

ACTIVITIES

Prevention of trafficking and prostitution schooling

ENUT and Living for Tomorrow gave training jointly to teachers, vocational guidance counsellors, and youth workers on how to prevent young people from becoming victims of trafficking and prostitution. The seminar took place on November 28 and 29 at the Ministry of Social Affairs building and it was part of the Nordic Council of Ministers funded "Nordic and Baltic states campaign against trafficking".

For additional information, please contact:

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ENUT's new website

Since spring, ENUT has a new homepage, www.enut.ee, for which we are thankful to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry.

What information can be obtained from it?

- News about ENUT's activities
- Postings in the databases of ENUT library, Estonian women's organisations, and gender research
- All issues of *ENUT News*
- Information about the gender studies journal *Ariadne's Clew*
- Information about the gender studies minor at the Tallinn Pedagogical University
- Useful references to foreign information centres and feminist libraries
- UN CEDAW recommendation to the government of the Republic of Estonia
- Complete text of "Gender Roles in School Textbooks" (in Estonian)
- History of the Estonian Women's Associations Roundtable (EWAR), list of members, and activities
- Link to the website of "With and without Dill: Recipes by Estonian Feminists" (in Estonian)

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EWAR seminar

EWAR held a seminar in Tallinn (Tallinn Pedagogical University) on October 22-23 that was attended by representatives of 22 member organisations – more than 40 women.

Saturday morning they attended the Estonian social scientists annual conference's section "Nascent gender studies in Estonia" which had Tiina Raitviir, Malle Järve, Ivi Proos, Iris Pettai and Jüri Uljas for speakers. It was followed by the discussion "How to talk to men about gender equality", at which men's studies psychologist Jüri Uljas spoke about men's interests. Other speakers were Iris Pettai and Ülle-Marike Papp. The discussion was led by Reet Laja.

On Sunday EWAR's possible signing of the Social Contract and EWAR's plan of activities were discussed. Committees were formed which will work on given questions, such as violence against women, women's health, and education.

ENUT is a partner in the Baltic states' women's Information Centre project which has been financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers for the past two years. The Baltic states' partners are in the process of joining the Nordic Network for Women's Organisations (NOKS). Collaboration is being extended to north-western Russia. In addition, ENUT participates in the East-European women's information centres network REWIND NET.

We welcome visitors to our website and to our Centre, where also the library is housed, at the Tallinn Pedagogical University. Hours Monday-Thursday 12-16, and Friday 12-14.

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IN THIS ISSUE

- p 1 Editor's note
- p 2 Gender Studies Minor at TPU
Tiina Raitviir
- p 3 *Võtmesõnad*. "Key Words"
Mirjam Hinrikus
- p 3 Up-dates ENUT's library
Marju Järve
- p 4 *Tilliga ja tillita*. With and without dill
Kadi Mänd ja Mari-Liis Sepper
- p 5 What Do Women Want?
Annika Grigortshuk
- p 6 A new publication
Mari-Liis Sepper
- p 6 Introducing "Equal Opportunities for Women and Men"
Eha Reitelmann
- p 7 The Founding of EWAR
Eha Reitelmann
- p 9 EWL General Assembly
Reet Laja
- p 10 The future of Gender Equality legislation
Ülo Siivelt
- p 11 Police seminar on domestic violence
Ilvi-Jõe-Cannon

From the editor

A remarkable number of new publications and events on the subject of gender equality have taken place in 2003. In the present issue of *ENUT News* we want to give an overview of the significant ones. We look at the gender equality legislation situation and provide information about the newly established Estonian Women's Associations Roundtable and news about other matters touching women's organizations.

The first article is about the official opening ceremony on October 7 of the gender studies minor. The handbook for feminist studies, *Võtmesõnad* ("Key words"), was introduced at that event. Mirjam Hinrikus, the editor, gives an overview of the book. Marju Järve writes about ENUT library's enhanced services this fall.

Estonia's young feminists and gender egalitarians were active in the summer. Kadi Mänd and Mari-Liis Sepper introduce the volume *Tilliga ja tillita* ("With and without dill"), and Annika Grigortshuk gives an overview of the campaign, *Mida naised tahavad?* ("What do women want?"), during which *Tilliga and tillita* was introduced, exhibits, films and discussions held in the cities of Tallinn, Pärnu and Tartu.

