



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Greek EU Presidency priorities on gender equality

The active participation of women in the economy is a core priority for the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the area of Gender Equality.

The action plan currently under implementation by the Greek General Secretariat for Gender Equality concentrates on promoting equal participation of women in the labour market and encouraging female entrepreneurship. These are considered as critical factors to fight social exclusion and poverty that threaten large segments of the female population due to the economic crisis. Additionally, relevant legislative initiatives are promoted in the effort to protect women's fundamental rights, placing special emphasis on eliminating gender-based violence, and encouraging equal participation of women in institutions and mechanisms of decision making in European policy, economy and society.

The Presidency has identified the following priorities for the semester:

- European-level coordination on gender mainstreaming. A meeting of the High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming is planned for 6-7 February in Athens
- The promotion of women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources. The status of female employment in the European Union is depicted in the survey implemented by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), which is scheduled to be presented in Athens 6-7 February. In addition, on 27-28 February a consultation meeting is organized in Athens by EIGE aiming to encourage exchanges of good practice in the field of female entrepreneurship.
- The promotion of digital economy as a high-opportunity employment field for women. Presentation of the initiative coordinated in Greece by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality "Digital Coalition for Women's Employment".
- The continuation of the awareness-raising campaign on preventing and combating violence against women. A targeted event is jointly organised by the Greek Presidency / General Secretariat for Gender Equality and the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on 5 March in Brussels.
- The advancement of legislative initiatives where required aiming to promote a de facto gender equality. The Greek Presidency is drafting Conclusions in the field "Women and the Economy" expected to be adopted by the Employment and Social Policy Council (EPSCO) on 19th of June in Luxembourg. The Council will also examine the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges. The Justice and Home Affairs Council is foreseen to adopt Conclusions on violence against women, 6 and 7 March.
- The strategic "alliance" with young people for a de facto equality between women and men. A Pan European Youth Event is scheduled for 10 - 13 March in Thessaloniki in cooperation with EIGE and as part of the event framework "Thessaloniki –European Capital for Youth 2014".

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