

GENDERA National Conference in Slovakia

The Slovak national GENDERA conference took place on the 29th of September 2011 at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. Organisers, the Slovak GENDERA team, invited representatives of all Slovak universities; institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences; the Government; the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport; the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; local and regional municipalities and non-governmental organisations. Participation of more than 60 registered participants, 14 speakers and about 30 students reflected a growing interest in the topic of gender equality in science. A day before the conference the Prime Minister of the Slovak Government Iveta Radicová sent a letter of support and expressed her wish that the conference was organised under her auspices.

The conference was opened by the Rector of Matej Bel University Beata Kosová, the first female rector in the history of Slovak universities who presented figures on male and female representations as well as results of a small survey on salaries of men and women at the university. Representative of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport Elena Winterová spoke about gender activities of the ministry. The project GENDERA was presented by Alexandra Bitusiková, the leader of the Slovak project team.

The first plenary was devoted to good examples from abroad. Krista Varantola from the University of Tampere in Finland, Helene Schaffer from Joanneum Research in Austria, Helena Cidlinská from the Sociological Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Magdalena Píščová, the Slovak representative in the Helsinki Group discussed a number of good practices from their countries and shared also concerns about remaining barriers. Mariana Szapuová in the second plenary gave a comprehensive presentation on the state-of-the-art of gender equality in Slovakia. The third plenary was a Hyde Park Corner for nine speakers who presented short case studies from their institutions or results of their projects. In the final roundtable, the members of the GENDERA Task Force reflected on the conference presentations and summarised main outcomes of the conference. Organisers plan to publish conference proceedings and distribute the publication to all academic and research institutions and policy-makers.

More information and conference photogallery: <http://gendera2011.3wmedia.sk/?lang=en>

Alexandra Bitusiková