



ENUT NEWS 1/02

Newsletter of Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre No 7

Editor's Note

For the first half of the year, ENUT did not have funding for a newsletter and, therefore, it was not published. The Norwegian Foreign Ministry's Plan of Action for Candidate Countries to the EU programme funded in the fall ENUT's 6-month project to update its data bases and website, expand its library services, and issue two editions of ENUT News in Estonian and English. The present edition is the first one issued under that project. ENUT is thankful to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry for supporting ENUT's activities. Our thanks go also to Democracy Commission and US Embassy in Tallinn, who support the publishing of current issue.

From Global to Local, and Local to Global

Reet Laja, Chairman of ENUT Board

ENUT's busy year started with the seminar, "From Global to Local, and Local to Global", at Tallinn Pedagogical University, January 12-13, 2002 (for details, please see ENUT's website).

The seminar was designed to analyze and assess Estonia's official report to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee meeting in New York latter part of January; to introduce the gender equality draft legislation; and to discuss the women's organizations' and roundtables' plans for the year.

The seminar was meant for women's organizations and they were represented in greater numbers than anticipated (more than 90). All counties, except Rapla, Järva, and Hiiumaa, were represented by three or more members and each county representative addressed the assembled during the first part of the seminar. They presented summaries of their previous year's activities, how many members they have, and how they network. Among their activities the major ones were seminars, educating of members about civic activities, and seeking of collaborative partners. A considerable number of them mentioned the leadership of political parties' women's divisions.

The CEDAW convention and Estonia's official report were introduced in the second part. CEDAW convention is the international human rights minimum norm, which should be included in a country's laws and it should insure the implementation of relevant policies. Estonia signed the convention already 10 years ago.

With regard to the report, the women's organizations' role is clear – to change from passive organizations into energetic, analytical and informative units. For that reason, ENUT distributed Estonia's official report in December 2001 to women's organizations for familiarization. The regional roundtables were called upon to gather material about the condition of men and women, because Estonian society does not bother with principles of equality. Estonia's official report to CEDAW was studied and assessed at the January seminar by separating into five work groups, each one taking a topic:

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combining work and family, violence against women, equality in the family and family relations, women's and men's health, politics and influencing of public opinion.

A panel discussion ensued on the topic of gender equality legislation, which finally had reached the parliament. The origins, content and rationale for the legislation were presented. The political aspects of passing the legislation and the situation in the parliament were discussed. A lot depends on how the law will be implemented in the future. It is necessary to be prepared to use the law, which would be the women's organizations work. It is necessary to think about tactics for the women's movement, using the gender equality law.

The part of the seminar that focused on women's organizations' collaboration divided the participants into three groups. Each group discussed in depth three basic areas: whether a network of roundtables or a pyramid structure serves women's interests best;

organizing a national congress at the end of 2002 or early 2003 and the topics for it; the common themes for women's regional roundtables for 2002.

The comparison of networks with a pyramid structure produced the unanimous opinion that in contemporary collaborative work the network model produces best results (in a pyramid structure, the network would disappear, because all member organizations look to the top for initiative). A pyramid works well when all member organizations are strong and self-confident. If some organizations are weak partners, then the better structure is collaboration among roundtables, which takes into account each partner's opinion.

Collaborative practices need to be reviewed and reminded in the women's organizations' network - the regional roundtables - because they have many new members. They should review their experiences and strive to be equal partners. For the second discussion theme - a national congress - following suggestions were made:

- media (how it depicts women)

- jobs, women's business enterprises, finances
- trafficking in women
- third sector enhancement

The third topic - common themes for the roundtables in 2002 - included the following points:

- Estonia's compliance with the articles of the Council of Europe Social Charter, especially those affecting women. It was the collective effort of ENUT, the women's organizations and women's roundtables that pressured the parliament to ratify these articles. It is

necessary to check whether jobs have been created in outlying districts, have women had access for training and schooling, and so on.