In the *News* we also give an overview of what has been happening with gender equality legal norms. Mari-Liis Sepper introduces the book "Equal opportunities for men and women in the European Union accession process" and Eha Reitelmann writes about the ways women's organizations members' and local governmental representatives' awareness has been raised via that book. The Estonian women's organizations felt the need in the summer to establish a clearer form of collaboration. Eha Reitelmann gives a retrospective on the establishment of the roundtable agreement and the Estonian Women's Associations Roundtable. Reet Laja reports on how the European Women's Lobby works.

Gender equality legislation continues to be a concern and Ülo Siivelt writes about the supportive activities of the Legal Centre *Themis*. Among ENUT's activities, the seminar on domestic violence for Estonia's policemen and the imminent teacher training on trafficking in persons are covered in this issue. And ENUT's new home page and its use are introduced.

Gender Studies Minor is introduced at Tallinn Pedagogical University

Tiina Raitviir
Co-ordinator

The formal introduction of the gender studies minor took place at Tallinn Pedagogical University (TPU) on October 7. The handbook defining basic feminist vocabulary, *Võtmesõnad* (“Key words”), was introduced and recognition was given to the second printing of *Tilliga ja tillita: retsepte Eesti feministidelt* (“With and without dill: recipes by Estonian feminists”), the unexpectedly popular publication containing the views of the younger generation’s men and women on gender equality.

The event was organized by ENUT, where Liina Järviste headed the project to establish a gender studies minor at TPU and at whose initiative and dedicated collaboration with academicians the interdisciplinary gender studies minor was launched at TPU’s Sociology Department. Reet Laja, Chairman of ENUT’s Board and moderator of the event, expressed hope that the gender studies minor will help to gradually decrease the ignorance about gender that is present in the governing circles. Unfortunately, stupid jokes are still made in the parliament about gender equality, the law is not yet passed, and despite the fact that human resources are scarce in Estonia competent women are kept from decision-making and leadership positions in politics and business.

Laja asked University Rector Mati Heidmets to be the first speaker. He gladly acknowledged the arrival of fresh air at the University and expressed hope that the graduates of the minor can appreciate the needs and the conflicts of the two sexes when they are active in government, education and administration. In addition, perhaps the problems in their private lives will find more balanced solutions. Jokingly he warned against battling feminist politics in the classroom. Gender studies belong among those new academic directions, noted Mr. Heidmets, that are feared at first, then resisted and ridiculed, then gradually become seen as normal, and finally, fade into the tapestry as regular part of scholarly studies. Or, in other words, exactly as has happened with other initially novel fields of study.

Prof. Jüri Kruusvall, head of the Sociology Department, acknowledged his error in not believing initially in the minor’s vitality. Nevertheless, his doubts did not prevent him from supporting the idea. Thirty students have enrolled in the minor, including nine from Open University and other institutions of higher learning. And a significant number of male students is

among the enrollees. In conclusion, Mr. Kruusvall showed drawings as part of a recent study made by his department which showed that 8th grade pupils’ values, attitudes and activities depend very much on gender and he emphasised that these differences and their causes need to be known.

The author of this article presented a listing of courses in the gender studies minor and the lecturers:

- . Introduction to gender studies – Liina Järviste and Mirjam Hinrikus

- . Gender and social studies – Tiina Raitviir and Mari-Liis Sepper

- . Gender perspective in education and psychology – Voldemar Kolga and Pirkko Hynninen

- . Gender aspect in literature, language and the arts – Tiina Aunin or Tiina Kirss, Raili Põldsaar, Katrin Kivimaa

- . Gender and media – Barbi Pilvre. (This course is especially popular.)

Each course has 3 credits and the 15 credit baccalaureate level minor can be completed in one academic year. Most of the young lecturers have studied gender or their major subject abroad, earning a Master’s Degree and the doctorate is forthcoming. One of the recent Master’s was received by Mari-Liis Sepper on September 10 at Montpellier University in France. Tiina Kirss, Associate Professor of Estonian Studies at University of Toronto (Canada), is the best known of the lecturers. A Master’s programme in gender studies is a natural happening in a fast developing situation and, therefore, it is not in the distant future.

Barbi Pilvre introduced to the audience the handbook *Võtmesõnad* (“Key Words”), which was funded by the Open Estonia Fund. She said the current Estonianisation of Finnish women scholars’ feminist theoretical work and history is for the Estonian women’s studies an event that in later years will be seen as before and after the appearance of the handbook.

The handbook belongs among the basic gender studies literature, but it can be used in other minor studies. In addition, *Võtmesõnad* would be of interest to women’s organisations’ members, and to others interested in the topic.

