¹³³

AFAEMME is an Association of Organisations of Mediterranean Businesswomen composed by a total of twenty-three Associations Members. We are a Platform of International Projects financed by International Institutions like the European Commission. For an optimal development of the projects we count on the collaboration of other Associations of Businesswomen and Gender Equality to foster the enterprise and economic objectives. We also organize seminars, workshops and European conferences.

www.afaemme.org/index.php

→ **ASTRA**

ASTRA - The Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, an NWP partner, is a regional network of NGOs (currently from 15 countries) and individuals advocating in a collective voice for sexual and reproductive health and rights in Central and Eastern Europe.

ASTRA works for the advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights as fundamental human rights and advocates for their observance, prioritization and implementation on the international, regional and national agendas.

As a vital aspect of women's empowerment and gender equality, ASTRA supports women's right to free and informed choice on and access to: abortion, full range of modern contraceptives, information, education and services on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Special attention is given to youth and other underserved groups.

ASTRA activities:

- Advocacy for sexual and reproductive health and rights by organizing international seminars, meetings and public events;
- Publishing the reports, fact-sheets, brochures, leaflets and other promotion materials;
- Organizing the training and workshop as the support the capacity development of member NGO's and representatives of neighboring countries;

¹³³ WAD (2005)

-
- Preparing the open letters and position statements to the EU officials;
 - ASTRA advocates for SRHR agreements in the context of relevant international events - participation in the international conferences.

www.astra.org.pl

→ **AWID - Association for Women's Rights in Development**

The Association for Women's Rights in Development is an international membership organisation connecting, informing and mobilizing people and organisations committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights.

Email: awid@awid.org; Web: www.awid.org

→ **CONCORD**

CONCORD is the Confederation aimed to inform and co-ordinate the political actions of NGOs for Relief and Development at European level. It has been created on January 30, 2003 and represents about 1200 NGDOs.

www.concordeurope.org

→ **European Women's Lobby**

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisations of women's associations in the European Union (EU). The EWL Secretariat is based in Brussels, but EWL has member organisations in 23 Member States of the EU and 2 countries that are in the process of becoming members of the EU.

The European Women's Lobby aims at promoting women's rights and equality between women and men in the European Union. EWL is active in different areas such as women's economic and social position, women in decision-making, violence against women, women's diversity etc. EWL works mainly with the institutions of the European Union: the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU Council of Ministers.

www.womenlobby.org/site/hp.asp?langue=EN

→ **IGTN - International Gender and Trade Network**

The International Gender and Trade Network is a network of feminist gender specialists who provide technical information on gender and trade issues to women's groups, NGOs, social movements and governments. IGTN acts as a political catalyst to enlarge the space for a critical feminist perspective and global action on trade and globalization issues. It is a Southern-led network that builds South/North cooperation in the work of developing more just and democratic policy from a critical feminist perspective.

www.igtn.org/

→ **KARAT Coalition**

KARAT is a regional coalition of organisations and individuals of now 21 countries 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.

KARAT COALITION has the following 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.

Email: karat@zigzag.pl; Web: www.karat.org/

→ **NEWW - Network of East-West Women**

The Network of East-West Women strengthens the capacity of women activists and women's NGO's in Central and Eastern Europe, the Newly Independent States and the Russian Federation (CEE/NIS) to raise awareness of gender issues and influence public policy affecting women's lives.

Email: neww@neww.org; Web: www.neww.org/

→ **WICEJ - Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice**

The Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice is an international coalition representing organisations in all regions of the globe. WICEJ works to link gender with macro-economic policy in international inter-governmental, policy-making arenas from a human-rights perspective.

Email: info@wicej.org; Web: www.wicej.org

→ **WIDE - Women in Development Europe**

WIDE (Network Women in Development Europe) is a European network of gender specialists, women active in Non-Governmental Development Organisations (NGDOs), and human rights activists.

www.eurosur.org/wide/home.htm; www.oneworld.at/wide

Women's Organisations and NGOs in Bulgaria

→ **Accents 99 Foundation**¹³⁴

Plovdiv 4000, 20 T. Kableskov str.

Tel: +35 32 23 16 79; Fax: +35 98 431 336

Email: accents99@abv.bg

Chair of Board of Directors: Dipl. Ing. Seta Papasian

Main goals:

- I. assist the development of art, culture, science, education, health and the social activities in Bulgaria
- II. discover and encourage the development of young talents
- III. help the development of educational, scientific, health and cultural exchange between Bulgaria and other countries in the world

Target groups:

- I. Children
- II. Youth
- III. Women

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Health care, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Information sharing, Training and consultancy.

→ **ACET - Assistance Centre for Torture Survivors**¹³⁵

Sofia 1680, 7-9 Zvanika Str. 1st Floor, Apt. 3

Tel: +359 2 958 4636

Email: acet@omega.bg; Web: www.acet-bg.org

Short description:

ACET focuses its work to eradicate the practices of torture and other cruel or inhuman treatment. It has developed two main programmes: a medical rehabilitation programme for

¹³⁴ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=133>

¹³⁵ <http://www.stopvaw.org/5Aug20042.html>; [25.09.2006]

torture victims (refugees and victims of the communist regime in Bulgaria and their family members) and a torture prevention programme.

→ **Agency for social analyses (ASA)**¹³⁶

Sofia 1040, 1 Macedonia sq.

Tel: +35 2986 10 72; Fax: +35 2917 04 55

Email: asa@mail.orbitel.bg

Web: www.asa-bg.netfirms.com

Executive director: Prof. Lilia Dimova

Chair of Board of Directors: Prof. Lilia Dimova

Target groups:

Men-women.

Ethnic minorities.

Professional groups.

Spheres:

Environment, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Religion, Scientific research, Training and consultations

→ **Animus Plovdiv Foundation**¹³⁷

Plovdiv 4042, 9 "Radetski"str. ,fl.3, apt. 6

Tel:/Fax: +35 32 430 135

Email: animuspv@netvisio.net

Executive director: Gergana Toncheva ; Tanya Banyalieva- co-presidents

Main goals:

I. to cooperate for intellectual ,professional and mental development of women

II. to provoke a change in Bulgarian family and society towards equality, understanding and humanity

III. to work out and implement projects and programmes for supporting people, families and groups in unequal position

IV. to stimulate a higher social status of women

¹³⁶ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=589>

¹³⁷ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=204>

V. to cooperate with countries, social institutions and NGO's in order to solve problems connected with violence against women

Target groups:

- I. women who have suffered violence
- II. children and adolescents who have suffered violence
- III. couples and families that practice abusive relationships

Spheres:

Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, Training and consultations, Psychological counseling and therapy

→ **Apos Association**¹³⁸

Lovech 5500, PO Box 243

Contact Person: Victoria Kozubova

Email: apos@mbox.infotel.bg

→ **Association “Development and Support of Roma Women and Children”**¹³⁹

Contact Person: Natalia Gueorgieva

Email: natalia.lom@abv.bg

→ **Association for Civil Initiatives**¹⁴⁰

Contact Person: Desislava Stamenova

Email: stopanski_krichim_s@abv.bg

→ **Association for Social, Cultural and Educational Development of Minorities in Bulgaria**¹⁴¹

Contact Persons: Nevin Riza, Meliha Husein Sali

Tel: +35 899 8 11 859; +35 54 802 754; +35 897 628 420

Email: r_marinov@abv.bg

¹³⁸ <http://www.feminist.org/global/ngo.asp>; [23.09.2006]

¹³⁹ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2005; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁴⁰ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2005; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁴¹ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

→ **Association "IKAR"**¹⁴²

Haskovo 6300, 23 Otec Paisii str.

Tel: +35 38 36 170: Fax: +35 48 857 088

Email: ikar@haskovo.spnet.net; ikarorg@yahoo.co.uk

Contact Person: Vaneta Antonova

Executive director: Antoaneta Stancheva

Chair of Board of Directors: Dimo Stojanov

Main goals:

I. support of risky social groups

II. equal right for men and women

III. encouraging the creativity of the talents of children and young people

Target groups:

I. women

II. children and young people

III. elderly people

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Health care, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, Sports activities

→ **Association "Knowledge, Success, Change"**¹⁴³

Contact Person: Silvia Dimitrova Ovcharchenska

Tel: +35 7033 20 75; +35 899 825370; +35 701 50590.

Email: evgeni2002@abv.bg

→ **Association "NAIA"**¹⁴⁴

Town of Targovishte

Contact Person: Svetla Sivcheva

Email: naia_s@abv.bg; naia@usa.com

¹⁴² <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=339>; and Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2005; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁴³ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2004; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁴⁴ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2004/05; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

→ **Balkan Center for Regional Development with Human Rights Club**¹⁴⁵

Plovdiv 4000, 23 S. Motkurov str.

Tel: +35 32 236 282; Fax: +35 98657965

Email: Bcrd@abv.bg ; Human_rights_club@abv.bg

Web: www.bcrd-bg.com

Chair of Board of Directors: Borislava Daskalova, MA

Main goals:

- I. Collaboration of experts from different scientific, educational and professional fields for research and exchange of ideas to work out and implement local and regional strategies for sustainable socio-integrational model.
- II. Information and influence on decision makers and general public.
- III. Raising public awareness on issues related to multiculturalism, tolerance and pluralism, civic participation, equal opportunities and human rights by offering independent surveys and analyses, popularization of ideas and encouragement of public discussions.
- IV. Improving the economic, social, health, informational and educational level of the community with a special care to its marginalized members by developing civic networks, search and analyses of alternative approaches to the social, educational, health and economic policy; innovative and independent researches; working out recommendations aiming economic growth; realizing educational, informational, social, humanitarian and other programmes.
- V. Helping the Bulgarian NGOs to fulfil their civic missions and apply best international practices.
- VI. Euro-Atlantic integration of Bulgaria and peaceful and successfully teaming Balkans.

Target groups:

- I. Youth
- II. Women
- III. Minorities
- IV. People With Disabilities
- V. Social Sensitive Groups
- VI. Persons With Specific Educational Needs
- VII. People Living In Distance Geographic Areas With Low Communicational Opportunities

¹⁴⁵ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=773>

Spheres:

Education, Health care, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Information sharing, Scientific research, Economic development support, Training and consultations

→ **Balkan Women Cooperation Society**¹⁴⁶

Bourgas 8001, P.O.Box 588

Te:/Fax: +35 56 3 30 10

Email: dgd232@bs.spnet.net

Executive director: Mila Georgieva

Main goals:

I. Balkan cooperation

II. gender

III. environment and health

Spheres:

Environment, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation

→ **BANU - Women's Movement**¹⁴⁷

Sofia 1000, Rakowskystr. 82

Tel: +3592 89 06 03; Fax: +3592 51 61 08

→ **Black Sea Region Women Association - 2000**¹⁴⁸

Bourgas 8000, compl. "Lazur" bl.15, app. 24

Tel:+35 562 78 65; Fax: +35 48 790299

Email: nbenova@abv.bg

Chair of Board of Directors: Milka Evtimova Mladenova

Main goals:

I. confirm of the general human civic virtues

II. absolute equality of rights between women and men

III. stimulating of child's initiative and creation

¹⁴⁶ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=305>

¹⁴⁷ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁴⁸ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=664>

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Health care, Social activities and charity, Environment, International cooperation

→ **Bulgarian Association of Women Jurists**¹⁴⁹

Sofia 1000, Mashinoexport Ltd., 5 Aksakov St.

Tel: +359 2 87 96 04; Fax: +359 2 87 56 75

→ **Bulgarian Coordination of EWL- European Women Lobby**¹⁵⁰

Sofia 1142, Evlogi Georgiev Str. n° 5

Tel: +3592 9635357; Fax: +3592 9635357

Email: bgrf@fastbg.bg

Short description:

Bulgarian Women's Lobby/BWL is a national coalition created in 2003. Since 2004 BWL is a full member of the EWL. With this act BWL became the first national platform from country still in a process of negotiations with the EU.