- plan of activity for collaborative work among roundtables, longterm strategy, common financing principles, partnership contracts with county offices and private sector.

- find means to have a new edition of the gender equality booklet printed.

The "100 Words" booklet

is no longer available, but the need for it by the roundtables in the districts is great.

- increase the numbers of women participating in local elections.
- women's businesses and employment to be part of economic policies.
- education (vocational training, school meals).
- family law and family relations.
- demographic questions and increasing of birth rate.

It is essential to pass on the information to all members of the roundtables and, naturally, to members of one's own organization. It is also a good idea for every roundtable to develop good collaborative practices.

It would be nice if a roundtable were to host the suggested summer school for women's organizations. The women's conference or congress at the end of the year, or beginning of the next, could be a collective effort of all roundtables.



Attorney Janek Laidvee, Ülle-Marika Papp head of Equality Bureau, Laura Paide, member of Young Mõõdukad and Liia Hänni member of the Parliament's Constitutional Commission

Estonia's report to the CEDAW Committee meeting at the United Nations

*Selve Ringmaa
ENUT's Administrative Director*

Background

All signatory countries to the Convention to End all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) must submit a report to the CEDAW Committee every four years. The CEDAW Committee has 23 members and it meets twice a year, in January and in June. The Committee accepts information from international organisations and local women's organisations independently of the State reports. The aim is to get comprehensive picture of women's problems in each State. Estonia signed the Convention already in 1991, and its combined first, second, and third report got ready in 2000. That report was analysed at the Committee's meeting in January 2002.



Shanthi Dairiam, head of IWRAP Asia Pacific, and Selve Ringmaa, ENUT-i administrative director, in front of the UN

Brief overview of Estonian women's organisations' critical report

News about the pending analysis of Estonia's report first reached Anu Laas. In order to reach a maximum of women's organisations she contacted ENUT for assistance. As a result, an Estonian language translation of the report was distributed in November 2001 and different women's organisations were consulted via e-mail. This action did not produce significant results and, therefore, a call went out again in December to read and analyse the State report, and it was accompanied with detailed descriptions of the goals of the report and its importance. Diverse specialists in the field were included in this action. Although it proved to be impossible to completely utilise the role of the specialists, their contributions helped with the drafting of substantive and formative criticism of the State report.

Initially, the women's organisations critical ("shadow") report should have been submitted by December, but due to the lateness of learning about the

State report, it was impossible to compile one in such a short time. For that reason it was planned to inform the women's organisations representatives at an ENUT organised seminar, "From Global to Local, and Local to Global" in Tallinn, January 12 & 13, 2002, about CEDAW and its stipulations. That was done.

However, in first part of January Anu Laas worked independently on the compiling of a "shadow" report and after the ENUT seminar, suggestions and recommendations derived from the seminar, plus the ones submitted by women's organisations, were added by e-mail to it. Communications with CEDAW's office led to the possibility of submitting the critical report directly to the Committee at its meeting, provided it was done by the compilers themselves.

The "shadow" report benefited a lot, also, from the contributions made by the ENUT Board members. The "shadow" report, which could not include feedback sufficiently, was sent to the women's organisations in Estonia and

subsequently, many supported it publicly.

The whole process of consultation and collaboration among the women's organisations in connection with CEDAW had an extraordinary impact by showing the significance and strength that lie in working together. At the same time, it also showed how difficult it is to achieve organisational resolutions to challenging questions during a short span of time. No doubt, the experience will benefit the critiquing of the European Social Charter report preparations, which confronts us in the near future.

CEDAW Committee meeting

The session took place January 4 to February 1 at the United Nations. At the opening, new committee members were admitted and assessment of the Committee's work during the interim was made. The main business consisted of the reports submitted by Estonia, Fiji, Iceland, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Russia. Also, recommendations were drafted, culminating with the setting of the

preliminary agenda for the January 27 meeting, and the report for the January 26 meeting. The presentation of reports by the states is open to the public, but intra-committee deliberations are closed. Recommendations by the CEDAW Committee are distributed to the reporting states, and thereafter, it is possible for local women's organisations to bring them to the attention of the media and the government, seeking the recommendations' implementation.

