



SEMINAR PLAN

Women in labor law and work-family life balance in the MENA region

Madrid, 25 November 2010

Introduction:

The Euro-Arab Network for Development and Integration (READI) created in 2001 by the FPSC, consists of 40 NGOs from North and South Mediterranean, specializing in human and social development.

The overall aim of the READI is to "promote the integration of NGOs in the Mediterranean countries by creating an interinstitutional network to promote new ways of partnership among civil society organizations, governments and the business sector to generate effective and efficient actions for the integral human development."

With its creation and implementation, READI decided to equip itself with an innovative framework, being an area of permanente and inclusive dialogue, a fruitful dialogue among the societies of South and North Mediterranean. It seeks by this way, to strengthen the bonds of Spanish and European NGOs with their counterparts in the South, and strengthen the integration of its members to contribute to the achievement of its targets efficiently. Therefore, READI wants to promote participation and dialogue and the elaboration of concrete actions to achieve, through the joint efforts of the whole society, a balance for the inequalities between North and South of the Mediterranean and therefore achieving a fair and lasting development for everyone.

This is considered of great significance not only to serve as a means to make the process of development effective and sustainable, but to weave a strong commitment between Europe and MENA countries (Middle East and North Africa), which influences the solution of the major problems facing the poorest countries of the Euro-Mediterranean basin, providing answers and alternatives which lead to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the field of equality between men and women, under the labor rights of women prospect and their real involvement in the family life-work balance. For it, the status of women in work market, in labour jurisdiction and obstacles related to their daily life will be also analyzed.

In this new approach lies once again the strong commitment of the READI: to contribute to extending human rights to all, taking into consideration the context of conflicts that, unfortunately, those countries are facing for generations.

At the end of this seminar, READI will present some conclusions that later on will address to the organizations working in the Euro-Mediterranean area. READI will benefit from the advice and collaboration of CEMOFPSC (Centre for Middle Eastern Studies of the Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture).

The reason for this diffusion is to deepen the knowledge of the specific problems of societies and the exchange of experiences so that together we are to encourage and enhance cooperation for development in the Mediterranean. It will be an occasion to raise public awareness from the Spanish and European society on its necessary contribution to build peace.

Specific Objectives:

1. Deal with possible solutions to a framework of North-South cooperation that aims to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
2. Address the problems of women's employment situation and possible solutions now being mooted to improve women's status in the region and disseminate the results to enable them to gradually penetrate the deeper layers of civil society in both North shore and in the South.
3. Promote more active and fairer participation for women in the public sphere, and give them skills that enable them to assert and enforce their rights in the public and private realm.
4. As cross-cutting theme will be examined the specific problems posed by war and conflict situations in the previous questions.

Expected results:

Promote a greater participation of European and Arab NGOs and research centres in the design and implementation of development policies related to the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, we will focus on: the fight against unemployment, access to leadership and high level positions, support to motherhood, family-work balance, equality between men and women, and the dissemination of human rights.

Promote, through greater information in the communication media, cooperation for development and lasting peace in Mediterranean countries.

Define the READI's role in relation to achieving the Millennium Goals and cooperation for development with the most disadvantaged countries of the Mediterranean sphere.

The results, conclusions and investigations that arise from these conferences and their subsequent repercussions will be included in various publications and disseminated on the Internet. The purpose of these publications is to demonstrate and disseminate the advances and new ideas expounded at this seminar.

Structure and thematic organisation of the conference:

The seminar will be divided into two sessions and the opening lecture. Each session will begin with the speeches given by experts who will outline the general themes and then they will open the debate. Each session will have moderators, all of them experts who will introduce the speakers and rapidly summarise the most representative ideas.

A working paper on the topics of the conference, previously developed by the technical secretary of the READI, was sent to all participants. The sessions will address the general theme of the panel proposal according to the guidelines that were remarked in the working document, which aims to be an instrument to focus the course of discussions, both for speakers and for the audience are welcome and encouraged to participate in the debate.

The attached work document will serve as a basis for reflection on these topics.

Date and place:

The seminar will be held in Madrid on 25 November 2010.

Participants in the seminar:

It has been decided that the most suitable number of participants is 55, including: representatives of the political, communication, university and business spheres, development agents, civil society representatives, etc.

The participating countries and organisations will be: Spain, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Israel, Egypt, Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, Syria.

Visibility:

The leaflets, posters and publication of the minutes will clearly and visibly reflect the identity of the seminar funding bodies.

languages:

Languages: A simultaneous interpretation service in English-Spanish-English will be provided by the organising body.

Organisation of the panels:

Each intervention of the speaker must be conducted in 15 minutes. Please, papers should be submitted by November 22 at the Technical Secretary of the workshop.

Speakers are also requested to attach a brief curriculum vitae (approximately half a page).

Travel, accommodation and living expenses in Spain:

The Technical Secretary's Office will book and purchase the necessary tickets for the journey from the attendee's place of origin to Madrid, and will also take care of accommodation and living expenses in Madrid during the course of seminar. The Technical Secretary's Office will contact all attendees shortly.

Contact person:

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