

About GEMMA



GEMMA is an European project that aims to bring together different actors, such as policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media, active in the fields of Gender and Migration. Since migration—closely linked with the issue of gender—is one of the most significant global issues of our age, a closer and more intensive dialogue of these actors is needed in Europe to tackle the complex challenges arising from gender and migration effectively. To cite a few examples:

- **policy makers** need to be aware of the current situation, both in their country and in the whole of Europe
- **researchers** need to produce related research results which can be effectively used by policy makers and the media
- **civil society organisations**, which are often the most immediate source of information related to migration and gender issues, need to be consulted more intensively or even involved in research as well as policy making
- **the media** needs to obtain objective information and produce a realistic view of female migration and similar issues

GEMMA wishes to facilitate this multilateral dialogue. To achieve this, the project partners have launched or will launch a number of services aimed at policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media. These services include:

- the project webpage
- the present newsletter, to be published every four months
- dialogue workshops in each partner country to connect policy makers and researchers
- a dynamic forum for exchanging opinions
- a conference to meet other actors from other countries and to learn about current issues in gender and migration as well as the results that GEMMA achieved

To keep track of upcoming events and services that may be of interest to you, please consult the GEMMA webpage regularly and subscribe to receive this newsletter at

<http://www.gemmaproject.eu>

GEMMA is supported by the [Seventh Framework Programme](#) of the European Union.



NEWS

European Renewed Social Agenda launched

On 2 July 2008, the European Commission adopted an ambitious agenda designed to ensure that European Union policies respond effectively to today's economic and social challenges.

What is the issue?

Technological change, globalization and an ageing population are transforming Europe's societies. EU policies need to keep pace with these trends, and help people adapt to changing circumstances. The renewed social agenda aims to create more opportunities for EU citizens, improve access to quality services and demonstrate solidarity with those who are affected negatively by change.



Ensuring the sustainability of the European Social Survey

How will the renewed social agenda help?

The EU has limited powers and responsibilities, but it can make a real difference to people's lives by working in partnership with Member States and stakeholders. Over the last 50 years, the EU has successfully promoted growth and jobs, gender equality and better working conditions. It has helped to tackle discrimination, poverty and inequalities between regions.

Building on these achievements, the renewed social agenda brings together a range of EU policies in order to support action in seven priority areas. One of those areas concerns "Fighting discrimination and promoting gender equality" and some initiatives have been set up:

Communication on the Fight Against Discrimination

Equal Treatment Directive

Staff Working Paper on Roma

The related documents can be downloaded [here](#).

For more information about the agenda please [click here](#).

Source: *European Commission*

Work has got under way to ensure the long term sustainability of the European Social Survey (ESS). Since its inception in 2001, the ESS has dedicated itself to bringing to the fore the changes that are occurring in Europe's social, political and cultural fabric.

The ESS has been mapping long-term attitudinal and behavioural changes in Europe's social, political and moral climate, including issues of social exclusion, national, ethnic and religious identity, and demographic composition. The data collated by the group has revealed intriguing contrasts and similarities between over 30 European countries.

By revealing this information the ESS is encouraging understanding between the countries of Europe. It allows governments, policy analysts, scholars and members of the public to interpret how people in different countries and at different times see themselves and the world around them.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/>

Source: *CORDIS*

The **European Social Survey** is an academically-driven social survey designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations. The survey covers 30 nations and in 2005 it was awarded Europe's top annual science award, the Descartes Prize.

Scientific evidence for policy-making

Enhanced dialogue between researchers and policy-makers is a sine qua non if the projects funded by the Framework Programmes are to bring new knowledge in the social sciences to bear on the policy-making process throughout the EU.

A new book on how to achieve this dialogue has been published by the European Commission. This publication draws on the results of a wide ranging series of interviews with politicians, senior advisors and knowledge transfer specialists in proposing solutions for overcoming the contextual, cultural and structural obstacles which make this dialogue difficult.