The basic points in Estonia's report were delivered to the Committee by the government's representatives on January 23, and replies to CEDAW Committee members' questions were submitted on January 29. Women's organisations' representatives had the opportunity to present informally their viewpoints and to direct attention to the problematic parts of the State report to the Committee members during intermissions before and after the State's delivery in order to help the Committee members to formulate their questions and, later, the recommended activities



One of the initiators of Estonian shadow report Anu Laas, Heljo Pikhof, adviser of the Minister of Social Affairs and Ülle-Marike Papp, head of Equality Bureau

to the states for the ensuing four years. The notes to Estonia's report, compiled by Estonian women's organisations representatives Anu Laas and Selve Ringmaa, were distributed on January 21 among the Committee members. The advantage to personally submitting the notes to the member was in the opportunity to engage in conversation with them and to agree on a lengthier discussion at a later time.

Estonia's report

The presentation on January 23 of the summary of the State report (especially the information on latest developments) by Marina Kaljuranna, who headed the Estonian Foreign Ministry delegation, left a very good impression on the Committee members. However, they did note the delay (the first report should have been submitted in 1995) and some omissions. For example, the report failed to answer the questions presented by CEDAW in its general instructions to all countries. They did repeatedly acknowledge Estonia's strivings to

catch up with the gender equality levels extant in the Nordic countries, and considered them largely attributable to the Estonian women's high education. The CEDAW members asking most of the questions were the ones who had engaged in conversation with the representatives of our women's organisations. Many of their questions, such as the one concerning the relative weakness and lack of resources by the State toward gender equality, the insufficient collaboration with women's organisations, were raised in the "shadow" report.

Every country had one Committee member who was to make a summary at the end of the discussions. In Estonia's case that member was Maria Regina Tavares

da Silva from Portugal, and the writer of this article had numerous occasions to talk with her on several topics, including an in-depth discussion about the gender

equality legislation situation in Estonia. That legislation is a central part of the State report, with several articles making references to it, and it is anticipated to be a solution to many problems after becoming law. Among the other Committee members displaying deeper interest in Estonia were Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling from Germany and Gøran Melander from Sweden. Ivanka Corti from Italy was interested in Eastern European states in general, as well as collaboration among women's organisations on the Estonian model, and the importance and characteristics of women's movements in Eastern Europe.

Summary

As a representative of women's organisations, it was very beneficial to observe the work of the CEDAW Committee and to talk with its different members. First of all, it was important to learn how the supervision of, and reporting on, United Nations conventions occur, because very little is known about it in Estonia. Secondly,

the Committee members, as outsiders, gave new perspectives to analysing Estonia's situation. Compiling the report to CEDAW should, in fact, help to analyse the society and to set up future goals. In such a process, the women's organisations can bring problem areas to the attention of the country's leaders. And finally, an

idea to organise in Estonia a conference that brings together governmental leaders, women's organisations and one or two CEDAW Committee members where Estonian women's representatives can bring up topics of serious concern to Estonian women and communicate directly with Committee members emerged in New York.

Gender Equality Bill

Mari-Liis Sepper
MA Candidate Tartu University and Marseille
University

The Birth of the Bill

The aim of gender equality legislation is to incorporate into law the human rights principles contained in the documents ratified by Estonia's parliament. By such an act, Estonia fulfills its legal obligation - to support equality between women and men, and make it a reality. For effective implementation of this principle, the legislation contains definition of gender equality, methodology and compliance mechanisms.