At the end of the programme, people were reminded not to neglect men’s studies. Appreciation was expressed to all who had given moral and material support during the years of preparation and for the published books that form the reading material for the gender studies courses. At the end of the programme everybody was invited to the dining hall for refreshments and some socialising.

it was possible to see basic conflicts and difficulties with definitions in the combined draft.

During the discussion it was basically agreed that it would be more sensible and practical to have a separate law on gender equality, because it would be more comprehensive and amenable to changes that would have to be made later as new directives are issued by EU. It is necessary to work at the substance of the draft law, bearing in mind implementation mechanisms, international collaboration (especially with EU institutions), consultation and the need to harmonise the differences in the regulations in the private and public sectors. It was emphasised that it is not a question of right or left politics, but a question of human rights.

For the support group’s future activities, it was considered necessary to subscribe to EU norms and economic arguments, to use individual strategies in approaching the ministers, and to start with the Minister of Justice. It was decided that Ülo Siivelt, Mari-Liis Sepper and Ivi Proos will meet with the Minister, explaining to him the reasons for a separate statute on gender equality. The Social Affairs Ministry announced unexpectedly on October 17 that a new gender equality bill has been drafted and it would be sent to the

ministries for reconciliation and then to the parliament. After the bill has been split once again, the critical question after adoption will be the establishment of legal supervision and the creation of implementation mechanisms.

The saga of gender equality continues.....

Themis

To find out more about the Estonian Law Centre’s forum *Themis*, its goals, structure and activities, please go to *Themis*’s website: www.lc.ee/themis. You can access texts of bills and the latest versions of notes of explanation. It is possible to make suggestions and to follow the progress of a bill. Registered users are sent information also by mail.

Themis organised the first forum on gender equality questions already on March 17, 2001. Please see the roundtable’s minutes on: http://www.lc.ee/foorum/lc/template.pl?show=txt/SE/SVS_ymar_protokoll&C=3 And the roundtable’s suggestions: http://www.lc.ee/foorum/lc/template.pl?show=txt/SE/SVS_ettepanekud&C=3

Police seminar on domestic violence

Ilvi Jõe-Cannon
Acting Director

On February 12, 2003, ENUT organized a seminar jointly with Tallinn’s southern district’s police department on domestic violence for Estonia’s policemen. The seminar was supported financially by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Norwegian Embassy in Tallinn.

Norway’s Ambassador Per Kristian Pedersen opened the seminar by welcoming everyone and noting in his remarks that “Domestic violence really shatters one of the basic institutions in the modern society – the safe family home. The picture of the home as a safe place and the family as a symbol of respect, love and care is more and more often broken.

It is one of the basic human rights to live without being frightened or threatened by violence. The threats could be from strangers, but it is even worse when the offender is someone close to you. Someone you trust and someone from whom it might be hard to escape – a family member or close friend.

It is the authorities’ responsibility to prevent violence wherever it takes place on the streets, at work, or at home. Efficient prevention work is crucial in this

regard, and it must include intra-agency cooperation, joint efforts and common goals.”

Principal speakers were from Norway: Jorgen Lorentzen, a specialist at Oslo University on men and violence, and Dag Simen Grotterud, a policeman at Stovner police district, who designed a pilot project for law enforcement agents dealing with family violence. Jorgen Lorentzen said that a woman is threatened by violence in her own home more than on a dark city street, and that it is necessary to acknowledge who is the perpetrator of this violence. Dag Simen Grotterud explained the strategy used by the Stovner police in handling cases of domestic violence and presented a case study which ended tragically.

The Estonian sociologist and researcher Iris Pettai spoke on domestic violence in Estonia. Psychologist Voldemar Kolga, a Tallinn Pedagogical University faculty member, spoke on the need for a crisis center in Estonia for aggressive men.

Sixty policemen from northeastern Estonia, Tallinn and Pärnu attended the day-long seminar, moderated by Suzanne Lie, former Academic Director of ENUT. Psychologist Helle Niit, who is a consultant to the Police Department, facilitated the organization of the seminar and served as the translator. The seminar received good press coverage.

activities and comments on the cited documents had been carefully prepared at home and sent in writing to the meeting in advance. The advance work made it possible to work thoroughly with the documents at the meeting, because the suggestions had been correctly worded and distributed to all the members in advance. The questions that needed discussion were addressed by pro and con points of view being alternately stated.

As is the custom at the annual meeting, the previous year's activities and budget were reviewed. Last year's EWL brochure, "Women shaping the future of Europe" was introduced and is available at the ENUT library. In addition, this year's activities between January and June, and the strategy for EWL's activities and expansion for 2003-2005 were introduced.