Our mission is the achievement of the principles of equality between women and men, and to promote the achievement of a gender balanced society in Europe and in Bulgaria based on equal representation of women and men. Bulgarian Women's Lobby disseminates information aimed at raising the awareness about women's rights and gender issues; works for joining efforts of women's organisations in Bulgaria and in Europe; works as a coalition for advocacy aimed at achieving compliance with the Universal and European standards in the field of Human Rights and the universally recognized values of democracy

Members of BWL:

- Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation – Sofia
- Demetra Association – Burgas
- Hristina Kravelova Association – Silistra

¹⁴⁹ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁵⁰ http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1Template1.asp?DocID=414&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID_sousmenu=; [07.09.2006]

→ **Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation**¹⁵¹

1142 Sofia, 5 Evlogi Georgiev Str.; P.O.Box 938

Contact Person: Iliana Stoycheva

Tel: +359 2 9635357; Fax: +359 2 9635357

Email: bgrf@fastbg.net; iliana@bgrf.org; Web: www.bgrf.org

Short description:¹⁵²

Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation is an NGO of public utility that promotes social equality and women's human rights in Bulgaria through research, education and advocacy programs. The BGRF is founded in June 1998 in Sofia. The team of the Foundation consists of lawyers, academics, experts in advocacy, education, monitoring violations of human rights, lobbying for legislative changes, preparing publications, networking.

The BGRF has branches in Plovdiv, Haskovo, Gorna Oryahovitza. Since 2001 the BGRF has a youth department.

Main goals:

- Promote and facilitate the achievement of a gender balanced society in Bulgaria based on equal representation of women and men;
- Disseminate information and raise the awareness about women's rights and gender issues in Bulgaria;
- Identify, protect, and lobby for specific needs and problems of young people;
- Support and participate to working groups drafting new legislation in the field of equal opportunities of women and men and in the field of eradicating violence against women and discrimination.
- Advocate for the achievement of compliance with the Universal standards in the field of human rights and the universally recognized values of democracy.

→ **Bulgarian Women Jurists Association-Institute For State And Law**¹⁵³

Sofia 1172, Dianabad complex, bl. 33

Tel: +359 2 68 52 87; Fax: +359 2 803 791

¹⁵¹ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2005; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁵² <http://www.bgrf.org/en/>; [18.09.2006]

¹⁵³ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

→ **Bulgarian Women's Union**¹⁵⁴

1000 Sofia , 10a Graf Ignatiev Str.

Tel: +359 2 88 82 15; Fax: +359 2 88 82 15

→ **BULGARKA National Civil Forum**¹⁵⁵

Sofia 1527, 108 Vassil Levski Blvd., Floor 2

Tel: +35 2 946 15 75; Fax: +35 2 943 33 13

Email: bulgarka@bgnet.bg

Chair of Board of Directors: Mrs. Evdokiya Ivanova Maneva

Main goals:

- I. To preserve Bulgarian national traditions and uphold the moral values and human virtues
- II. To explain and win recognition for the principals of democracy in the society, as well as the principals of religious, ethnic and racial tolerance
- III. To cultivate responsibility towards the law, the family, the society and the nature
- IV. To help preserve the physical and mental health of the Bulgarian woman, strenghten her self-respect, support her realization in the professional field chosen, in the society and in politics
- V. To support and initiate activities related to the protection, upbringing and education of children and ot their comprehensive development and future realization as worthy citizens of Bulgaria and of the world in the 21st. century

Target groups:

- I. Women
- II. Children and young people
- III. Groups of unequal status

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Health care, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Bringing awareness to the whole nation - children, young people and adults - of the need for education in the spirit of democracy and civil behaviour

¹⁵⁴ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁵⁵ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=779>

→ **CCI-Vratsa / Chamber of Commerce and Industry**¹⁵⁶

Vratsa 3000, 24 Christo Botev Boulevard, P.O.Box 267

Tel.: +359 92 660273 or +359 92 660271 or +359 92 665509; Fax: +359 92 626308

Email: cci-vr@bitex.com; ; Web: www.cci-vratsa.org

Short description:

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa was established in the autumn of year 1991 by a general constituting assembly. It was registered with Vratsa District Court of Justice on 17.11.1991. In 2001 it was re-registered under the Law on non-profit legal persons in public interest. It has started its effective operation in the end of year 1991.

The Chamber of managed by a Board of Directors consisting of 15 members.

Since September 1999 the CCI-Vratsa has become the Host structure of the Euro Info Centre BG808.

Since July 2002 it has become the Host structure of Vratsa branch of the National Centre for Vocational Training.

The CCI-Vratsa is based on the principles of voluntary participation and membership, autonomy and self-financing. It works in close cooperation with local authorities and other non-government organisations as well as with NGOs, CCIs and business support structures from abroad.

The structure of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa, with its regional offices established in the towns of Lom, Berkovitsa, and Botevgrad comprises more than 1000 companies - both private and state owned.

Our main goals are:

- To support, promote, represent and protect the economic interests of our members;
- To stimulate export;
- To enhance companies' entering the European Markets;
- To promote and attract foreign investments for the region and local SMEs;
- To acquaint the local authorities with the standpoint of our members;
- To encourage and support start-up of new business;
- To assist the local Labor Office and encourage companies to open new working places

¹⁵⁶ <http://www.cci-vratsa.org/index.php?lang=en>

→ **Center of Women's Studies and Policies**¹⁵⁷

Sofia 1000, 6 Triaditsa Str., Floor 1, Office 101

Contact Persons: Nikoleta Radionova, Liliya Sazonova, Tatjana Kmetova,

Tel./Fax: +359 2 980 6265

Email: cwsp@cwsp.bgmail

Web: <http://www.cwsp.bg>

Short description:

The Center of Women's Studies and Policies was established in June 2003 as a Foundation to support the women's movement in Bulgaria, to promote women's issues and to protect women's human rights.

The Foundation is the successor of the most significant donors in Bulgaria for women's issues – the Open Society Foundation, Sofia and the Network Women's Program of the Open Society Institute, New York.

The Women's Program established successful mechanisms for coordination, information exchange and networking with other NGOs addressing women's issues in Bulgaria, and developed a capacity in providing expertise on gender equality issues, which allows the Program to be spun off into an independent NGO – Center of Women's Studies and Policies Foundation.

The organisation is the local partner of the OSI Network Women's Program and participates in all major international activities of the network. CWSP is a member of the:

- Network Women's Program (OSI)
- Bulgarian Platform to the European Women's Lobby/EWL
- Network of East-West Women - Polska/NEWW

→ **Citizen Association "Alternative 55"**¹⁵⁸

Stara Zagora 6000, 20 Zlatan Stanchev str. fl.2,

Tel./Fax: +35 42 60 33 35

Email: alternative55@yahoo.com; alternative55@mail.bg

Executive director: Maria Ivanova Valdobreva

Chair of Board of Directors: Anastasia Vasileva

¹⁵⁷ <http://www.cwsp.bg/htmls/page.php?category=1>; [07.09.2006]

¹⁵⁸ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=707>

Main goals:

- I. sustainable development of civil society
- II. enhancing women's participation in the process of resolving social
- III. social integration of disadvantaged social groups

Target groups:

- I. children and teenagers
- II. women
- III. social disadvantaged people

Spheres:

Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, Training and consultancy

→ **Club Europa 21**¹⁵⁹

Sofia 1172, Dianabad bl. 58, entr.8 floor 8

Tel: +35 2 62 48 63 ; Fax : 35 2 62 46 97

Email: evropa21@yahoo.com

Executive director: Vasia Ilieva

Chair of Board of Directors: Emilia Savova

Main goals:

- I. help and decision of the problem between the children, women and minority groups
- II. development of law projects
- III. with charity to help social activities

Target groups:

- I. women
- II. minority groups
- III. children

Spheres:

Social activities and charity, Environment, Religion, Training and consultations, The roles of the women in management, problems of the women in risk age

¹⁵⁹ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=676>

→ **Common Good Projects Foundation**¹⁶⁰

Plovdiv 4000, 15 "Gladstone" str. P.O.Box 364

Tel : +35 32 625 755 ; Fax : +35 32 620 780

Email: cgpf-eap@evrocom.net

Web: <http://www.cgpf.hit.bg>

Executive director: Anton Breskovski

Chair of Board of Directors: Liyana Adjarova

Main goals:

I. responsible and sustainable economic, humanitarian and social development

II. good governance

III. the environment

Target groups:

I. municipalities

II. small and medium sized business

III. women

Spheres:

Social activities and charity, Environment, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Information sharing, Economic development support, Training and consultations, Local governance

→ **Community Center "LIK"**¹⁶¹

Contact Person: Katya Bozhikova

Email: lik@mbox.digsys.bg

→ **CWE - Center for Women Entrepreneurship Development within the FED – Foundation for Entrepreneurship Development**¹⁶²

Contact Persons: Antonina Stoyanovska, Dotchka Rousseva, Vladimir Pavlov

Sofia 1606, 18 Dukatska Planina, fl. 3

Tel: +35 92 / 952 57 58, 952 57 98, 952 68 32; Fax: +35 92 / 952 57 83

Email: rousseva@fed-bg.org; office@fed-bg.org; Web: www.fed-bg.org

¹⁶⁰ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=231>

¹⁶¹ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2005; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁶² <http://www.fed-bg.org/main.php?act=content&rec=29>

Short description:

The Foundation for Entrepreneurship Development (FED) was established in 1997 as an independent non-profit, non-governmental organisation.

Activities:

Surveys, consultancy and training in:

- Entrepreneurship
- Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Regional and local development

Mission

Assistance for the creation and development of small and medium-sized enterprises:

- To study and analyse the economic, social and legal environment of SMEs operation;
- To participate and assist in the formulation of SME policy in Bulgaria;
- To facilitate the access of Bulgarian SMEs to business information, consultancy and training;
- To promote entrepreneurial spirit and assist local and regional initiatives for business support;

Goals

- Regional and Local Economic and Social Development.
- Civil society development;
- Provision of support to the local and regional authorities in the establishment of institutions, working in the field of SME policy and support.
- Conceptualization and Implementation of Training Programmes.
- Technical assistance in international business cooperation through information, counseling and advice services to SMEs.
- Implementation of annual studies on the state and development of SMEs.
- Establishment and maintenance of contacts with Bulgarian and international institutions, working in the field of SMEs.
- Organisation of seminars and discussions on the problems of SMEs.
- Publishing and dissemination of studies results and other information about the SME sector.
- Consultancy provision in the field of project development and monitoring.

→ **Demetra Association – Burgas**¹⁶³

Bourgas, 102 A Sheinovo Str.

Tel: +359 5 684 3591

Email: demetra@unacs.bg

Main goals:

Demetra develops care programs for women and children survivors of violence (domestic and sexual violence). It also provides personal consultations with a psychologist, a social worker, a doctor and a legal advisor. There is a program for men who have had experience with violence, as well as free legal protection.

Member of

- Bulgarian Platform to the European Women's Lobby/EWL

→ **Education and Care in the Community Foundation (FGO Diva)**¹⁶⁴

Plovdiv, 9 Radetski, apt. 6

Tel: +359 3 264 1069

Email: fgodiva_pl@yahoo.com

Short description:

FGO Diva has a center for support to women and children survivors of violence (domestic, sexual violence and trafficking in women) provides the following care programs: crisis intervention, psychological consulting, legal consulting and social mediation.

