

The Voice of Women in Europe

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is a non-governmental organisation representing over 4,000 women's organisations in Europe. EWL brings together women's NGOs from 25 of the European Union Member States and accession countries as well as 17 European-wide and international organisations.

Our mission

The EWL mission is to work together to achieve equality between women and men, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, to ensure respect for women's rights and to eradicate violence against women. EWL also aims at ensuring that gender equality and women's human rights are taken into consideration in all European Union policies.

How we work

EWL is a democratic organisation with transparent procedures of communication, decision-making and accountability. EWL recognises the diversity of women's lives and experiences and aims to include the interests of the many women who face multiple discrimination in its work.

Our budget

For the financial year 2005, EWL's core budget was 937,500 Euro. EWL receives 80% of this amount as a grant from the European Commission and the remaining 20% is made up of membership fees and other independent sources of funding.

EWL would like to thank the Sigrid Rausing Trust for providing financial support to our core organisational work as well as to the development of the European Observatory on Violence Against Women. We would also like to thank the Swedish Government, Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications/Division for Gender Equality and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Nordic-Baltic Taskforce against Trafficking in Human Beings for funding specific project activities.

EWL is in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and with the Council of Europe.

CONTENT

- 3 | EDITORIAL
- 4 | EWL SETS OUT A NEW VISION FOR ACHIEVING EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN 2005
- 6 | ACHIEVING EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN DECISION-MAKING: A FAST WAY IS POSSIBLE
- 8 | EWL PUTS WOMEN'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AT THE HEART OF EUROPEAN POLICY
- 10 | IMMIGRANT WOMEN: BECOMING VISIBLE, BECOMING INDISPENSABLE
- 12 | EWL MOBILISING FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS
- 14 | ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN
- 16 | MOBILISING FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS: FOR THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE
- 18 | WHO WE ARE: EWL MEMBERSHIP ACROSS EUROPE



I am very happy to introduce the annual report of the European Women's Lobby for 2005. I first wish to **pay a tribute to all the members of EWL** who in their different capacities and often on a voluntary basis continually inform, inspire and renew the mission of EWL. I also want to acknowledge the **courage and determination of the many women that we have worked with from across the world**, notably from India, Russia and Croatia, who continue to work for women's human rights, often in the face of extreme forms of violence and discrimination that thankfully few women in the European Union have to face today, and to **reaffirm our solidarity with them**. On behalf of all of the members of EWL, I also want to commend the hard work and extraordinary dedication of the staff team who have so successfully carried forward our work in 2005.

During 2005, we in EWL, along with millions of women all over the world, were happy to celebrate one of the great achievements of the global women's movement, the **10th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)**. The comprehensive review that we carried out of the implementation of commitments made by the European Union of the BPfA and of the Millennium Development Goals, brought us face to face with some of the very harsh realities of women's lives in Europe and globally. This year's annual report outlines a number of these realities in a way that I hope allows you to **sense the scale of the challenges that women are still facing**.

The stark reality is that systematic **gender-based discrimination** in all areas of life, including **education, employment or political representation**, maintains and sometimes reinforces inequality between women and men; that hundreds of millions

of women globally, and millions of women in Europe, do **not have access to basic sexual and reproductive health rights** and that violence against women, in all its forms, remains an obstacle to the achievement of equality. **There is still a very long way to go before all women can fully celebrate the freedom to live their lives in peace, in dignity and with the level of personal and economic independence that they choose**. At the same time we must remain alert to the threats posed by those who want to roll back the achievements made in recent decades in women's rights.

The implications of this situation are clear for EWL and in taking up this challenge we set out our own vision for achieving equality between women and men in **our "Gender Equality Road Map for the European Community 2006-2010"**. In 2005, we also extended our activity in working to eliminate violence against women by taking forward **two projects with a focus on trafficking in women for the purposes of sexual exploitation**.

In order to achieve equality between women and men, **EWL is committed to actions in many different arenas**. We work with national governments, with the European institutions as well as with the Council of Europe and the United Nations. In addition we continue to make an active contribution to the development of civil dialogue within the European Union, contributing to the Platform of Social NGOs, the Civil Society Contact Group and the Economic and Social Committee NGO Liaison Group and cooperating with many European NGOs, and in so doing, **we maintain a strong voice for women within the emerging networks of civil society**.

As the political environment in which we are working in Europe and globally becomes ever more complex, we felt the need to undertake a review of our strategic objectives, our policy priorities and working methods. Right now, EWL is in the middle of this **Strategic Review**, which has proven to be a challenging and energising experience. The aims of this process is to involve the EWL membership in ensuring that we are making a lasting impact and bringing about an even sharper focus to our activities, responding to new challenges, measuring our success and renewing our sense of purpose across the whole organisation.

As you will realise in reading this Annual Report, a number of **steps were taken in 2005** by the European Women's Lobby itself and by European institutions, which **pave the way for making further progress towards achieving women's rights in Europe and beyond**. It is our commitment to make sure that this will result in a better life for all women.



Kirsti Kolthoff
President of the European Women's Lobby

EWL SETS OUT A NEW VISION FOR ACHIEVING EQUALITY BETWEEN

From the perspective of the European Women's Lobby, 2005 was a year for setting the framework for future European gender equality policies. The main step in this process was the drafting of the EWL *"Gender Equality Road Map for the European Community 2006-2010"*. The EWL Road Map, put forward as a model to the official European Commission document of March 2006, presents a common vision for gender equality policies and makes concrete recommendations to the European institutions to advance women's rights in six areas.

