

Frauen im erweiterten Europa / Women in Enlarged Europe

In Cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen and the federal Heinrich Böll Foundation

FLYER Page 1:

What are women's aspirations and options for action in the EU accession countries? Have their expectations regarding democracy and preconceptions of gender democracy come to realization? Have new concepts of gender developed, or have old ones been reactivated, such that had already been considered outdated? The sinking proportion of women in local and national parliaments of new member states must be deemed suspicious, considering that political representation of women is still a central topic in "old Europe", and a women's right won only after tough battle. Exemplary evidence for this are conflicts surrounding the parity law in France and the quota rules in Germany. An increasing renunciation of (party) politics by Central and Eastern European women goes hand in hand with increased efforts geared at asserting oneself on the labour market and in civil society.

In the course of this symposium we aim to analyse jointly with a group of experts from Slovenia, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic the diversity of women's role models, and we will debate the discrepant strategies pursued by women, among these such which find organized expression in the multitude of women's networks. In the closing discussion women from Eastern and Western Europe will compare their experiences, and discuss what they expect from each other.

The symposium is jointly organized by the Frankfurt based Foundation "Women in Europe", the Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen and the Heinrich Böll Foundation (federal level). This first public activity of the foundation "Women in Europe" marks its launch. As a private law foundation it fosters the participation of women in the development of civil society during the process of European unification. The inaugural event is dedicated to the women of Central and Eastern Europe, focus group of the foundation's efforts. Aim is to direct attention to the formative presence of women in the new member countries.

DATE & TIME:

Friday November 18, 2005, 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday November 19, 2005, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Dormitorium of the Carmelite Cloister, Institut für Stadtgeschichte (Institute for City History)
Münzgassee 9, 60311 Frankfurt/Main

FLYER Page 2:

PROGRAMME

Friday November 18, 2005

1:00 p.m.

Arrival and Welcoming Coffee

2:00 p.m.

Welcoming Address and Introduction:

Mechthild Veil, Founder of the Foundation Women in Europe, Frankfurt/Main

Margret Krannich, Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen, Frankfurt/Main

Birgit Laubach, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

2:30 p.m.

Switching from Politics to Civil Society – A Strategy employed by Europe's Women?

Vlasta Jalusic, Professor of Political Theory and Director of the Centre for Gender and Politics,
University of Ljubljana

Political Participation of Women: New Aspirations, taking New Shapes ...
Gesine Fuchs, Political Sciences, University of Basel

Chaired by: Mechthild Veil, Foundation Women in Europe

4:15 p.m.
Coffee Break

CZECH REPUBLIC

4:45 p.m.

Gender Democracy and the Private Sphere – What Happens "at Home"?
Sasa Lienau, Head of proFem - Consultation Centre for Women's Projects, Prague

Return to Europe: Have the Expectations Placed by Women on Democracy Been Met?
Hana Havelkova, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Humanities at Charles University, Prague

Chaired by: Ulrike Ackermann, Social Scientist/Journalist, Frankfurt/Main

6:30 p.m.
End of First Day's Events

Saturday November 19, 2005

HUNGARY

10:00 a.m.

Self-Image and Imposed Image of Women in Politics and in Gainful Employment
Szilvia Szabo, Vice State Secretary in the Ministry for Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Budapest

Chaired by: Mechtild M. Jansen, Foundation Women in Europe, Frankfurt/Main

11:00 a.m.
Coffee Break

POLAND

11:15 a.m.

Gender Relations: Balanced between Innovation and Reconstruction
Bozena Choluj, Professor for Comparative Central European Studies at Viadrina European University and Co-director of Gender Studies at the University of Warsaw

European Women's Networks and Streams of Communication
Beata Kozak, Chief Editor of the Feminist Journal "Zadra", Crakow

Chaired by: Claudia Neusüß, Head of the East-West-European Women's Network (OWEN), Berlin

1:00 p.m.
Lunch

2:30 p.m.

Closing Panel

Experiences of Women Headed for the European Union – Expectations in the East and the West
Vlasta Jalusic; Hana Havelkova, Bozena Choluj;
Elisabeth de Sotelo, Professor for Women Studies and Continued Education at the University of Koblenz-Landau;

Marianne Birthler, Federal Commissioner for the Records of State Security Service of the former GDR

Chaired by: Birgit Laubach, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

4:00 p.m.

Perspectives for Future Cooperation and Networking

Mechthild Veil, Foundation Women in Europe

4:30 p.m.

End of Symposium

In 2004, with Europe's enlargement eastward, ten new countries joined the EU, along with their citizens. These new European citizens bring with them extremely diverse experiences shaped by the yet incomplete process of transformation of formerly totalitarian states into democracies. Daily life of women - in their families, on the labour market, in politics and in society - has changed substantially. The drastic changes in civil society were essentially carried through by women, who developed astonishing dynamic forces. In Western Europe this wealth of experiences has not yet received adequate attention.