→ **"Ekaterina Karavelova" Women's Association- Silistra**¹⁶⁵

Silistra 7500, PO Box 283

Tel:/Fax: +35 86 820 487

Email: hr.doneva@mbox.bol.bg

Executive director: Hristina Nicolova Georgieva

Main goals:

- I. stimulating the civil activity of the Bulgarian women the region of Silistra
- II. betterment the results of the suffered violence

¹⁶³

http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1Template1.asp?DocID=414&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID_sousmenu=; [07.09.2006]

¹⁶⁴ <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep200418.html>; [25.09.2006]

¹⁶⁵ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=627>

Target groups:

I. the women from Silistra and the region

Spheres:

Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Training and consultations

→ **“Ethnointegration” Foundation**¹⁶⁶

Contact Person: Daniela Aleksandrova

Tel: +35 898 230 688

Email: Silvia2005@abv.bg

→ **“Ethnocultural Dialogue” Foundation**¹⁶⁷

Contact Person: Adela Stoyanova

Tel: +35 888 321 897

Email: Ethnocultural@abv.bg

→ **Face to Face Bulgaria**¹⁶⁸

Sofia 1000, 147 Kniaz Boris I Str. Fl. 3

Tel: +359 2 983 5239

Email: office@facetoface.bg; Web: www.facetoface.bg

Short description:

Face to Face Bulgaria is a Foundation working against forced prostitution and the prevention of young girls becoming sex slaves.

→ **Federation of Women’s Clubs within Social Democrats Political Movement**¹⁶⁹

Sofia 1000, 1 Bulgaria Square

Tel: +359 2 988 1737

Email: socialdemocratswomen@yahoo.com

¹⁶⁶ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁶⁷ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁶⁸ <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep200416.html>; [25.09.2006]

¹⁶⁹ <http://www.neww.org.pl/en.php/about/member/0.html#Bulgaria> ; [07.09.2006]

Main goals:

gender equality, empowerment of women

Member of

- Network of East-West Women - Polska/NEWW

→ **Fondation "Prosveta 21 Century"**¹⁷⁰

Sofia 1000, 12 Vitosha str.

Tel: +35 2 981 02 51, +35 2 981 02 61; Fax: +35 2 981 03 08

Email: office@prosveta21.org

Web: www.prosveta21.org

Executive director: Marin Bakardjiev

Chair of Board of Directors: Iskra Pavlova

Main goals:

I. to promote development of the education, culture and arts; to further understanding and good will between minority and ethnic groups and religion societies

II. to disseminate achievements of Bulgarian culture and arts, traditions and folk-lore, sports and education, science and ecology, social activities and democracy

III. to assist the development of the young people talents, creative capabilities, knowledge and skills; to support young Bulgarian to study in foreign Universities

Target groups:

them)

I. children and youths

II. workless

III. women

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, Information sharing, Sports activities

¹⁷⁰ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=736>

→ **Foundation "Cultural dialogue - 21"**¹⁷¹

Sofia 1000, 65B W. Gladstone

Tel./Fax: +35 2 981 89 81

Email: a.sendova@einet.bg ; dialog@einet.bg

Executive director: Anna Sendova

Chair of Board of Directors: Anna Sendova

Main goals:

- I. supports culture, sports, cultural forums, design
- II. supports talented children, orphans and women
- III. charity and civil society

Target groups:

- I. people of art, culture, sports; designers, women
- II. children - talented and orphans; women
- III. socially weak people, heart diseased people

Spheres:

Art and culture, Social activities and charity, International cooperation, Religion, Sports activities, Cultural tourism, design and fashion

→ **Free Feminist Group**¹⁷²

Sofia 1000, P.O. Box 922

Tel: +359 2 20 66 15

→ **Gender Education, Research and Technology - GERT**¹⁷³

Sofia 1000, p.o.box 963

Tel.: +359 2 988 7855; Fax: +359 2 988 7856

Contact Person: Jivka Marinova

Email: Gert@mbox.contact.bg; Web: www.gert.ngo-bg.org

Short description:¹⁷⁴

¹⁷¹ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=454>

¹⁷² Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁷³ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2005; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁷⁴ <http://www.gert.ngo-bg.org/article5.html>; [18.09.2006]

GERT is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation, acting in public interest and in line with the international law to which Bulgaria is party.

The mission of GERT is to initiate and implement, independently or in partnership with other NGOs activities targeted to enhance gender equality and social & gender justice in all spheres of social life, including access to and benefit from new technologies.

GERT will achieve its goals through proactive research, education and advocacy programs, following the principles of fair cooperation and partnership with individuals, NGOs, Academia, national and international programs in the specified fields.

The main goals of GERT are:

- to raise the awareness of the public at large on the need of combating gender stereotypes, which lead to inequality in all levels of the society;
- to enhance the tolerance in gender relationships and achieve a conscious rejection of violence;
- to achieve better awareness of the public and specifically of younger generation on reproductive rights and health and international trends in this field, including the issues of HIV/AIDS;
- to raise the interest of NGOs and more specifically women's NGOs toward using the new ICTs in social activities and practices;
- to raise the awareness on and support the creation of networks for economic solidarity among women's groups and other disadvantaged groups.

Target groups:

- women
- youth - girls and boys
- women's non-governmental organisations

→ **Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation**¹⁷⁵

Sofia 1000, B "Parchevich" Str., floor 2

Contact Person: Stanimira Hadgimitova

Tel:/Fax: +3592 986 4710

Email: gender@gender-bg.org; Web: www.gender-bg.org

Short description:

¹⁷⁵ http://www.gender-bg.org/en/istorija_en.html; [23.09.2006]

The Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation is a non-governmental organisation, founded in 1994 managed by Board of Trustees and Mrs. Stanimira Hadjimitova, Director. The organisation has been working on raising the public awareness of equal opportunities of men and women and women's rights as human rights. It lobbies the national and local authorities to implement the gender equality policy of UN and EU.

The foundation is a part of:

- the national network of WAD / Women's Alliance for Development/,
- the regional women's network KARAT Coalition - NGOs from 13 CEE countries
- the Stability Pact Gender Task Force

Activities:

- Advocacy campaigns
- Training programs
- Information dissemination
- Research programs
- Networking

→ **Independent female association "Consciousness"**¹⁷⁶

Bourgas 8000, 11 Makedonia str. entr. B

Tel: +35 56 2 04 85; Fax: +35 87 47 27 03

Email: stoyanova_8000@yahoo.com

Chair of Board of Directors: Snejana Stefanova Stoyanova

Main goals:

- I. material and moral support for women, children and invalids
- II. work on women's, children's and adult's problems

Target groups:

- I. orphans
- II. the poor people
- III. invalids

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Health care, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Training and consultations

¹⁷⁶ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=548>

→ **International Association of Professional and Business Women in Bulgaria**¹⁷⁷

Tel: +359 887 374 958; Fax: +359 2 971 11 94

Email: info@iapbwb.com; n.noeva@lycos.com

Web: <http://www.iapbwb.com>

→ **Lady's alliance "Hope"**¹⁷⁸

Razgrad 7200, 4 "6-th september"str. entr.V, app.12

Tel:/Fax: +35 84 2 08 48

Email: dan2001@abv.bg

Chair of Board of Directors: Elena Netzova

Main goals:

- I. stable development of Bulgarian society
- II. equality of sex
- III. optimum using of local resources for solving society problems

Target groups:

- I. unemployed women and men
- II. children and young people
- III. alone mothers

Spheres:

Education, Health care, Social activities and charity, Environment, Human rights and minority groups, Information sharing, Economic development support, Training and consultations, equality of sex in family, social, political and economic life

→ **La Strada - Animus Association**¹⁷⁹

Sofia 1408, P.O. Box 97

Contact Person: Nadia Kozhouharova

Tel: +359 2 987 3108; +359 2 981 0570; +359 2 981 6740

Email: animus@animusassociation.org; Web: www.animusassociation.org/

Short description:¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁷ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁷⁸ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=145>

¹⁷⁹ <http://www.feminist.org/global/ngo.asp>; [23.09.2006]

¹⁸⁰ <http://www.stopvaw.org/5Aug2004.html>; [25.09.2006]

Animus is a women's non-governmental organisation created to help victims of violence and is one of the leading members of the informal national network on violence against women. The team of the Foundation consists of clinical psychologists, psychotherapists, and social workers. One of the three major areas of work is the Center For Rehabilitation Of Women, Adolescents, and Children Victims Of Violence with its 24-hour Help-line for victims of violence.

→ **Maria Center Association**¹⁸¹

www.centermaria.org/maria.php

→ **“Maxima Foundation”**¹⁸²

Contact Person: Mariana Dimitrova Voikova

Tel: +35 38 62 27 50; +35 889 52 86 74

Email: maxima1@abv.bg

→ **Nadja Center Foundation**¹⁸³

Sofia 1000, Benkovski Str 12 A – entr. A

Contact Person: Rossanka Venelinova

Tel: +359 2 9819300; Fax: +359 2 9894174

Email: nadja@cablebg.net; Web: www.centrenadja.hit.bg

Short description:

Nadja Centre Foundation was founded in 1995 along with the new program started by the Bulgaria Women’s Union for helping women who have experienced physical, sexual and psychological violence with the financial support by Novib, the Netherlands. There are professionals in the center coming from different areas – doctors, jurists, social workers and psychologists who support the women, victims of violence. There are volunteers and partners in Centre Nadja Foundation who actively take part in the activities of the centre. Centre Nadja Foundation offers telephone consultations and provides information, psychological, medical, social and legal consultation, psychotherapy and referrals of the ones who need help

¹⁸¹ Grantee of Global Fund for Women; <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/resources/links/grantees.html#ecis>; [23.09.2006]

¹⁸² Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2004; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁸³ <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep20043.html>; [25.09.2006]

to other services and specialists. The first shelter founded in Bulgaria, offering support and protection to women and their children, victims of domestic violence, started functioning under the protection of Centre Nadja Foundation in April 1997

→ **National Network For Equal Opportunities (NNEO)**¹⁸⁴

The NNEO is a strategic alliance of Bulgarian nongovernmental organisations working for sustainable development and partnership between women and men, with an open structure for women's and other organisations from all the regions of the country as well as for persons with similar ideas. In 2004 the NNEO consisted of 79 organisations from 30 small and big towns in Bulgaria.¹⁸⁵

The goals of NNEO are establishing gender equality in the decision-making process of all levels, in accordance to the standards of the European Union and the international conventions of human rights, raising public awareness of social needs of different women's groups, existing gender inequality and discrimination, improving the dialogue and cooperation between the NGOs and central/local governments to attain more social justice and consolidating efforts and capacity of NNEO organisations for active civil participation and representation and more effective influence on social agenda.

→ **National Movement "Women and mothers against violence"**¹⁸⁶

Sofia 1233, 40A Strouga str., PO Box 96

Tel./Fax: +35 2 32 60 88

Email: ibfanbg@rtsonline.net

Chair of Board of Directors: dr. Roumjana Modeva

Main goals:

- I. sustainable development
- II. families rights
- III. ethnical and religions tolerance

Target groups:

- I. ethnical groups

¹⁸⁴ http://www.women-bg.org/index_en.html;[23.09.2006]

¹⁸⁵ WAD (2004)

¹⁸⁶ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=594>

II. families and breast feeding of the babies

III. women and children in emergency situation

Spheres:

Health care, Social activities and charity, Environment, Human rights and minority groups, Religion, Scientific research, Training and Consulting

→ **National Women's Fund**¹⁸⁷

Sofia 1000, P.O. Box 841336

→ **Network Of East-West Women**¹⁸⁸

Sofia 1000, P.O. Box 922

Tel: +359 2 20 66 15

→ **Non-profit organisation "Center Maria"**¹⁸⁹

Gorna Oriahovitza 5100, 11 Tzar Osvoboditel str. room 303,

Tel : +35 618 4 21 81 ; Fax : +35 618 4 21 36

Email: center_maria@abv.bg

Chair of Board of Directors: Tatyana Hristova Ruseva, Krasimira Tzvetkova Aleksandrova

Main goals:

I. immediate assistance to women and children endured violence

II. increasing the sensibility of society, institutions and professionals who work on the problems of violence and all its varieties

III. informing the public and state structures that may put pressure on for solving the problems of violence upon women and children, through media

Target groups:

I. women, victims of trafic

II. women, victims of home violence and sexual violence

III. the children witnesses of home violence

Spheres:

¹⁸⁷ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁸⁸ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁸⁹ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=706>

Health care, Social activities and charity, Media, Human rights and minority groups, Training and consultations

→ **Open Door Center**¹⁹⁰

Pleven 5800, PO Box 1034, 55 Neofit Rilski Str.