During the busy two days, time was set aside for workshops to discuss several questions. First and foremost the question of how to proceed with the new draft EU directive on equality, and how to integrate equality into EU's immigration policy.

At the initiative of EWL, organisations in different countries had sent letters several weeks earlier to European members, supporting the new gender equality bill. I am proud to say that 25 member organisations of EWL sent letters in support of the proposed directive. Due to the interest shown by the

women's organisations in different countries, the bill was not tabled by European Parliament. Many recommendations were made in the workshop on how EWL members could continue to work on the proposed directive. Besides applying pressure on own governments and members of parliament, it was suggested that members explain it to interest groups, such as insurance companies and media organisations.



General Assembly of European Women's Lobby at Brussels

Both EWL and the Estonian Women's Chain for Collaboration were accepted as associate members of EWL on October 12. Bulgaria and Latvia were given full membership. The other EU accession countries are still considering membership status. The organisations that became members are now obliged to become acquainted

with all the international documents referred to earlier in order to participate in EWL as equal partners. As EWL's secretariat for one year, ENUT has started to secure for its library the missing documents.

The last item on the agenda was the activities for 2004, consisting of general goals and five items: economic equality, equal participation and representation, equality in social matters, development of a civil society. EWL's policy direction for next year was set. A lot of work is ahead for all the member organisations.

The future of gender equality legislation

Ülo Siivelt
Themis

At the initiative of Estonian Law Centre's forum *Themis*, two public discussions, on August 25 and October 3, took place on the future of gender equality legislation. A support group for the legislation was formed by those who want to keep an eye on it and to pressure for its adoption. Most of the participants were from women's organisations and study groups interested in gender.

The aim of the first meeting was to develop strong ties between *Themis* and the organisations and study groups interested in gender equality. On August 25 it was decided:

as soon as the text of the new bill becomes available, *Themis* will make an analysis of its juridical,

social and economic impact, and publicise the findings in the media;

in the event that it is the all-inclusive version of the bill, protest letters will be sent by different organisations to show pressure from below, with copies to *Themis*;

compile an electronic mailing list of all participants so that collaboration can continue and exchange of information takes place

At the October 3 meeting, Ülde-Marika Papp, head of Social Affairs Ministry Equality Bureau, gave an overview of gender equality draft legislation. At the beginning of October, Social Affairs Ministry and Justice Ministry were still working together on a bill that combined two earlier drafts about gender equality and equal treatment. Her remarks were tentative, because the fate of the bill was still undetermined, but

Võtmesõnad. Key Words: 10 Steps Toward Feminist Studies

Mirjam Hinrikus
Editor

Võtmesõnad is a well organised handbook that guides the reader to the principal concepts in feminist studies. A central keyword is explained in each chapter: oppression, emancipation, gender system, woman, difference, subject, sexuality, body, knowledge, placement. The book represents the first comprehensive attempt to put feminist terminology in order in the Estonian language.

Võtmesõnad analyses how concepts combine with theory and how they direct thinking as a tool for the university student or the scholar. The book is written for scholars by scholars, but the reader



does not have to have knowledge about feminist theory. However, certain orientation in contemporary social themes and philosophical traditions is needed.

With this translated book we want to introduce, on the one hand, the feminist studies appreciated and recognised in Finland for its social critique and vision for the future, and on the other, to encourage Estonian researchers to apply this perspective in the analysis of our market economy and consumer culture.

Võtmesõnad was introduced to the public at the formal opening of the gender studies minor at Tallinn Pedagogical University on October 7. It is available for purchase in bookstores across Estonia and at a student price at the Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre. The publication of the book was supported by the Open Estonia Foundation.

Up-dates at ENUT library

Marju Järve
Librarian

The new academic year and the gender studies minor have had a considerable impact on the activities of the library. Thirty-five new book-borrowers signed up during September and October, among them also students and faculty outside TPU.

The posting of ENUT's library books into the Internet based database, ELNET (<http://ester.nlib.ee>), continues. ELNET contains all the largest libraries in Tallinn and Tartu. Presently, more than half of ENUT's books are posted in ELNET.

The complete catalogue of our library is accessible via ENUT's homepage www.enut.ee. In addition to the books, one can find a listing of the articles written on women's studies and gender equality in the media since 1990, the research done in Estonia, and ENUT's video library database.

Access to the database via the Internet makes life easier for the reader as well as the librarian. The new borrower often arrives at the library looking for a particular book, and that saves time for both parties.

