



Presentation of the Network of Observatories for Gender Equality (ROEG)

Association Genre en Action

2011

The ROEG project aims to provide equality of citizenship for women and men aspiring to a just and sustainable development. Indeed, may it be on a political, economical, social or cultural level, gender social relationships are characterized by inequality, to the detriment of women, and that, all over the world. However, in most contexts, gender inequalities are still poorly understood and taken into account. Knowing in which areas the inequality strikes is essential for eradication and requires, among other things, the implementation and the on-going work of observatories for gender equality.

Considered as a tool for social transformation, the "gender approach" is both a sociological concept, and a political objective (the equality of men and women, aiming for individual and collective empowerment of all) and finally, a method including tools for gender mainstreaming (institutional analysis, project management, gender sensitive budgeting, etc.)..

For GeA, gender equality is the key to a just and sustainable development. The association is therefore willing to foster, develop and promote actions, activities and initiatives for a better understanding and effective consideration of the gender approach in development cooperation and solidarity, sustainable development and local development, especially in the southern countries of the Francophone area, among others.

For the next two years, Genre in Action has made it a primary mandate to enhance a space for dialogue, intelligence (political and scientific), diagnosis, capacity building, communication and meetings in order to work for an effective inclusion of gender equality. According to the premise "only that which is measured is supported", the ROEG project meets a strong demand from both civil society and decision makers involved in the fight against discrimination, in France and throughout the Francophone countries. The ROEG is a tool built with and for them.



The ROEG project answers the need to strengthen dialogue on the social construction of gender relationships and maintain an objective and updated look around the political and scientific inequalities between women and men. To meet the ambition of the project, it is essential to develop and apply specific and adapted tools and strengthen the skills, institutions and actors responsible for observing inequalities. The following proposition is active lobbying in order to influence public policies.

The project seeks to identify and support existing gender equality observatories. Such observatories exist in several countries in an attempt to measure, identify and assess inequalities and their evolution, working to make them visible, to make a key objective of public policies and to measure the effects. But these observatories are rare and have not yet acquired the technical and political advantages that would enable them to fully play their role.

Today, various systems and mechanisms for gender monitoring exist at international and national levels. These indicators include the UNDP, OECD, AGDI ECA, regular country reports under CEDAW, the Gender Gap Report, indicators of some targets of the MDGs as well as indicators of national policies that exist in many countries. However, the French-speaking countries are running late in the implementation of these mechanisms. Therefore, in 2006, GEA launched the idea of creating a network of gender equality observatories, brought together stakeholders and produced a report in this direction in October 2007.

To contribute to the democratization of policies, programs and development through cross-disciplinary research, action planning and actors' intermingling is one of the flagship missions of Genre en Action. Since 2003, Genre en Action has been actively working on taking into account a gender approach in development. This approach refers to the construction and the distribution of male and female social roles. Socially, historically, culturally and symbolically constructed, these roles and the resulting stereotypes are embedded in the attitudes and cultures, conveyed by institutions, family or education.

The project mobilizes skills, tools and partners for an original and unprecedented capacity building of institutions and groups members of the project, involved in the fight against inequality in the francophone area, mainly:

- policy makers and planners of public policies at national level,
- civil society,
- the decentralized cooperation actors
- bilateral agencies.



ROEG Partners

The very structure of Genre en Action and the draft ROEG presented here revolve around a so existing dynamic driven by a large number of actors involved in Gender in Action.

Of these, we can cite existing observatories, such as:

- The Regional Gender Observatory of Matam (Senegal)
- The Gender Relations Observatory - ORGENS (Senegal)
- The National Observatory of Parity (Senegal)
- The Caucus of Leader Women for parity (Senegal)
- The Observatory for Women's Integration in Politics (Morocco)
- The Women's rights and Parity Observatory (Gabon)
- The Women's Condition Observatory (Tunisia)
- The SiMIRALENTA Observatory (Madagascar)
- The Integration of Gender Approach and Work Observatory (Burundi)
- The UNESCO Chair on Training for Sustainable Development Professionals (France)
- The Parity between Women and Men Observatory (France)
- The Violence Against Women Observatory - Seine-Saint-Denis (France)
- The Women's Rights Observatory - Bouches du Rhône (France)

These observatories were chosen because they actively integrate the gender approach in their work. The members of these structures expressed interest in participating in the project and sharing their experiences.

However, it is important for the sustainability of the project that the activities (including training) do not always benefit the same people. The project will attempt to bring together people with various profiles, work positions and skills. On one hand, activities will take place virtually through forums and a specific mailing list, and possibly other selected tools as required. On the other hand, it will result in physical meetings during workshops and training sessions, or in conjunction with other events or conferences.

The project will cross the French experience with other linguistic and geographical areas (Latin America, Asia).

An exchange will be held at the AWID Forum in Istanbul in 2012. This event, held every three years, brings together the largest number of structures and people committed to women's rights and gender equality at an international level. It therefore represents a framework for cross experiments capitalization.



The ROEG project is funded up to 50% by the French Development Agency (AFD), as part of their rating of NGOs Initiatives - Proposed structure of associations.

We are currently seeking funding for this project.

We invite you to support us and to participate to the ROEG project!

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