Contact Person: Zlatka Macheva

Tel : +359 64 800 840

Email: opendoor_centre@hotmail.com

Short description:¹⁹¹

The center provides support to women survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence and trafficking in women by consultations with a psychologist, social worker and a legal advisor.

→ **Open Door Resource Center - Veliko Turnovo**¹⁹²

Veliko Turnovo 5000, 24 Bulgaria Blvd.

Tel: +359 626 03310

Email: teodora@vali.bg, opendoor_centre@hotmail.com

→ **Podrepa Trade Union-Women's Division**¹⁹³

1000 Sofia, Angel Kanchev 2

Tel: +359 2 65 02 61; Fax: +359 2 80 29 28

→ **"Positive personality skills in society" Foundation - P.P.S.S.**¹⁹⁴

Pernik 2303, 6/102 Ml.Stoyanov str.

Tel:/Fax: +35 76 601010

Email: puls@pernik.net; pulspk@mail.bg

Executive director: Ekaterina Veleva

Chair of Board of Directors: Tatiana Arsova

¹⁹⁰ <http://www.feminist.org/global/ngo.asp>; [23.09.2006]

¹⁹¹ <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep200413.html>; [25.09.2006]

¹⁹² <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep200412.html>; [25.09.2006]

¹⁹³ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁹⁴ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=348>; and grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2004, Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

Main goals:

- I. to activate the change in Bulgarian society
- II. to stimulate approving of public status of the women
- III. to realize the projects for supporting women

Target groups:

- I. women and children, victims of violence

Spheres:

Social activities and charity, Training and consultations

→ **PULS Foundation - Pernik**¹⁹⁵

Pernik 2303, 6/102 Mladen Stoyanov Str.

Tel: +359 7 660 1010

Email: womencenter@pulsefoundation.org; Web: www.pulsefoundation.org

Short description:

PULS has a center for support to women and children survivors of violence (domestic, sexual violence and trafficking in women) provides the programs: crisis intervention, psychological consulting, legal consulting and social mediation.

→ **Resource Center Foundation**¹⁹⁶

Sofia 1000, 20 Serdika Str,

Tel: +35 2 915 48 10; Fax: +35 2 915 48 11, +35 87 211 151

Email: info@ngorc.net

Web: www.ngorc.net

Executive director: Stelian Stoichev

Chair of Board of Directors: Valerii Rousanov

Main goals:

- I. Support the sustainable development of the NGO sector in Bulgaria, enhance its building capacities and professionalism and encourage the implementation of successful practices.
- II. Provide information on the activities conducted within the NGO sector and create a favorable social environment

¹⁹⁵ <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep200411.html>; [25.09.2006]

¹⁹⁶ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=705>

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- III. Optimize the legal and taxation conditions
 - IV. Adapt and apply business practices
 - V. Stimulate citizens' involvement and participation in Bulgaria's EU accession process and promote security in the South East region; adapt and disseminate democratic mechanisms and practices applied in the countries with well established democracies
 - VI. Encourage the social entrepreneurship development
 - VII. Establish appropriate conditions for small and medium sized business
 - VIII. Provide conditions for social and professional realization of isolated social groups
 - IX. Create innovative alternatives for dealing with the problems arising as a result from the economic and other social restructuring
 - X. Establish a system for successful social adaptation and economic integration of the redundant military servicemen

Target groups:

- I. NGO s
- II.Redundant military servicement and their families` s members
- III. Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Information sharing, Scientific research, Economical analyses, Economic development support, Training and consultations

→ **"Rodoljubie" Women's association**¹⁹⁷

Shoumen 9700, Tzar Osvoboditel 142

Chair of Board of Directors: Hristina Stojanova Hristova

Main goals:

Through active participation of women in social life to promote the development of spiritual values.

To help socially disabled people.

Target groups:

women with problems.

children with problems.

¹⁹⁷ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=404>

people who need special care (disabled people, children and old people in asylums, people with health problems).

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, Information sharing

→ **Roma Women's Independent Organisation "Lacshi Romni"**¹⁹⁸

Contact Person: Rumiana Stefanova

Tel: +35 885 727 719

→ **RSF "Izgreve - Stolipinovo"**¹⁹⁹

Plovdiv 4006, 6 Krayna str.

Tel:/Fax: +35 32 62 31 52

Email: marianafin@abv.bg

Chair of Board of Directors: Simeon Todorov

Main goals:

I. education

II. social help and activities

III. minority human rights

Target groups:

I. women and young people

II. minority community

→ **Silver Age**²⁰⁰

Sofia 1421, 17 " St, Sedmochislenitzi" str

Tel: +35 2 66 15 24; Fax: +35 2 989 38 22

Email: pav_m@mail.bg

Executive director: Boliarka Borisova

Chair of Board of Directors: Dr Pavlina Mihaylova

¹⁹⁸ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

¹⁹⁹ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=291>

²⁰⁰ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=689>

Main goals:

- I. Activity on International Plan for Action on Ageing
- II. Social Participation , Integration and Rights of the Elderly People
- III. Activity on Research Agenda on Aging for the 21 Century of UN

Target groups:

- I. Scientists and Intellectuals over 65
- II. An Old-age Women
- III. A generation in transition

Spheres:

Health care, Social activities and charity, Media, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Information sharing, Scientific research, Training and

→ **Social foundation "Indy-Roma 97"**²⁰¹

Kuklen village 1 Dobri Chintulov str.

Tel: +35 3 115 20 87; Fax: +35 98 417 880

Email: indiroma@mail.bg

Executive director: Albena Kostadinova

Main goals:

- To support roman minority.
- To develop cultural values.
- Health, social, environment education.

Target groups:

- Minority
- Woman and children.

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Social activities and charity, Environment, Human rights and minority.

²⁰¹ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=398>

→ **Social Consultative Center - Samokov**²⁰²

Samokov, 1 Zahari Zograf Sq. Fl. 1, Room 8

Tel: +359 7 222 0785

Email: osteosam@abv.bg

Short description:

The center provides social support to women survivors of domestic violence and psychological consultations.

→ **SOS Families in Risk Association - Varna**²⁰³

Varna, 32 Slavyanska Str.

Tel: +359 5 260 9677

Email: sfda@mail.orbitel.bg

Short description:

The organisation develops and implements care programs for women and children survivors of domestic violence. It provides consultations with a psychologist, psychiatrist, and a legal advisor and support to women survivors of sexual violence and trafficking in women as well as free legal protection.

→ **“Support for Roma Population 2000” Foundation**²⁰⁴

Contact Person: Antoaneta Parusheva

Tel: +35 985 75 21; +35 887 395 957

Email: aparusheva@abv.bg

→ **The Bulgarian Women Union - BWU**²⁰⁵

Rousse 7012, 4 Gurko str. entr.B

Tel :/Fax: +35 82 23 86 82

Chair of Board of Directors: Katinka Kuzmanova

Main goals:

I. charity

²⁰² <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep20049.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁰³ <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep20048.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁰⁴ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

²⁰⁵ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=310>

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- II. work with minority groups
 - III. work with students and young people

Target groups:

- I. teachers
- II. medical workers
- III. young businessmen

Spheres:

Education, Health care, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, Economical analyses, Training and consultations

→ **University Women**²⁰⁶

Sofia 1000, 33 Tzar Osvoboditel

Tel: +359 2 432 326; Fax: +359 2 464 843

→ **VELLA Center, Anti Trafficking organisation**²⁰⁷

3000 Vratsa, 3 Georgi Penchev Street

Tel. +35 98 88511766

Email: vellacenter@abv.bg

Short description:

“Vella” center has been established in 1998, called at that time Interclub “Friends of Bulgaria”. The name of the organisation had been changed after the law pre-registration of the organisation in 2003, carrying the name “Vella” center after one of the projects the organisation had worked on. The priority work spheres are social works, human rights, gender problems and education, training, science and culture, gender equality, work with children in risk and charity. A special focus is laid on prevention of human trafficking and prevention and consultative help of women and children victims of domestic violence.

Since its establishment the organisation has been a member of the “National Network of Equal Chances”.

²⁰⁶ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

²⁰⁷ Information given by Darina Eremicheva in an email sent on 28.09.2005

→ **Vita Foundation - Dobrich**²⁰⁸

Tel: +35 582 2 17 1

Email: vita@abv.bg

Short description:

Vita has a center for support to women and children survivors of violence (domestic, sexual violence and trafficking in women). It provides programs: crisis intervention, psychological consulting, legal consulting and social mediation.

→ **Woman Roma Association**²⁰⁹

Vardun village Targovishte municipality

Tel:/Fax: +35 87 973 868

Email: vardun@abv.bg

Executive director: Nevena Angelova Madzharova

Chair of Board of Directors: Silvia Stoyanova Angelova

Main goals:

I. to improve the life standard and social status of the Roma community and to motivate the women to participate in solving problems

Target groups:

I. Roma women to 35 years of age and their families

II. children from socially poor families

III. the entire Vardun population

Spheres:

Education, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, Economic development support, Training and consultations

→ **Woman Solidarity Forum**²¹⁰

Contact Person: Kama Ivanova Ganeva

Tel: +35 416 77 28; +35 416 73 37

Email: wsforum@abv.bg; fgs_chirpan@abv.bg

²⁰⁸ <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep20046.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁰⁹ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=252>

²¹⁰ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2004; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

→ **Women's Alliance for Development Resource Center (WAD)**²¹¹

Sofia 1000, 52 Neofit Rilski str. or 14 Racho Dimcher Street

Tel: +359 2 980 5532 or +359 2 980 5920; Fax: +359 2 980 5532 or +359 2 980 5920

Email: wad@infotel.bg; wad@yellowpages-bg.net; wad@ttm.bg

Web: www.womenbg.org

Executive director: Pavlina Filipova

Chair of Board of Directors: Daniela Eldarova

Main goals:

I. to establish a strategic alliance of organisations and individuals who will work for equal opportunities for men and women in all areas of life

The mission of W.A.D. is to work towards the sustainable development of society and its human resources, by realizing equal opportunities for men and women with regards to rights, responsibilities, access to resources and decision-making. W.A.D.'s resource centre is the only women's information service in Bulgaria. It houses a library with more than 1350 items, provides information and fact sheets on gender, self-employment and microfinance, and maintains a database on 650 women's organisations. It also offers a range of services to grassroots women's organisations.

Target groups:

I. women in politics

II. Women's NGOs

Spheres:

International cooperation, Information sharing, Scientific research, Training and consultations, Women's rights; advocacy; supporting local NGOs; establishing National Network for Equal Opportunity

➤ Member of Network of East-West Women - Polska/NEWW

²¹¹ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=659> and grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006, Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

→ **Women's Club Rhodopea - Kurdjali**²¹²

Tel: +359 3 612 9095

Short description:

The club has an office for support to women survivors of violence. It provides consultations with a psychologist, gynecologist and a legal advisor.

→ **Women's association "Ekaterina Karavelova"**²¹³

Sofia 1000, 1A P. Karavelov str.

