

COUNCIL OF EUROPE






CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE






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GEC(2015)3


GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)


**Summary information about events attended by
GEC members, NFPs, Experts or Secretariat members**


Event	Date and venue	Participant	Agenda	Presentation (if applicable)	Feedback/Report
Panel Discussion on Violence against Women: Best Laws and Policies (learning from the winners of the 2014 Future Policy Awards)	25 November 2014, New York, United States of America	Marja Ruotanen, Director of Human Dignity and Equality	 Programme_event 25 November.pdf		Oral report.
EU Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities	27 November 2014, Brussels, Belgium	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality Unit	 DRAFT Agenda_Nov2014_4.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Advisory Committee adopted three opinions, on: “Gender Equality in the European Union in the 21st century: remaining challenges and priorities”, “How to improve quantitative data collection at national/European level on violence against women”, and on “The review of the EU2020 strategy” - The Commission confirmed again the intention to work towards the accession of the EU to the Istanbul Convention. - The Commission is preparing two studies: one to collect and analyse qualitative data on attitudes towards FGM in migrant communities, including relevant case-law (prepared by the European Network of Experts on Gender Equality) and another study on sexual harassment in the EU-28. - A planned event in Brussels on 20-21 April 2015 to debate the future EU strategy on gender equality from 2016 to 2020.
American School of International Relations and Diplomacy (AGS) Conference	28 November 2014, Paris, France	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality Unit	 VAW Conference 2014 Program.pdf		Conference attended by more than 100 participants, mostly students and academics from the American Graduate School in Paris. The event provided very good visibility and recognition of the Council of Europe standards, work and activities in the area of preventing and combating violence against women.

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“International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women”					The Istanbul Convention was presented and the audience was informed about recent publications on key provisions of the Convention and on the Convention as a tool to end FGM.
Regional workshop – CoE/UN Women/Albanian Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth “Mapping the way forward to provide sufficient and accessible support services in response to violence against women and girls”	4-5 December 2014, Tirana Albania	Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele/Raluca Popa, Equality Division	 Programme.pdf	 Liri Opening Speech.pdf  Presentation Raluca Popa.pdf	Oral report
FRA-Equinet meeting on combating violence against women	9 December 2014, Brussels, Belgium	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality Unit	 agenda_FRA-Equinet meeting on violence	 slides_Brussels_0912 14.ppt	Informal meeting attended by 22 participants representing European and international organisations, as well as national equality bodies/human rights institutions from Albania, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands and the UK. Our participation and contribution to the event provided very good visibility and recognition of the Council of Europe standards, as well as our work and activities in the area of preventing and combating violence against women. Many were not aware of CoE’s analytical report on the 4th round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation (2002)5 on the protection of women against violence (copies of the analytical report were distributed to participants).

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Barbershop Conference – Changing the discourse among men on gender equality	14-15 January 2015, New York, United States of America	Sergiy Kyslytsya, Chair GEC	 Barbershop Agenda.pdf	 Final Chair GEC Barbershop New York	Oral report.
Seminar “Towards the elimination of female genital mutilation”	26 January 2015, Brussels, Belgium	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality Unit	 Agenda_26Jan2015.pdf		The meeting was aimed at taking stock of actions by the European Commission and other stakeholders to implement the EC Communication, and to make proposals for the future. I expressed support to the Commission Communication (included in our FGM guide as a “promising practice” of integrated policies), while regretting that it does not mention the Istanbul Convention. I called on participants to use the Istanbul Convention as a legally binding tool to prevent and combat FGM, as well as to protect victims.
EIGE meeting on « Mapping and remapping gender equality language »	25-26 February 2015, Brussels, Belgium	Camilla Landini, Gender Equality Unit	 AGENDA_RDC_glossary-thesaurus_25-26	 EIGE Glossary Thesaurus Meeting R	<p>EIGE held this meeting to present and discuss a draft Europe-wide gender equality thesaurus and glossary. During the entire meeting, relevant discussions regarding gender equality terminology with EIGE gender experts and other stakeholders took place.</p> <p>A speech on behalf of the Council of Europe in the opening session, highlighted the importance of this project as well as the willingness of the Council of Europe to co-operate with future EIGE efforts to map gender equality language.</p> <p>The main issues that emerged in the course of the</p>

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					<p>meeting are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Very open and lively discussions were held regarding terms and definitions already included in the draft glossary and thesaurus, suggestions for further topics, definition of the scope and the extent of the glossary and thesaurus, number of terms and sources for definitions. ➤ Following the discussions, it was agreed that in terms of definitions it should be taken advantage of what is already existent and that there is a need for both succinct and more descriptive definitions. The need to make reference to authoritative sources such as UN, CEDAW, EC, Council of Europe and the OXFAM dictionary was also mentioned. ➤ Discussions were held regarding the process for validation of the concepts as well as the necessity to link the glossary with gender statistics and with the gender equality index. ➤ A new draft of the glossary and thesaurus will be ready for comments by the end of April 2015.
EIGE Experts' consultation meeting on EIGE's database on gender statistics	26-27 February 2015, Brussels, Belgium	Camilla Landini Gender Equality Unit	 AGENDA_GENDER-\$ TATISTICS_GSDBM_2		EIGE held this meeting to consult experts on EIGE's database on gender statistics. EIGE has been working on consolidating information into a common database on gender statistics since 2012. The plan is to launch the

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					<p>database by the end of 2015.</p> <p>The work of the Council of Europe in areas related to gender statistics was presented on the second day of the meeting.</p> <p>The main conclusions of the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Much work ahead before the launch of EIGE's database, which is expected by December 2015. ➤ Need for an ongoing consultation process both internally in EIGE and through a working group for EIGE's database on gender statistics ➤ It is likely that there will be another consolidation meeting before the launch of the database. ➤ EIGE will be very careful with provided data since it was repeatedly said during the meeting that it is better not to have data than have bad data, considering the impact that this is going to have on policy making.
Side event on "Enhancing cooperation between the UN and regional mechanisms for the promotion and	3 March 2015, Geneva, Switzerland	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality Unit	 flyer v1.1.pdf		The Gender Equality Unit participated in the 2014 workshop on co-operation between UN and regional human rights mechanisms, and also in a meeting in 2013 to enhance co-operation between UN and regional human rights mechanisms in the field of women's rights. I highlighted the good ongoing co-operation with the UN (UN Women, CEDAW, OHCHR) and

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protection of women's rights" organised by the Permanent Mission of Latvia jointly with Permanent Mission of Belgium					<p>other regional organisations (OAS, ASEAN) in areas of common interest (women's access to justice and VaW, among others).</p> <p>The side-event was attended by over 60 participants, including representatives from UN member states, regional organisations and NGOs. Our participation and contribution to the event provided very good visibility of the standards and activities of the Council of Europe in the area of gender equality, including violence against women (and all the copies of CoE publications made available at the side-event disappeared fast!).</p>
CSW59/Beijing +20 CoE Side Event "Gender stereotypes and sexism - root causes of discrimination and violence against women"	9 March 2015, New York	Sergiy Kyslytsya / Marja Ruotanen / Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele	 Programme.pdf		Oral report.