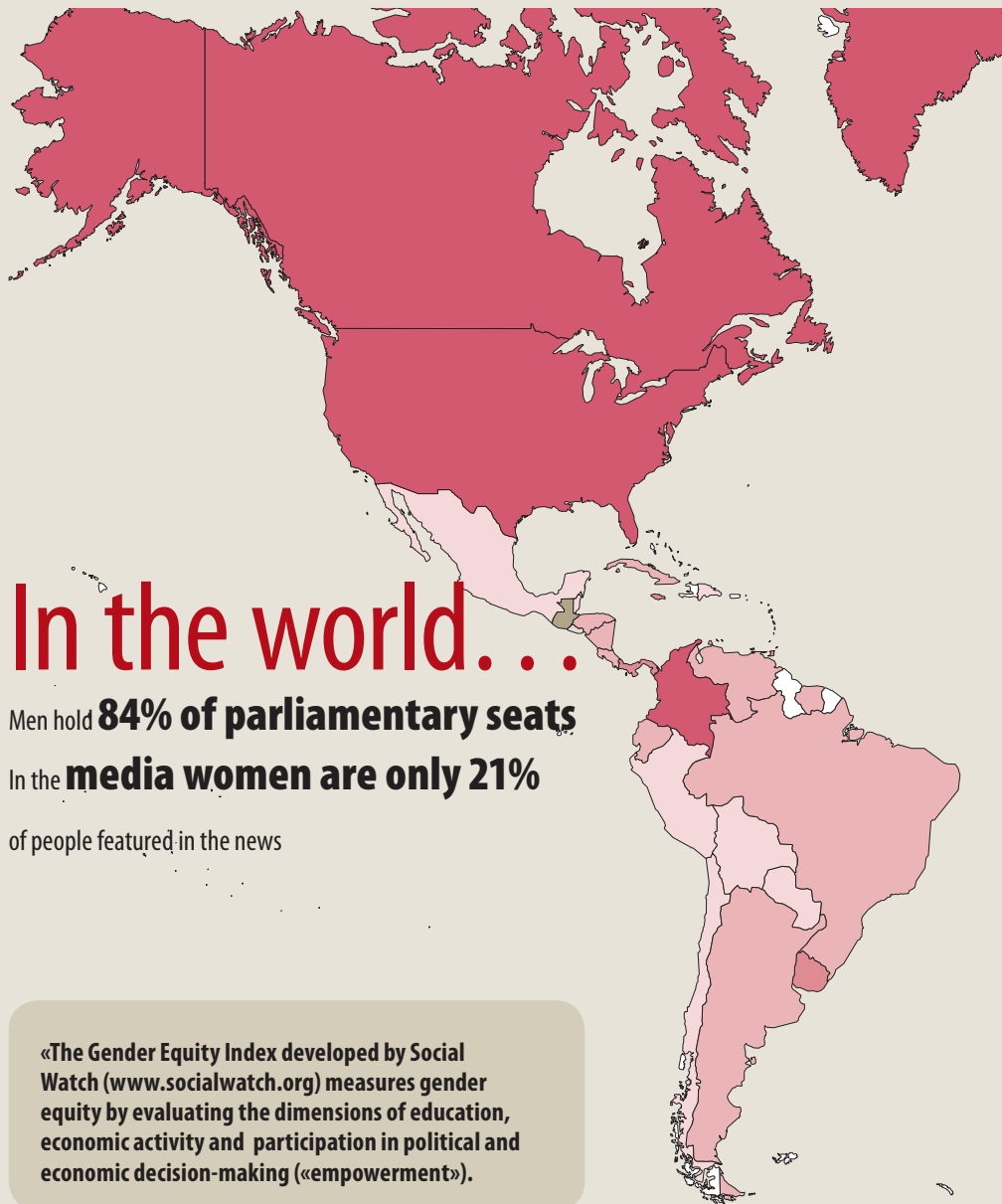
The creation of a **European Gender Institute**, which should start its work in 2007, could help to provide European institutions with the necessary support to improve gender equality policies at EU level. EWL is following very closely the process of defining the tasks and internal structures of the Institute, in order to make sure that this new mechanism truly contributes to filling the existing gaps in terms of information, the implementation of legislation, gender mainstreaming as well as involvement of all relevant actors.

Another concrete measure that was prepared in 2005 was the setting up of *"2007 European Year on Equal Opportunities for All"*. Although this Year will be devoted to combat all forms of discrimination, EWL was active to make sure that a gender perspective was included in the founding principles for the Year. Preparations for the Year will continue at national level throughout 2006, hopefully with the full participation of women's organisations.

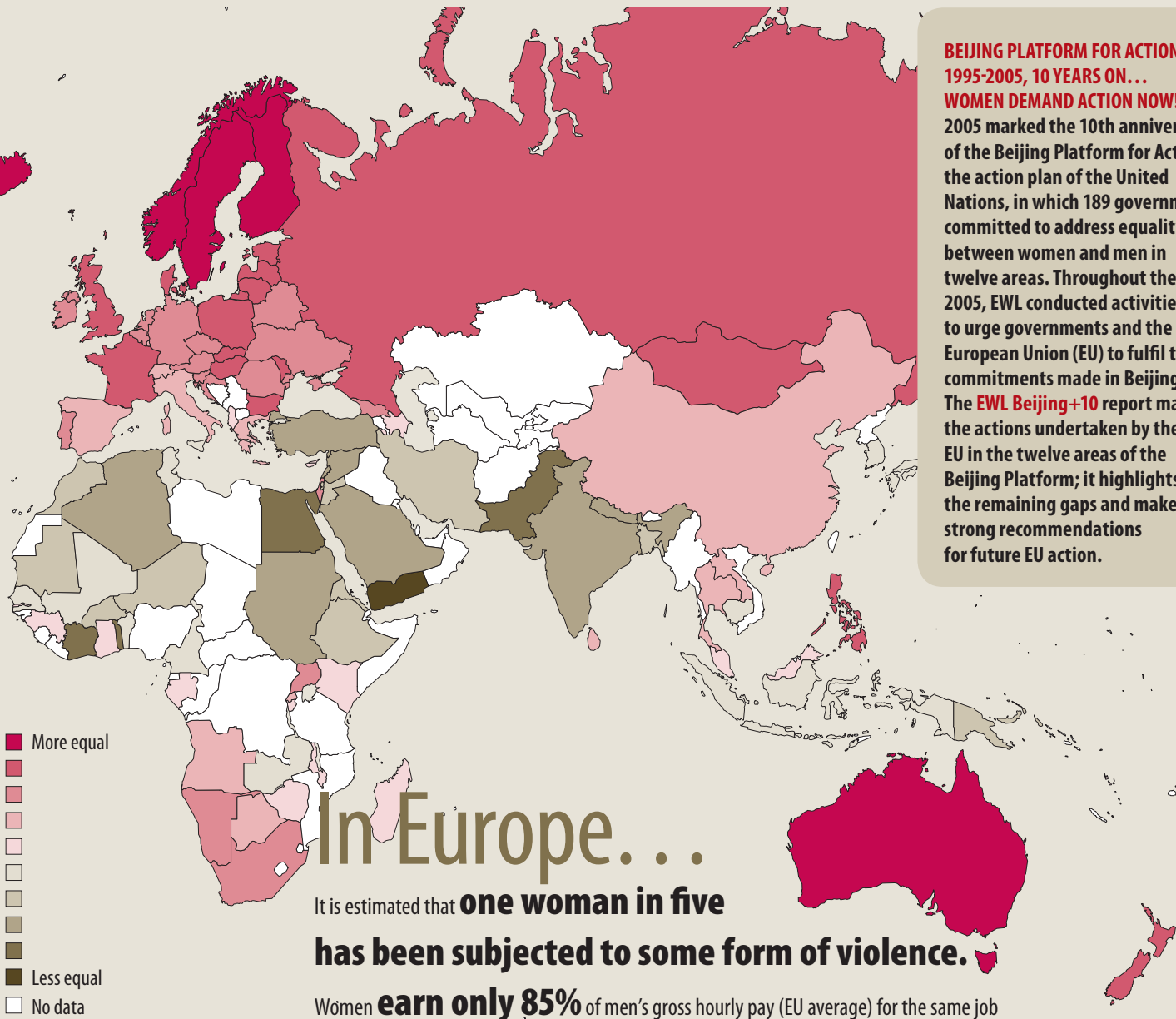
2005 was also the **deadline for implementing at national level a new European directive on gender equality in employment** (Directive 2002/73/EC), which adds definitions of indirect discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment to the existing legislative body and requires Member States to set up national equality bodies.