Tel:/Fax: +35 88 883 236

Email: e_karavelova@yahoo.com ; kostova@balkancar.bg

Web: www.bia-bg.com/ngo-ek

Executive director: Silvia Kostova Stoyanova

Chair of Board of Directors: Anelia Jordanova Mingova

Main goals:

- I. to help of the social integration and personally realization of women in community
- II. to stimulate the civil activities of the contemporary Bulgarian women
- III. to help and defend women's rights for professional development
- IV. to popularise and to defend women's civil and social rights
- V. to ratify the liberal - democratic values - dialogue, tolerance, humanity and charity

Target groups:

- I. women, who work or start at small and middle business- entrepreneurs
- II. women, who participate in the country's political life
- III. women, who represent minority groups
- IV. women, who are suffered by violence

→ **Women's Association – Liliak**²¹⁴

Contact Person: Nikolina Vasileva

Tel: +35 886 338 738

Email: niki_53@abv.bg

²¹² <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep20045.html>; [25.09.2006]

²¹³ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=747>

²¹⁴ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

→ **Women's Clubs Federation BSDP**²¹⁵

1000 Sofia, Denkoglou Str. 36

Tel: +35 92 802 649; Fax: +35 92 802 649

→ **Women's Democratic Union**²¹⁶

Sofia 1463, 82 Patriarch Evtimii Blvd

Tel: +359 2 53 67 54; Fax: +359 2 52 67 46

→ **Women's Democratic Union**²¹⁷

Bourgas 8000, 111 Tzar Simeon I str.

Tel: +35 56 2 05 38; Fax: +35 56 3 40 80

Email: wduburgas@abv.bg

Executive director: Stanka Panayotova

Chair of Board of Directors: Mayya Zayranova

Main goals:

I. women equality

II. activities, concerning family, women and children

III. charity, social activities

Spheres:

Art and culture, Education, Health care, Social activities and charity, Media, Environment, Human rights and minority groups, International cooperation, Religion, Sports activities, Training and consultations

→ **Women's Federation - Razgrad**²¹⁸

Razgrad 7200, 40 Beli Lom blvd., office 33, P.O. Box 266

Tel:/Fax: +35 84 66 02 43

Email: Chocheva@mail.bg , isa@spnet.net

Executive director: Antoaneta Stefanova Chocheva

Chair of Board of Directors: Lubka Kostadinova Stoianova

²¹⁵ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

²¹⁶ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

²¹⁷ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=545>

²¹⁸ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=184>

Main goals:

- I. women and children support about their social, health and legal problems
- II. women support about their cultural and public life
- III. take part in municipal and regional programmes realization

Target groups:

- I. women
- II. children

Spheres:

Art and culture, Health care, Social activities and charity, Human rights and minority groups, Information sharing

→ **Women's Health Initiative In Bulgaria**²¹⁹

Sofia 1113, PO Box 238

Contact Person: Tatyana Kotzeva

Tel: + 359 2 971 96 86

Email: office@whibg.org; Web: www.whibg.org/

Short description:²²⁰

The Women's Health Initiative in Bulgaria was established in 1998 with the purpose of promoting a conversation on gender and health. This is achieved through conducting interactive dialogues, educational and counseling programs, collaborative research projects, and community outreach on topics related to the health of all members of society, with a focus on women's and girls' health.

The organisational initiative came from people working in the fields of health promotion, health education, health psychology and gender studies. It focuses on the psychosocial aspects of health, through situating health and illness in a social and cultural framework. This group aims to enhance the dialogue with other existing health promotion and research organisations and supports and adds to their activities. It hopes to intensify communication and increase the representation of issues related to women's health and rights in both medical and social science research and legislation.

²¹⁹ Grantee of Global Fund for Women; <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/resources/links/grantees.html#ecis>; [23.09.2006]

²²⁰ <http://www.whibg.org/mainen.htm>; [23.09.2006]

We believe that the activities of the WHI in Bulgaria will foster the rights of access to needed medical care, including not only the right to adequate treatment, but also the rights to prevention, information, choice, safety, privacy and confidentiality, comfort, and participation in medical decision-making.

→ **Women's public parliament- 21st century**²²¹

Sofia 1000, Makedonia sq. 1, fl.9, room 11

Tel : +35 2 917 04 44, +35 2 988 17 94, +35 2 987 78 18 ; Fax : +35 2 988 59 69

Email: a_nanova@hotmail.com

Web: www.sebainternet-bg.net

Executive director: Yanka Takeva

Chair of Board of Directors: Yanka Takeva

Main goals:

Non- profit organisation

Target groups:

Women.

Spheres:

Social activities and charity, International cooperation, Information sharing, Training and consultations

→ **Woman Solidarity Forum**²²²

Town of Chirpan

Contact Person: Kama Ivanova Ganeva

Tel: +38 0416 77 28

Email: wsforum@abv.bg; fgs_chirpan@abv.bg

→ **Women's Studies Centre**²²³

Sofia 1618, P.O. Box 135

²²¹ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=426>

²²² Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2004; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

²²³ Grantee of Bulgarian Fund for Women 2006; Information given by Kalinka Slivkova via Email on May 09, 2006

→ **YMKA - Gabrovo**²²⁴

Gabrovo 5300, House of culture, south entrance, floor 2, p.o.box253

Tel:/Fax: +35 66 2 90 32

Email: ymca@mbox.eda.bg

Web: <http://ymca.edasat.com>

Executive director: Antoaneta Todorova Yankabakova

Chair of Board of Directors: Georgi Metev Metev

Main goals:

I. YMCA - Gabrovo seek to provide opportunities for children and young people in order to foster their holistic development and to provide opportunities to further develop and grow and to empower them to take an active role in the local community development

Target groups:

I. children 6 - 10

II. children 11 - 14

III. young people 14 - 25

IV. women ages 35 - 55

Spheres:

Education, Social activities and charity, International cooperation, Training and consultations, Recreational activities for children and young people - camps, excursions etc.

²²⁴ <http://catalogue.ngorc.icb.bg/eng/Company.asp?ID=725>

Women's Organisations and NGOs in Slovakia

→ **ACEC**²²⁵

811 01 Bratislava, Laurinská 2

Contact Person : Evka Poláčková

Tel: +42 2 5441 7212; Fax: +42 2 5441 9069

Email: aac@rainside.sk; Web: www.acec.sk

→ **Active Women**²²⁶

071 01 Michalovce, Zemplínska 9

Contact Person: Bartošová Eva

Tel: +42156 643 2659

Email: eva.mi.sk@stonline.sk

→ **Agency for Rural Development**

949 01 Nitra, Akademická 4

Contact Person: Tvrdoňová Jela, Riaditeľka

Tel.: +42 37 6537 259; Mobil : +42 915 709531; Fax: +42 37 733 6402

Email: arvi@nexta.sk

→ **Aliancia žien Slovenska - Alliance of Women in Slovakia**²²⁷

841 05 Bratislava, Nábelkova 2

Contact Person: Katarína Farkašová

Tel: +421 2 5245 0346

Email: alianciazien@alianciazien.sk; Web: www.alianciazien.sk

²²⁵ Member of Association Forum 2000; <http://www.addprojekt.sk/index.php?page=18>; [25.09.2006]

²²⁶ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²²⁷ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

→ **ALTERA**²²⁸

974 01 Banská Bystrica, P.O. Box 459, Horná 1

Tel: +421 48 415 3542; Fax: +421 48 415 3542

Email: altera@nextra.sk

→ **ASPEKT – Association of Women**²²⁹

811 07 Bratislava, Mýtna 38

Contact Person: Juránová Jana

Tel: +421 25249 4574; Fax: +421 25249 4574

Email: aspekt@aspekt.sk; aspekt@isternet.sk; Web: www.aspekt.sk

Short description:²³⁰

ASPEKT is a feminist educational and publishing project. It was founded in 1993 (the official registration July 26, 1993) as an interest association of women, who agreed it was time to take the discourse on equality and democracy seriously and apply it to the lived realities of the people of feminine gender in Slovakia. Already second decade Aspekt does so by means of its (subversive and pioneering) publishing and educational activities.

→ **Association Ester**²³¹

040 11 Košice, TR. SNP 55

Tel: +421 55 728 7051; +421 90 550 8579 ; Fax: +421 55 728 7053

Email: marta@ke.telecom.sk; Web: www.ester.host.sk

Short description:²³²

The association is pursuing activities with the aim to keep traditions of the Jewish minority, to rise the knowledge about Jewish history in the community and to create social activities for Jewish women in Slovakia.

Another aim of the association is to attempt the interaction of the Jewish minority with the majority and other minorities by creating common ecumenical projects. Also to create a space for interactive and effective dialogue with the aim to get rid of myths and prejudice.

²²⁸ <http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200433.html>; [25.09.2006]

²²⁹ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²³⁰ http://www.aspekt.sk/about_en.php; [19.09.2006]

²³¹ <http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200431.html>; [25.09.2006]

²³² <http://www.ester.host.sk/onasen.htm>; [19.09.2006]

The association Ester works on the territory of Slovakia with its seat in Kosice as the organisation of Jewish women. It is also an affiliate of the international organisation the International Council of Jewish Women.

→ **Association of Women in Business**²³³

811 01 Bratislava, Laurinská 2

Contact Person: Bzdúšeková Daniela

Tel: +4212 5464 8911; Fax: +4212 5464 8912

Email: office@zzvp.sk; Web: www.zzvp.sk

→ **Association of Democratic Women**

811 05 Bratislava 1, Gunduličova 12

Contact Person: Tomčíková Marta, Fogelová Eleonóra

Tel.: +42 2 5443 3617 ; Fax: +42 2 5443 5574

Email: tomcikova@hosta.sk

→ **Association of Women in Slovakia**²³⁴

96092 Zvolen, T.G.Masaryka 22

Contact Person: Petrášová Viera

Tel:/Fax: +421455314303

Email: vpetras@fris.sk

→ **Association of women in the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic**²³⁵

822 02 Bratislava, Slatinská 11

Tel: +421 90 525 1587

Email: slovakmiladies@post.sk; Web: www.slovakmiladies.sk

²³³ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²³⁴ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²³⁵ <http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200430.html>; [25.09.2006]

→ **Association of Women of the SDKÚ (Slovak Democratic and Christian Union-Democratic Party)**²³⁶

040 01 Košice, Letná 42

Tel: +421 55 622 6184; +421 90 527 2786; Fax: +421 55 622 6184; +421 55 674 2932

Email: jarka.alfi@post.sk; Web: www.sdkuonline.sk

→ **Association –Women’s Forum 2000**²³⁷

Contact Person: Dagmar Šimunková

Tel : +4212 54648912; Fax: +4212 54648912

Email: profwomen@zutom.sk, profiwom@zutom.sk; Web: www.zutom.sk/profwomen

Short description:²³⁸

This organisation was founded by the NGO “Professional Women Association” and joins 30 women’s NGOs from all over Slovakia – main aim of this organisation is the support of gender equality and equal opportunities of men and women in SR and support of parity democracy.

→ **Civic Association Jekhetane - Together**²³⁹

080 01 Prešov, Višňová 8

Tel: +421 51 733 439; +421 51 755 2274; Fax: +421 51 773 3439

Email: romoskylist@vadium.sk

→ **Civic Association of Roma Women Lucia**²⁴⁰

040 01 Košice, Hlavná 68

Tel: +421 55 625 0030; +421 90 719 1809; Fax: +421 55 625 0030

²³⁶ <http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200429.html>; [25.09.2006]

²³⁷

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/budapest/download/gender/slovakia.pdf#search=%22Association%20Forum%202000%20Slovakia%22>; [25.09.2006]

²³⁸

http://www.zutom.sk/profwomen/women_s_forum_2000.html; [19.09.2006]

²³⁹

<http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200428.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁴⁰

<http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200427.html>; [25.09.2006]

→ **Club of Professional Women Poprad-Kežmarok**²⁴¹

058 01 Poprad, nám. Sv. Egídia 11

Contact Person: Plučinská Dana

Tel./Fax: +42152 7721768

Email: partnership@sinet.sk

→ **Cultural Association of Roma in Slovakia**²⁴²

974 01 Banská Bystrica, Golianova 10

Contact Person: Jonášová Helena

Tel./Fax: +4248 414 8552

Email: kzrsr@stonline.sk; Web: www.kzrsr.sk

→ **EsFem**²⁴³

85103 Bratislava, Osuského 36

Contact Person: Bosá Monika

Tel: +4212905924202

Email: esfem@esfem.sk; Web: www.esfem.sk

Short description:²⁴⁴

EsFem is an independent feministic non-governmental organisation which started its activities in November 1999. The organisation deals primarily with the issues of human rights of women and children, and policies of equal opportunities of women and men.

