



INFO Exchange

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Editorial

By Joanna Leontaraki

The constant need for the development of society and the perceived need for integration has led to an increased need for the full comprehension of basic matters, such as equality and discrimination, and the immediate effects these may have on society.

When one refers to European Integration one does not always understand the full implications or even meaning of such a process. This process entails great effort of re-organization, control and the full collaboration of all citizens and institutions of a country. Building public awareness levels on issues of gender discrimination and inequalities that exist based on race, age or even religion are necessary so as to allow for all developing countries the opportunity to take one step closer to their integration and their complete socialization.

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Current Developments



Wheelchair Dancing Event

The Institute of Entrepreneurship Development has undertaken the materialization of a local programme and action plan of networking in cooperation with KAPPA 2000 (www.kappa2000.gr), a non-profit organization that was founded in order to assist individuals with disabilities, particularly through the promotion and development of athletic and cultural activities.

Through the programme and action plan the Institute is offering its experience so as to enhance the already existing network of KAPPA 2000 with an electronic forum, publication of electronic newsletter, the organization and conclusion of workshops for individuals with disabilities and the institutionalization of yearly events, such as the International Sailing Marathon that took place for the 4th consecutive year in Greece for individuals with disabilities.

For those who may be interested in networking with KAPPA 2000, please do not hesitate to contact us. Building a strong network for individuals with disabilities could only prove beneficial and meaningful.

Diversity in a European Context

Speech: Cecilia Malmstrom, Minister for EU Affairs, 25 May 2007

On May 25 2007, a conference was held titled "The Conference Including Diversity - Youth Perspectives on Security, Peace and Democracy." Issues that were raised hold many interesting points, including a speech by Cecilia Malmstrom, Minister of EU Affairs.

Diversity, as commented by Ms Malmstrom, lies in the heart of the European Union and EU Integration. Even though legislation in the EU exists against discrimination, including European Community Directives, the Racial Equality Directive and the Employment Framework Directive, evidence has shown that discrimination is still a reality.

The speech presented a view that individuals do not "open up" when it comes to such important matters, as discrimination, leading to the nonexistence of statistics as to the extent of the problem. An assessment of the extent of the problem, however, is presented in a Eurobarometer Survey (which can be read in the current issue). In short, the survey indicated that discrimination based on religion, disability, sexual orientation, age and gender leads to disadvantages and there is a common belief that further actions need to be taken.

It is important to emphasize that 2007 has been appointed as the "European Year of Equal Opportunities for All." 2007 was and is the year in which priorities are given to human rights and equal opportunities are promoted for everyone in the EU. These priorities include emphasis on: rights, representation, recognition and respect.

In conclusion, Ms Cecilia Malmstrom also pointed out that EU Enlargement "works as an instrument to manifest the European Values." All member states and potential members must, therefore, fulfill such criteria, as human rights and democracy.

Source: Government Offices of Sweden online <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/7972/a/82943>

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The groups which are often at a disadvantage and at which others may operate at their expense are those minority groups, such as women, Roma, or the uneducated. These groups often reach what is referred to as the "glass ceiling" and find it difficult to progress and develop either socially or professionally.

For this reason, taking part in initiatives to combat discrimination or prejudice of any kind or to inform groups and the wider public on such matters that will provide them with the knowledge and experience to make a change is of great significance.

It is up to all of us to work together in the combat against discrimination. The extent of such problems is unknown to many and for this reason the *Institute of Entrepreneurship Development* has decided to dedicate this issue to discrimination. We believe that the presence of such problems in the 21st century is unheard of. Therefore, articles and research that has been conducted in Europe will be presented throughout this issue.

Once again, we hope you enjoy reading and find the contents of interest!

"2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All"



Discrimination in the European Union

EUROBAROMETER Survey

According to the survey conducted it seems that discrimination in the European Union is still widespread, as can be observed in the graph on the right, despite efforts made to abolish such phenomena and the existence of laws and the enforcement of such legislation.

Discrimination based on ethnic origin is most often felt to be that type that is most apparent, while results do vary depending on the country. A large mass of citizens of the EU believe that being over 50 years old (69%), being of a different ethnic origin (62%) or being disabled (79%) places individuals at a disadvantage, while many argue that belonging to such groups also places them at a disadvantaged level in the workplace, often resulting in difficulty in finding a job.

In general, it is common belief of Europeans that their countries are not actively involved in the fight against discrimination and that more effort should be placed in this direction.

Lastly, the survey indicated that an enhancement of the awareness levels concerning the legislation in place prohibiting discrimination and the rights of all individuals is called for since the awareness levels regarding such significant matters are low.

Source: EUROBAROMETER "Discrimination in the European Union"
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_263_en.pdf



Cooperating Institutions

SDF is a non-governmental, non-party, non-political and non-profit organization that was established in April 1998 in the region of Serbia and Montenegro. The vision of SDF is that of a Serbia in which civilization values are respected and the rights and interests of all individuals protected.

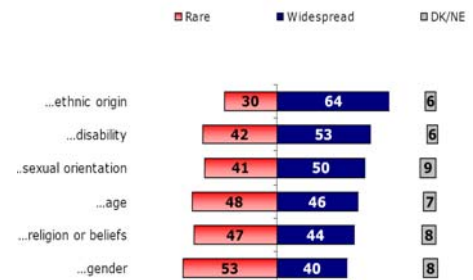
Its main objective is the provision of assistance for the sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons, the empowerment of these individuals and vulnerable groups and their integration in the local community, legal framework creation and protection of immigrants and asylum seekers' rights and the establishment of more active cooperation with national minorities.

Finally, SDF has supported and participated in many projects, including the following:

- o United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- o European Commission through European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)
- o Peace and Stability programme for South East Europe (FRESTA)

Please see *continuation* on page 4

Q1 Perception of discrimination on the basis of ...
EU25 (%)



Discrimination in Europe: Perception
and Attitudes

Calendar of Events

- o **Sept. 23:** Managing People in Changing Academic Environments – Bled Slovenia
- o **Sept. 24:** Certified International Project Manager (CIPM) – Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
- o **Oct. 15:** Critical Skills for Doing Business in China 2007 – Singapore
- o **Oct. 19:** Business and Economic Research – Athens Greece
- o **Nov. 12:** Caribbean International Leadership Summit – Bridgetown Barbados
- o **Nov. 19:** International Colloquium on Business and Management – Bangkok Thailand

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- o Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- o Social Innovation Fund

Serbian Democratic Forum

Kraljice Marije 47/II

11000 Belgrade

Serbia and Montenegro

Tel/Fax: +381 11 3820 250

+381 11 3820 251

E-mail: Beograd@sdf.org.yu

Website: www.sdf.org.yu

Useful Websites

- o Stop Discrimination: An Initiative for the European Union
<http://www.stop-discrimination.info/>
- o Free Management Library Online for Non-profits and For-profits
<http://www.managementhelp.org/>
- o OneWorld.net: Latest news and views from over 1,600 organizations
<http://www.oneworld.net/>

Cooperating Institutions



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