The library has its own e-mail address: raamatukogu@enut.ee. By writing to it, one can ask for information about a book, or for a book about a

particular subject, to extend the borrowing period for a book, or present any other questions about the library's work.

ENUT library welcomes new borrowers and those who have become regular visitors. The hours are

Monday-Thursday

12 noon to 4 PM,

and on Fridays 12

noon to 2 PM. In

order to become a

borrower one needs

to present an ID

document. A book

can be borrowed for

one month. For

more information,

please turn to our

homepage: [http://](http://www.enut.ee/enut.php?id=18)

[www.enut.ee/](http://www.enut.ee/enut.php?id=18)

[enut.php?id=18](http://www.enut.ee/enut.php?id=18)

Besides borrowing

books, one can buy at

the library the

gender studies journal *Ariadne lõng* ("Ariadne's Clew"),

the feminist essay collection *Tilliga ja tillita* ("With and without Dill"),

and the first Estonian language gender studies textbook *Võtmesõnad* ("Key Words").



Marju Järve, ENUT's librarian

Tilliga ja tillita: retsepte eesti feministidelt (“With and without Dill: Recipes by Estonian Feminists”)

*Kadi Mänd and Mari-Liis Sepper
Editors*

Tilliga ja tillita: retsepte eesti feministidelt is a book about life itself - sex, changing diapers, taking the car for repairs, participating in beauty contests and settling scores with chauvinists. In the book, 15 young Estonians - women and men - give their views on feminism or analyse with feminist perspective certain social phenomena. It is worth reading by anybody interested in knowing what feminism really is and who are the Estonian feminists. Included are also exciting recipes and a glossary that defines the substance of a host of modern terms, such as “girl power”, “sexual harassment”, “patriarchy”, and “gender role”.

The book, which can be called also an essay collection, was presented on June 19 at *Hobusepea* Gallery in Old Town Tallinn as part of the larger campaign, “What do women want?”, that included art projects, documentary films, seminars and discussions. T-shirts and women’s and men’s undergarments bearing humorous feminist slogans proved to be extremely popular and were sold out before the book presentation party could begin.

The essay collection, being provocative in content and attractive in form, was sold out in couple months and more T-shirts and undergarments had to



Mikko Lagetspetz at the presentation

be ordered. The second printing of the book appeared in time for the formal opening of the gender studies minor at Tallinn Pedagogical University in the fall. The essay collection, having already acquired occult status among the student population, has become an alternative inspirational source beside the academic one, spreading feminism and equality in a more catchy

way than serious informational brochures can manage.

Brief overviews about the essays and authors can be found at the website: [http://kliinfann.artun.ee\(till\).html](http://kliinfann.artun.ee(till).html). Stimulating commentaries can be found in the cultural weekly *Sirp* October 17th issue by Mari Sobolev: <http://www.sirp.ee/2003/17.10.03/Sots/sots1-7.html>, and by Jürgen Rooste:

<http://www.sirp.ee/2003/17.10.03/Sots/sots1-8.html>.

Looking into the future, we are planning to have an active and contemporary feminist website where theme games, questionnaires, and interactive humour can be pursued, as for example a monthly prize for the most conspicuous chauvinists. In time, it should become Estonian feminists’ cybernest. Quite naturally, it would also have an on-line corner shop where one can purchase a growing line of feminist trivia that would be useful in demonstrating and propagating one’s views daily.

Tilliga ja tillita can be purchased at the Estonian Women’s Studies and Resource Centre (ENUT) and at all well-stocked bookstores across Estonia.

Congress in 2005. A letter was drafted and sent to the Speaker of the Parliament, the Chairman of the Constitution Committee of the Parliament, and the Prime Minister, urging them to support the quick passage of the gender equality bill.

EWAR submitted an application on September 10 to the European Women’s Lobby for full membership. The Estonian Women’ Chain for Collaboration submitted an application also and, therefore, both organisations have associate membership until a single national-coordination for EWL is achieved.

At the October 18-19 meeting in Paide, we wrote grant applications, met with *Themis* Legal Centre’s attorney Ülo Siivelt and the Social Contract Foundation Chairman Agu Laius, and we discussed how to talk with women about gender equality. Ülle-Marika Papp introduced the recently issued booklet,

EWL General Assembly October 11-12, 2003 in Brussels

*Reet Laja
Chairwoman, EWAR*

Prior to the annual meeting of the European Women’s Lobby (EWL), a one day seminar “European Elections 2004: Women Demand an Equal Share” was held on October 10. The first half of the day consisted of two panel discussions. The first one featured women ministers and Europarliament members who talked about the obstacles that they meet in their daily work, and their visions and ideas for improvement. The other panel introduced political parties’ strategies for advancing gender equal on the decision-making level. The morning session ended with lively debate between the panelists and the other participants in the seminar.

