












Strasbourg, 17 November 2015



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**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**



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





Event	Date and venue	Participant	Programme	Presentation (if applicable)	Feedback/Report
EU Forum to discuss the future EU strategy on gender equality	20-21 April 2015 Brussels	Marja Ruotanen Director of Human Dignity and Equality Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele Head of Equality Division	 Programme Forum.pdf		 Forum on Gender Equality - Short Sumr
1st meeting of national researchers « Mapping obstacles, remedies and good practices for women's access to justice in 5 Eastern Partnership countries	12 May 2015, Strasbourg	Raluca Popa, Senior Project Officer	 <u>Agenda _WomenA2JMtg_12M</u>		The meeting was meant to facilitate an agreement among the selected national experts for the project Improving Women's Access to Justice in Five Eastern Partnership Countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) on the scope and content of the national studies on barriers, remedies and good practices for women's access to justice in these countries. It resulted in agreement on a common outline for the five national studies.
EC Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities between women and men	21 May 2015 Brussels	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality Unit	 DRAFT Agenda_May21.pdf	 AC 21 May Visions_disseminati	The "mood" of the meeting was quite low due to the discussions on the uncertainty surrounding whether there will be a new EU strategy on gender equality from 2016 onwards. Many EU countries regretted this, while the EWL and UN Women pointed to the lack of coherence of the EU: while lobbying hard for a standalone goal on gender equality in the post-2015 negotiations, the EC is not so forthcoming about an "intra-EU" policy document on how to achieve it in EU countries. (we follow developments closely)

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					The CoE is a member of the working group preparing the draft advisory opinion on gender equality and the digital society in Europe
Expert meeting on good practices for advancing Women's Political Participation in the OSCE region	26-27 May 2015 Warsaw	Isabel Romao GEC member (Portugal)	 Agenda OSCE 26-27 May 2015.pdf	 Warsaw Power Point Isabel Romão.pptx	 Report Expert Meeting Warsaw.doc
Presentation of the PCF Project and identify partners (EAP Project in 5 countries)	3-4 June 2015 Yerevan	Raluca Popa, Senior Project Officer	 Mission to <u>Yerevan3-4June2015</u>		A series of bilateral meetings with Armenian authorities were held with the purpose of introducing the project on Improving Women's Access to Justice in Five Eastern Partnership countries and identifying potential partners for the implementation of future activities in the project. The Justice Academy of Armenia was identified as key partner for the development of training materials for judges and prosecutors and provision of training.
Meeting with group of women leaders from Arab South Mediterranean countries	10 June 2015 Strasbourg	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality			As part of CoE's co-operation with the Union for the Mediterranean, we presented the CoE's work on gender equality to a group of 22 women from Arab South Mediterranean countries in the context of the initiative "Women of the Mediterranean: next generation of leaders".
End FGM European Network Workshop	12 June 2015 Brussels	Raluca Popa, Senior Project Officer			

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International Conference on Gender Equality in Public Life	14-17 June 2015 Minsk	Raluca Popa, Senior Project Officer	 Programme_Minsk15-16June.pdf	 RPopa_CoEPresentation_MinskJune2015.i	<p>The conference brought together around 60 participants, representatives of national authorities and international organisations, experts, and students from the Belarusian State University. Raluca Popa presented the Council of Europe standards in the field of gender equality, with an emphasis on the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy, as well as the Istanbul Convention as a 'global tool'.</p> <p>The Belarusian officials indicated they found relevance in the Council of Europe standards for Belarus, even as a non-member state.</p> <p>Interview with Raluca Popa for the portal Office for Democratic Belarus http://odb-office.eu/expertise_/gender/council-europe-empowerment-women-and-their-balanced-participation-political-public-and-economic-life</p>
29 th UN Human Rights Council	18-19 June 2015 Geneva	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality			<p>Prepared and made intervention/statements on behalf of the CoE during the discussions on two agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice - Annual Full-day Discussion on the Human Rights of Women
EIGE's Gender	25 June 2015	Liri Kopaçi-Di			Oral presentation

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Equality Index 2015	Brussels	Michele, Head of the Equality Division			
Meeting of the Steering Committee to discuss the action plan for the Republic of Moldova	29 June – 1 July 2015 Chisinau	Raluca Popa, Senior Project Officer			A series of bilateral meetings with Moldovan authorities were held with the purpose of introducing the project on Improving Women's Access to Justice in Five Eastern Partnership countries and identifying potential partners for the implementation of future activities in the project. The National Institute of Justice of Moldova was identified as key partner for the development of training materials for judges and prosecutors and provision of training. They also offered to host the closing conference of the project, in Chisinau, in October 2016.
Presentation of the PCF Project and identify partners; Roundtable "Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence: On the Path towards the Ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Ukraine" in the Ukrainian Parliament	2-3 July 2015 Kiev	Raluca Popa Senior Project Officer	 RoundtableUKR_Agenda.pdf	 RPopa_Kiev2July2015.docx	A series of bilateral meetings with Ukrainian authorities were held with the purpose of introducing the project on <i>Improving Women's Access to Justice in Five Eastern Partnership countries</i> and identifying potential partners for the implementation of future activities in the project. The National School of Judges of Ukraine was identified as key partner for the development of training materials for judges and provision of training.

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(Verkhovna Rada)					
Driving forward gender equality in Europe: Combating discrimination in the workplace and beyond	2 July 2015 Brussels	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality	 Abstract and Programme.pdf		I presented the CoE Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 and the main activities carried out under each of the strategic objectives. I stressed the importance of the Istanbul Convention (Article 40) on sexual harassment to combat it in the context of the workplace but also online. I also expressed support for the need of a new EU strategy on gender equality from 2016.
Soroptimist International Convention: Education to Lead a Global Voice for Women	9-12 July 2015 Istanbul	Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Head of the Equality Division			Oral presentation
Event during Film Festival (Eurimages)	14 August 2015 Sarajevo	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality	 Sarajevo programme.pdf		I gave a presentation about why gender matters in the European film industry, including the work of the CoE to promote gender equality. The Sarajevo Conference Declaration calls on the CoE “to encourage its member states to implement policies to reduce the gender imbalance in the European audiovisual industry”. A number of specific activities are addressed to the Eurimages Fund, including the assessment and analysis of the causes leading to the marginalisation of women in the film industry. Eurimages is also asked to encourage member states to produce gender-based statistics, set up a

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					database with information at the national level, and adopt equality policies to promote women in the film industry and improve their access to public funding.
Eurasian Forum	24-25 September Saint Petersburg	Dragan Knezevic GEC member (Serbia)			 Report Eurasian Women's Forum.pdf
"Women and girls in Sport – let's level the playing field" Conference	28 October Dublin	Isabel Romao GEC member (Portugal)	 Draft programme 28.10.2015.pdf		 Report Dublin Sport Conference Isabel.do
II Hemispheric Seminar on "Good Practices in Gender Justice: Justice and Gender - Based Violence"	Medellín, Colombia 5-6 November	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality	 Agenda Conversatorio Género		<p>Around 200 participants, including judges and magistrates from member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), regional offices of UN agencies (UN Women and OHCHR), legal practitioners, academics and civil society. I spoke in the panel 'Challenges for implementing regulations and international standards to guarantee reparation of women in international judicial systems'. I presented the Council of Europe's work on women's equal access to justice, including the results of the recent Bern Conference, relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, and the main provisions of the Istanbul Convention as regards access to justice for women victims of violence.</p>