

## About GEMMA



GEMMA is a 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.

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.

This year, GEMMA organised two workshops: the first in London on 27 February hosted by [Middlesex University](#), and the second in Paris on 18 March hosted by [Ecole des Hautes Etudes](#). Both workshops set out to initiate a dialogue between researchers and civil society organisations, and invited participants from both groups. For the results and recommendations arising from the debates, please check the [project website](#).

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

### Call for Nomination for the “Black European Leadership Award – BELA 2009”

There are many Black European Women in decision-making and leadership positions in different Member States of the European Union. However, their contributions and achievements still remain largely invisible. The [Black European Women’s Council / BEWNET](#) is going to organise a High Level Gala Night in Brussels in October 2009, to honor selected personalities with the “Black European Leadership Award (BELA 2009)”.

### Call for Nomination for the book “100 Black European Women in Leadership”

This book project aims at gathering data on 100 Black European Women in leadership and decision-making positions in Europe, under the following categories: Social and Humanitarian engagements, Politics, Entrepreneurship, Academics and Research, Arts and Culture, Sports and Media. The selected 100 women shall be published as an attempt to honor these Black European role models (in all their rich diversity) for their leadership activities on the one hand, and on the other hand to encourage and promote the younger generations to go even further. An international jury is going to decide upon the 100 Black European Women to be considered in the book project.

The deadline for nominations was 20 April 2009. Read more [here](#).



## MiA Awards Presented in Austria



MiA is a series of awards that are given to female migrants living in Austria in order to honour extraordinary achievements in the categories of "Science and Research", "Humanitarian and Social Commitment", "Economy", "Arts and Culture" and "Sports". During this event women with a non-Austrian background, who have contributed to making Austria a better location as regards economics, sociopolitics, and welfare, are asked to step before the curtain. The [ceremony for the presentation of MiA](#) 2009 took place on Saturday, March 07, 2009. Watch the [video here](#) (in German).

The Awards triggered public debate on the "new" stipulations of the Austrian Immigration Law. In this context, the Awards were criticized by a number of NGOs for drawing the attention off the real problems of migrants.

## More than 60 women's associa- tions gathered in front of the Paris Town Council

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the city of Paris organised a big gathering of more than 60 feminist and female associations in the economic, cultural and artistic fields in front of the Paris Town Council on Friday and Saturday, 13-14 March 2009. A wide range of migrant women's associations actively participated in the event which aimed at giving visibility to the fight against discrimination and violence, for the promotion of women's rights and equality between women and men. Through their stands the organisations presented their history, their aims and their work to the visitors. Additional workshops, concerts, video projections and exhibitions all around Paris pointed to the problems and obstacles women are still facing today. They presented the diversity and creativeness of female presence and activism in and around Paris while stressing the common combat of all women around the world. At this occasion, GEMMA France disseminated the GEMMA project by distributing the GEMMA brochure, meeting and informing the representatives of French associations dealing with Gender and Migration personally and inviting them to participate in the upcoming GEMMA workshops and events.

## Annual meeting for the rights of prostitutes in Paris

The association "Rights and Prostitution" and the National Union of Associations for the Fight against HIV organised their Annual Meeting on Friday, March 20, 2009. This year's gathering took place in the Odeon theatre in the heart of Paris and was accompanied by a March for the Rights of Prostitutes, a press conference and an art exhibition. Each year this meeting is organised around the date of the coming into force of the 2003 Law for Inner Security (Loi pour la sécurité intérieure). According to the participants, this law has degraded the prostitutes' living and working conditions and increased the risks they face due to multiple pressures (economic, coming from the police or from the clients). A series of workshops on issues such as health and rights of prostitutes was organised and the recent creation of the association STRASS for the defence of the rights of prostitutes was announced. This association shall act as a trade union for prostitutes in France. Depending on needs, commissions will be set up inside this association covering -beside other issues- also the specific situation of immigrant prostitutes.

## Meeting of migrant women in Budapest

The first meeting of migrant women was organised by [Menedék Association](#) in Budapest on 8 November 2008. The meeting offered an opportunity for migrant women living in Hungary to share their personal histories with the others, to discuss problematic issues of



their everyday lives, and to formulate a list of recommendations to make more visible and ameliorate the situation of migrants in the country.