In addition to its obligation to comply with international human rights principles, Estonia has to harmonize its laws with European Union's. This is a prerequisite of EU membership. The principle of equal treatment of men and women in EU and all of western Europe is based on the basic right not to be discriminated against, because of gender. In the EU founding agreement's Amsterdam treaty, equality among men and women is given as the union's basic principle. As a result, gender equality has been mainstreamed into the economic sphere, especially into the labor market, and many other activities.

In view of the above, Estonia's government decided in April 2000, that the Social Services Ministry should work on drafting a gender equality bill. The bill reached the parliament for the first reading in spring 2002. On September 18, 2002, the second reading took place.

The content and aim of the proposed legislation

The aim is to advance equality among men and women and to prevent direct and indirect gender based discrimination. The legislation would forbid discrimination in job advertisements and education. A person against whom has been discriminated is given the opportunity to seek redress outside the court and the right to demand compensation. Officials would be obliged to remove obstacles existing in the path towards

gender equality. Guaranteeing of equal opportunities for men and women in all spheres of life would be obligatory. Summary of the gender equality bill:

a) defines the concepts: gender equality, equal treatment, direct and indirect discrimination, sexual harassment, and others

b) forbids direct and indirect discrimination, especially in the workplace;

c) obliges private and public sector employers, national and local governmental offices, educational and scientific institutions to advance equality among men and women;

d) sets up a supervisory body (Gender Equality Commission) with assignments and procedures for protecting equality;

e) creates a Gender Equality Council.

Debate over the bill

The original draft underwent extensive changes, largely due to the Justice Ministry's opposition to legislation which would address gender equality separately. Currently, an alternative equality and equal treatment bill, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability (all lumped together), has been proposed by the Justice Ministry. In the event this bill is passed in the parliament, the work done by experts over many years would be cast aside. More importantly, the substantive decision to address gender equality problems according to European norms in a separate statute is avoided, because the wish to do something about the problem is lacking.

The difficulties on the bill's path to the parliament have affected it substantially. The original draft included the Scandinavian nations' legal norms for implementation, by having an Ombudsman. In addition, the discriminating party was to be fined for violating the law, and could be ordered to stop the discriminating practice. Over the course of time, the draft lost the effective compliance mechanisms. The Ombudsman was replaced by a Commission whose decisions are not legally binding. Its decisions can be recommendations only. In cases of discrimination, a person can go to court and seek redress. This *proviso* was in the other bill, also.

ENUT's campaign in support of gender equality legislation

Eha Reitelmann, ENUT's project leader and campaign co-ordinator

ENUT has followed the progress of the gender equality bill since its inception. Our staff participated in March of this year at the gender equality roundtable meeting organized by the Estonian Legal Centre. In April, we attended the gender equality forum held at Sakala Centre. ENUT has lobbied the politicians to adopt the gender equality law. Lumping gender with all other conditions into one all-encompassing law against discrimination does not, in our opinion, provide sufficient legal protection to people nor does it allow for the implementation of special measures.

In spring 2002, we anticipated that the carefully prepared bill by the Social Services Ministry would be passed. Unfortunately, it met obstacles. As a consequence, we wrote a letter to the members of the parliament's Constitution Committee and the government, asking for the swift adoption of this needed law. Sixteen women's organizations signed our letter and it was sent out in the beginning of August.

At the end of August we contacted all the women's organizations in our database and other citizen organizations, asking them to join our open letter to the parliament. In that letter we again emphasized the need for such a law and asked for its swift adoption. Sixty-three organizations, including the women's divisions of Pro Patria, Center, Mõõdukad and Res Publica political parties, signed on to our letter. In addition, Res Publica Party signed up. Besides the women's organizations, others - Open Estonia Fund, Amnesty International Estonia - supported the action. Understandably, most of them were women's organizations, among them Estonian Rural Women's Association and EENA.

In the beginning of September, we launched a post card campaign in which supporters could send pre-paid messages to the parliament's Constitution Committee members. The printed message on the post card supported swift adoption of the gender equality law.