Areas of Interest:

- gender socialization (mainly) in the institutionalized education environment
- Elimination of gender stereotypes in accordance with the Act No. 62/1987 Corpus Juris, particularly Art. No. 5 and Art. No. 10.
- Gender analysis and monitoring of textbooks and pedagogical materials
- analysis of legislation from a gender equality standpoint
- violence against women
- sexual education and ethical education
- gender-sensitive education

²⁴¹ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁴² Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁴³ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁴⁴ <http://www.esfem.sk/?setLang=en>; [19.09.2006]

Activities we realize and offer in these areas:

- Lectures and workshops at schools in Slovakia focused on elimination of gender stereotypes
- Seminars for teachers titled Gender sensitive education model, dedicated to the issue of gender-sensitive education
- In cooperation with Methodical Centre Presov we have published a Methodical Letter for Teachers with
- Monitoring of sexual education textbooks focused on detection of gender stereotypes in the text-under the title Women and Men by Schoolbooks
- Research of gender stereotypes and gender socialization
- specialist consultations and lectures

→ **European Development Agency**²⁴⁵

94911 Nitra, Na Horke 8

Contact Person: Baraníková Miroslava

Tel: +421907213724

→ **Feminist Philosophers´club**²⁴⁶

81801 Bratislava, Šafárikovo nám. 6

Contact Person: Szapuová Mariana

Tel: +4212 5296 4929; Fax: +4212/5296 6016

Email: szapuova@fphil.uniba.sk

→ **FENESTRA - Women's Interest Association**²⁴⁷

040 01 Košice, Tomášikova 19

Tel: +42 55 729 75 04; Fax: +42 55 729 75 05

Email: fenestra@fenestra.sk; Web: www.fenestra.sk

Main goals:

We are a group of women trying to contribute to positive changes in lives of battered women and their children via:

²⁴⁵ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁴⁶ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁴⁷ <http://www.stopvaw.org/10Aug200430.html> and <http://www.fenestra.sk/>; [07.09.2006] and member of the Slovak Women Lobby

- providing a large scale of free services to women experiencing violence
- monitoring activities of institutions involved in solving the situation of battered women and children
- raising awareness of both professional and general public on the issue of violence against women and children
- dissemination of verified procedures helping battered women and children
- advocating women and children's human rights

We employ the following premises:

Violence against women is not a problem of individual women, but it is a serious social issue. Therefore it is the whole society's obligation to take responsibility for helping battered women. Life free of violence is a basic human right. There is no excuse for violence. Safety of battered women and children is the key element of planning and carrying out all the activities of our civil association

Activities:

- providing free services for battered women and their children in Fenestra Crisis Center raising awareness and educating professional groups involved in the issue of violence against women
- monitoring the use of current legislation
- launching campaigns and other events drawing attention to the extent, causes and consequences of violence against women

→ **Fundation INTEGRA**

811 03 Bratislava, Partizánska 6

Contact Person: Špačeková Anna

Tel.: +42 2 54418827; Fax: +42 254418831

Email: integra@integra.sk

Short description:²⁴⁸

The mission of The Integra Venture is to alleviate poverty, reduce unemployment and help transform communities by supporting the development of hundreds of small businesses in the depressed and developing areas of Central and Eastern Europe. We help them operate

²⁴⁸ <http://www.integra.sk/>; [19.09.2006]

with integrity, profitability and as responsible contributors to their communities. They can then become "Islands of Integrity", committed to:

- long-term local presence
- growth and profitability
- transparent and ethical business practice
- excellent financial and social value to their stakeholders
- investment in community development

→ **Gender Studies in Bratislava**²⁴⁹

81801 Bratislava, FFUK, Šafárikovo nám. 6

Contact Person: Kiczková Zuzana

Tel: +4212 59244146; Fax: +4212 52966016

Email: genderstudies@fphil.uniba.sk

→ **Initiative Fifth Woman**²⁵⁰

81107 Bratislava, Mýtna 38, c/o Aspekt

Tel: +421 90 845 8978; Fax: +421 25 262 4621

Email: info@piatazena.sk; Web: www.piatazena.sk

Short description:²⁵¹

The first nationwide campaign on the violence against women Fifth Women has had deep impact on the public opinion. The message “Every fifth woman is abused” has become to a fact often repeated in media and news. The Women’s NGOs that launched in the year 2001/2002 the campaign on violence against the women “The Fifth Woman” founded the umbrella NGO “Initiative Fifth Woman”.

Main aims:

- Increase cooperation of NGOs active in the field of violence against women,
- Pursue media and PR activities, campaigning,
- Lobbying the state and local governments and institutions to establish systems of support for abused women,
- Initiate gender-sensitive policies in national and local government institutions,

²⁴⁹ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁵⁰ <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep200422.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁵¹ http://www.piatazena.sk/engl/index_engl.htm; [19.09.2006]

- to persuade national and local governments to provide adequate financial resources for implementing new programs and services to prevent and combat violence against women,
- to push for implementation of new laws and for systematic change in approach of state institutions to abused women and their needs,
- to build/strengthen coalitions among governmental institutions, non-governmental organisations, media, and all stakeholders connected to the issue.

→ **Let´s do IT!**²⁵²

811 01 Bratislava, Laurinska 2

Contact Person: Slušná Lubomíra

Tel: +421 2 5441-7212; Fax: +421 2 54419069

Email: sona@aac.sk; aac@aac.sk

Main goal:

Change of status of women in the society and increase women's participation in their life.

Member of

- Network of East-West Women - Polska/NEWW

→ **Mothers Center JOY**²⁵³

040 11 Košice, Michalovská 9

Tel: +421 55 642 1270

Email: mcradost@inmail.sk

→ **National Centre for Equality between Women and Men**²⁵⁴

815 08 Bratislava, Laurinská 2

Contact Person: Klimáčková Anna

Tel:/Fax: +4212 6025 1168

Email: ncr@gtinet.sk; ncr@stonline.sk; Web: www.rovnopravnost.sk/index.html

²⁵² <http://www.neww.org.pl/en.php/about/member/0.html#Slovakia>; [07.09.2006] and member of Slovak Women Lobby

²⁵³ <http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200424.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁵⁴ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

→ **Non-investment Fund of Family and Women; Humenné**²⁵⁵

066 01 Humenné, Kukorelliho 60

Tel: +421 57 775 3353

→ **Partnership for development of Tatra and Spis regions**²⁵⁶

05801 Poprad, Námestie sv. Egídia 11

Contact Person: Plučinská Dana

Tel:/Fax: +42152 7721768 ; Mobil : +421905 584 362

Email: partnership@sinet.sk

→ **Pro Choice**²⁵⁷

8011 02 Bratislava, Slávičie údolie 98

Contact person: Olga Pietruchová

Tel: +421 908 458798; Fax: +42 2 54412439

Email: mail@prochoice.sk; olga@prochoice.sk

Web: www.prochoice.sk; www.moznostvolby.sk

Short description:

NGO Pro Choice was founded in May 2001 with a main goal – to assist in the coordination and co-operation of various projects of several human rights institutions, feminists and Women’s NGOs.

Main issues of interest:

- Protection of reproductive rights through the education towards the planned parenthood
- Observance of the human rights of women and children
- Elimination of all forms of discrimination of women, forcing equal opportunities and invoking gender mainstreaming
- Elimination and prevention of violence against women

Main goals:

- To create a platform for the co-operation of women’s organisations

²⁵⁵ <http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200423.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁵⁶ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁵⁷ <http://www.prochoice.sk/>; [18.09.2006]

- To enforce the interest in women's issues through raising public awareness, forming public opinion, through parliamentary lobbying consecutively obtain the necessary legislative changes

Main activities:

- Campaign against delibe-ralisation of abortion law in Slovakia. Pro choice released a proclamation, which was published in much news. The proclamation was signed by 1320 organisations, women and men and it has been handed over to chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic as a protest note against the effort to change the abortion law in Slovakia. Some expressions of the signatures have been published and are released on our home page.
- Campaign Fifth Woman combating violence against women. The first nationwide campaign on the violence against women has had deep impact on the public opinion. The message "Every fifth woman is abused" has become to a fact often repeated in media and news. The campaign prepared public opinion and political situation for necessary legislative changes for more effective protection of victims of domestic violence

→ **Pro Familia**²⁵⁸

06601 Humenné, P.O. BOX, Gorkého 1

Contact Person: Sopková Eva

Email: profamiliahe@nexta.sk

Tel:/Fax: +42 157 7757773

→ **Professional Women Club Nitra**²⁵⁹

949 01 Nitra, Svatourbanská 5

Contact Person: Šafáriková Judita

Tel: +42 1903 460108

Email: safarikova@agroinst.sk

²⁵⁸ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁵⁹ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

→ **Professional Women Association (PZ)**²⁶⁰

811 01 Bratislava, Laurinska 2

Contact Person: Šimunková Dagmar

Tel.: +42 2 5556 8557, +421 54411088; Fax: +42 2 5557 120, +421 5464 89123

Email: profwomen@zutom.sk; profiwom@zutom.sk

Short description:

Main aims:

- to improve women's participation in civil society, economic life and politics
- to encourage women to get involved in public and political life
- to encourage women to get involved into economically independent sectors
- to increase participation of women in decision making position and public life generally
- promote women networking, lobbying and advocacy activities
- promote the principle of gender equality as central to the realisation of human rights and to foster the gender approach in public policy.

→ **Prospecta**²⁶¹

Kosice, Hutnicka 1

Tel: + 421 55 63 243 22

Email: branko@napri.sk

Member of

- Network of East-West Women - Polska/NEWW

→ **Rural Women Association**

900 01 Modra, Dukelská 25

Contact Person: Šimečková A.

Tel: +42 905 461468, +42 33 6470130

Email: vinifera@nexta.sk

²⁶⁰ Information given by Olga Pietruchowa via Email on 11.09.2006

²⁶¹ <http://www.neww.org.pl/en.php/about/member/0.html#Slovakia>; [07.09.2006]

→ **Silver Heads Club**²⁶²

811 04 Bratislava, Dolná 7

Contact Person: Rajchlová Elena

Tel: +4212 54418647

→ **Slovak Association for Planned Parenthood and Education for Parenthood**²⁶³

821 02 Bratislava, Ružinovská 1

Tel: +421 24 342 3880; Fax: +421 24 342 3880

Email: sspprv@nexta.sk; Web: www.rodicovstvo.sk

Short description:²⁶⁴

Slovak Family Planning Association (Slovak FPA) is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary, non governmental organisation, established in 1991. Organisation comprises mostly of professionals (physicians, nurses, teachers, psychologist, journalist, lawyers) acting in the area of family planning, sexual and reproductive health. Mission of the Slovak FPA is to support a responsible and cultivated sexual behaviour of men and women and to defend basic human right in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

Slovak FPA has three main goals:

1. To support, defend and monitor compliance with basic human rights of all men and women for free and informed choice with respect to their own sexual and reproductive health.
 2. To initiate changes in education system concerning sexual and reproductive health
 3. To form Slovak FPA as a multi - disciplinary NGO, bringing together financial and human resources to achieve its. set goals; i.e. to initiate and assist with the establishment of conditions that will optimise the co-ordination of the entire system that provide sexual and reproductive health services with a special focus on groups that require special attention.
- In pursuing its goals Slovak FPA is propagating reproductive rights as basic human rights in environment with decreasing natality, without active women organisation, with aggressive religious, mainly catholic opposition, against reproductive health and reproductive rights philosophy, and in country without tradition of civil society. It organises multidisciplinary conferences, press conferences and other mass-media activities, to increase awareness of professionals and lay public on reproductive health problems and possible solutions

²⁶² Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁶³ <http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200421.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁶⁴ http://www.rodicovstvo.sk/engl_sfpa.htm; [20.09.2006]

respecting reproductive rights of individuals. Slovak FPA organises training of teachers for sex education, training of volunteer-advisors for telephone hot line for abused children, lectures for nurses and physicians in postgraduate courses, publishes four times a year its own information bulletin "Empathia". Slovak FPA is a member of IPPF European Network and is collaborating with other international agencies working in Slovakia or abroad (WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, Population Institute in Washington, (Open Society Foundation - Soros Foundation etc.). Slovak FPA supports co-ordination of family planning services network to be more client oriented, through its own members, working in out patient departments. Slovak FPA has more than 350 members.