Finally, through its work on **demography**, EWL highlighted that the challenges facing Europe in relation to demographic changes can only be tackled if gender as a fundamental organising principle of society is fully taken into account. EWL also stressed the need to put the guarantee of women's sexual rights at the core of the reflections on demography.

Gender Equity Index by Country 2005



WOMEN AND MEN IN 2005



BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION 1995-2005, 10 YEARS ON... WOMEN DEMAND ACTION NOW!

2005 marked the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the action plan of the United Nations, in which 189 governments committed to address equality between women and men in twelve areas. Throughout the year 2005, EWL conducted activities to urge governments and the European Union (EU) to fulfil the commitments made in Beijing. The **EWL Beijing+10** report maps the actions undertaken by the EU in the twelve areas of the Beijing Platform; it highlights the remaining gaps and makes strong recommendations for future EU action.

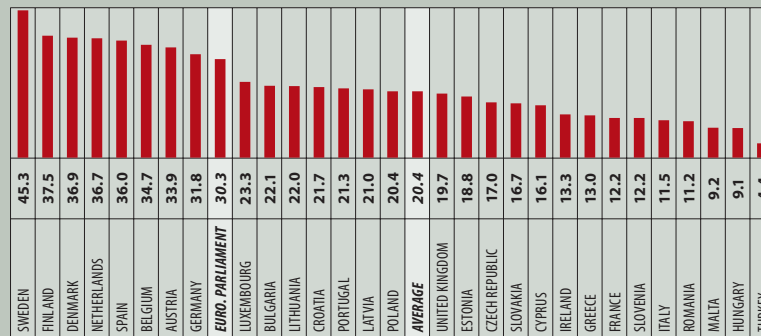
ACHIEVING EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN DECISION-M

Parity democracy is the guiding principle that underpins EWL's work on women in decision-making. Parity democracy is based on the understanding that humanity is equally composed of women and men, and that women and men should be equally represented whenever decisions are made that affect their lives. **Parity democracy or quotas represent a shift to equality of results and real democracy** and international experience shows that mandatory measures and effective sanctions for non-compliance (for political parties notably) are the most powerful tools for increasing the representation of women.

ARGUMENTS in favour of mandatory measures for gender equality in decision-making:

- **Democracy itself is not the result of natural evolution;** it is the result of human intervention throughout history to give people a voice in decisions affecting their lives. Parity is the next step in achieving the most representative and democratic system.
- The representation of **citizens as undifferentiated neutral beings** and theoretically equals **conceals the real exclusion of women** from social and political life. Democratic universalism therefore serves at promoting the dominant model of "representatives of the people" (male, white, rich, etc).
- Women are just as qualified as men to participate in decision-making, but **women's qualifications are downgraded and minimised** in a male-dominated political system.
- In practice, it is the **political parties that control the nominations of candidates** and not primarily the voters who decide who gets elected, therefore quotas are no more violations of the principle of freedom and of voters' rights than other functioning rules of democracy and of political parties.
- **Mandatory measures are an effective way to compensate for the exclusion and discrimination mechanisms against women that are inherent to our political systems and social structures.**

Women in National Parliaments in EU Member States and Accession Countries



Main source : Interparliamentary Union, 31.12.2005

RWANDA LEADS WORLD RANKING OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

With 48.8% women in Parliament since 2003, Rwanda has come very close to parity. This was achieved thanks to a constitutional quota of reserved seats for women added to women elected to non-reserved seats.

A WOMAN AS THE NEXT UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL IN 2006

1945-2006 :
3 Europeans, 2 Africans,
1 Latin American, 1 Asian,
0 Women

Since 1945, six persons have held the post of UN Secretary General, not one of them was a woman. The election of a new United Nations Secretary-General will take place in 2006 and EWL, following the action by Equality Now, has launched a campaign for the election of a woman to the world's highest diplomatic position.

Spain

The second gender-balanced government in Europe was sworn in Spain on 18 April 2004 (the other being in Sweden).

Measures for the Promotion of Women in Decision-Making in EU Member States and Accession Countries



FINLAND CELEBRATES THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S FULL POLITICAL RIGHTS IN 2006!