Policy usefulness and effective dissemination of project results will be key drivers in ensuring that the Framework Programmes support the attainment of the ambitious social and economic targets set by the Lisbon Agenda.

The document, which contains interesting and useful tips for project coordinators as well as policy makers, can be downloaded [here](#).

Source: *European Commission*



EVENTS

National Conference on “Immigration, education and citizenship right” 11-12 September 2008, Collegno (Torino), Italy

The conference is organised by FLC Cgil (National trade union organizations) and the Association Proteo Spaer Fare.

For more information, [click here](#).

Workshop on Marriage and Migration to the UK 16 September 2008, Oxford, UK

The workshop is organised by COMPAS – The Centre on Migration Policy and Society, University of Oxford.

Expressions of interest and more information:

Katharine.charsley@compas.ox.ac.uk

Conference on ‘Social sciences and humanities facing the climate change challenges’, 22-23 September, Paris, France

On the occasion of the French Presidency of the European Union, the conference’s aim is to discuss the collective challenges associated with climate change.

For more information, [click here](#).

Conference on “Teenage immigrants and their education” 19-20 October 2008, Rome, Italy

The Italian title of the conference is “Veniamoci incontro! Adolescenti immigrati: dall’accoglienza al piano educativo personalizzato”. The conference is organized by Unicef in Rome, Via Palestro 68.

For more information, [click here](#).

First conference of ESPAnet Italia: “Social policies in Italy and in the European scenario”. 6-8 November 2008, Ancona, Italy

A session of the conference will be dedicated to the issue of migration and social policy.

For more information, [click here](#).

EU POLICY ON GENDER AND MIGRATION

A summary of the policy context in which the GEMMA project is positioned¹

Since the Treaty of Amsterdam was adopted in 1999, the EU has the capacity to act in the field of **immigration**. Immigration is no longer a matter of inter-governmental coordination but for actions to be adopted by the Council of Ministers of the EU. With the aim to establish a common immigration and asylum policy for the period 2005-2010, the Heads of EU Member States meeting in Tampere adopted an initial work programme, which was followed by the Hague programme in November 2004. In June 2005, the Commission presented an action plan to implement the programme adopted in The Hague. Priority areas for action defined in this plan are²:



- The protection of fundamental rights for migrants;
- The definition of a common immigration policy ensuring a secure legal status and a set of guaranteed rights for legal migrants and developing return procedures for undocumented migrants;
- The development of better integration policies to maximise the positive impact of migration on European societies;

“**Integration**” is one of the key themes of EU action with regard to a common policy on immigration. It is based on two Directives preventing discrimination on grounds of race and ethnic origin (Racial Equality Directive) and on grounds of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation at work (Employment Framework Directive). In addition, the Council Directive of 25 November 2003 establishes and regulates the status of long-term residency for third-country nationals who have resided legally for a period of five years in one of the Member States. The Common Basic Principles on Integration, adopted by the Commission in September 2005, refer to the responsibilities of the migrants as well as to those of the hosting country with regard to integration.

In December 2005, the European Commission published a Policy Plan on Legal Migration that lists the actions and legislative measures that the Commission intends to take for the period 2007-2009. These focus on the admission procedures and guaranteed rights for selected categories of economic migrants such as legally employed, admitted migrants, highly skilled and seasonal workers.

Migrant women are not explicitly mentioned in the EU policy debate on a common immigration policy. They tend to be covered by separate policies rather than as part of an integrated approach. However, recent developments (such as the Roadmap for Equality between Women and Men) show positive change towards the recognition of the multiple discrimination experienced by migrant women.

Further steps to take

The EU has taken action in a number of areas in order to protect the fundamental rights of migrant women. However, **further efforts** are needed in order make the empowerment of migrant women in the EU possible:

1. Ensuring a legal status for women migrants
2. Condemnation of harmful traditional practices
3. Fight against human trafficking
4. Sexual and Reproductive Rights/Health
5. Education and recognition of skills
6. Proper regulation of domestic work
7. Access to social rights

These steps, complemented by the recommendations of the European Women’s Lobby, serve as the background of actions to take in the coming years.

