

Dear UWE-members,

In this newsletter, you will find information on the following topics:

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THE DEADLINE OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT IS JULY 6. WHEN I WAS ELECTED 3 YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A STRONG COMPETITION; THREE CAPABLE CANDIDATES. UNTIL NOW, I DID NOT RECEIVE ANY NOMINATION. PLEASE LOOK IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT OR CONSIDER IT YOURSELF.

1. Organisational messages

a) The UWE Meeting will take place at the Juridicum, Universitat Wien, Schottenbastei 10-16 in the Old City of Vienna from September 3 until 6. You can still register. For the registration form go to www.ifuw.org/uwe see announcements). For the programme see: www.vaoe.at, header: UWE MEETING. 81 women from 15 different NFA's have already registered.

b) The Turkish Association, the Spanish Federation and the Dutch Association have elected a new CER Nezihe Bilhan (TUKD), Nancy Bonce (FEMU) and Eileen Focke (VVAO). You can meet them during our meeting in Vienna.

c) The Scottish Federation has elected a new President Anne Reynolds.

d) The Belgium Federation of University Women has lost its IFUW and UWE membership.

e) The Treasurer of UWE, Elsbeth von Navarini, says thank you to all who have paid their dues, ten NFA's up to now. She urges the other members to settle the invoice for the membership fee as soon as possible. She would like to remind all members of the Amendment to Art. 8 of the Constitution, as decided in the UWE General Assembly of N.Cyprus: "No member shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the General Assembly if they are in arrears of payment of their dues to UWE".

2. News on the European Mentoring project

The second EU subsidies (Grundtvig, Lifelong Learning Programme) meeting of the Mentoring Project took place. From May 20 until 24 the three participating partners, Finland, Turkey and The Netherlands met in Izmir, Turkey. After an interesting Cultural day (Visit to Ephesus and a Ballet) on Thursday, the entire Friday and Saturday were reserved to work on the Project. The opening was done by several Turkish hotshots followed by Sonya Höstman, our project Coordinator, who summarised the projects and the results so far.

In the afternoon, we discussed the questionnaires for the intake of Mentees and Mentors and the evaluation form. Besides, we got presentations from the three partners about their experiences with the mentoring project, varying from matchmaking and workshops on how to set up a mentoring project and mentoring in business and the Academic world.

Saturday, we worked on the meeting report and the activity plan. In the afternoon, amongst others, I gave a presentation on How to support Women via Non Profit Organisation.

Sunday, the intermediate report for the EU was prepared and there was a little spare time for relaxing at the pool or visiting a museum.

Shortly, it was a fruitful meeting with intensive work and good progress for the project team, but also with time to get to know each other and enjoy the Turkish hospitality and culture.

For more information and the beautiful logo see: www.ifuw.org/uwe/mentoring-project.html

3. News from the Council of Europe

Vice President, Vera John, and former Vice President Renée Gérard attended the spring session of the INGO Conference in Strasbourg. For more info: <http://www.coe.int/T/E/NGO/Public/>

The Committee on Human Rights had an excellent presentation by François Becker on the different facets of Human Rights. To enlist full participation of the NGO's four working groups are constituted but more can be envisaged. Renée enlisted in two subgroups Women and human rights and Human rights and laïcité.

The Gender Equality Transversal Group (reporter Vera John) also met. They discussed working methods - how to effectively contribute to the process of the elaboration of the convention – and took note of strategies and mechanisms for working within the Group, with the other INGO committees and with the respective bodies of the Council of Europe.

They expressed their concern about the understaffed Gender Equality Division of the Council of Europe; the Gender Equality Transversal Group unanimously decided that the Chair sends a letter of concern to the person in charge. This impending permanent lack of personal support due to the reduction of financial resources must be solved soon.

4. News from the European Women's Lobby

Lobbying Action on forthcoming nominations: Commissioners, New European Parliament President, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Parliaments Committees

As part of the 50/50 Campaign, the EWL has developed two model lobbying letters.

The first letter aims to lobby for more women in decision-making in relation to the current (Untransparent) negotiations that are taking place regarding the nominations of the next European Parliament's President as well as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Parliament's Committees. The EWL asks for a woman President and 50% women as (vice)-chairs of EP Committees.

The second letter is to lobby for the equal representation of women and men in relation to the nomination of European Commissioners. For more information: www.womenlobby.org

Gender Audit Report - European Elections 2009: Most Political Parties Lagging Behind in the Road towards Gender Equality!

The European Women's Lobby 50/50 Campaign for Democracy, running since September 2008, published on 20 May 2009 a Gender Audit Report of Electoral Lists and Political Programmes, in view of the European elections of 4-7 June 2009.

The Gender Audit looks at political programmes and electoral lists for the European elections from a women's rights perspective. It evaluates the political parties' commitment to gender equality in view of the European Parliament elections 2009 and encourages voters to be involved in European politics.

The report concludes that most political parties do not consider equality between women and men as a key priority in light of the European elections 2009, despite the strong competence of the European Union in the area. You are invited to read the whole REPORT here [\(EN\)](#) [\(FR\)](#), as well as the PRESS RELEASE [\(EN\)](#); [\(FR\)](#) and the SUMMARY [\(EN\)](#); [\(FR\)](#)

Join the Campaign for a Strong United Nations Agency for Women's Rights!

New website invites European civil society organisations and citizens to join a global campaign to create a strong United Nations agency for women's rights. Join us at www.un-gear.eu and make history by helping to build United Nations that really works for women!