The year 1906 represents a milestone for women's social and political participation. Finland was then the first country into the world where women could fully exercise their voting rights. Altogether nineteen female MPs were elected to Parliament in 1907.

More information on:
www.aanioikeus.fi

Norway

According to a new law of January 2006, Norwegian companies will have 2 years to ensure that women hold 40% of the seats of each company listed on the Oslo bourse.

Slovenia

42,9% of the Slovenian members of the European Parliament are women. This was achieved through a strong campaign of a Parity Coalition that led to a quotas system of 40% women on the lists where at least one of the first three candidates had to be from the less represented sex.

Dark orange	Parity or quotas in the constitution or law
Light orange	Voluntary quotas by most political parties
Medium orange	Voluntary quotas by a minority of political parties
White	No measure

EWL PUTS WOMEN'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AT THE HEART OF

Women's employment remains key to their economic autonomy and to greater equality between women and men in society as a whole. If women are economically independent, they have the resources to engage in all aspects of society more fully and are able to make free choices concerning their lives.

However, **in the European labour markets, women face gender segregation, lower pay and poorer opportunities for advancement.** The issue of the quality of women's work and employment is closely related to the value attributed to women's work in our society. Furthermore, **equality on the labour market is closely linked to the gendered division of tasks in private life.** As women still carry the majority of domestic tasks and caring responsibilities, this hinders their employment opportunities. Moreover, these gender roles are often directly translated into policy. For example, reconciliation of work and private life policies are often directed towards women rather than encouraging men to take up their share of domestic and caring responsibilities.

In 2005 the European Women's Lobby was very active in the Lisbon Strategy refocusing process. A very important goal of the refocused **Lisbon "growth and jobs" strategy** is increasing employment. The increased labour market participation of women is a major factor contributing to the success of this goal. However, in the refocused Lisbon Strategy, **specific measures** to increase women's participation rates in the labour market must be strengthened, especially in the **National Reform Programmes**, a key element of the European Employment Strategy.

Equality between women and men in employment can only be achieved if targeted measures are undertaken **concurrently in ALL of the following areas :**

- Eliminate gender stereotypes in education
- Promote equal access to education, training and life long learning
- Fully address the gender segregation of the EU labour market
- Improve women's job access and career progress
- Eliminate the gender pay gap
- Ensure the individualisation of tax and social security systems
- Implement policies to reconcile work and private life for women and men
- Provide affordable care services for children/elderly and other dependant persons.

ONE OF THE REASONS FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT AMONG INDIVIDUALS AGED 15-64 (%)

EU 25	Family or personal responsibilities
Women	32.7
Men	3.6

Source: Eurostat, 2004

EWL CAMPAIGN "WHO CARES?"

During the EWL Care Campaign to be launched in May 2006, the European Women's Lobby will highlight the essential role that good quality, affordable care services, available to all women and men whatever their financial situation, plays in promoting true equality between women and men and in enabling women and men to reconcile their work and private lives.

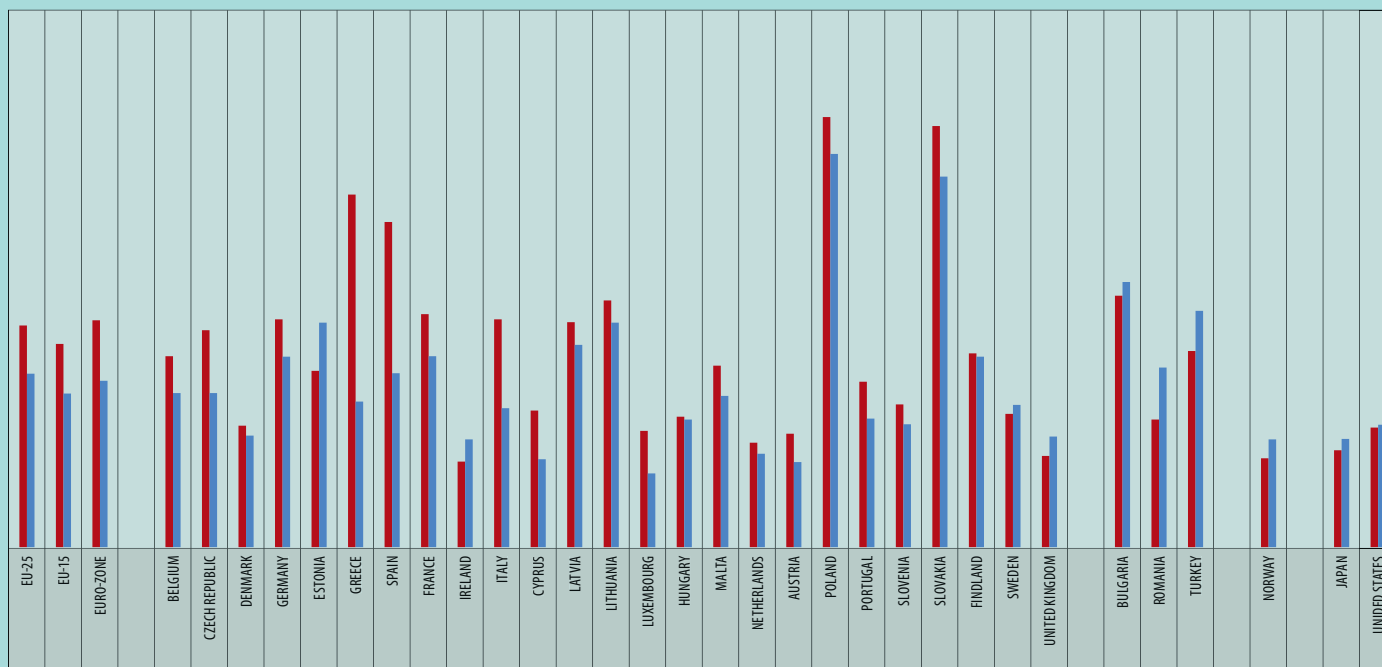
PROPORTION OF PART-TIME WORK BY GENDER AND AGE GROUPS (PERCENTAGES FOR 2004)