Discussions about different strategies and experiences in making political decisions continued at the afternoon session. The Council of Europe’s, France’s, and the future EU member Slovenia’s views on implementing of gender equality were introduced. It will be particularly difficult for women in the future EU member countries to be a candidate and to be elected to the Europarliament. As a result of the discussion, every country was advised to work out its own strategy, taking into account its own particular electoral system.

The seminar ended with the adoption of a declaration demanding concrete and binding measures that would divide power equally between women and men in Europe. These measures must be included in the constitution being drafted and applied to the parliamentary elections in 2004. Special attention was

“Different, but Equal”. EWAR drafted and sent a letter to the Social Committee of the Parliament on the parent benefits draft legislation, in which we supported equal amount of benefits for all parents in the interest of appreciating all children as equals, and opposed the payment of benefits only to the mother for the first six months after birth, since it would be contrary to the principle of gender equality. Our recommendation was not considered by the Parliament and we joined the “For the Estonian Child” organisation in its protest against a discriminating law.

What future plans?

ENUT and EWAR are organising the next annual conference of Estonian women’s organisations in January. More about that in the next issue of ENUT News.

paid in the declaration to making democracy a reality in the future EU states.

EWL held the annual meeting for two days, October 11-12. Three representatives were asked to attend from each member state. International member organisations were also represented. In addition, almost 40 observers from different organisations in member states and future member states were present. The author of this article represented the Estonian Women’s Associations Roundtable at the seminar and the annual meeting. French and English were the languages used.



Reet Laja at EWL’s General Assembly

The participants were well informed about UN’s, ILO’s, European Commission’s and EU’s documents on gender equality. In the speeches this was very apparent as exact citations from documents were given. All the suggestions for EWL’s future

Concurrently, the Political Parties Women's Associations Roundtable that meets in Tallinn had the idea of forming an umbrella organisation consisting of registered non-profit status political parties' women's divisions, initially. Later they invited women's



Seminar at Kloogaranna

organisations with nation-wide membership. The ones who preferred a roundtable model, eventually adopted by EWAR, turned to the umbrella model supporters. Numerous meetings and negotiations were held by the representatives of the two visions. Differences of opinion remained over the structural question albeit the aims were about the same.

The representatives of the regional roundtables met on June 26 at Kloogaranna in order to get a better understanding of the agencies and organisations in Europe that deal with gender equality questions, and to draft the goals and means for Estonian women's collaboration. Representatives of the roundtables, women's studies and women's training institutes, nation-wide women's organisations and political parties' women's sections were invited to discuss the structure for women's collaboration at a meeting on July 27. Of the political parties' women, regrettably only Mõõdukad was represented.

A protocol for collaboration was signed by the representatives of 18 regional roundtables and other women's associations, among them the Estonian Rural Women's Association, Estonian Entrepreneur Women's Association and the Estonian Women's Union. They agreed on the need to establish the Estonian Women's Associations Roundtable whose aim would be to strengthen civil society, to advance equality among women and men, and to support women's collaboration. The Peking platform and the principles and aims of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) were endorsed. Additionally, it was decided to apply for EWL full membership and that EWAR is open to all organisations and networks who share its goals. It was

agreed to draft a collaboration agreement for the roundtable.

Parallel activities culminated in the August 4 meeting of the representatives of the political parties' women's sections at which the non-profit organisation Estonian Women's Chain for Collaboration was founded. The Estonian Women's Union and the Handicapped Women also came onboard at the meeting. In contrast to the initial plans to have as members only women's organisations with nation-wide membership, it is now possible for regional women's organisations with legally registered status to become members. It was not clear how the principles of an open roundtable can be bent to fit the statute on non-profit organisations and to allow for the participation of all women's associations, including the small societies. As a result, EWAR was founded in Viljandi on August 16. It allows all women's organisations in Estonia, regardless of their size and legal status, to participate with other Estonian women in collective endeavour.

What has EWAR done to date?

At its first working meeting on September 5, which was also attended by EWL General Secretary Mary



EWAR's Board: Eha Reitelmann, Rea Raus, Reet Laja and Julia Kovalenko

McPhail, Reet Laja was elected chairman of the Roundtable, Julia Kovalenko and Rea Raus were elected vice-chairmen, and ENUT was chosen to be EWAR's secretariat for one year. The Plan of Activities for 2003-2005 was adopted. It divides into seven categories: to support gender equality on the legal and governmental levels, to combat the different forms of violence against women, women's poverty, inclusion of women into decision-making, human and citizenship rights of minority women, women's health, marriage and family, and preparing for the Estonian Women's

What do women want?