5. IFUW news

CALL FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR PAPERS FOR THE CONFERENCE IN MEXICO Education, Empowerment and Development

Deadline for submitting abstracts – 30 June 2009 see <http://www.ifuw.org/ifuw2010/seminars/>

HUMANITARIAN APPEAL FOR PAKISTAN

The United Nations and its partners have launched an international humanitarian appeal for \$543 million for Pakistan. The funds are needed to assist the 1.7 million persons displaced because of the fighting in Pakistan's Swat Valley in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) since 2 May. The IFUW Board of Officers encourages all NFA's and members to urge their governments to support this appeal and to express concern for the education, health and human rights of women and girls in the region. For more information, see the website of the UN Refugee Agency <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/4a2010ce4.html>.

NEW IFUW E-MAIL DISCUSSION ON "WOMEN AND WEALTH"

The IFUW had an e-mail discussion on "Women & Wealth". In 1997, it was estimated that nearly 70% of the world's 1.3 billion poor people were women. Whatever the wealth of a nation, women as a group have a smaller portion of that national wealth than men as a group. The 2009 ILO Report on Global Employment Trends for Women notes that the global financial crisis has increased the difficulty of achieving gender equality. A Summary of the discussion will soon be available on www.ifuw.org.

THE GLOBAL DOWNTURN: ARE WOMEN DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED?

The United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) just held its first Public Symposium on the effects of the global financial turmoil. One agenda item discussed whether women were disproportionately affected by the crisis. It concluded that women ARE indeed a factor in the economic crisis and that governments that do not empower women will be at an economic disadvantage not using the work force at its full potential. The International Labour Organization's (ILO) projections for 2009 suggest that the global unemployment rate for women will rise to 7.4%. Human trafficking, child labour and gender imbalances in general will increase, affecting education for young girls. Current recovery projects unfortunately are too often based on outdated methods based on a male dominated work force. To read the full report: http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/reports/2009_UNCTAD_public_symposium.pdf

Erin Liepa, IFUW Intern

SWEDISH FEDERATION RECEIVES GRANT FOR A "LEAKY PIPE" PROJECT

The Swedish Federation (KAF) has been awarded approximately 28 000 Euros from the Swedish Government for projects and other activities. Their first project, organised with the Network of Academic Women in the Nordic Countries (KANN), will be a workshop called "The leaky pipe". Today, women are in majority among university students but few stay on and become professors or get higher academic positions. The "leaky pipe" is a concept that symbolises this phenomenon. The workshop will take place at the 6th European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education, 5-8 August in Stockholm; will discuss why women are not staying on and where they go. *Beatrice Christensen Sköld, CIR, Swedish Federation*

AFGHAN PRESIDENT REVERSES POSITION ON NEW LAW

The Afghan president Hamid Karzai has announced in a press conference that the controversial Shia Family law legalizing rape within marriage will be reviewed and that the law will respect the human rights of women and girls. He reportedly signed the law without being aware of all of its provisions. Women's groups and human rights organisations around the world have brought tremendous pressure, calling for the law's repeal. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE53P1J620090426?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

SWISS ASSOCIATION HELPS STUDENTS INTEGRATE INTO THE JOB MARKET

The Swiss Association of University Women (SVA/ASFUDU/ASL) was one of three women's organisations offering a series of career advice workshops "Approaching the beginning of your career in full knowledge of all the facts" to students and postgraduate students at the University of Zurich. The workshops addressed difficulties young women face starting their careers and entering the job market. Sessions covered topics ranging from wages ("earning, what I am worth"), job applications, active networking, employment law and work contracts, to balancing career and family. *Submitted by Verena Welti, President, Swiss Association*

6. Other news

THE UWE PRESIDENT VISITED THE ROMANIAN NFA

From 30 April until 3 May, I visited the members of our NFA in Romania. Ileana Mustatza, thanks a lot for your kind hospitality. However, the Romanian NFA, ANFDUR, does not have a large membership it is active and lively. Friday evening 15 members, from different studies and professions, informed me about the activities of ANFDUR: exhibitions research and lectures. Ileana and Monica (Potenchi) gave me the opportunity to get to know the Romanian Culture and History. It was an interesting visit and I am very happy that many Romanian members will come to the UWE event in Vienna.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT BY OIKOCREDIT

Since its establishment in 1975, gender has received attention within Oikocredit, a large funder of Micro credits. After conducting a gender audit in 2007 and developing a gender policy in 2008, a field study was conducted. On June 11, the Oikocredit Experience, attended by Willemijn van der Meer, was all about ♀♀ Empowerment in the context of Microfinance: "Progress of women in their own ability to make choices and become self-reliant, facilitated by the availability of microfinance".

In a time of economic doubt and uncertainty in the world, it is imperative we answer questions on the reality of microfinance's role in poverty alleviation and empowerment. Poverty has a woman's face. Women's empowerment is an important consideration in activities targeted at world wide development. Providing credit to women has a multiplier effect on society. Women who are able to generate their own income can support their families and enhance their communities – providing housing, sanitary facilities, health services, education and nutritional food. The Economist magazine says that over the past few decades, women in general have contributed more to the growth in the World's GDP, than either new technologies or the emerging economies of China and India. Why don't more people know the productive power of women? For the results of the entire field study: www.oikocredit.org/wer

6. Upcoming Events and Special Days

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| 17-22 July | European summer program for young graduate women on peaceful communication, Portugal, e-mail: info@extravaleren.nl |
| 5-8 August | Workshop "The leaky pipe" in Stockholm, as part of the 6th European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education Swedish Federation of University Women, see: https://reg.konf.su.se/app/attende/ |
| 3-6 September | UWE event in Vienna, see: www.vaoe.at |
| 16-18 October | Friendship meeting DACH in Munich |

Warm regards,

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