EU 25	15-64 YEARS	15-24 YEARS	25-49 YEARS	55-64 YEARS
M + F	17.3	24.5	15.5	22.0
F	31.1	32.3	29.7	39.9
M	6.3	18.0	4.1	10.3

Source: Employment in Europe 2005 Recent Trends and Prospects (European Commission)

Part-time work is far more prevalent among women than among men. Part-time contracts are associated with lower wages (and social benefits) than full-time contracts, lower opportunities for promotion, and lower investment in training. Some studies show that the hourly wage rate received by part-time workers is lower by about 10% than for those in full-time employment (OECD, 1999).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN 2004 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Eurostat yearbook 2005

	Women
	Men

IMMIGRANT WOMEN: BECOMING VISIBLE, BECOMING INDISPENSAB

Women now account for more than 45% of migrants in the EU. Whereas in the past, women tended to join their partners under family reunification policies, many immigrant women are now moving independently in order to escape poverty or gender inequality in their own country. Despite the contribution of immigrant women to cultural diversity and to economic and social development in their host country, their rights and specific needs often remain invisible in the process of developing European legislation and policies in the field of immigration. The result is that rather than being recognised as a dynamic and productive part of a multi cultural European society, immigrant women can find themselves confined in traditional cultural and family roles as mothers and spouses.

Immigrant women often experience **double discrimination**, which is based on their gender and on their ethnic origin. This double discrimination may be experienced in the host country and also within the immigrant communities themselves where practices that would be considered discriminatory are tolerated in the host countries in an approach based on cultural and religious relativism that is incompatible with human rights.

In 2005, the **European Women's Lobby took action to raise awareness about the precarious situation of immigrant women** in Europe and to promote their rights in the developing framework of EU immigration and integration policies.

EWL DEMANDS

- The collection and analysis of **gender-disaggregated data on migration flows** to enable a better understanding of women's migration patterns and of the needs of immigrant women.
- **Specific actions to ensure the independent status of migrant women in the host society.**

EMPLOYMENT RATE: SIGNIFICANT GAPS FOR MIGRANT WOMEN

	Low skilled		Medium qualified		Highly qualified	
	EU nationals	Non-EU nationals	EU nationals	Non-EU nationals	EU nationals	Non-EU nationals
Women in working age (15-64)	41.2	31.5	65.4	52.5	79.9	57.5
Women in working age (15-64)	61.9	56.5	77.6	70.5	86.7	76.4

Source: Employment in Europe 2003, European Commission.

In 2002, the employment rate of non-EU nationals was consistently lower than that of EU nationals for all ages and qualifications, and significantly more so for women than men. The gap increased with qualifications to reach 22.4 percentage points between highly qualified women who are EU nationals and highly qualified immigrant women. These statistics seem to show that variations in employment among immigrant women are determined less by their qualifications than by the features of the majority society, such as attitudes towards the participation of women in the labour market, discrimination in the access to jobs and national employment patterns.

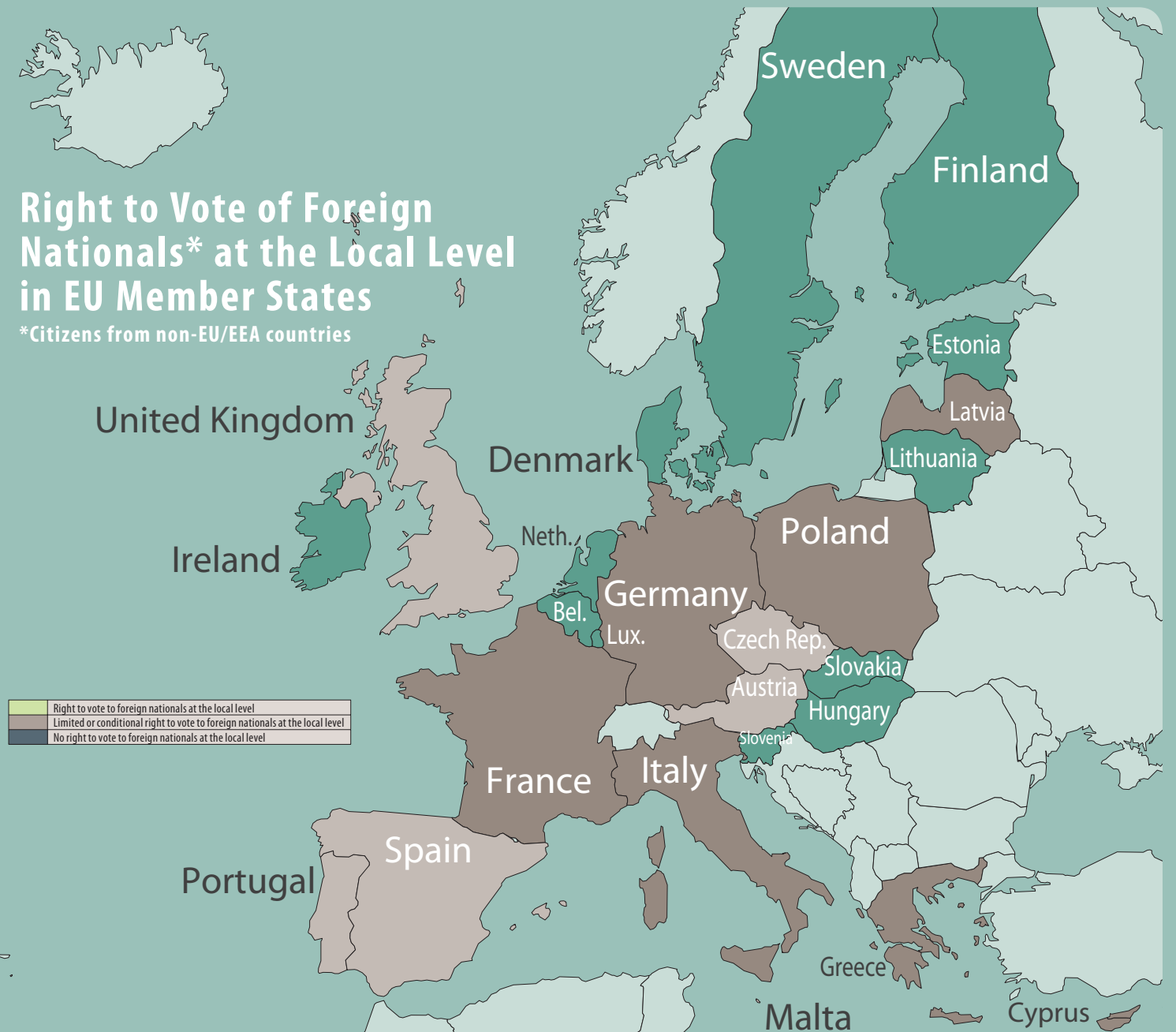
Targeted strategies encouraging the participation of immigrant women in the labour market are urgently needed: recognition of diplomas, positive action measures, targeted vocational training for immigrant women, support to the work of NGOs and social services providers, which play an important role in improving the skills of immigrant women

