

Headwinds and Tailwinds: Implications for Gender Equality

Dialogue between Country Desk Officers, D.2 Gender Equality,
DG Justice and Consumers and SAAGE Country Experts

Friday 5th May 2017

Aim

This seminar aims to draw from the expertise of the SAAGE country experts and the Country Desk Officers to explore current contexts for gender equality and their implications for future directions for gender equality.

Objectives

Specifically, the seminar seeks to:

- Provide and discuss up-to-date information on progress for gender equality at European Union level.
- Provide perspectives from the Member States on the diverse political contexts and economic contexts for gender equality.
- Enable dialogue between Country Desk Officers and SAAGE Country Experts on these current contexts for gender equality across the EU and their implications.
- Stimulate insights on how gender equality policies and programmes could adapt to take account of and be relevant to these changing contexts.
- Offer an opportunity for bilateral meetings between Country Experts and Country Desk Officers

Agenda

9:00 – 9:30	Welcome coffee
9:30	Registration
9:45	Progress at European Union Level Welcome and Introduction Developments at European Union level for gender equality Presentation from the European Commission
10:15	Plenary: Questions and Answers

10:45 – 11:00

Tea/Coffee Break

Bilateral Meeting:

- *Danièle Meulders (Country Expert Belgium) with Country Desk Officer Sofie Malettras, supported by Marjolein Peters*

11:00

Political Headwinds and Tailwinds

Politics across the EU is in a state of flux. Some political contexts present headwinds in their hostility to gender equality or in generating a popular disregard for equality goals. Some political contexts offer a tailwind of leadership and support for gender equality. This state of political flux and these different manifestations need to be explored for their implications for the promotion of gender equality if we are to ensure that strategy and action for gender equality are context relevant and able to achieve an impact.

- Presentation from Sweden (Country Expert Anita Nyberg)
- Presentation from France (Country Expert Anne Eydoux)
- Presentation from Poland (Country Expert Irena Topinska)

11:45

Dialogue:

Implications of and insights from presentations for the future directions in advancing gender equality.

12.30 – 13:30

Lunch break

Bilateral Meetings:

- *Alexandra Kanjuo Mrčela (Country Expert Slovenia) with Country Desk Officer Sofie Malettras, supported by Marjolein Peters*
- *Colette Fagan and Helen Norman (Country Expert United Kingdom) with Country Desk Officer Judith Litjens, supported by Niall Crowley*

13:30

Economic Headwinds and Tailwinds

Economic contexts differ across the EU. Some Member States have remained largely untouched by economic crisis, others are in a process of painful economic recovery, while yet others remain enmeshed in economic difficulties. Economic strategies in response to situations of crisis have changed the landscape of the public sector and revealed significant economic inequalities. These different contexts need to be explored for their implications for the promotion of gender equality if we are to ensure that strategy and action for gender equality are context relevant and able to achieve an impact.

- Presentation from Germany (Country Expert Alexandra Scheele)
- Presentation from Ireland (Country Expert Ursula Barry)
- Presentation from Spain (Country Expert Elvira Gonzales-Gago)

14.15

Dialogue:

Implications of and insights from presentations for the future directions in advancing gender equality.

15:00

Conclusions

Closing remarks

Bilateral Meeting:

- *Renée Römken and Suzanne Bouma (Country Expert Netherlands) with Country Desk Officer Judith Litjens, supported by Marjolein Peters*

15.30

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