

**International Gender Policy Network (IGPN)
Annual Report 2010**



1. Introduction of IGPN

The International Gender Policy Network (IGPN) is a membership based, non-profit, non-governmental organization and has been established in autumn 2005 in order to strengthen and foster the policy work impact of the women's movement and to ensure the sustainability of women's movements in the Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia ("IGPN region")¹. Network of partners, formerly affiliated to the Network Women's Program of the Open Society Institute (NWP OSI) and actively collaborating with the NWP OSI through national offices of the Open Society Institutes and later directly, as independent NGOs, conceptualized its cooperation and structure into common mission and goals.

IGPN Mission: to generate policy, knowledge and advocacy for women's rights and gender equality at local, regional and global levels.

IGPN Main Goal: to ensure accountability of national, regional and global mechanisms, institutions and actors in the area of women's rights and gender equality.

IGPN is influencing policies at all levels, building on and using the capacity and expertise of its members. Underpinning the concept of access to sources - in order to empower women, we have to guarantee their access to the power and through the power access to sources - our activities during 2010 were also focused on topics directly related to power structures and access to sources. Our priority in 2010 was working on increasing political participation of women. But we also continued our active participation on UN reform discussions. At the same time, we foster our members capacity through trainings and collaboration.

¹ List of IGPN member countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan



2. General overview of the activities in 2010

I. Strengthening women's access to sources

Increasing Women's Political Representation

IGPN continued to elaborate on the initiative towards increasing political representation of women regionally – advocating the women's rights on political participation.

In January 2010 we organized second training for IGPN members on political participation of women. This time we were discussing the practical knowledge important for women in politics. IGPN members used this knowledge while organizing trainings for women from IGPN database of women able and willing to enter politics (<http://database.igpn.net>).

IGPN elaborated interviews with political parties based on common methodology. Reports were prepared and disseminated with the relevance to election cycle and we also worked on awareness rising of the importance of political participation of women inside political parties. We promoted women from IGPN database among political parties to demonstrate that there are women able and willing to enter politics in IGPN countries.

There were many IGPN activities at national level to promote political participation of women:

Kazakhstan

- meeting of delegation of ambassadors of OSCE with leaders of NGOs
- conference „Carrying out of organizational – practical actions on political promotion of women within the framework of realization of Strategy of gender equality in Republic Kazakhstan for 2006-2016“
- round table „Strategy of gender equality in politics: realization, experience, prospects“
- round table „Mutual relations and interactions of political parties and the nongovernmental organizations of Kazakhstan in a context of the political communications“
- conference „Political promotion of women in a society – a principle of gender democracy: problems and perspectives“
- final activity: roundtable with politicians and political parties

Ukraine

- promotion of the database across the country with a very good support of different kinds of media
- revise edition of „Arithmetics of power“ in Ukrainian and English – representing the ratio of women and men at the top level of Ukrainian power. This edition was revised and published after presidential elections of 2010 to show the crucial changes in Ukrainian government and the country's top management and a drastic decrease in a number of women in political life of the country
- IGPN survey on political parties was presented (and the database promoted) during the round table „Presenting Gender Map of Ukraine as an innovative tool to promote gender equality“ (present were journalists, politicians, representatives of NGOs and international organizations)
- conference of women's organizations in Ukraine - participants were representatives of women's organizations from different regions of



Ukraine, representatives of Ukrainian Parliament and Government, representatives of embassies, international organizations and foundations

- training of trainers on political participation of women in Ukraine
- two researches and analysis of the role of women in local elections in 2010 in Ukraine and the presentation of the data to the media and public

Georgia

- trainings for women from the database
- presentation of IGPN interviews with political parties (political parties representatives were present during the presentaion and related discussion)
- trainings on women`s political participation for 36 groups of IDP/conflicts` affected women/community representatives in 5 different regions of Georgia

Azerbaijan

- campaign supporting political participation of women before elections in autumn 2010


Kyrgystan

- project on increasing the role of women in the recovery proces in Kyrgystan (after the tragic events in the south of Kyrgystan in summer 2010)

Tajikistan

- conference on political participation of women in Tajikistan (politicians and civil society were discussing the topic with a big media interest)





Global level and gender accountability: **UN Reform of Gender Equality Body**

IGPN together with another organisations committed to gender equality have long been advocating for the United Nations to reform its gender equality architecture. IGPN is working in European Working Group of global initiative on UN Reform of Gender Equality Body (GEAR) in close cooperation with WIDE, European Women's Lobby and Oxfam Novib. We have been together advocating on EU level to get the support of EU member states for the creation of new UN agency which will work for women and also rising awareness especially in EU Parliament of the need of adequate budget for this new entity as well.

On 14th September 2009 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a crucial resolution that supports the creation of a new strong United Nations agency that will be promoting women's rights all over the world. Now it is important to influence how the agency will work, what will be its budget, strategic plan etc.