EWL CHALLENGES

- **The dependent legal status of immigrant women in European Union host countries: The essential first step towards ensuring the independence of immigrant women is to grant them a residence and a work permit independent of and separate from that of the principal right-holder, which in the context of family reunification is often the husband/father.**
- **The application of the personal status of the country of origin: Many immigrant women are exposed to violation of their human rights in the EU due to the application of the personal status/law of their country of origin in the host European country pursuant to private international law, for example in the case of rights in relation to marriage, divorce, children's custody.** (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, report of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on the Integration of immigrant women in Europe of 7 December 2005).

Right to Vote of Foreign Nationals* at the Local Level in EU Member States

*Citizens from non-EU/EEA countries



EWL MOBILISING FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Action to Eliminate Violence against Women

Violence against women and the violation of women's human rights are among the most glaring examples of the unequal status of women in our society. Over centuries, men's control over women's autonomy and women's bodies have undermined women's rights. If gender violence in intimate partnerships is one of the most common forms of violence, it is only part of a continuum, a continuous series of physical, verbal and sexual assaults and acts committed in different ways by men against women with the explicit aim of hurting, degrading, intimidating and silencing women. **Violence against women is a fundamental barrier to the achievement of gender equality.**

Women are more at risk of experiencing violence in intimate relationships than anywhere else. Although many countries have improved legislation that addresses domestic violence, a high occurrence of domestic violence still persists: in the EU, at least **1 woman in 5 suffers of violence from a partner/ex-partner** in her lifetime. There is clearly a need for a greater focus on the implementation and enforcement of legislation.

Strengthening women's human rights and eradicating all forms of violence against women is an essential part of EWL's works towards achieving equality of women and men. EWL uses existing international texts and political commitments already made by European governments to put pressure on the EU Member States for reinforced action against violence against women and the realisation of women's human rights. One of the aims of the EWL action is the integration of an explicit **legal provision within the European treaties that recognises violence as an obstacle to the achievement of gender equality.**

Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Women

Trafficking in women and prostitution are serious violations of women's human rights in Europe today. According to the United Nations, **80% of trafficking** in human beings is for the **purpose of sexual exploitation.** The increase in trafficking in Europe has led governments to take joint actions to combat trafficking in the last few years. However, in general governments' efforts are not guided by the need to safeguard women's human rights and only rarely do policies explicitly recognise the close link between increased trafficking and the sex industry's growing demand for women in prostitution.

In recent years EWL has been working to influence policy developments on trafficking, seeking to achieve a **shift in focus from strict crime prevention to increased focus on the protection of women's rights** and gender equality. The EWL's key messages are that governments must work to prevent trafficking and prostitution through **measures that target the demand side of trafficking and prostitution.** Prostitution markets are not based on equal relationship between women in prostitution and the male buyers. Policies must therefore not repress even further women in prostitution through criminalisation and/or various regulations such as obligatory health controls and registering. Instead, policies should focus on criminalizing/repressing the buying of women in prostitution and developing policies that suppress the economic actors in the sex industry (pimps, brothel owners).

Focusing on women's human rights also entails shifting focus from strict crime fighting activities to **invest in a strengthening of women's position in society in both countries of origin and destination,** reinforcing the rights of women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, including residence permits, compensation measures, and access to services. Finally there is a need to **invest in services and support to women in prostitution,** including exit programmes.

NEW LAW AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADOPTED IN BULGARIA IN MARCH 2005

This law governs the rights of individuals who have experienced domestic violence, the protection measures, and the procedure applicable to the imposition of such measures.

SPAIN: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GROUNDBREAKING INTEGRATED LAW AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

The new Spanish law of 2004 takes up international recommendations on providing a global response to violence against women. The Act covers preventative, educational, social, welfare measures, victim support and increased penalties for perpetrators of assaults within intimate relationships.

KEY EVENTS IN 2005:

Adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, May 2005.

EWL seminar on sex trafficking "Who is responsible", with the participation of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Sigma Huda, London, October 2005.

Meeting and press conference with survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution, adoption of a Survivors' manifesto, co-organised by EWL and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Brussels, October 2005.

European Commission presents a proposal for an "Integrated approach and action plan to fight trafficking in human beings", October 2005

**EWL NORDIC–BALTIC PILOT PROJECT:
SUPPORT, PROTECTION, SAFE
RETURN, AND REHABILITATION OF
WOMEN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING
FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Too few anti-trafficking actions actually focus on providing support to the victims and recognise the particular needs of women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Against this background, the Nordic-Baltic Taskforce against Trafficking in Human Beings has appointed the EWL regional co-ordinator of a 3-year pilot project, which aims at reinforcing the capacity and improving the models for victim support in and between the Nordic and Baltic countries (see map).

**EWL JOINT TRAFFICKING PROJECT:
PREVENTING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN
FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

This project, jointly coordinated by EWL and the Coalition Against Trafficking (CATW) in Women, promotes awareness raising actions addressing the situation of women and girls in the countries of origin of trafficking, focusing on measures to promote gender equality as a fundamental part of democracy and human rights. It supports women's NGOs working on these issues in 14 countries (see map).

**OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATION ON PROSTITUTION IN EUROPE / COUNTRIES
WHERE EWL HAS PROJECTS**

Legislation on prostitution in European countries

	Pimping and running of brothels are illegal. Women (and men) in prostitution are criminalized. Buying of sexual services is not criminalized; buyers are not subject to regulatory/repressive measures.
	Pimping and running of brothels are illegal, but prostitution activities are often tolerated in certain zones. Women (and men) in prostitution are not criminalized and not subject to regulatory measures. Buying of sexual services is not criminalized; buyers are not subject to regulatory/repressive measures.
	Pimping and running of brothels are tolerated/regulated in certain zones or venues. Women (and men) in prostitution are not criminalized, but there are regulatory/repressive measures towards them (health controls, obligations to register, etc). Buying of sexual services is not criminalized; buyers are not subject to regulatory/repressive measures.
	Pimping and running of brothels are criminalized. Buying of sexual services is criminalized. Women (and men) in prostitution are NOT criminalized, and not subject to regulatory/repressive measures.
	Pimping and running of brothels are fully legalised (institutionalised) economic activities. Prostitution is institutionalised as a profession in labour law; women (and men) in prostitution have to abide to regulatory/repressive measures (health controls, obligations to register, etc). Buying of sexual services is not criminalized; buyers are not subject to regulatory/repressive measures.
	Pimping and running of brothels are illegal. Women (and men) in prostitution are criminalized. Buying of sexual services is criminalized.

Women's sexual rights are an integral part of women's human rights; they include the right to for women to control their sexuality and the provision of sexual and reproductive health-related services. Today in the EU, **these rights must be defended. Sexual and reproductive rights concern not only women's health, but also women's dignity and freedom.**

After extensive debates within the EWL membership, EWL adopted in January 2005 **a position paper on women's sexual rights in Europe**, which includes notably the following recommendations to the Member States of the European Union :

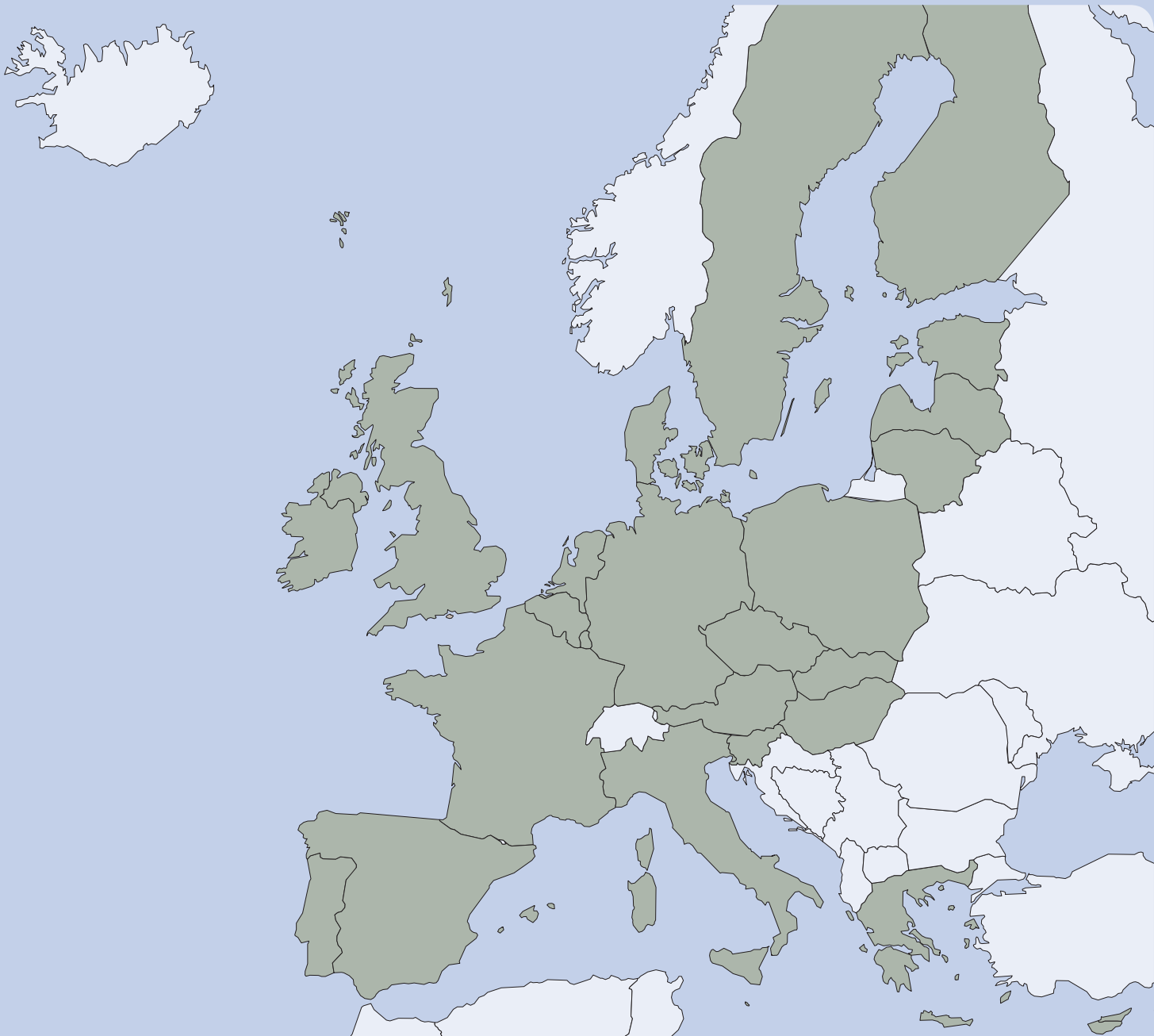
- Ensure that **uniform access to complete and neutral information and sexuality education** is provided from before and throughout adolescence.
- Ensure that advice and **confidential** health care, without value judgments are provided on reproductive and sexual health including sexual orientation and abortion.