The situation has been made more complicated by the Justice Ministry's decision on October 24 to send an alternate, general equality bill to the parliament. It is evident that the campaign for the adoption of gender equality legislation has to continue.

The Baltic and Nordic countries' campaign against trafficking in women

Kristiina Luht, campaign's co-ordinator

Trafficking in women is a multifaceted problem that has been recognised on the national level only relatively recently. The Estonian media has given mention to trafficking in women, but the subject has practically never been approached from the human rights perspective, which is the principal violation occurring in trafficking.

The need to inform the public is great, because attitudes toward trafficking with human beings are largely based on myths and prejudices rather than factual information. Due to these reasons, it has been neither possible to prevent trafficking in human beings nor helping its victims.

At the June 2001 "WoMen and Democracy" conference in Vilnius, the Baltic and Nordic ministers responsible for equal rights policies decided to launch, in 2002, a united information campaign against trafficking in women. This decision was made at the

recommendation of the Swedish Equal Rights Minister Margareta Winberg. In August, the justice ministers of the participating countries decided to join the campaign.

The aim of the united campaign is to increase public knowledge and to initiate discussions about problems associated with trafficking in women. The campaign is financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic governments. The numerous collective activities are complemented by local campaigns based on the country's needs and conditions. Denmark concentrates on women victims of human trafficking; Finland tries to raise the awareness of sex service buyers and to inform youth about prostitution and global trade in sex services; Island, Norway and Sweden concentrate on men as prostitutes' clients and potential clients; Latvia focuses on prevention; Lithuania aims at raising the awareness of target groups and helping the victims.

Estonia's campaign is principally a preventive campaign made up of different projects. Two projects collect data on the situation in Estonia. One of them is an analysis of Estonia's capacity to prevent and combat trafficking in women. The aim is to collect information

that can map prostitution and trafficking in women, and provide material on the readiness of Estonian state agencies (border guard, customs, law enforcement, courts, embassies' employees) to combat prostitution and trafficking in women. The collected information should serve as the first step in the development of a national strategy.

The second one is a study conducted among selected high school graduates to learn of their knowledge and attitudes about prostitution and human trafficking. The aim is to find out what the girls think about working abroad, whether they are capable of seeing a link between apparently neutral job offers and prostitution, and how vulnerable and naïve are the potential victims. Information about the girls' views and expectations is vital for drafting more accurate and effective campaign activities later on. A report is compiled from the study and used in the planning of preventive activities.

A third project consists of general educational evening sessions held across Estonia. The aim is to raise



The organisers and trainers of the anti-trafficking workshop: Leen Kadakas (ENUT), Kristiina Luht (campaign co-ordinator) and Marion Pajumets (ENUT)

ei ole siiani olnud võimalik ei inimkaubanduse high school teachers, youth and hobbies organisations instructors, and vocational advisors from every part of Estonia. These people work with youth every day and, therefore, are in a position to raise young people's awareness and, thereby, prevent them from becoming victims. At the same time, these target groups can change young people's attitudes.

In addition to these instructional projects, the youth seminar "Living for Tomorrow" is to conduct a program on human trafficking. It will be an eight-day seminar for youth between the ages 14-18. The aim is to distribute among them information on human trafficking and prostitution, tying it with the subjects of human rights and gender equality, safe and healthy sex, HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. The program aims to, also, instruct and support youth on initiating own activities. The seminar will apply hands-on methods.

It is anticipated that during the course of the campaign an active non-governmental organisations network will emerge that will be involved with prevention of trafficking in women and will help those women wanting to return to an ordinary life. Such collaboration should definitely continue after the campaign is over. And Estonia's collaboration with the Nordic countries undoubtedly will continue, because they have much more experience with combating trafficking in women.

Individuals or organisations interested in the various aspects of the campaign, or wanting to participate by either receiving instructions, supporting the campaign, or having good ideas to share for future activities, should contact the campaign co-ordinator by e-mail: kristiina.luht@sm.ee



Anti-trafficking workshop for youth workers in Tallinn

different groups' awareness about trafficking in humans - parents, local police, social workers, local governmental leaders, representatives of women's roundtables, family and community life instructors, representatives of students' organisations, and classroom teachers.