Annika Grigortšuk
Chair of VNE Board

As part of the project, "What do women want?", a two-day event was held on October 20 - 21 at the Strand Hotel in Pärnu. On the first day, we showed Andrei Tansyrev's film "Witnesses to the Accident" and the documentary film, "Live Containers", from Open Estonia Fund's film collection, Gender Montage. The film showings were followed by a discussion on gender equality – what is it, how is it tied to different aspects of social life, why is it important to pay attention to gender questions.

On the second day, Katri Tammekand, Chief Specialist at the Ministry of Social Affairs Equality Bureau, gave an introductory talk to the film "Lilja 4-Ever". She spoke broadly about trafficking in persons, ties between trafficking in persons and prostitution, and the major myths and prejudices prevalent among youth. Most of the audience consisted of Russian speaking high school students.

"What do women want?" is a collaborative project involving organisations whose interests include feminism and gender equality: Equality Youth Association in Estonia, Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre, Pure Joy, Gender Park, Young



Visitors at the book presentation

Women's Scientific Association, Violence. During the summer their campaign started by opening at *Hobusepea* Gallery the art exhibit "Joyful Revolution" (*Rõõmurevolutsioon*) and presenting the book *Tilliga ja*

tillita. The large gathering of young people also saw films and held discussions. The campaign ended with a two-day gathering on November 23-24 at the *Filiae Patriae* sorority house in Tartu.

ENUT is known by people interested in gender equality issues, and "Pure Joy" is increasingly becoming



Young authors Helen Talalaev and Laura Paide at the exhibition

known by the numerous exhibits on gender and environmental themes organised by the women artists song and game society. But an unknown new organisation needs introduction. It is the Gender Equality Youth Association (Estonian acronym VNE) in Estonia, founded on March 6, 2003. The idea for establishing such an organisation was born during the Third Baltic Sea Region Women's Conference, "WoMen and Democracy", held on February 13-14, 2003 in Tallinn.

VNE is for young people interested in promoting gender equality, democracy and human rights. Among the planned activities are:

- . seminars and training sessions
- . collaboration with domestic and foreign youth organizations
- . publication of pertinent literature
- . assist university students in writing graduation papers on gender equality related topics

Presently, the membership consists mostly of university students and young employees at the Social Affairs Ministry's Equality Bureau. VNE welcomes into membership people who no longer can be classified as young, but who would like to give support and advice to the young members.

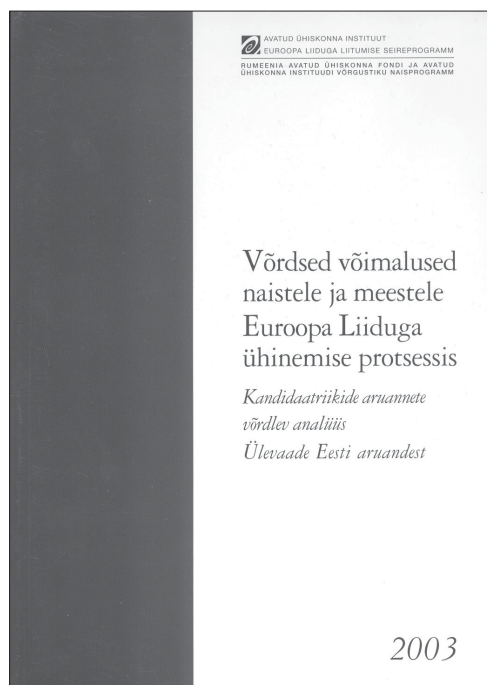
A new publication

*Mari-Liis Sepper
Editor*

It is fitting to talk about what has gone wrong in Estonia as we are compiling the 104th version of the gender equality draft legislation. The ranks of gender equality supporters remain firm, their weapons being the tested arguments from the developed part of the continent, but what has not happened is the birth of a gender equality law. It seems that the supporters of gender equality fade into a gentle mist while the patriarchal summit does its work.

Occasionally a supportive hand is extended by like-thinkers abroad to the women in the country and thus the latter can get answers to questions and continue working on their aims.