EWL recommends that the institutions of the EU :

- Set up permanent mechanisms to establish **a database and clear information** concerning the sexual and reproductive health of women in Europe
- Develop monitoring mechanisms relating to the **commitments** made at the **conferences of Cairo and Beijing** and **make links** with the **Millennium Development Goals** on this issue.

The situation in Europe

Whereas sexual and reproductive rights of European women are guaranteed in a satisfactory way in Europe in the eyes of the rest of the world, an in-depth study reveals that ongoing **difficulties and disparities exist between the different European regions and countries.** The sexual and reproductive rights which should be enjoyed without obstacles by European women in their country include legal and safe abortion, open access to reliable, safe, affordable contraception, access to health care, sexual education and information in relation to sexual and reproductive health, free choice and consent. In reality, the **application of all these rights is limited** (by the availability of the services but sometimes also by the financial capacities of women) **and subject to legal and administrative conditions.**



WHO WE ARE: EWL MEMBERSHIP ACROSS EUROPE

EWL Executive Committee (term October 2004-October 2006)

President: Kirsti Kolthoff

Vice President: Karine Henrotte-Forsberg

Vice President: Iluta Lace

Vice President: Annette Lawson

Treasurer: Lene Bertelsen



EWL Board of Administration (term October 2004-October 2006)

Board of Administration : 25 Members Representing National Co-ordinations

Austria: Sabine Obershauser

Belgium: Marguerite Blancke

Bulgaria: Iliana Balabanova Stoycheva

Czech Republic: Marie Bohacova

Denmark: Lene Bertelsen

Estonia: Julia Kovalenko

Finland: Saara Ruokonen (Alternate)

France: Martine Levy

Germany: Brunhilde Raiser

Greece: Efthimia Ioannidou

Hungary: Judith Wirth

Ireland: Therese Murphy

Italy: Ludovica Bottarelli-Tranquilli Leali

Latvia: Iluta Lace

Lithuania: Jurgita Pecuriene

Luxembourg: Marie Josée Bivort

Malta: Romina Bartolo

Poland: Urszula Nowakowska (Alternate)

Portugal: Maria Do Mar Pereira

Slovakia: Olga Pietruchova

Spain: Marta Ortiz

Sweden: Kirsti Kolthoff

The Netherlands: Audrey Ruth Vreugd

Turkey: Selma Acuner

United Kingdom: Annette Lawson

Board of Administration: 8 Members Representing European-wide or International Organisations

Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the EU: Marianne Dondelinger-Pesch

European Centre of the International Council of Women: Laura Finne-Elonen

University Women of Europe: Karine Henrotte-Forsberg

European Business and Professional Women: Eufémia Ippolito

International Council of Jewish Women: June Jacobs

European Disability Forum: Lydia la Rivière Zijdel

International Alliance of Women: Marilyn La Tona

European Trade Union Confederation: Cateleene Passchier

EWL Secretariat 2005

General Secretary: Mary Mc Phail

Staff: Malin Björk, Maria Collins, Clarisse Delorme, Colette De Troy, Cécile Gréboval, Juliette Kamper, Marie-Anne Leunis, Virginie Niyonzima, Mary Ann Struthers, Gabrielle Tzelepis (accountant)



EWL Member Organisations

National Co-ordinations of EWL

Austria: Bund Österreichischer Frauenvereine; Österreichischer Frauenring

Belgium: Coordination Belge du Lobby européen des femmes
(Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad; Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique;
Comité de Liaison des Femmes)

Bulgaria: Bulgarian Coordination of EWL

Czech Republic: Czech Women's Lobby

Denmark: Women's Council in Denmark

Estonia: Estonia Women's Association Roundtable (EWAR)

Finland: NYTKIS - Coalition of Finnish Women's Association

France: Coordination Française du Lobby Européen des emmes (CLEF)

Germany: Deutscher Frauenrat

Greece: Coordination of Greek Women's NGOs for the EWL

Hungary: Hungarian Women's Lobby

Ireland: National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCII)

Italy: Coordinamento Italiano della Lobby Europea delle Donne (LEF Italia)

Latvia: Latvian Coordination of EWL

Lithuania: Lithuanian Women's Lobby

Luxembourg: Coordination Luxembourgeoise du LEF (Conseil National des Femmes
du Luxembourg; Commission Féminine du Mouvement Européen Luxembourg;
Fédération Nationale des Femmes Luxembourgeoises)

Malta: Malta Confederation of Women's Organisations (MCWO)

The Netherlands: Dutch Coordination to the EWL

(Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad, TIYE International)

Poland: Polskie Lobby Kobiet (PLK) (Polish Women's Lobby – National Women's
Information Centre "OSKA")

Portugal: PPDM – Plataforma Portuguesa para os Direitos das Mulheres

Slovakia: Slovenská zenska loby (Slovak Women's Lobby)

Spain: Coordinadora Espanola para el Lobby Europeo de Mujeres (CELEM)

Sweden: Swedish Women's Lobby

Turkey: National Coordination of Turkey - KADER

United Kingdom: UK Joint Committee on Women (National Alliance of Women's
Organisations (NAWO); Northern Ireland Women's European Platform (NIWEP);
Engender (Scotland); Wales Women's National Coalition)

European-wide and International Member organisations of EWL

Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the EU (COPA)

Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CCRE)

European Centre of the International Council of Women (EICCW)

European Confederation of Trade Unions (ETUC)

European Council of WIZO Federations

European Disability Forum (EDF)

European Federation of Business & Professional Women (EFBPW)

European Federation of Women Working in the Home (FEFAF)

European Network of Women Entrepreneurs (FEMVISION)

European Women's Network for Intercultural Action and Exchange

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (IFWLC)

International Alliance of Women (IAW)

International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW)

Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)

Soroptimist International Europe

University Women of Europe (UWE)

Women's Committee of the International European Movement

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO)

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)

Associate Member Organisations of EWL

EWL has 59 Associate member organisations in: Belgium, Cyprus,
the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece,
Italy, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Slovenia,
Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Individual Supporting Members of EWL

Over 90 individuals across Europe are supporting members of EWL.