

Consideration of the Report of the Republic of Estonia submitted under Article 18 of CEDAW

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Entering into force of the Gender Equality Act on 1st of May 2004 should be mentioned as one of the most important developments. The lack of relevant legislation was also one of the points of concerns for the Committee when considering our initial report.

The purpose of the Act is to ensure equal treatment for men and women and to promote gender equality as a fundamental human right and a public good in all areas of social life. The act provides for the prohibition on discrimination based on sex in private and public sectors and also the right to claim compensation for damage.

The Act can be qualified as progressive legislation and as a progressive factor for social

mainstreaming since it commits all state and local government agencies to apply gender mainstreaming strategy. It obliges also educational and research institutions and employers to promote equal treatment for men and women.

An independent institution of the Gender Equality Commissioner handling the complaints about gender discrimination was established. The act also stipulates the duties of Ministry of

track approach to achieve equality and to develop specific methods and tools, in particular gender impact assessment, for the promotion of gender mainstreaming in Estonia. Also first manual for Gender Impact Assessment was compiled by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Gender impact assessment is an instrument and a component of the Gender Mainstreaming concept. Implementation of Gender Equality Act as a result of...

availability of sex-desegregated and gender relevant data, but availability of gender expertise as well.

In order to further prepare for implementation of gender mainstreaming strategy the Phare Twinning Project "Development of Administrative Capacity of National Authorities in the Field of Gender Mainstreaming" was carried out from July 2004 to December 2005 between

the German and Estonian authorities. The project was implemented by...

which briefly and clearly presents the basic terminology and problems related to equality of

In order to have a better overview of attitudes and opinions women and men carry concerning the situation and position of men and women in a society, Ministry of Social Affairs ordered in 2005 already for the second time a survey "Gender Equality Monitoring". The analysis of the results of the survey has been made available to the public at the homepage of the ministry.

From the beginning of June 2007, the co-ordination of family policies in Estonia was added to the tasks of the deputy secretary general and also the Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The staff of the department consists at the moment of 7 civil servants, 1 of whom is coordinating the activities of 2007 – Year of Equal Opportunities carried out under the auspices of European Union and 1 family policies related activities.

The work of the gender equality unit is supported by the policy information and analysis departments of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Social Policy Information and Analysis Department is preparing different indicators for measuring the situation of gender equality in Estonia, coordinating the research activities and analysis of the disaggregated data. Also the Labour Policy Information and Analysis Department supports the activities of the gender equality unit.

At the beginning of October 2005 the Gender Equality Commissioner was appointed but the

institution as such will still need to be developed in order to guarantee the necessary effectiveness of the work. Pursuant to Gender Equality Act the Commissioner monitors

procedure possibility, only 1 such application has been lodged until now but this did not concern discrimination based on sex.

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For prevention purposes several awareness raising campaigns have been implemented.

remarkable of them the Nordic-Baltic Campaign against Trafficking in Women 2002-2003. Red Cross and IOM have had trafficking prevention campaigns targeting young people. Trainings for specialists such as social workers and victim support specialists, teachers, youth workers, police authorities, school psychologists are held several times a year; they are organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs. Red Cross

As to the future plans, I would like to point out that Estonia continues implementing the National Development Plan 2006-2009. Also, the Nordic-Baltic Pilot project and FOHAI

project are implemented 2005-2008.

Madame Chairperson, let me now proceed with the issue of violence against women. Two large-scale quantitative researches have been conducted on prevalence, causes and consequences of domestic violence in Estonia so far (Estonian Open Society Institute 2001, 2002). There have also been analyses made upon police statistics in one of the four police



Ministry of Education and Science) were involved in compiling the national action plan and several activities will be put into practice by them.

From the beginning of 2006 in order to protect the personal life of a person or other personality rights, the court may apply a restriction order with a term up to three years under the Code of Civil Procedure. Also, from July 2006 there is a possibility under the Code of Criminal Procedure for a court to forbid temporarily the suspect or the accused to be in places or to approach or communicate with the persons designated by the court. Such a temporary

restriction order can be applied only with the consent of the victim

Ministry of Social Affairs from 2003 to 2005 several NGO-s were financed in order to carry out projects aimed at increasing political representation of women. From 2006 some changes were integrated into the money allocating process. First, relevant project competition is now organized in co-operation with Open Estonian Foundation. Second, the circle of addressees has

The research "Women-Men on Estonian Labour Market: Evaluation of Wage Differences", was carried out by Political Research Centre Praxis in 2004. The researchers confirm that a large part of wage differences probably arises from people's attitudes, which are expressed in

change of attitudes is enhanced by increased awareness. The Estonian media has always

network of employers and stakeholders to exchange information, experience and good practice for the advancement of gender equality.

Thirteen development partnerships in the framework of the European Commission's EQUAL initiative have been funded in Estonia. Five of the development partnerships were aimed at improving the situation of women in the labour market. The main activities included training, motivating women to start their own businesses, raising general awareness of society about gender equality, providing information about the possibilities of reconciling work and family

life, creating new working-methods and the like.

It is also included and distributed in addition to the publishing of...

Madame Chairperson,

The problems of HIV/AIDS were among the issues of concern for the Committee during the consideration of our initial report. We have to admit that these issues continue to be problematic to Estonia and the fight against HIV/AIDS poses significant burden on the society. The first AIDS case was diagnosed in 1992. The total number of people diagnosed with AIDS throughout the years is 145. Majority of registered cases are injecting drug users (IDU) and their sexual partners but statistics shows signs that there is a threat to the generalisation of the epidemics.

In order to tackle the HIV/AIDS epidemic new national HIV and AIDS strategy for 2006-2015 has been drawn up in 2005 together with an action plan for 2006-2009. In the situation of growing epidemics it was considered necessary to prepare a strategy that would involve more other governmental organisations, private sector and civil society. The Government also