In the fall, seminars on trafficking in women are to be held in three districts: Tallinn and Harju County, East-Viru County, and Pärnu. The target groups are

Trafficking in humans is intolerable! Some notes on the all-European conference.

*Marion Pajumets, ENUT's project leader and
Estonian Institute of Humanities
Master's candidate in Sociology*

The representative of the European Parliament and leaders from other organizations gathered in Brussels on September 18-20, to discuss the expansion and strengthening of activity against trafficking in humans. The 500 member assembly of top leaders from state governments, international organizations and NGOs made commitments to prevent human trafficking and expressed their readiness to combat it. Interior, foreign and justice ministers, not to mention ministers in charge of gender equality, were represented in great numbers. In addition, leaders from agencies and regional organizations, such as Brunson McKinley of the International Migration Organization, Soren Christensen of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Willy Bruggeman of Europol took the floor.

The impetus for the conference was provided by the need to work out a stronger strategy for combating human trafficking in light of the imminent enlargement of the European Union. Numerous leaders from the former Socialist bloc countries were ready to combat human trafficking. Estonia's Government did not consider it necessary to send a representative to the conference. It appears that this government's priority is financial interests rather than human welfare. Despite Estonia's low birth rate, one can interpret the Government's behavior that trafficking with our women and children, and the violence to which they are subjected, are not considered a significant national problem. It could be noted here that countries with significantly larger populations - Ukraine, Moldavia, Rumania, Russia - sent representatives to the conference, signaling their concern for human life.

Albeit not all European countries were represented, those assembled found unanimously that in order to combat trafficking in humans, or modern slavery, stronger measures have to be taken. Unanimity was cracked, however, by the diverse understandings of what constitutes strong combat principles. Especially sharp contrasts emerged between the Nordic countries, the Netherlands, and Germany. The Nordic countries see strong ties between trafficking and prostitution. In

their view, in order to rein in trafficking it is necessary to liquidate prostitution, a practice sanctioned by social norms that transform women into men's objects. Germany and the Netherlands view prostitution as one profession among many. They do not accept the Scandinavian view that the buying and selling of a human being is by its nature in violation of human values. Hence a situation where two parties denounce human trafficking, but perceive its extent and reasons differently. As a result, it is difficult to reach agreement in Europe on the basic ways to combat human trafficking and how to define it.

Another subject that some conference participants tried to avoid at all costs, and others tried to use every opportunity to present, was the matter of deportation of the victims of human trafficking. Several countries, for example Italy and Belgium, allow escaped victims of trafficking to remain a certain length of time in their countries for recovery. Some countries prefer swift deportation of the victim, especially if she is not useful as a witness against the violator of trafficking laws. Italy has the most advanced policies on treatment of victims. Regardless of whether the victim agrees to testify in court or not, Italy's law permits her to remain in the country some months, and, if necessary, longer.

Two positions come into conflict when dealing with trafficking victims: one treats human trafficking as violation of migration and criminal laws, and the other considers the human rights of the victim. The first aims to punish criminal conduct, and the other places emphasis on the victim's human rights and the victim. In the first case, the aim is to punish the criminal, and the other turns attention at the victim's human rights and their protection. In the first case, the victim remains a victim even when she does not testify in court, and the victim has the right for assistance. Understandably, the victim-centered position is very expensive for a state. The thousands of women and youth from developing countries have to be given medical, psychological, legal and financial assistance. In addition, the victim has to be taught the local language and provided employment. Not even rich countries are ready to bear such a burden. Swift deportation of abused and betrayed women is a much cheaper alternative.

