

HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GENDER EQUALITY - [www.isotita.gr](http://www.isotita.gr)

<<Contribution to the UNESCO Questionnaire on Gender Equality and Culture>>

October 2013

**A. National policies in the field of culture**

The General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) is the competent governmental organization to plan, implement and monitor the implementation of policies on equality between women and men in all sectors. A “National Programme on Substantive Gender Equality” initiated by the GSGE has been in the process of implementation since 2010. One of the primary goals of the GSGE is to eliminate gender stereotypes in all aspects of life. Stereotypes about men and women are largely reproduced in the fields of art and culture, as cultural creativity in general may become a transmission mechanism for social beliefs, attitudes and gender patterns of their creators. The GSGE sets as a priority the enhancement of cultural creation on the thematic axis “Gender Equality-Women’s fundamental rights”. Most of our actions have been enacted in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Hellenic Museum of Contemporary Art, the Greek Film Archive, the National Book Centre, the Hellenic School of Orchestral Art, the National Theatre of Northern Greece, as well as with other related bodies.

**B. Access to decision-making**

- Incorporation of the provision of par. 1a, art. 6, Law 2839/2000 (G.G./A/196/12-9-2000) to Law 3528/2007 & Law 3584/2007 on the quota per sex in the councils of public authorities and local government. In each such council the number of members per sex, as defined by the service, must be equal to at least one third (1/3) of the members defined according to the current provisions. These service offers employment to an adequate number of employees that meet all legal requirements for employment, and since the member assigned are more than one.

- Establishment of minimum 1/3 quota for each sex for scientists’ recruitment to national agencies and committees for Research and Technology. The article 57 of Law 3653(G.G. A/21-3-2008 on the “Institutional framework for research and other provisions”) defines a

participation quota of 1/3 minimum for each sex in the recruitment of scientists to national agencies and Research and Technology Committees. A requirement for the implementation of this quota is that the candidates must have all necessary qualifications for the respective posts.

## **F. Visibility and awareness-raising**

### Cultural Events on Gender Equality

- The GSGE has developed partnerships with the Educational Institutes of Embassies to promote the internationality in the field of gender and culture. Specifically, in collaboration with the Educational Institutions of Italy, Spain, Norway, Cyprus and the United Kingdom and the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC), the GSGE has planned and organized the publication of a collective volume of short stories by 6 women writers from 6 countries entitled "6 Voices-6 Women". In particular, the authors are: Vanessa Gebbie (Britain), Rea Galanakis (Greece), Marta Pessarrodona (Spain), Dacia Maraini (Italy), Rina Katselli (Cyprus) and Annette Mattsson (Norway). The publication was presented by the authors at an open discussion event on 8/3/2012 (International Women's Day) at the Cervantes Institute.

- In cooperation with Fixed Transport SA, the GSGE organized in 2011 and 2012 two photography exhibitions at Syntagma Metro Station on the occasion of Inter-national Women's Day. Specifically, on March 8th 2011, the GSGE unveiled 60 works by 4 women photographers at a photography exhibition entitled "Women of the World". The exhibition "Women of the World" moved to Patra and Livadia at the request of the respective municipalities. On March 8th 2012, the GSGE unveiled the exhibition "Women on the Move" with the participation of 8 women photographers following an open public invitation by the GSGE.

- The GSGE co-organized with the Greek Film Archives a four-day film tribute entitled "1st Film Panorama on Violence against Women" (25-28/11/2011) and a two-day Greek Cinema and Documentary event entitled "Female/Male" (24-25/4/2012), framed by a lively discussion on the problems women artists face and the male look at women in Greek cinema.

- In collaboration with the Norwegian Embassy, the GSGE held an open discussion on "Women in the theater of Ibsen in the 21st Century" (4/4/2012), in which women's image in the works of Ibsen was extensively discussed.

### Studies on Culture and Gender Equality

In the field of culture, two studies were commissioned and were completed under National Strategic Framework Reference funding. The first study, entitled "Participation conditions in the field of art: a gender perspective approach", explored the practical and symbolic barriers women artists face

in terms of access, career development and professional establishment. In particular, the study investigated the gender representations that prevent equal access to employment and how sexual harassment is dealt with. The second study, entitled “Representation of women in artistic collectives”, refers to women’s participation in artistic collectives in Greece. The study showed that women outnumber men in the field of dance, followed by the areas of visual arts, literature, theater, film and music -while a smaller percentage is found in the field of photography.

