

Gender Equality & EU Climate Policy

In 2003-2005, the EU project *Climate for Change: Gender Equality & Climate Policy*, was designed to raise awareness of decision-makers and exchange ideas of best practice to improve the participation of women in decision-making in fields related to climate protection.

Climate Alliance-Europe served as the coordinator, and the partners included 10 European local authorities from 4 countries, along with the Union of Baltic Cities. The consultant was Ulrike Roehr from LIFE e.V./Women's Environmental Network. The results of the projects are a Toolkit along with other reports.

The Project partners collected practical tools known to increase women's employment in jobs with real authority over matters of climate protection.

The partners' findings indicate that a balanced participation of both genders would produce a more comprehensive approach to climate protection, which would lead to improved measures, greater acceptance, and better results.

The products of the project include:

- **Facts and Arguments:** Project findings, along with extensive background information from all over Europe.
- **The Gender Checklist:** Includes 15 test-yourself questions for department or unit leaders.
- **Tools for Promoting Women in Executive Positions:** Implementation guidelines, instructions and suggestions as well as a variety of examples.
- **Poster and Leaflet:** To post and to distribute for the purpose of promoting awareness of the issue.
- **National Reports:** Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden.
- **City Surveys:** Berlin, Dresden, Ferrara, Frankfurt, Genova, Lahti, Malmö, München, Napoli, Venezia.
- **Presentations, and documents.**

Contact: Climate Alliance- Europe.

T: +49-69-71 71 39-0

F: +49-69-71 71 39-93

E: europe@klimabuendnis.org

W: www.climateforchange.net/54.html

The project is one of the transnational projects supported under the Program relating to the Community Framework Strategy on Gender Equality, Call of VP/2002/06 on Gender balance in decision-making. http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/gender_equality/index_en.html

See previous articles in Sustainable Energy News: "Theme: Women & Energy" Issue Nr 47, p2-9, Nr 48, p.3.

This article continues our coverage of the theme of "Women & Energy". We will continue in the next issue.



Are there Gender Equality Support Criteria in EU's Energy & Climate Programs?

As part of the "Climate for Change – gender equality and climate change policy" project, research was done to establish how gender concerns are reflected in the EU's financial support programs on climate protection. Here you can read a shortened overview of the programs that were examined:

Intelligent Energy Europe 2003-06

Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) promotes efficient energy use as well as the use of renewable energies through the removal of market barriers and through awareness-raising.

The "Annual Work Programs" set out the priorities for each individual year and the financial framework for the projects to be supported in that year. However, there is no mention of gender equality or of any criteria that would include it in the decision-making about such support, either in the currently available "Annual Program 2004" or in the "Call for Proposals". Similarly, there is no mention of gender issues in the tender for applications from experts for the selection procedure.

Sustainable Urban Development

The now completed "Framework for Cooperation to Promote Sustainable Urban Development" program of the Environment Directorate-General was a development program for all European city networks working in the area of sustainable development. In addition to supporting individual projects by the networks, it coordinated cooperation between them.

A perusal of the call for proposals guidelines and forms did not bring to light one single instance of criteria for the consideration of equality-related aspects.

LIFE

The LIFE program is one of the most important instruments for the implementation of EU environmental policy, as laid down in particular in the 6th Environment Action Program.

On the introduction to the "Application Guide 2005" for LIFE-Environment, the following statement appears: "The LIFE program promotes equal opportunities and therefore encourages applications from organizations who themselves implement such principles and from organizations that represent women's issues."

While there is no mention of the consideration of equality-related aspects in the "Guidelines 2005-2006 for 'LIFE-Environment' preparatory projects", the "Guidelines

for LIFE-Environment demonstration projects" states: "The LIFE program promotes equal opportunities and therefore encourages applications from organizations who themselves implement such principles."

In the application forms, however, there is no mention of it, apart from a specific question relating to the consideration of equality in the project.

Research Framework Programs (RFP)

In the ongoing 6th RFP, one of the seven priority subject areas is "sustainable development, global change and ecosystems". The research programs on energy, transport and climate protection also fall within this area.

The gender aspects of research are supposed to be taken into account in all areas and so-called 'thematic priorities'. This happens at the application, evaluation and reporting levels.

Despite this progress, consideration of the gender perspective in the RFP could still be improved, as it does not play a crucial role in the evaluation process. Nonetheless, of all the EU funding programs, this one has the most far-reaching plan for integrating the gender perspective.

Summary and recommendations:

As mentioned above, the Research Framework Program has the most extensive experience of integrating the gender perspective. All funding programs should be reviewed to establish how the gender perspective is currently being integrated or is to be integrated in future. This procedure will make the applicants aware of issues of gender equality and make sure that the procedure is implemented consistently.

For the purposes of an integrated impact assessment, as proposed by the European Commission, all projects funded by the EU should contribute to improving gender equality. It is a question of paying attention not just to the quantitative level of the participation of women, but also to the impacts that projects could have on the social situation of men and women in different areas of their lives (paid employment, leisure, care work).