¹ A more detailed version of this following paper is available from the GEMMA Consortium.

² Source: *Mapping the Challenges Faced by Migrant Women in the European Union; Equal Rights, Equal Voices*, January 2007



RESEARCH IN GENDER AND MIGRATION

Selected Publications

Eleonore Kofman, 'The Knowledge Economy, Gender and Stratified Migrations' Studies in Social Justice 1(2) summer 2007, pp.30-43

The promotion of knowledge economies and societies, equated with the mobile subject as bearer of technological, managerial and cosmopolitan competences, on the one hand, and insecurities about social order and national identities, on the other, have in the past few years led to increasing polarization between skilled migrants and those deemed to lack useful skills. The former are considered to be bearers of human capital and have the capacity to assimilate seamlessly and are therefore worthy of citizenship; the latter are likely to pose problems of assimilation and dependency due to their economic and cultural "otherness" and offered a transient status and partial citizenship by receiving states. In the European context this trend has been reinforced by the redrawing of European geopolitical space creating new boundaries of exclusion and social justice. The emphasis on the knowledge economy also generates gender inequalities and stratifications based on skills and types of knowledge with implications for citizenship and social justice.

The International Migration of Women. Ed. Maurice Schiff , Andrew R. Morrison and Mirja Sjoblom. Palgrave, 2007.

The current share of women in the world's international migrant population is close to one half. Despite the great number of female migrants, there has until recently been a striking lack of gender analysis in the economic literature on international migration and development. This volume makes a valuable contribution in this context by providing six new studies focusing on the nexus between gender, international migration and economic development.

[Link to press release](#)

"The New Bonded Labour?" Joint Report

Oxfam and partner organisation Kalayaan launched their **joint report "The New Bonded Labour?" on 2 July 2008**. The report reveals abuse and exploitation of migrant domestic workers in the UK. Kalayaan is the only dedicated UK organisation providing advice and support to migrant domestic workers. The research revealed that of the workers registered with Kalayaan; 43% reported not being given their own bed, 41% were not given regular meals, 70% were given no time off, and 61% were not allowed out of the house.

To read the full report click on [this link](#).

Selected Ongoing Projects

The use of racial anti-discrimination laws: gender and citizenship in a multicultural context- (GENDERACE, 2008-2010)

The GendeRace project is researching the effectiveness of Racial Discrimination laws from the point of view of the target group and in a gender perspective. The research is granted by the FP 7 European Union, and brings together six European research teams. The project is co-ordinated by the Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium and the Universitat de Barcelona GRECS, Spain.

The goal of the project is to improve our understanding of the phenomenon of double discrimination (race and gender) and to develop practical tools to allow administrations, NGOs and specialised bodies to better assess the effectiveness of policies and practices in the field of antidiscrimination when faced with cases of double discrimination. More information about the project can be found [here](#).



CIVIL SOCIETY IN GENDER AND MIGRATION

CARITAS: Presented study on living and working conditions of immigrants in Rome, Italy

Caritas is an Italian Civil Society Organization which offers daily support to immigrant citizens. Within Caritas's structure there is an Immigration helpdesk mainly active in the field of trade in human beings, refugees and asylum seekers.

Since 1990 Caritas publishes a yearly Statistical Dossier about Migration and elaborates studies and research about immigration.

On 1 July 2008, Caritas presented a publication in Rome entitled "Living and working conditions of immigrants in the area of Rome: A sample survey and thematic analysis".

Regular Immigrants

The study underlines that the metropolitan area of Rome is the territorial zone in Italy with the highest concentration of regularly registered immigrant population. At the beginning of 2007 there were 430.000 persons according to the estimation made by the Caritas/ Migrantes Dossier: a part of them was not yet subscribed at the registry office.