The fact that Estonian politicians ignore the discussions and meetings in Europe about human trafficking does not bode well for the security of Estonian women and youth. International Migration

Organization estimates that about 500 Estonian women per year fall into the hands of traffickers. If one were to count the numbers of all secondary schools in Estonia and the estimated number of women trafficked, it would mean that two young women in each graduating class falls victim to trafficking.

Trafficking in women does not take place in some far off place behind our borders. It is here and now. For that reason, I hope that our governmental leaders'

priorities will very soon include human trafficking. In such case, one can hope that Estonia will get involved with prevention of trafficking, punishing of criminals, and the adoption as its model the resolution passed in Brussels. And most of all, it is hoped that at the next all-European conference to combat trafficking in humans is present a table on which is the sign, "The Government of Estonia".

Suzanne Lie and ENUT

Ilvi Jõe-Cannon

Suzanne Lie, Professor of Education at the University of Oslo, Norway, and a former Director of the university's Women's Studies Programme, had been involved as early as 1992 with the development of gender equality issues in the Baltic states. She lectured on women's studies at Tartu University in 1992. When her husband, Ambassador Kai Lie, was sent to the post in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1995, she toyed with the idea of establishing a women's studies centre. A nucleus of like-minded local women already existed and when in the latter part of 1996 Suzanne met Estonian-Canadian Eda Sepp, who had obtained a sizable collection of feminist books with the assistance of the Ontario provincial government and also had in mind the establishment of a women's centre in Estonia, the realisation of that goal began to take shape. As Professor Voldemar Kolga of Tallinn Pedagogical University later commented, "Suzanne Lie and Eda Sepp hit Estonia like a tornado. They made a good team."

Tallinn Pedagogical University Rector Mait Arvisto understood the contribution a women's studies centre can make to the higher education institution and the democratic development of the formerly Soviet-occupied Estonia as a whole, and agreement was reached to locate the Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre (Estonian acronym ENUT) at the Tallinn Pedagogical University. The Centre was registered as a non-profit organisation in April 1997.

Suzanne worked out an agreement with the University of Oslo, whereby she resided in Tallinn and served as the Academic Director of ENUT. One of her tasks was to train the Centre's staff. She also went about applying for funds from the Nordic Council of Ministers,

UNDP, and a range of Tallinn embassies in order to furnish and equip the Centre. The books obtained by Eda Sepp were placed in the Centre to form a library. Numerous faculty members of the Pedagogical University integrated feminist topics into their lectures and advised the Centre on its activities. An application to the EU Phare Democracy Programme funded the Centre's activities 1998-2000. The Phare funded project included conferences, seminars, roundtable discussions, the publication of *ENUT News* in Estonian and English, and the appearance of the first gender studies interdisciplinary journal in Estonia, *Ariadne's Clew*, which

has appeared annually since 2000. ENUT's goals since its establishment have been to advance gender equality and support democratic development in all spheres of Estonian society.

In the fall of 2000, Ambassador Lie's term in Tallinn ended, and he returned to Norway with Suzanne. She has remained an active supporter of ENUT and keeping in touch at least two to three times a week by e-mail and fax. She is a member of the Editorial Board of *Ariadne's Clew*, and the Advisory Council of ENUT's Board. In the latter capacity, she guides ENUT's role as an essential part of a civil

society located in Northern Europe. Most recently, she was instrumental in ENUT receiving a grant from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry for the development of a regional women's information centre, embracing the Baltic and Scandinavian countries, and the updating of ENUT library. The grant, also, funds the present and the next issue of *ENUT News*.



Suzanne Lie

OUR VISITOR

Ilvi Jõe-Cannon

Maj. Gen. Tiiu Kera, USAF (Ret'd) visited Estonia in May and came to ENUT, also. Tiiu Kera became the highest ranking US military officer of Estonian descent. She was born in 1945 in Germany in a displaced persons camp. Her parents had fled from Estonia in late summer, 1944. The family emigrated to the US in 1949 where Tiiu grew up in Rochester, NY. She received a B.A. from Valparaiso University, and a M.A. from Indiana University, where she studied political science and history.

