

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**Increasing the awareness of Gender Mainstreaming...  
Tools created for its implementation**

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) concluded an EU co-financed project entitled VS/2010/0819 *Gender Mainstreaming - in Practice*. This project was PROGRESS co-funded (2007-2013,) spanning over a year and a half and targeted policy-makers, policy designers, policy implementers, key stakeholders and the general public.

Introducing a Final Conference which concluded this Project, NCPE's Commissioner Ms Maud Muscat, explained how the project *Gender Mainstreaming – In Practice* seeks to establish gender mainstreaming as a strategy to achieve gender equality throughout the drafting and implementing of policies and infrastructure projects.

In his speech, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Mr Frans Borg, said that the project focused on the setting of a number of bilateral meetings as well as training sessions for public employees and stakeholders. The aim was to increase the awareness on gender mainstreaming. A number of tools were also created to make it easier to implement gender mainstreaming in everyday processes. Mr Borg explained that the training sessions given to public employees and stakeholders focused on how to use the new tools while sensitising the trainees on the topic of gender mainstreaming.

Mr Frans Borg referred to a new OPM Circular which emanated from *Gender Mainstreaming – In Practice*, emphasising that the promotion of gender equality and the implementation of gender mainstreaming are not solely the responsibility of Gender Equality Committee Members but of every Ministry, Department and entity within the Public Administration, as well as all employees involved in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies.

Meanwhile, this Final Conference brought together speakers who contributed to all the stages of the project which aimed to raise awareness on the need for gender mainstreaming of national policies and link these to the attainment of gender equality and empowerment on gender mainstreaming. Presentations outlined how *Gender Mainstreaming – In Practice* was a multi-fold endeavour which sought to establish a network of persons within national Ministries empowered in implementing effective gender mainstreaming.



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Ms Catharina Alpkvist, the project's External Expert, gave an overview of the training and principles of gender mainstreaming carried out in Sweden. Meanwhile, Ms Elizabeth Klatzer, Gender Responsive Budgeting Expert, presented the issue of gender responsive budgeting and explained how this involves the application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process.

The toolkit that was developed as part of the process of integrating gender mainstreaming was presented to stakeholders and press, stimulating further debate beyond the closure of the project. *Gender Mainstreaming – in Practice* commissioned two Mapping Studies which confirmed that in many cases gender mainstreaming is still not used as a strategy when drafting policies. The details of the gender impact assessment of four policies were also presented during the Conference.

For further information please contact NCPE on [equality@gov.mt](mailto:equality@gov.mt) or 2590 3850.

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