In parallel, the GSGE Library on Gender Issues and Equality organized eight Book Presentations of new scientific publications on gender issues:

1. “The Icon: Construction of the Image” (author: Tessa Doulkeri) (16/5/2012)
2. “The Silent Wounds: Contra-conception and Abortion as an Experience and Practice” (author: Ersi Zaragali) (23/4/2012)
3. “Gender Equality and Private Autonomy in Family Relations” (author: Athina Kotzabasi) (15/3/2012)
4. “Re-locations: Gender, Difference and Urban Space” (editor: Sasa Lada) (13/12/2011)
5. “Unseen Violence: Love should not Hurt” (author: Stefania Souli) (1/11/2011)
6. “Women’s Travelogue in the East” (author: Vasiliki Lalagianni) (19/9/2011)
7. “Gender and Culture” (editor: Chrysi Vitsilaki, Maria Gasouka and Iannis Papadopoulos) (18/5/2011)
8. “Researching Gender in Greece” (editor: Giota Papageorgiou) and “Gender and Research” (author: Giota Papageorgiou) (7/2/2011).

Furthermore, an event-tribute was organized on Greek engraver Vasso Katraki and her artistic and social work (26 March 2012).

In addition, specific actions follow as presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Periodic Report of Greece to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 2005-2008), published in June 2011.

### CEDAW Convention, Article 13

Women’s participation and contribution to cultural development and activities is highly significant because the field of culture is a multiple-faceted weaving of both cultural creativity and what we call daily culture. The recognition of women’s cultural rights, as an indispensable part of their individual and social rights, calls for the realization of actions that will encourage women’s participation in all forms of cultural activity. Such an approach can promote the freedom of expression and the strengthening of women’s status also in the cultural field.

## Actions by Public Administration

1. In December 2005, the Research Centre on Gender Equality-KETHI, an institution supervised by the GSGE, organized an event to present the Album: "Women of Epirus - Startling Nature" that concerns the historical role played by the women of Epirus. Also the Delphi European Cultural Centre and the KETHI organized a two-day event entitled: "Tragic Female Heroes as a Symbol in Modern Society: the status and the role of Women in Western and non-Western Society" during the XIII International Meeting on Ancient Drama, entitled: "The Woman in Ancient Drama" (Delphi, 6-15/7/2007).
2. The **Ministry of Education** implements programs and actions with the aim, inter alia, of combating discrimination, and emphasizing the promotion of the principle of equality between men and women. More specifically, it sponsored several NGOs' implementation of actions and programs with themes including re: women and the combating of discrimination, such as: a) in 2006, NGO "Open Horizons" for the organizing of the 5<sup>th</sup> Art Festival on Human Rights, where the central theme was: Horizon - Genders: New Roles - New Rights", b) in 2008 the European Women Network organized the Program: "Reintegration for socially excluded new victims through the vehicle of Art, the construction of traditional dolls - and Myth", c) in 2007 and 2008, the Greek Film Archive received funding for the pioneering documentary for cultural heritage, entitled: "Woman, gender studies", and d) in 2008 the Minor Asia Women's Association "Neokaisareias" program aiming to preserve their heritage was supported.
3. Aiming to promote and strengthen women in every aspect of culture via the Greek Cinema Centre, the **Ministry of Culture** is sponsoring either movies made by women or movies with themes relevant to women's role and status. Also the majority of **Museum Educational Programs** have a direct positive correlation with abolishing of gender stereotypes, which leads to the combating of discrimination against women. The Museum educational programs are addressed both to adults and children, and mention women's role and status throughout time. A strong contribution to the abolishment of negative stereotypes against women is made by several **educational programs with an intercultural objective**, because many of them mention the situation of vulnerable population groups such as the Roma and migrant men and women. The Commission declared 2008 as the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue. The Directorate for the Modern Cultural Heritage planned and implemented the Program: "Musical Dialogues" that, inter alia, produced the musical equipment for the "Daily life, History and Cultural Expressions of the Greek Roma". This educational material includes references to Roma women's status and attempts to address the stereotypes against them.
4. During the period 2005-2008, the **Association of Interbalkan Women's Cooperation Societies**, in cooperation with the **UNESCO**

**Centre for Women and Peace in Balkan Countries**, carried out the following activities: a) Activities within the framework of Programs, b) National and local activities (international events and cultural activities), and c) Representation in international events and forum.

5. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> **UNESCO Festival for “Women Creators of the two seas, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”** (27/9-4/11/2006) the Thessalonica Centre for Modern Art organized an artistic exhibition with the theme: “Women and Tradition”. 206 women artists from various countries participated in this exhibition. Its main theme was to bring to light the relationship between women’s creativity and tradition, and the important role women play in preserving tradition. Specifically, the festival’s program included, inter alia, the following activities: a) Two (2) Workgroups with the theme: “Female characters in contemporary culture” to investigate gender stereotypes in literary works, movies, radio and television shows, with the participation of lecturers, both men and women, from Egypt, Greece, France, Croatia and Serbia, b) a Round Table with the theme: “Woman and Tradition”. Also many women writers (from Albania, Greece, Rumania, Turkey and Cyprus), known for their professional success both in Greece and abroad, presented their work. Further the Literary Café was another new form of exchange that allowed an informal meeting between the writers and the public. This also gave a chance to younger women to present and get to know recent works (Croatia, Malta and Serbia). At the closing of the festival, a NGO Forum was invited to research the role of the civil society for the preservation of multicultural diversity. The role of women artists, their works and political activism taken up by women’s organizations was researched in depth through best practices.
6. Since 2007, the **UNESCO Centre for Women and Peace in Balkan Countries** participated as a partner in the Program “Le verbe au feminine” that was sponsored by the Anna Lindh Foundation with the aim of increasing the promotion of women in the literary world. Based on this aim, the Program: a) Organized three cultural events focusing on creative writing, b) Enriched the theoretical aspects with examples from works by contemporary Greek writers. These activities were mainly addressed to women, irrespective of age or professional profile, and the only condition was their literary activity and their wish to improve their literary skills. Also during the period 2007-2008, in Thessalonica the above-mentioned Centre carried out the following actions: a) a Writing Workshop with the theme: “Portraits of the others: the family and the human environment in the works of female writers” (18/3/2008), b) A Writing Workshop with the theme: “Visual Impressions [descriptions] in the works of female writers” (17/6/2008), c) a Seminar with the theme: “The status of Mediterranean Women as it is described in the works of female writers” (19/6/2008).

### Actions by NGOs

7. During the above period, the Union of Greek Women initiated the organization of an exhibition with the theme “Woman and Creation” that included female works on Folklore, Church Painting and Jewellery. Also the Cretan Women’s Union organized cultural events for the promotion of Female perspective in Art and Culture.
8. During the above period the Greek Social Assistance translated into Greek (with the sponsorship of a Pharmaceutical Company) the United Nations Manual regarding issues and problems facing the Elderly, with emphasis on the Role of the Elderly Woman as a carrier of Culture, and contribution and assistance to the younger generations.

Apart from the events mentioned above, the GSGE tries to eliminate the reproduction of sexist stereotypes in the **Mass Media**. The role of mass media (press, radio, TV and internet) in the reproduction of gender stereotypes is pivotal, as the information that they communicate formulates social conscience, educates, informs and sensitizes citizens, including men and women of all ages. Images depict women in a way that systematically degrades them or reinforces traditional patterns, influencing the public and reproducing gender patterns, sexist behaviors and beliefs.

- In order to limit the reproduction of sexist patterns (violence, traditional roles of men and women, etc), the GSGE has been systematically cooperating with the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation and a number of private mass media organizations.
- The GSGE cooperates with monitoring bodies of programmes and advertisement spots (Greek National Council for Radio and Television and Communication Monitoring Council), in order to enhance the respective ethics codes with criteria that limit sexist behaviors and provide initiatives for the production of programmes and advertisements which promote equality.
- The awarding of prizes is supported by the GSGE in cooperation with the Botsis Institute for the Promotion of Journalism, the Thessaloniki International Film Festival and the Hellenic Advertisers Association.

## **G. Statistics**

### **7<sup>TH</sup> Periodic Report CEDAW, Article 13**

#### **Funding rates for women in all Programs by the Greek Film Centre**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Short films	70%	50%	25%	30%
Documentaries	33%	25%	75%	40%
Films	19%	20%	22%	10%
Topics related to women	15%	17%	5%	31%

**Source:** Greek Film Centre, Hellenic Ministry of Culture

**THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GENDER EQUALITY**