The meeting fits in the activities of the Association, which has initiated the formation of a Migrants' Network comprising of 22 organisations in 2006, and from the national funding received in 2008 it has organised various trainings in February –

April 2009 (e.g. on civil rights, the media, funding, psychosocial issues) to enhance migrants' skills in civic participation.

## Events

### Future events

#### **Care + Migration: International Conference 23–24 April 2009, Frankfurt a. M., Germany**

In the past decades, Western Europe has witnessed an increase in women's labour market participation. However, this has not basically led to a change in the conventional gendered division of labour in the family. We are facing a dramatic crisis of the reproductive sector.

Pertinent questions are: Who takes care of the young and the old, disabled people and people who need care on a daily basis? Who shops, cooks and cleans? Who cares?

This conference brings together experts from different disciplines in the field of care and migration, inspired by the renowned American author Arlie Hochschild, who will give a keynote lecture. Among other issues, we will discuss policy problems, particularly those pertaining to illegality, in the German context, extending our discussion also to the EU and to the global level.

More information on the conference is [available here](#).

#### **Conference “Who is responsible for the vulnerable intra-EU migrants and how does the current economic crisis affect them?” 12 May 2009, Brussels, Belgium**

This conference is the final event organized within a framework of the European “One-stop mobility shops” project. The project was launched adopting European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) recommendations drawn from the Year of Workers' Mobility and relies heavily upon grassroots level operations in four regions of Europe. It will take place in Brussels on 12 May 2009.

The event will address the question of who is responsible for the vulnerable intra-EU migrants. With the current economic crisis and its consequences, such as rising unemployment rates, a prompt response to the above mentioned question is necessary and much needed.

The conference will open with a Citizens' Group as the first item on the agenda. The Group will bring together six citizens who were recipients of one-stop shop services, coming from five Member States. The citizens will represent different age, social and economic groups. They will talk about their migration experiences, difficulties and problems encountered.

The Group will be a possibility for the citizens to exercise participatory democracy and also means for them to present recommendations to national and European level decision makers. The first plenary session also involves presentations of selected European projects working for the benefit of migrants and host communities.

Further information about the programme is [available here](#).

#### **International Metropolis Conference on Migration and Mobility 14–18 September 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark**

The next International Metropolis conference, entitled “Migration and Mobility: National Responses to Cultural Diversity”, will be held in Copenhagen from 14 to 18 September 2009.

The conference will examine the role of policy in determining the outcomes of immigration and the presence of immigrants in different societies.

Additional information is available at

<http://www.metropolis2008.org/future-events/index.php>



### Conference on Security, Insecurity and Migration in Europe 18–19 September 2009, University of Leicester, UK

The [IMEPO \(Hellenic Migration Policy Institute\)](#) and the [Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Leicester](#) are jointly organising a conference on security, insecurity and migration in Europe. The conference will discuss the concerns of states arising from the challenges posed by irregular migration as well as the need to protect the fundamental rights of migrants. A number of related themes will be explored and discussed in detail.

Proposals for papers with one-page abstract should be sent by 30 May 2009 to Dr. Gabriella Lazaridis at [gl36@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:gl36@leicester.ac.uk)

More information on the conference can be obtained from Ms Jane Russell at [jer13@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:jer13@leicester.ac.uk).

### Moving Gender: Conflicts, Negotiations and Redefinitions 30 September – 2 October 2009, Paris, France

This conference will investigate several topics linked to the phenomenon of gender patterns undergoing significant changes. It will explore and negotiate the multiple understandings of what constitutes the norm gender and will try to challenge conventional ways of framing gender relations. The main topics of the conference will be work, productive activity and the labour market; family, solidarities and inequalities; intimacies and sexualities; marginalities and transgressions; social forms and violent spaces; spatial mobilities and circulation (including migration); citizenship and participation. Paper abstracts are welcome by 26 April 2009, sent to [femmagh@gmail.com](mailto:femmagh@gmail.com). More information can also be obtained at this address.

## EU Policy on Gender and Migration

### Moving Europe: EU Research on Migration and Policy Needs



This report, written by Ann Singleton of the University of Bristol, presents a brief description of the EU-funded projects in the area of migration and integration of migrants funded in the last five years, their main findings and relevance for policy-making. The projects address a wide range of issues and demonstrate that migration is inextricably linked to core social, political and economic concerns such as climate change, economic growth, economic instability, working life, welfare, health, youth, aging, gender, education, political participation, social inclusion and social cohesion. The report can be [downloaded here](#).

