

**REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE ROUND TABLE
«WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY AND GENDER
EQUALITY»**

The Round table with the theme «World Summit on the Information Society and Gender Equality» was held in Hotel Hyatt on October 17th 2003 where 60 to 80 participants from the government, telecommunications operators, service providers, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and suppliers of info-communication equipment took part. The objectives of organizing such a discussion were:

- To promote the World Summit on the Information Society - WSIS as an event which will be the official entrance into the Information Society,
- To lobby for support of integration of gender equality and women's rights in the processes of preparation and organizing the World Summit and
- To emphasize the importance of gender equality and to ensure equal opportunities in the new knowledge economy and in national programmes for building an Information Society and programmes concerning the promotion of the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The Round Table panellists were:

Mrs Dr Nataša Gospić, the President of «Equal Opportunities», underlined the importance of organizing the Round Table for the preparation of the WSIS and talked about the tasks that relate to the position of gender equality in these preparations. She greeted the meeting in the name of Mr Dr Dragoljub Mićunović, the President of the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro, who couldn't participate because of some sudden obligations and who has been supporting and taking part in the activities of gender equality for a longer period of time.

Mr Dr Dragan Domazet, the Minister of Science, Technology and Development of the Republic of Serbia opened the Round Table and talked about the national strategy in the period of entering the Information Society, creating projects for incubator software enterprises and mobilizing the means in order to help small and medium ICT enterprises,

Mrs Rosario Gracia-Luque, the representative of the secretariat of the WSIS - Gender Caucus, presented the principles of the preparation of the WSIS and talked also about lobbying and negotiations with delegates and delegations from member states so that the gender equality might be included in the principles of the Declaration and Action Plan.

Mrs Nada Drobnyak, the Chief of the Gender Equality of the Government of Montenegro, presented the efforts that resulted in the institutionalization of the gender equality through creating the office for gender equality within the government of Montenegro and through an exceptionally illustrative and inspired speech she emphasized the need of women to use the ICT and to access the source of information.

Mr Johan Hommes, Deputy of Chief of the OSCE Office in Serbia and Montenegro, presented the approach of this international organization in the establishment of the institutional frame to insure the gender equality through projects of creating a committee at the parliament of Serbia and offices within community-assemblies in 15 towns in Serbia and an office within the government of Montenegro.

Mr Jan Hultgren, the president of Ericsson-Belgrade showed a connection between the business success of the company and realization of equal opportunities in the employment policy, further advanced training and balanced joining the managing structures.

Mrs Dr Zorica Uzelac, Faculty of technical sciences - Novi Sad discussed the need of knowledge management where all the limits concerning the gender structure will be erased and a strong basis for equal opportunities will be built

Mrs Ljiljana Đorđević, Telekom Srbija presented the plans of Telekom in building the infrastructure of the Information Society

Mrs Dr Snežana Pantelić-Vujanović and **Mrs Dr Snežana Pejčić-Tarle** introduced with a group of students of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering, Belgrade the regional University Cyber centre, which is unique in the region, and the student's researches done concerning chatting

Mrs Divna Vučković, vice-president of the NGO «Equal opportunities» made a review of the association projects with a special emphasis on the Center for training of ICT trainers that was formed in august 2003 and on the course

«Introduction to the usage of computers» that was taken and completed by over 100 female teachers from the most distant regions of Serbia and tutors and children of the Home of children without parents.

Mrs Nada Kovačević, NGO Center for support of democratic initiatives, talked about the role of the media in promoting the Information Society and gender equality, and about creating a base that women carry out the process of the development of democracy and intensify their participation in politics by creating an image of women politicians that won't be treated as an object that will only decorate the political pages,

Mrs Ljiljana Berat, Cisco Systems, shared as a successful woman in the world of ICT together with her colleague **Mrs Valentina Milenković** her experience and approach of Cisco in the support of gender equality.

Mrs Dijana Gligorijević, Telegroup a.d. spoke as a successful manager of a private company in the field of ICT about the problems that women managers meet and the need to use a lot of energy to justify the confidence of other managers, mostly men.

The discussion that followed the presentations of the panellists, pointed out the need of accepting gender equality as an indivisible process in the further development of the Information Society. The recommendations of this Round Table, given in the enclosure of this report, will be sent to all the relevant participants building the Information Society.

The Round Table discussed also the follow up activities on implementation of the recommendations that include:

- A Round Table in January 2004 that will be organized by the office for gender equality within the Government of Montenegro where the operational plans concerning application of the Declaration Principles and Global Activity Plan adopted at the WSIS that will be held in December 8-12 2003, would be discussed,
- The discussion concerning the organization of a regional round table in april 2004 in order to bring together attitudes and bridge the gap of misunderstanding that appeared after the disintegration of ex-Yugoslavia by promoting the ICT ,

- The continuation of training of ICT trainers for the use of ICT technologies,
- To train managers to manage knowledge without gender discrimination by organizing corresponding courses and workshops
- To establish stronger cooperation between various NGOs that are engaged in the usage of the ICT for the improvement of women's lives and their training to take part in democratic initiatives and political life of the country.
- To follow constantly the role of the media in the promotion of the Information Society and Gender Equality
- To create an environment for research in the field of Cyber centers at the Faculties and the use of ICT.

The Round Table completed its work at 4.30 PM.