

For Diversity against Discrimination
The EU Equality-Acquis: Experiences,
Problems and Opportunities

Strengthening Slovak administrative
capacities in Gender Mainstreaming

Results of the twinning project

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Legislation framework in Slovak Republic

- **Situation prior to EU accession (2004)**

- Antidiscrimination clause existent in Slovak legal system (to some extent)
- Antidiscrimination Act adopted in 2004

- **After accession of Slovak Republic**

- general satisfaction with achieved transposition as well as the state of gender equality

Current Situation, Outlook and Challenges

- **Legislation Framework – Transposition of directives**
- **Enforcing the new legislation in Slovak Republic**

Current Situation, Outlook and Challenges

- **Legislation Framework – Transposition of directives**
 - Time limitations + Political compromises =>
 - some legal institutes and definitions were not transposed fully in accordance to the requirements of EU 's antidiscrimination directives
 - Transposition of other directives
 1. Sexual harassment definition still missing
 2. Equality body on gender equality has not been established yet
 3. Process of transposition of directive 113/2004 EC has been launched
- must result into amendment of existing antidiscrimination Act.

Current Situation, Outlook and Challenges

- **Enforcing the new legislation in Slovak Republic**
 - Inevitable – but still - poses many crucial challenges:
 - Many believe there is no problem
 - Raising awareness on all levels - horizontally and vertically (Regional, Municipal)
- **Twinning project: Strengthening administrative capacities in the field of gender mainstreaming**

Twinning project: Strengthening administrative capacities in the field of gender mainstreaming

- Objective
 - **Create a basis and train administrative structure for the issues of gender equality at the state, regional and municipal level**
 - **Target group comprises professionals and general public**
- Process
 - **3 modules of trainings, study visits in Germany and France**
- Results
 - **350 employees have been retrained at all levels**
 - **Establishment of a web portal - www.gender.go.sk**
 - **Brochure summarizing Best Practices in Slovak Republic**
 - **Draft of National strategy on gender equality**
 - **Focal Points - Inter ministerial committee on gender mainstreaming**
 - **Press conferences and media coverage -> raised public awareness**

Securing the enforcement of gender policy

- **Political will and commitment** = precondition of successful gender equality policy
- Policies reflected in **institutional mechanisms**
 - Council of government on gender equality (currently being established)
 - Achieved stronger status of the department of gender equality and equal opportunities
 - Commission for the gender equality and advancement women established on the parliamentary level

Our focus – a long term strategy

- results of gender policy implementation require long term focus
- The ultimate goal is the elimination of stereotypes and prejudice
- All our achievements however proficient are only steps to achieving this objective
- constituting partial, but crucial accomplishments
- We are on the right track!