### Ten Years of Austrian Anti-Vio- lence Legislation

The Austrian Federal Chancellery – Federal Minister for Women and Civil Service has published the proceedings of the international conference “Stop Domestic Violence against Women”. The conference was held in on 5-7 November 2007 in Vienna and St. Pölten, Austria to commemorate the first ten years of Austrian anti-violence legislation, and it was also set in the context of the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence.

The document can be [downloaded here](#).



## Research in Gender and Migration

### Selected Publications

#### “Female Migrants – the New Nomads in Old Europe. The gender specific dimensions of migration”

Based on data obtained from 101 interviews, the report focus on the experiences of female migrants in the shadow and regular labour market in the host societies. The findings highlight a changing tendency for females to migrate individually as well often as heads of families. The potential positive role of migration for women’s emancipation and empowerment has, however, female migrants are exposed to a greater extent than men regarding violent labour, sexual exploitation, unfavourable working conditions and low pay. Moreover, female migrants find it even more difficult as refugees and asylum seekers.

This report is one of the six thematic reports of the 6<sup>th</sup> FP Project “[Undocumented Worker Transitions / UWT](#)”, carried out from March 2007 to February 2009 in seven Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Italy, Spain and the UK.

The report can be [downloaded here](#).



#### **Femmes exilées politiques** Ed. Eliane Gubin, Valérie Piette. 176 pages

**Bruxelles: Les éditions de l’université de Bruxelles.**

The dominant image of political exile is male: at first sight it seems to be mainly a business of men. Women appear as exceptions, but the great majority of them are presented like “refugees” or the “following ones”, i.e. like victims rather than actresses of their destiny. Did the women thus never have to flee because of their convictions, because of persecutions or risking their life and their freedom? This book presents eleven contributions which all underline the urgency to exhume the history of people exiled for political reasons, and the

interest to study it from a gender perspective. It shows how this approach makes it possible to revisit the process of the political exile.

More information on the book (in French) is [available here](#).

#### **Financial crisis from a gender point of view**

Migration decisions are strongly linked to economic opportunities.

Migration is part of globalization and global economy too.

In the present scenario of financial and economic crisis, could this relation be seriously compromised?

The [ILO report on Global Employment Trends](#), published in January 2009,

underlines that the gender impact of the global-financial crisis in terms of unemployment rates is expected to be more detrimental for females than for males in most regions of the world. Women will be affected by the crisis in two different ways: as women and as migrants. In their case, vulnerability has a double face.

More information and the report itself can be [downloaded here](#).

#### The [International Labour Organization](#)

is devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. It was founded in 1919 and in 1946 it became the first specialised agency of the United Nations. With its activities the ILO is promoting social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights.



### Decent Work for Domestic Workers

A special issue of the journal Labour Education entitled “Decent Work for Domestic Workers” has been published by the [Bureau for Workers' Activities \(ACTRAV\) of the International Labour Organization](#). This publication includes a section on the realities of domestic work with a separate article on migrant domestic workers. It also offers information on the forthcoming International Labour Conference in 2010 as well as a section about child labour, and articles on domestic workers in Latin America, Asia and Jordan. The document can be [downloaded here](#).

### Female scientists with migration background – A blind spot of German equal opportunities policy?

In contrast to other European countries, German equal opportunities policy has hardly taken notice of female scientists with a migration background so far. [The Center of Excellence Women and Science](#) (Kompetenzzentrum Frauen in Wissenschaft und Forschung, CEWS) were first to systematically take up research and discussion of this topic. Within the framework of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, a project on female scientists in German universities with a migration background was carried out. The project's results as well as additional scientific contributions and statements are now available in the brochure “Female Scientists With Migration Background” (in German). The editors, Dr. Inken Lind and Dr. Andrea Löther, conclude: „It is of utmost importance to increase the responsible parties' sensitivity to the situation and experiences of female scientists with a migration background. Only by concrete data and facts and the resulting insights it is possible to fight the direct and indirect discrimination of this group of female scientists and to encourage a more differentiated discourse.” The document can be [downloaded here](#).

## Selected Ongoing Projects

### PreQual STEPS: Intercultural Qualification for Migrant Women Entering into the Health and Care Sector (a Leonardo project, running between November 2007 – October 2009)

Throughout Europe migrant women are confronted with structural barriers as well as strong disadvantages in the labour market—especially when it comes to accessing the qualified labour market. Consequently, migrant women are forced to circulate in a very strongly segmented labour market that excludes them from numerous sectors and are channelled into certain occupational branches like construction work, housework, menial work, sex work and care.

