

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION  
(GEC)**

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**2016 CONFERENCE**

**PRELIMINARY NOTE**

## 1. **Background and proposed focus for the 2016 Conference:**

Next year's Conference will mark three years into the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017. In view of this, it is proposed that the 2016 conference takes stock of progress in the implementation of the Strategy and launches preliminary discussions on the priority themes for the next one.

All five objectives of the Strategy will be in the focus of the general overview and the implementation report. Particular attention could be given to two of the five strategic objectives: "combating gender stereotypes and sexism" (Objective 1) and "achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures" (Objective 5). The aim would be to showcase/highlight progress and impact, both in the Council of Europe and at the national level, in connection with these objectives and related activities.

**Combating gender stereotypes and sexism** was the focus of two previous National Focal Point (NFPs) conferences, their related activities and follow-up (e.g. compilations of good practices, etc.). This Strategy objective was also addressed at the 2015 conference about improving women's equal access to justice.

**Achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures** has gained growing attention in the work of intergovernmental committees at the Council of Europe level. This is due to increasing coordinating and capacity building efforts from the Transversal Programme on Gender Equality as well as through the work of the Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GERs). Progress has been made also at the national level. Furthermore, gender mainstreaming is in the focus of strategies and action plans of other regional and international organisations such as the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), as well as the United Nations (UN) and the Nordic Council of Ministers. The 2016 conference would offer a possibility for exchanging ideas and good practices among and with these organisations to enhance efforts on all levels of policy-making, and possibly, agree on specific co-operation activities for the future.

### **Format of the Conference:**

Plenary sessions with possible workshops to present and discuss progress, good practices and remaining challenges under the two strategic objectives chosen as the focus of the Conference.

## **2. Targeted participants:**

- High-level decision-makers from the CoE member states, including future holders of the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (e.g. Cyprus: November 2016-May 2017, Czech Republic: May-November 2017, Denmark: November 2017-May 2018, Croatia: May-November 2018);
- Members of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC);
- Gender Equality National Focal Points (NFPs);
- High-level decision-makers and policy-makers/officials from international organisations: including Council of Europe (CoE), European Union (EU), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations (UN);
- Representatives of relevant CoE intergovernmental committees;
- Other relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

## **3. Venue and possible dates of the conference (to be discussed):**

The Conference will be held in Tallinn (Estonia).

Possible dates for the conference:

- 30 June – 1 July 2016
- 29-30 September 2016
- 6-7 October 2016