Important role of IGPN in this long-term process is to share news and latest developments of GEAR campaign with IGPN member organizations actively working and lobbying in IGPN countries and also share experiences with UN work from IGPN countries with the working groups of GEAR campaign and to comment the next shape of UN work in the field.

Due to long-term advocacy work of IGPN - during 54th session of Commission on the Status of Women in March 2010 - was the GEAR positioning towards creating the new UN gender equality entity accepted as an official governmental position statement of Czech Republic and was presented at high level plenary. Czech Vice Minister for Human Rights also personally delivered the message of GEAR positioning to UN Deputy Secretary General.

Development Cooperation and Gender


IGPN opened the topic Development Cooperation and Gender in the region in 2008. We provided with our findings and recommendations other gender and development organizations, national and EU governments. During 2010 the topic was recognized as important by some of these stakeholders. In some of the national development platforms were created gender working groups with aim to bring attention to the topic among other development organizations.

Important part of our work is dissemination of the information from and to EU level to/from national level in IGPN countries. IGPN members engage further in the topic of Development Cooperation and Gender at national level and influence the national agenda.

Preparations for the Female Leadership Training

During 2010 IGPN started to plan and prepare training on Women's Leadership for women leaders from Kyrgystan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. As trainers for this event were selected Ms. Margarita Jankauskaite and Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic from IGPN member organization in Lithuania - Center for Equality Advancement, due to their long-term experiences on this field and perfect knowledge of Russian language which was agreed as the most suitable language for the training.





In the preparation stage we distributed the application forms for participants and selected the trainees from the three countries.

We also identified three main purposes of the training:

- to enhance professional capacities, knowledge and skills on the issues of women's leadership and civil and political participation
- to empower women leaders to shift the focus on their community affairs from short-term needs towards complex long-term policy strategies
- to share know-how experience and help networking among the neighboring countries of Central Asia

The training was planned for January 2011.

Publications

Increasing women's representation in decision making through political parties: Interviews with political parties in Georgia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, September 2010



II. Institutional Capacity Building of IGPN

Cooperation and trainings, focus on non-discrimination

In January 2010 IGPN organized second training on political participation of women for its members. This time it was more practical training and we cooperated on it with trainers with experiences from politics - Bonnie Bernström and Anne Jalakas. Bonnie Bernström is a former Member of Swedish Parliament and Anne Jalakas is an independent journalist and gender consultant in politics. We were discussing the practical knowledge that should be delivered to women in politics, what are the important things they should be aware of. Our members were using this knowledge while working with the women from IGPN database, organizing trainings, seminars on national level.

In December 2010 IGPN organized strategic planning meeting for all IGPN members. Together we evaluated our activities in 2008-2010 and made plans for 2011-2013. Based on agreed conclusions we prepared our new Strategy document. We decided to keep most of our topics but we also identified new areas of our interest.



3. Networking with other organizations and institutions

IGPN is an active member of GEAR EU Working Group - closely cooperating with WIDE, European Women's Lobby and Oxfam Novib.

IGPN is a member of Gender Working Group of CONCORD, EU platform on Development Cooperation.

IGPN is a member of FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Cooperation and member of its newly established Gender Working Group.

IGPN is a member of AWID.

IGPN established relationships with some of MEPs in EU Parliament. And on national level with politicians and political parties representatives and with women able and willing to enter politics.

4. Institutional Development

Following its institutional development, IGPN establishes itself as a stronger player in the region and addresses the regional issues at global forums, as well as national issues at regional level. Collaboration with stakeholders consisting of political representatives, civil society representatives as well as another network organizations is an inevitable part of our work.

5. Donors

Open Society Institute

Oxfam Novib

Total raised amount from donors in 2010: 72.215 EUR.



6. Member organizations

Albania: Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)

Azerbaijan: Public Union for Gender Equality and Women's Initiatives (GEWI)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Woman and Society (Research, Policy and Advocacy Center)

Bulgaria: The Center of Women's Studies and Policies (CWSP)

Czech Republic: Slovak-Czech Women's Fund (SCWF)

Georgia: TASO Foundation (Women's fund & Memory research center)

Hungary: Foundation for the Women of Hungary (MONA)

Kazakhstan: Feminist League

Kosovo: Kosovar Gender Studies Center (KGSC)

Lithuania: Center for Equality Advancement (CEA)

Macedonia: Akcija Združenska

Moldova: Center „Partnership for Development“

Romania: Center for Partnership and Equality (CPE)

Serbia: Reconstruction Women's Fund

Slovak republic: Slovak-Czech Women's Fund (SCWF)

Ukraine: Ukrainian Women's Fund (UWF)

Tajikistan: Perspective +

Open Society Institutes in these countries:

Armenia

Montenegro



7. Institutional leadership

Board of Directors

Chairperson: Monika Ladmanová, Czech Republic

Virginija Aleksejune, Lithuania

Natalia Karbowska, Ukraine

Marija Savovska, Macedonia

Marina Tabukashvili, Georgia

Executive Director: Kristina Kosatíková

