

INVITATION to the expert workshop  
"Gender and Migration"  
November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007  
Hotel Ibis, Mariahilfergürtel 22-24, 1060 Vienna, 15.00 – 19.30  
Registration required: [daniela.graf@gbw.at](mailto:daniela.graf@gbw.at)

Migration has been regarded for a long time as a field of „gender neutral“ politics and action. Policies of immigration and intergration are therefore uncritically following male norms and perspectives: made for men, their working fields, their conditions of life. But what about women or men, who do not fit into these norms and perspectives?

The debate in the media concerning migration does not take into account that migration has become more and more „female“ since years. More than that – the public is feeded with pictures of young men, standing alone, making their way, while women are only regarded as dependants (wives and mothers) and not acting independently in the field of migration and integration.

Female migrants are not only working in the industrial field and as farmers' helpers, lots of them work in the tourist sector and wealth services, and even more of them work in private households.

The increasing integration of European and US-American women into the labour market is to a large extent based on the delegation of household work to female migrants, who are mostly socially unsecured and poorly paid. These conditions are unlikely to change in the near future.

As the work of these migrant women is largely „unseen“, this helps to ignore the fact that there is still a big gap in the sharing of reproductive work between men and women. This aspect is quite inexistent in the social debate.

The feminisation of migration and the increasing diversity of the forms of migration raise more and more questions about the causes and possible actions to be taken concerning gender specific aspects of migration and integration.

The event „gender and migration“ will show very concrete cases of men and women, their role as working migrants and the circumstances of their integration and will try to work out exemplarily the meaning of “gender” for migration and integration processes.

Questions to be discussed:

- In which professions and in which part of the economy do female migrants play an important role, are there differences to male migrants? (legalisation of the labour status, public or private working sphere, dependence on the employer)
- What gender- specific phenomena have to be dealt with in migration- and integration policies?
- Which are the experiences in the praxis of gender orientated migration- and integration work and what can be dealt out of that for the field of migration and integration policies?
- Which political measures are needed to enhance the working and living conditions of female migrants and to prevent discrimination of female migrants?

The objective of the event is to give place to a founded discussion, work out the different situations of female and male migrants and to get expertise from different sectors on one table.

After finding a common view on the problem, a first list of necessary measures and demands could be developed for political work in Austria as well as a starting point for an international dialogue with the Austria's neighbouring countries.

**More informations: Grüne Bildungswerkstatt, Neubaugasse 8, A- 1070 Wien, phone: 0043 1 5269111, fax: 0043 1 5269115, [daniela.graf@gbw.at](mailto:daniela.graf@gbw.at), [www.gbw.at](http://www.gbw.at)**

**No conference fees**



Sponsored by the European Union, GD Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Action Programme on Equality between Women and Men.

The organizer shall have sole responsibility for the contents of this conference; the Commission shall not be responsible and liable for the future use of the information contained therein.

## PROGRAMME

Thursday, Nov. 22th

15.00 Introduction: Alev Korun, Member of the Vienna City Council

Film of the Austrian Public Broadcast (ORF) „Village Without Women“ by Stefan Schinkovits, journalist

Gudrun Biffel, Austrian Economic Research Institute:  
“Migration, working market and gender differences”

16.45 – 17.15 Coffee break

17.15 – 18.45 Projects in Poland, Germany, Tschech and Austria

Manuela Westphal, University of Osnabrück

Eva Kavkova, EKS, Czech Republic

Eva Garnier, Poland (tbc)

N.B., Beratungszentrum für MigrantInnen (Consulting Centre for Migrants), Austria

18.45 – 19.00 Short break

19.00 – 19.30 Group discussions

19.30 – 19.45 Short plenary presentation

19.45 – 20.00 Final statement: Brigid Weinzinger, Member of Austrian Parliament

Buffet

The conference is part of the project “Fit for Gender Mainstreaming – Gender-sensitive Transcending of Borders between East and West”

### **The Project: “Fit for Gender Mainstreaming – Gender-Sensitive Transcending of Borders between East and West”**

This EU-sponsored project (12/2006 to 02/2008) involves project partners from four European countries: Poland, Czech Republic, Austria and Germany.

Based on cross-border qualification initiatives for multipliers and public events in all countries participating in the “East-West Dialogue” the goal is to advance gender mainstreaming strategies on a local level and enhance exchanges of experiences and qualifications. The core approach is learning together in and from Europe.

### **Project Partners:**

Heinrich-Böll-Foundation - Gunda-Werner-Institute for Feminism and Gender Democracy, Regional Offices  
Warsaw, Prague and Brussels

Network of East-West-Women (NEWW), Gdansk

Gender Studies o.p.s, Prague

Grüne Bildungswerkstatt (GBW), Vienna