More than 180 nationalities are represented among the immigrants, mainly Euro-Asian: the largest part of them comes from Romania (22,3%), the Philippines (9,1%) and Poland (6%).

At the beginning of 2007, there were 556.000 people coming from Romania out of 3.690.000 regularly registered migrants in Italy: 53,4% of them were women. An updated estimation assumes that at the beginning of 2008 the presence of Romanian rose to 1.016.000 persons.

Immigrants and work

In Italy immigrants (1 out of 10 employed persons) became a more and more relevant pillar of the labour market where the unemployment rate is constantly decreasing.

The salary that Romanian immigrants receive is slightly lower than the average generally granted to immigrants (10.042 € in 2004 according to the INPS – National Service for Social Security): women receive 40% less than men. A noteworthy number of women (more than 1 out of 4) works in the field of family assistance. However, they are also engaged in other sectors such as the nursing field.

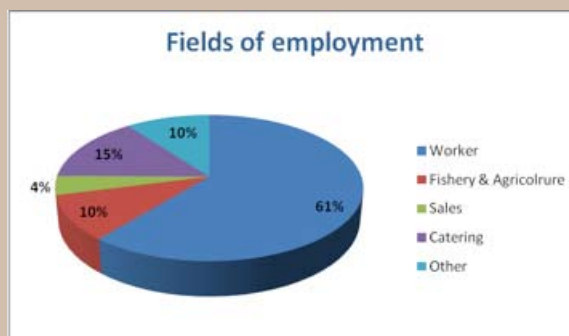
The exploitation of women is on the increase. In order to foster the circle of prostitution, girls are violently recruited in the poorest areas of Romania: the figures rose up from 18.000 to 35.000 persons per year in Italy (not only from Romania). Unfortunately acts of sexual assaults also occur at household level, to the detriment of Romanian women or other house servants working for Italian families.

Illegal immigrants

Immigrants "sans papiers" in Italy number about 400.000 house servants and caregivers – referring to typically female works – and about 250.000 men employed as workers or in the field of fishery and agriculture, sales, catering or other divisions.

The job offer coming from abroad is strongly dedicated to women while clandestine activity in the field of goods and services production is typically a men's prerogative. An exception from this trend are the catering services.

According to the data of the National Institute for Statistics, the number of extra communitarian people in Italy, who now represent the 5,8% of the population, could raise up to the 18,4% of Italian citizens in 40 years time.



Read more on www.caritasitaliana.it



PEOPLE IN GENDER AND MIGRATION

Interview with Paola Brianti, President of the Commission for “Communitarian and International Affairs” of the Lazio region



Paola Brianti, President of the Commission for “Communitarian and International Affairs” of the Lazio region, is one of the most attentive policy-makers to migration issues. She recently focused the attention of the Commission on the Migrants’ rights law (May 2008).

In the [interview](#), which is available in full length on the [GEMMA webpage](#), she talks about the Commission’s role, its competences and the outreach actions it has taken to reach the wider public with themes of European relevance.

The Commission for “Communitarian and International Affairs” regards gender and migration issues as key elements in its political agenda. The interview also details the activities linked to this fact and also investigates the links between research findings and their usefulness in policy making.

INITIATIVES: HOW TO GET MORE INVOLVED

GEMMA’s namesake: a different framework, yet similar scope

An interdisciplinary master’s programme, with the participation of eight European universities, has been launched in the framework of the Erasmus Mundus programme of the European Commission. The programme, which is incidentally also named GEMMA, offers a joint European master’s degree in women’s and gender studies. Students enrolled in the programme will attend courses in the areas of women’s studies, gender studies, and equal opportunities. Mobility is a core element of the programme and students are expected to study at different European universities. As a result, at the end graduates receive a double diploma from the home and the partner institution. Furthermore, with five partners in North and South America, the consortium has been extended to form GEMMA World, lending the programme a truly global dimension and making it possible for students to learn about gender issues in a non-European academic setting also.

Further information about the programme is available at:

<http://www.ugr.es/local/gemma>

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