

## Monthly F-Mail / March 2008

*Monthly information newsletter on gender equality in time of the Slovenian EU presidency*

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### Institutions

**On 25 March 2008 the European Commission launched** an eight-week [public consultation on patient safety](#). Conclusions of this consultation will help develop Commission's proposal on general patient safety issues, planned for late 2008. Commission's proposal will address an important issue of patient safety throughout the EU, and it will include a detailed first pillar, addressing healthcare-associated infections (HCAI), on which separate public consultations have already been held.

**On 19 March 2008, the European Commission began** a public internet consultation on the future of the EU scheme "[Food distribution to the Most Deprived Persons](#)". Charitable bodies, government services and all interested NGOs, as well as the general public, are invited to share their opinion and contribute to a web-powered consultation until 14. May 2008. (Source: [European Commission](#))

**In the framework of the project "Advocate - voice of the child"**, Slovenian Ombudsman, Dr. Zdenka Čebašek - Travnik, hosted Erin Pizzey, founder of the world's first refuge for battered women. Sound recording of Erin Pizzey's lecture is available (in English) on the web-site of the Slovenian [Human Rights Ombudsman](#).

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### Documents

**The newest report of the Bologna Process Working Group**, entitled "[Key issues for the European Higher Education Area – Social Dimension and Mobility](#)" (pdf), includes gender-differentiated data on mobility of staff and students in participating countries. (Source: [Eurydice](#))

**The European Parliament's resolution of 10 April 2008** on combating cancer in the enlarged European Union makes a specific reference to women by calling on the Commission and the EU member states "to promote information campaigns on cancer screening directed at the general public and all healthcare providers, as well as exchange of best practice on the use of preventive or early-detection measures, such as cost-effective integration of appropriate human papilloma virus (HPV) testing for cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination to protect young women from cervical cancer...". (Source: [European Parliament](#))

**On 2 April 2008 the European Commission** presented a renewed strategy for debating the future of Europe. In a communication entitled "[Debate Europe – building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate](#)", it put forward a set of future actions to foster a general and permanent debate on the future of the European Union among people from all walks of life, at both national and EU level. In addition to further developing the most successful initiatives undertaken under Plan D since 2005, the Commission will shortly publish a call for proposals for co-financing a number of civil society projects in 2008 and 2009. (Source: [European Commission](#))

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## NGOs

**A group of youth from African, Caribbean, Pacific and the EU countries**, meeting on the side of the [15th session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union \(ACP - EU\)](#), pointed out that "the international community's promise of sexual and reproductive health has not been fulfilled yet". At the youth convention, organised by the Working Group for Sexual and Reproductive Health, under the auspices of SLOGA - a platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the need for boarder public information campaign about the importance of sexual and reproductive rights has also been stressed. More information available at: [anja.mesic@sloga-platform.org](mailto:anja.mesic@sloga-platform.org).

**Contribution of the European Women's Lobby** to the measures relating to reconciliation of work, private and family life was prepared within the framework of the European Commission's consultation process. EWL supports further improvement of the existing European legislation and creation of new legal tools, which would better reconcile work and private life for women and men, as well as enhance men's participation in the private sphere. In addition, EWL calls for consistency and coherence among different pieces of legislation, legal and policy tools promoting equality between women and men. In is only with consistency that the Commission's stated objective of tackling reconciliation through gender equality could be achieved. (Source: [Social Platform](#))

**The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)** is coordinating a transnational project entitled "[Date Rape Cases Among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention](#)", funded by the European Commission, Daphne II Programme. Partners to the project are the University of Malta (Malta), the Institute for Equality (Greece), the Coalition for Gender Equality in Latvia (Latvia), and the Women's Issues Information Center (Lithuania). The project aims to investigate the incidence of date rape among young women in tertiary education (18-24) in five European countries including Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Malta and Lithuania, and to explore their attitudes, dating experiences and their level of awareness. The project is now in its second phase, in which five country reports have been finalized on the basis of comprehensive data, information and material acquired through quantitative and qualitative research carried out in each partner country. The research aimed at measuring the prevalence and incidence of date rape among female college students and assessing the attitudes, behaviours and level of awareness among beneficiaries and target groups. For more information contact: [daphne@medinstgenderstudies.org](mailto:daphne@medinstgenderstudies.org). (Source: [MIGS](#))

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## Call for proposals

**European Development Fund has published** a call for proposals "[Information, education and raising people awareness campaign on women's role in a legal state – Burundi](#)" (ref. 126770). The objective of the financed actions is to inform, educate and make Burundian people more aware of the importance of women's role in law's administration, magistrates and other work in Burundi's judicial sector. Eligible applicants: NGOs, local, regional and state institutions, as well as associations from EU Member States and from African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP). Deadline for submitting proposals: 30 April 2008.

**A call for proposal on** "[Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations \(including economic and social partners\) active in the field of promoting women's rights and equality between women and men](#)" in the Mediterranean Partner Countries has been published. Activities will focus on policy development, advocacy and monitoring. Three priorities have been defined for this Call: (i) coordinated action by civil society in the area of women's rights and equality between women and men; (ii) action of economic and social partners targeting the labour market and the work place; and (iii) integration of equality between women and men in the socio-economic development strategies. Deadline for submission of concept notes (in English and French) is 7 May 2008. (Source: [EuroMed](#))

**Two calls for proposals were published** within the framework of the EU programme Progress (DG Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities): (i) [Restricted Call for Proposals VP/2008/005 - "National Awareness Raising Activities in the field of Antidiscrimination"](#), budget heading 04 04 01 04 - Progress - Anti-discrimination and diversity (deadline for submitting

proposals: 30 May 2008), and (ii) [Restricted Call for Proposals \(VP/2008/012\) - Improvement of Gender Mainstreaming in National Policies and Programmes](#) (deadline: 23 May 2008).

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