Funded by the European projectline Leonardo da Vinci, the innovative results of the pilot project PreQual will be transferred also to Hungary, the Czech Republic, Spain and Greece and the concept will be expanded by new European aspects concerning female migration, the labour market and the health and care sector. In the long term, PreQual STEPS aims for the national implementation of the training measure within the partner countries and therefore to close a gap within the vocational training system. More information about the project is available at the [project website](#).

## Civil Society in Gender and Migration

### Women Scientists are Thinking about a Solution for the Crisis

The non-profit organization [European Platform of Women Scientists](#) (EPWS), which represents more than 12 000 researchers in all disciplines all over Europe met in Brussels in March 2009 in order to analyze financial crisis with a gender perspective. The key message that emerged from the meeting is that the present crisis has to be analyzed like a way “for re-growing” the economy in a gender balanced, socially and economically sustainable manner.

The group also promoted to create a network (UN, UNESCO, Stiglitz commission, European Parliament, European Commission) in order to expand cooperative alliances and, therefore, to create a policy paper with a gender analysis of policy responses of EU an EU Member States.



Further research of the EPWS will try to reach the following goals:

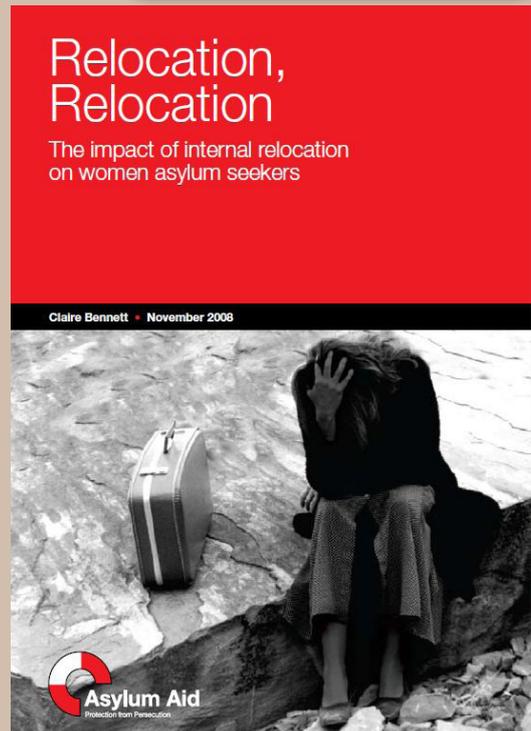
- the identification of gender balanced recovery measures;
- priorities of a new financial architecture: transparency and accountability, the democratization of decision making processes and the participation of the women in the decision making;
- the contribution of gender knowledge to comprehensively understand and tackle the crisis.

Read about this issue and more in the [EPWS Newsletter](#).

Setting up the [European Platform of Women Scientists \(EPWS\)](#) was initiated by the European Commission. The EPWS aims to build a structural link between women scientists and research policy makers. It strives to be a new key strategic actor into the research policy debate by making the voice of women scientists heard.

## Women in Asylum, helped by Asylum Aid

[Asylum Aid](#), a civil society organisation in the UK, have been very prominent in launching the Asylum Women's Charter. It would be the Charter's aim to defend the rights of women seeking asylum to have their protection claims determined by an asylum system in the UK that is informed, in all aspects of its policy and operations, by a deep understanding of the particular forms of persecution and human rights abuses that women experience because of their gender. According to Asylum Aid, if a woman suffers rape, domestic violence or honour crimes in the UK there are gender-sensitive practices that have been developed within the criminal justice system to respond appropriately. If a woman suffers similar violence in her home country and comes to the UK to seek protection, the immigration system doesn't yet respond to a similar standard. The Asylum Women's Charter sets out a range of actions which the UK Border Agency, the executive agency processing asylum seekers claims, should comply with in order to create a gender sensitive culture.



Asylum Aid have released [the report "Relocation, relocation"](#) by Claire Bennett. As women's asylum claims are more likely than men's to be based on non-state persecution, women are disproportionately affected by the principle of internal relocation in their country of origin. The research report discusses the legal application of internal relocation and questions the appropriateness of this principle for women asylum seekers who have experienced gender based persecution.

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