

PRESS RELEASE:

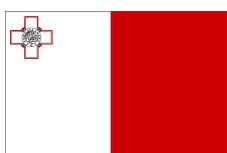
Good practices in gender mainstreaming discussed in a Symposium

A Symposium organised by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) in collaboration with the Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family (MEEF) discussed good practices used to implement the process of gender mainstreaming. This Symposium was organised as part of an EU co-financed project entitled *Gender Mainstreaming – in Practice*. This project is co-funded by the PROGRESS Programme 2007-2013.

Opening the Symposium on Good Practices in Gender Mainstreaming, the Minister for Education, Employment and the Family Dolores Cristina, explained that together with NCPE the Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family is announcing this joint effort to move forward on gender mainstreaming in public administration. This initiative seeks to further strengthen the knowledge and understanding of gender mainstreaming. Minister Dolores Cristina explained also how gender mainstreaming is an indispensable tool towards the aim of gender equality. Gender mainstreaming entails that the equal opportunities factor is included in the formulation and implementation of all policies, measures and actions undertaken.

In her introductory speech, NCPE's Executive Director Dr Romina Bartolo, outlined how the practice of gender mainstreaming developed in the European Union since 1957 to date. Dr Bartolo said that the various steps taken in this field throughout these years all contributed to further enhance gender equality at different levels. However, Dr Bartolo reiterated that despite these advances there are still more challenges that need to be addressed in the coming years.

The Head of the Consultancy Team of VS/2010/0819 *Gender Mainstreaming – in Practice*, Dr Roberta Lepre, gave a general introduction to gender mainstreaming defining it as the integration of the gender perspective into every stage of policy process – design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation – with a view to promoting equality between men and women.



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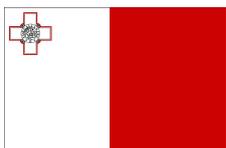
The Symposium on Good Practices in Gender Mainstreaming included the input of foreign experts in this field following a Call for Speakers issued by NCPE. The Head of Policy with Think Tank for Action on Social Change established in Ireland, Ms Sinead Pentony, presented a speech which demonstrated how decisions made as part of the budgetary process contribute directly to more or less equality between men and women, and particularly economic equality. Another speech was presented by Ms Friedel Schreyogg which included a discussion on the implementation of an EU project titled '*Gender Alp!*' in the Alpine Region.

The objective behind this **Symposium** was to strengthen a common understanding of gender mainstreaming and its benefits by exposing good practices. The event indicated not only the method in which such good practices were implemented, but also the benefits reaped.

The project VS/2010/0819 *Gender Mainstreaming – in Practice* seeks to train both public employees and stakeholders in order to establish a common level of understanding of gender mainstreaming. A substantial part of the project involves research, which will include two mapping studies and a gender impact assessment of four policies. This project will also produce a number of tools, including a Gender Mainstreaming Checklist in Infrastructure Projects, a Step-by-Step Guide for Gender Impact Assessments, a Checklist for Gender Impact Assessment of Government Action, and a Factsheet on Gender Mainstreaming.

For further information please contact NCPE on equality@gov.mt or 2590 3850.

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