

## GenderStrat Workshop 27 June 2016 European Perspectives

**...on women in decision making.** Input by Lenka Formánková, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

**...in the light of migration.** M. L. Bottarelli Tranquilli-Leali, European Women's Lobby, Italy

**Women in decision making** – in economy, social economy and politics. What works, where do we still have to catch up?

At first, results from a European study were presented by Lenka Formánková from the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The study has analysed the opportunities for women in leadership in social economy compared to business economy. The documentation includes national studies from participating countries: Understanding the access to decision making positions in 6 EU countries; a comparative study: Women in management of small enterprises and a best practices guide to promote equal access for women to decision-making positions, It is available online: <http://genderpowermap.eu> (file: „Deliverables“)

Main challenges for women in decision making were discussed broadly. In the discussion also special questions were addressed: Is there a heritage of the socialist systems in Europe where women were holding more decision making positions; is that still showing in numbers? Is there a “collective memory” among women to be active in politics? What are main barriers and what about resistance? What is the role of churches (e.g. in Croatia), political parties (in the Nordic countries), traditions (e.g. in Austria) and how to deal with it?

**... in the light of migration** – what are the challenges we are facing today in Europe? What will be different with new cultures arriving at our doorstep regarding gender equality? Will there be new challenges tomorrow? Examples and experiences from Italy and other countries were debated.

New problems are waiting to be researched although there are a lot of interesting approaches and projects going on already. But they should be look at in a more pan-European perspective:

A person's sex, gender identity and sexual orientation shape everyone's migration experience. It would be of great interest to research on European level about experiences and expectations for women regarding labour opportunities in destination countries and what the role of gender equality trainings can be related to these issues. Gender experts at all levels should participate in such a project.