→ **Slovak Helsinki Committee**²⁶⁵

81109 Bratislava, Grösslingova 4

Tel: +421 25 296 8875; Fax: +421 25 296 8876

Email: shv@shv.sk; Web: www.shv.sk

Mission:²⁶⁶

The Slovak Helsinki Committee is a member of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, a self-governing group of monitoring organisations in the participating states of the OSCE. Its mission is to monitor and promote Slovakia's compliance with its human rights commitments under the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, the Act's follow-up provisions and other international human rights instruments that the Slovak Republic has ratified. The SHC is dedicated to the prevention of human rights violations, to human rights education and to the promotion and implementation of international human rights standards. The SHC provides regular reports on the state of human rights in Slovakia to the International Helsinki Federation and other international human rights NGOs, as well as reports on various topics and statements on specific cases of human rights violations.

²⁶⁵ <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep200424.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁶⁶ http://www.shv.sk/o_nas.php?l=lng/english.php; [20.09.2006]

→ **Slovak Women's Lobby**²⁶⁷

81102 Bratislava; Palisady 44

Tel: + 041 2 5443 0889; Fax: + 041 2 5443 0889

Email: mail@gender.sk; Web: www.gender.sk

Member of

- EWL - European Women's Lobby

→ **Slovak Women's Social democratic Society**²⁶⁸

85105 Bratislava, Starhradská 14

Contact Person: Chudíková Alena

Tel: +421905 630239, +421263830918; Fax: +4212 63835486

Email: arlena@stonline.sk

→ **The Association of Women Police Officers**²⁶⁹

81272 Bratislava; Račianska 45

Contact Person: Bujnáková Marta

Tel: +421 9610 50 004

Email: bujnakov@minv.sk

→ **TOP Centre of women entrepreneurs**²⁷⁰

82109 Bratislava, Prešovská 39

Contact Person: Chadimová Elvíra

Tel: +4212 55560685; Fax: +4212 55571203

Email: info@tcp.sk

²⁶⁷

http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1Template1.asp?DocID=414&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID_sousmenu=; [07.09.2006]

²⁶⁸ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁶⁹ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁷⁰ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

→ **VEDAM Žilina**²⁷¹

01 008 Žilina, Martinská 1/6
 Contact Person: Grenčíková Viera
 Tel: +42141 5252272 ; Fax: +42141 7243326
 Email: gea.vera@marta.sk

→ **Victim Support Slovakia**²⁷²

82005 Bratislava, P.O. Box 83
 Tel: +421 08 501 11321
 Email: info@pomocobetiam.sk; Web: www.pomocobetiam.sk

→ **VOKA - Rural organisation for community activities**²⁷³

97401Banska Bystrica, Namestie Stefana Moyzesa 4
 Contact Persons: Jana Meciarova, Ingrid Bernathová
 Tel: +42 48 4151691 or +42 48 4153803; Fax: +4248 4151693 or +4248 4151801
 Email: voka@voka.sk; berny@changenet.sk; Web: www.voka.sk

Short description:

VOKA is a civic association officially registered in August 1998.

Objectives and Goals of VOKA:

- To promote and support democracy, principles of equal opportunities, freedom of expression, to promote inhabitants and their participation in planning and decision-making process, to develop voluntary participation in community activities and to defend citizens´ interests at local, regional and national level.
- To promote sustainable community and economic development especially through grassroots activity and making available other appropriate resources. Community and economic development includes identification and support of leaders, organisational development and economic activities to support small and medium enterprises in rural areas. Implementation of new ideas and methods should be based on the preservation of cultural heritage.

²⁷¹ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁷² <http://www.stopvaw.org/20Sep200425.html>; [25.09.2006]

²⁷³ Annual Report of VOKA, 2004

→ **Women of Kysuce, N. F.**²⁷⁴

022 01 Čadca, Podzávoz 1147

Contact Person: Krkošková Jolana

Tel.: +42 1 4321 253, +42 905 248 395; Fax: +42 1 4334 898

Email: zeny_kysuc@nextra.sk

→ **Women of the Third Milenium**²⁷⁵

075 01 Trebišov, Šafárikova 26

Contact Person: Haburová Magdaléna

Tel: +421 566682970; Fax: +421 56/6682971

Email: haburatv@stonline.sk

→ **ŽIVENA, Slovak Women Association in Martin**²⁷⁶

036 01 Martin, Hviezdoslavova 21

Contact Person: Breirová Zora, Kubincová Viera

Tel: +421 43 4132 6442; +421 43 423 8864; +421 90 573 3419; Fax: +421 43 428 6039

²⁷⁴ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁷⁵ Member of Slovak Women Lobby; <http://www.zenskaloby.szm.sk/>; [22.09.2006]

²⁷⁶ <http://www.stopvaw.org/16Sep200418.html>; [25.09.2006]

ANNEX III – AN OVERVIEW OF DONOR ORGANISATIONS AND FUNDS SUPPORTING WOMEN PROJECTS

Basically the donor organisations, which are financing projects dealing with women's issues in the CEEC can be classified as: national donors, private international donors and foreign governmental donors whereas the distinction between national and private is often not really clear. Private donors, listed here are in most cases either international or independent charitable trusts or foundations with political background.

Additionally there are the pre-accession and post-accession EU's funds, few of them provide special programmes supporting women's issues.

The list below is not intended to be exhaustive or comprehensive, but simply lists the organisations which are mentioned as donors, financing sources or "partners" in several projects and on different websites of women's organisations.

National Donors in Bulgaria and Slovakia

➤ **BULGARIAN NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (NDI)**

www.ndi-bg.org/_en/ndi_in_bg.html

➤ **ETP Slovakia – Centre for Sustainable Development**

The ETP Slovakia was established in 1992 as a consulting and educational NGO as part of a programme (Environmental Training Project for Central and Eastern Europe) implemented by USAID in six countries. The objectives are:

- To strengthen cooperation and encourage a participative approach when addressing sustainable development issues,
- to develop the human resources necessary for the implementation of → strategic change,

-
- to create space for discussion on environmental, economic and social problems and possible solutions,
 - to support public involvement in the decision-making process.

www.etp.sk

➤ **FOUNDATION EKOPOLIS**

www.changenet.sk

➤ **HODINA DETOM (Foundation for Children of Slovakia)**

www.hodinadetom.sk

➤ **LÚDOVÁ BANKA - VOLKSBANK**

www.luba.sk

➤ **ORANGE**

www.kontoorange.sk

➤ **SLOVAK-CZECH WOMEN'S FUND**

The mission of the Slovak-Czech Women's Fund is to ensure resources for supporting the promotion of women's rights and gender equality in society.

www.womensfund.cz; www.womensfund.sk

➤ **SNSC – First Slovak Non-profit Service Center**

www.mvoservis.sk

➤ **SZRB – Slovak Guarantee and Development Bank**

The Slovak Guarantee and Development Bank, joint-stock company (SZRB) is a specialised banking institution founded by the central body of state administration – the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic. Thus, SZRB has become the first bank in Eastern Europe to focus on the support of small and medium-sized enterprises.

www.szrb.sk

➤ **TATRA BANKA**

www.tatrabanka.sk/cgi-bin/web/app/index.jsp?jazyk=en

➤ **US STEEL KOSICE**

U. S. Steel Kosice is a modern, integrated steelmaking company organized into divisions and plants which are responsible for the sequence of production processes starting with preparation of primary mineral raw materials, proceeding through the production of pig iron and converter steel all the way to the output of final products with high added-value.

www.usske.sk

➤ **WORLDBANK SLOVAKIA**

Each year the World Bank lends between US\$15-\$20 billion for projects in the more than 100 countries it works with. Projects range across the economic and social spectrum in these countries from infrastructure, to education, to health, to government financial management.

www.worldbank.sk

Private independent Donors

➤ **APC WNSP – Women’s Networking Support Programme**

The origins of the APC Women's Networking Support Programme go back to 1993 in response to several convergent needs and demands from within the women's movement. The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women - UNWCW and the rapid development of international communications technologies were key factors which gave rise to the Programme's beginning. APC WNSP is a global network of women who support women networking for social change and women's empowerment, through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The network numbers over 100 women from more than 35 countries. They are individual women and women's groups and organisations working in the field of gender and ICT and actively supporting women's networking.

www.apcwomen.org

➤ **BATORY FOUNDATION**

Batory Foundation is an independent private Polish foundation. Its mission is to support the development of an open, democratic society in Poland and other Central and East European countries.

www.batory.org

➤ **CHARLES STEWARD MOTT-Foundation**

Through its programs of Civil Society, Environment, Flint Area and Pathways Out of Poverty, and their more specific program areas, the Foundation seeks to fulfill its mission of supporting efforts that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society.

www.mott.org

➤ **FORD FOUNDATION (FF)**

The Ford Foundation is a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide, which goals are to: strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation and advance human achievement.

www.fordfound.org

➤ **FREEDOM HOUSE**

is an independent non-governmental organisation that supports the expansion of freedom in the world. Freedom is possible only in democratic political systems in which the governments are accountable to their own people; the rule of law prevails; and freedoms of expression, association, belief and respect for the rights of minorities and women are guaranteed.

www.freedomhouse.org

➤ **FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION**

is a private cultural non-profit institution committed to the idea of social democracy. It supports activities in the areas of political education, international cooperation, provides scholarship programs, research and consulting.

www.fes.de; www.fes.sk; www.fes.bg

➤ **FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION**

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation is an independent, nonprofit, nongovernmental organisation that is committed to promoting liberal policy and politics.

Originating in Germany, the Foundation has won a reputation for promoting Freedom in human Dignity as the ultimate precondition of a society where people can live freely and in peace.

www.fnst.de/webcom/show_article.php/_c-705/i.html

➤ **GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN**

The Global Fund For Women is a grant making foundation supporting women's human rights organisations.

www.globalfundforwomen.org

➤ **HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG**

HBF is a legally independent political foundation working in the spirit of intellectual openness, supporting political education both within Germany and abroad, promoting democratic involvement, socio-political activism, and cross-cultural understanding.

www.boell.de/asp/frameset_en.html

➤ **HIVOS**

www.hivos.nl

➤ **KVINNA TILL KVINNA**

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation supports women in regions affected by war and conflict.

We work in partnership with women's organisations in the Balkans, in the Middle East and in the Caucasus.