Thanks to the support of the Open Estonia Foundation, "Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union Accession Process: a comparative analysis of the candidate countries' reports and an overview of Estonia's report" appeared in January 2003. The publication is a product of the Romanian Open Society Foundation and the Open Society Institute Network Women's Program. Old and new Europe have joined forces to analyse gender equality statutes in the candidate countries in advance of their joining the European Union, and specialists have written about the



harmonisation of domestic laws with the European norms in 2002.

The first part of the book contains comparative analyses of the seven candidate countries' reports by European Union experts. It shows that among the seven candidate countries, the largest problem in Estonia is with wage differences between men and women. In 1997, women's wages averaged 28% less than men's. Contrary to different politicians' claims, other indicators do not place Estonia among the top achievers of the candidate countries.

Summaries by local attorneys Carita Rammus, Marika Linntam and Milvi Jänes of current laws and their effectiveness in pursuit of gender inequality reduction were the bases for the compilation of the state report. An abridged version of that report is given in the second part of the publication. The chapters in the report are as empty as the heads of the parliament members during their debates over the gender equality bill, due to a lack of necessary legislative changes and regulations. As a logical consequence the European experts emphasise that as soon as a gender equal law is passed in Estonia, the situation with equal opportunities will improve immediately and the country can be placed ahead of Montenegro and

Bulgaria.

The publication is a must reading for those who still do not believe in gender equality, or for the Estonian lawmaker, politician, lawyer, citizen.

"I too am on the road to Arcadia, although I was born in a sauna....."

Since April, ENUT has been introducing the book in different Estonia's counties. The local organisations for our partners have been members of regional women's roundtables and local women's organisations. The aim was to reach as many local government's members as possible. Despite concerted efforts, their interest toward the subject has remained quite lukewarm.

Since gender equality is still a strange subject in our society, we have tried to explain, while introducing the book, the meaning of basic terms in gender equality. Very often, misunderstandings exist between "equal" and "same", "equal rights", "equality" and "equal

treatment", what difference does *de jure* and *de facto* equality have, what do "direct" and "indirect discrimination" mean, how is "harassment" defined in the law, and so on.



Seminar at Haapsalu

The founding of the Estonian Women's Associations Roundtable (EWAR), or about recent developments in Estonian women's movement

*Eha Reitelmann,
ENUT's representative at EWAR*

On August 16, 19 different women's organisations involved with studies, training, or related activities signed in Viljandi the Estonian Women's Associations Roundtable Agreement.

What is the Roundtable?

The Agreement states: "The Roundtable is an open and democratic forum for working together, which has as its aim the formation of common positions on important social questions and to advance participatory democracy and gender equality in dialogue with public officials. The Roundtable recognises as equals all women's associations regardless of their juridical status and works together with all women who want to participate in public dialogue."

The need for the equal opportunity to participate by all women's associations was the decisive factor in the formation of the Roundtable. The idea was expressed for the first time at the regional women's roundtable in Haapsalu on May 17. At that time, 13 counties had a regional roundtable. In addition to the local women's organisations, the local chapters of national women's organisations and political parties' regional women's clubs have participated and continue to participate in the roundtables. The roundtables are non-partisan. The

To date nine seminars have been held and specialists in the field have led them, among them Ülle-Marike Papp, head of Social Affairs Ministry's Equality Bureau, Mari-Liis Sepper, editor of "Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Accession Process", Janek Laidvee, Adviser to Parliament's Constitution Committee, and Reet Laja, head of the Women's Training Centre. The first seminar was held in Rapla, followed by Jõhvi, Kuressaare, Haapsalu, Kiviõli, Kloogaranna, Viljandi, Haapsalu and Tartu. A tenth one was held recently in Paide.

I would like to thank all the local co-ordinators, who spent a lot of time preparing for the seminars: Silvi Tarto, Ene-Eha Urbala, Laine Tarvis, Rea Raus, Milvi Kompus, Lea Saareoks, Tiit Laan, Leili Pruun. We are grateful to the Open Estonia Foundation for supporting the seminars.

topics for discussion are the ones generated by women's interests. The regional roundtables are increasingly interested in participating in national and international dialogue in addition to the local one, but heretofore they have lacked the channels for it. While the women's sections of the political parties have provided a means of participating in decision making, the other women's associations have lacked such opportunities, for participatory democracy does not yet exist in the country. One



Eha Reitelmann signing the Roundtable agreement

association's voice, or even that of one county's roundtable, remains too weak to be heard at the national decision-making level. As a consequence, the idea was born to found a roundtable that brings together all Estonian women's associations, and those who study the woman's condition, and those who provide training for women. A large association's voice would be heard by the government in its decision-making and policy-drafting.