We support projects to strengthen women psychologically and physically. We want to empower these women and support them in building a democratic society.

www.iktk.se/english/index.html

➤ **LIBRA FOUNDATION**

The Libra Foundation is a family foundation committed to enhancing the human rights movement by supporting innovative and effective work that will lead to real social change. The Foundation supports organisations that promote fundamental freedoms and human rights in the United States and around the world.

www.thelibrafoundation.org/

➤ **MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION**

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is a private, independent grantmaking institution dedicated to helping groups and individuals foster lasting improvement in the human condition. Through the support it provides, the Foundation fosters the development of knowledge, nurtures individual creativity, strengthens institutions, helps improve public policy, and provides information to the public, primarily through support for public interest media.

www.macfound.org/

➤ **MAMA CASH**

Mama Cash, the first independent funding organisation for women, strives for a peaceful and just world, a world where women are free to make their own choices and to develop their talents and skills.

www.mamacash.org; www.mamacash.nl/site/en/index.php

➤ **MINNESOTA ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights. With the help of the more than 600 active volunteers who contribute an estimated \$3.4 million annually of in-kind services, Minnesota Advocates documents human rights abuses, advocates on behalf of individual victims, educates on human rights issues, and provides training and technical assistance to address and prevent human rights violations.

www.mnadvocates.org

➤ **OAK FOUNDATION**

The resources of the Oak Foundation originated from an interest in the Duty Free Shoppers business which Alan M. Parker helped to build up. Since 1998 when the Foundation was reorganized and began to hire new staff, it has made over 900 grants to not-for-profit organisations throughout the world.

<http://www.oakfnd.org/>

➤ **OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE (OSI) & Soros Foundations Network**

The Open Society Institute (OSI), a private operating and grantmaking foundation, aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform.

www.soros.org; www.osf.bg/; www.osf.sk

➤ **OXFAM - NOVIB**

The Oxfams work together with a total of 3,000 counterparts in 100 countries. They maintain contacts with various large international networks and civic organisations. The cooperation started with advocacy but now covers the projects work and joint campaigning.

www.oxfam.org; www.novib.nl; www.oxfamnovib.nl

➤ **PHILIP MORRIS**

www.philipmorrisinternational.com/SK/pages/slk/Default.asp

➤ **ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION**

The Rockefeller-Foundation is committed to fostering knowledge and innovation to enrich and sustain the lives and livelihoods of poor and excluded throughout the World.

www.rockfound.org

➤ **SHALER ADAMS FOUNDATION**

The Shaler Adams Foundation is an American non-profit foundation making grants in the area of women's human rights.

www.shaleradams.org/

➤ **SIGRID RAUSING TRUST**

is a grant giving trust. Funding categories are all human rights oriented. It largely supports groups that work internationally. The Trust is interested in lasting social change, achieved through a rights based approach. It takes also the rights of women.

www.sigrid-rausing-trust.org

➤ **THE JAN HUS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

An international, non-political, non-denominational, educational and cultural foundation. For two decades the Jan Hus Educational Foundation has worked to support higher education and build a civil society in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

www.vnjh.sk

➤ **UNIDEA – UniCredit Foundation**

Unidea-UniCredit Foundation is a private foundation established by UniCredito Italiano in March 2003 which will plan and sustain interventions in the field of development solidarity and co-operation.

www.unicreditfoundation.org

➤ **URGENT ACTION FUND (UAF)**

Grounded in a human rights framework and focused on women in civil society, Urgent Action Fund is a human rights organisation with a strategic mission.

As the only international women's fund in the world designed to respond on short notice, UAF collaborates with women activists in three primary contexts: peace building in situations of armed conflict, escalating violence, or politically volatile environments; potentially precedent-setting legal and legislative actions; and protection of women's human rights defenders.

www.urgentactionfund.org/

➤ **WIDE**

Network Women in Development Europe is a European network of development NGOs, gender specialists and human rights activists.

www.oneworld.at/wide

➤ **WOMEN OF EUROPE FOR COMMON FUTURE**

Women in Europe for a Common Future is a network of organisations and individuals working for sustainable development, protection of human health and environment and poverty reduction.

www.wecf.org

➤ **WOMEN WATCH**

(the UN interagency gateway for the advancement and empowerment of women coordinated by UN-DAW, UNIFEM, UN-INSTRAW)

Women Watch is a central gateway to information and resources on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the United Nations system, including the United Nations Secretariat, regional commissions, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and academic and research institutions. It is a joint United Nations project created in March 1997 to provide Internet space for global gender equality issues and to support implementation of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action.

www.un.org/womenwatch

➤ **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER/GERMAN COMMITTEE**

German Committee of Women's World Day of Prayer is a part of international ecumenical movement: World Day of Prayer. It gives support to projects independently carried out by women around the world.

www.weltgebetag.de

➤ **WORLD BANK (IBRD, IDA)**

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. We are not a bank in the common sense. We are made up of two unique development institutions owned by 184 member countries—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). Together we provide low-interest loans, interest-free credit and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, communications and many other purposes.

www.worldbank.org

Multilateral and Foreign Governmental Donors

➤ **ADA - Austrian Development Agency**

The Austrian Development Agency is the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation and Cooperation with Eastern Europe (ADC). The ADA is responsible for the implementation of all bilateral programmes and projects in the ADC partner countries and administrates the corresponding budget.

www.ada.gv.at/view.php3?r_id=3042&LNG=en&version

➤ **CIDA**

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is Canada's lead agency for development assistance. It has a mandate to support sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable, and prosperous world.

www.cida.ca

➤ **CODAP – Youth Ressource Center on Human rights, Switzerland**

www.codap.org/page.php?site=1

➤ **COOPERATING NETHERLANDS FOUNDATIONS**

www.cooperatingnetherlandsfoundations.nl/index.htm

➤ **GOETHE INSTITUT**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institution operational worldwide. It promotes the study of German abroad and encourages international cultural exchange.

www.goethe.de/uun/enindex.htm

➤ **IDRC – International Development Research Centre**

is a Canadian Crown corporation that works in close collaboration with researchers from the developing world in their search for the means to build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies.

www.idrc.ca

➤ **MATRA - Government of the Netherlands**

Matra's most important instrument – is “twinning”, hence, direct cooperation between local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Dutch NGOs that offer support for projects carried out with and by their Eastern or Central European partners.

www.netherlands-embassy.com.ua/matra_information.html#mpp

➤ **MINISTRY OF NORWAY**

<http://odin.dep.no>

➤ **PRO HELVETIA**

Pro Helvetia to foster cultural relations with other countries and runs the offices of the Swiss Cultural Programme (SCP) in South-East Europe under the auspices of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

www.pro-helvetia.ch

➤ **STABILITY PACT GENDER TASK FORCE**

The Gender Task Force works on three pillars:

- increasing public awareness of women's political participation in elections and political processes in general;
- reform of existing electoral systems and legislation where needed to promote women's political participation;
- establish governmental institutions to promote gender equality and improve and strengthen existing mechanisms.

<http://www.stabilitypact.org/gender/>

➤ **UNDP – UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organisation advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

<http://www.undp.org/>

<http://www.undp.bg/>

http://europeandcis.undp.org/?wspc=CP_SK

➤ **UNITED NATIONS FUNDS FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM)**

UNIFEM is an United Nation development fund working for women's empowerment and gender equality.

www.unifem.org

➤ **USAID/WIDTECH**

USAID is an independent federal government agency. It works to support economic growth, agricultural and trade, global health, democracy, conflict prevention.

www.usaid.gov

➤ **WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY within the
FCO – Foreign & Commonwealth Office**

The Foundation funds projects around the world which are aimed at building and strengthening pluralist democracies.

www.fco.gov.uk

European Financial Assistance

➤ **PRE-ACCESSION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (2000 until end of 2006)**²⁷⁷

These instruments provide the financing required for the candidate countries to adapt their standards, especially their industrial and environmental norms, so as to comply with Community legislation when they join the Union.

The pre-accession aid involves three main components, whereof ISPA isn't really a financing tool for Women's NGOs:

- **PHARE** (originally called Poland and Hungary Assistance for the Reconstruction of the Economy)

PHARE is a pre-accession fund. Its main aim is to finance institution building in all aspects of accession, including the management of the structural funds, telecommunications regulations, customs, health and safety, among others. Phare projects' goals are to adapt the candidate countries' administrative and legal systems and to develop their infrastructure.

- **ISPA** (Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-accession)

ISPA finances infrastructure development in the fields of the environment and transport. It is the equivalent of the Cohesion Fund for the Member states.

- **SAPARD** (Special Accession Program for Agriculture and Rural Development)

The EU's SAPARD assists the implementation of the Community acquis. It will also support measures to enhance efficiency and competitiveness in farming and the food industry and create employment and sustainable economic development in rural areas.

²⁷⁷ For more information about Pre-accession funds see Council Regulation (EC) No 1266/1999 of 21 June 1999 on coordinating aid to the applicant countries in the framework of the pre-accession strategy and amending Regulation (EEC) No. 3906/89 at http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/esf2000/regulations/pre-accession_aid/en.pdf

➤ **IPA – (Single Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) from 2007 onwards:**²⁷⁸

The Commission has decided to create a single Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for the period covered by the next Financial Perspectives (2007-2013).

The Council regulation establishing IPA has been adopted on 17 July 2006, replacing the pre-accession financial instruments PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD, the Turkish pre-accession instrument, and the financial instrument for the Western Balkans CARDS.

IPA covers the countries with candidate status (currently Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) and potential candidate status (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia including Kosovo).

➤ **EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS**²⁷⁹

Only member states are eligible for application under the structural funds. Most of the funding of the structural funds is being spent through multiannual development programmes, managed jointly by Commission services, the Member States and regional authorities. The European subsidies do not replace but rather supplement national aid. Each of the four existing Structural Funds has its own specific thematic area.²⁸⁰

As the FIG - The Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance, is most likely not really appropriate for the working areas of Women's NGOs, the following three funds are interesting for women's organisations:

▪ **ERDF - European Regional Development Fund**

The ERDF finances infrastructure, jobcreating investment, local development projects and aid for small firms.

Within ERDF the following Community Initiatives are financed:

- **INTERREG III** for cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation intended to encourage the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the whole of the Community area, and
- **URBAN II** for economic and social regeneration of cities and of urban neighbourhoods in crisis with a view to promoting a sustainable urban development.

²⁷⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/index_en.htm; [26.09.2006]

²⁷⁹ EU – Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

²⁸⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/intro/working4_en.htm; [26.09.2006]

▪ **EAGGF - Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund**

The EAGGF-Guidance finances rural development measures and provides aid for farmers, mainly in regions lagging behind in their development.

The EAGGF provides financial funding for the Community Initiative:

- **LEADER +** for rural development.

▪ **ESF – European Social Fund²⁸¹**

The ESF is one of the four existing Structural Funds. It promotes the return of the unemployed and disadvantaged groups to the workforce, mainly by financing training measures and systems of recruitment assistance.

The Community Initiative inside the ESF is:

- **EQUAL** an initiative for new ideas to implement the European Employment Strategy and the Social inclusion process. Its mission is to promote a more inclusive work life through fighting discrimination and exclusion based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

➤ **EU EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME within the Framework of the Lisbon Strategy**

“The Union must become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion” (European Council, Lisbon, March 2000).

In order to achieve this goal, besides the radical transformation of the European economy a challenging programme for the modernisation of social welfare and education systems is necessary.

Currently there are the following programmes and initiatives, which may be of interest for women’s organisations and projects, accessible:

²⁸¹ for further information see http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf2000/index_en.html

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- Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013²⁸²
 - Erasmus Mundus²⁸³
 - Socrates, (Comenius, Erasmus, Grundtvig, Lingua, Minerva)²⁸⁴
 - eLearning²⁸⁵
 - Leonardo da Vinci (Phase II)²⁸⁶
 - Tempus III (2000-2006)²⁸⁷
 - Programme to promote bodies active at European level and support specific activities²⁸⁸
 - Netd@ys Europe²⁸⁹

More than 200 further single funding actions are allocated directly by different departments of the European Commission.²⁹⁰

²⁸² <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11082.htm>

²⁸³ <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11072.htm>

²⁸⁴ <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11043.htm>

²⁸⁵ <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11073.htm>

²⁸⁶ <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11025.htm>

²⁸⁷ <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11020c.htm>

²⁸⁸ <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11069.htm>

²⁸⁹ <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11045.htm>

²⁹⁰ Weidel (2004), P. 31-34

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