Prior to joining the US Air Force, Tiiu Kera worked as a civilian editor in the Office of History, Headquarters, US Air Force in Europe. In 1973, she was commissioned through Officer Training School. She served over 28 years in the US Air Force, working at assignments at home and abroad. In 1990-1991 she was the US Air Force representative at Harvard University's Center for International Studies. In 1993-1995, Kera served as the first US defense attaché resident in the Baltic States, being stationed in Vilnius. In 1995, she was promoted to Brigadier General and appointed Director of Intelligence at US Strategic Command. In

1998 she was promoted to Major General and reassigned to National Security Agency, where she served as Deputy Director of the Central Security Service. Kera retired in February 2002, and currently is Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. She participates, also, in the activities of various think tanks, such as the Woodrow Wilson Center, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and Women in International Security. She is also on the boards of the US Baltic Foundation, the Cold War Museum, and the Estonian-American National Committee.



Tiiu Kera

Active and meritorious women among us

Eha Reitelmann, ENUT's project leader

Introduction

The project is part of a larger program "Estonian Women Through the Ages". Our aim is to bring to the attention of the public those women who have through their activities helped to improve the life in their villages parishes, towns, counties, and/or all of Estonia. We want to save their records for history and inform the public the essential role women have played in the development of Estonia since independence was restored (starting with 1987).

We welcome the names of those candidates who have done something important for the development of their area or Estonia. Candidates' names can be

submitted until December 31, 2002. Individuals and organizations can submit their candidates. Please send to ENUT a signed letter of recommendation by the presenter, stating the candidate's qualifications.

The submitted information should include, in addition to the candidate's name, her birthday, residence, schools attended and the years, vocation, place of employment, political party membership, membership in other organizations, hobbies and other relevant information. We also have to have the candidate's signed agreement to participate in the project and to disclose the information about her. A photo should be enclosed.

ENUT hopes that all women's organizations and district women's roundtables in its database, and all local cultural centers and schools will participate in this project. Local and county governmental agencies, employers and employees associations are invited to submit their candidates.

The names will be picked by a jury consisting of a representative from ENUT, Social Services Ministry, and the larger women's organizations. The jury will send the candidate to the respective district women's roundtable for its comments on the candidate.

The jury reserves the right to ask additional information from the party submitting the candidate's name and to reject the candidate if the information is insufficient. After the selection has been made, the women's names and their presenters will be released according to the counties on ENUT's home page.

Time frame for the project

At the October 12 forum "Women Decide", all participants got information sheets on the project. During the month of October, public was informed of

the project via newspapers, letters to the women's organizations, women's roundtables, and county governments.

Letters were sent to local governmental agencies, cultural centers, and schools in November. The jury examines the submitted material (deadline is December 31). The home page is brought up-to-date on the project. The jury makes its selections in January. An exhibit of materials about the selected women is shown at the ENUT sponsored women's conference, January 11-12, 2003. Information on the results of *WoMen and Democracy* project will be available at the Baltic Sea Region Women's Conference, held in Tallinn February 13-14, 2003.

The second and third part of the project will follow. It involves the gathering of material about Estonian women before 1987.

ACTIVITIES

Video evening

On November 19, the video "The Vienna Tribunal: Women's Rights are Human Rights" was shown in the evening at ENUT. The video is a documentary film of the 1994 United Nations conference on human rights, held in Vienna. The format consisted of testimonies given to a tribunal by women from different parts of the world. They gave testimony to the violations of human rights that had been inflicted upon them.

Conference "Gender Roles in Estonian School Texts"

On November 23, ENUT sponsored jointly with Tartu University School of Education a conference on textbooks used in Estonian schools, focusing on the gender content. At the end of the conference, conclusions were drawn about the studies that have been done to date on the subject.

Conference papers were distributed in a book form to all participants. More than 60 people, including representatives from the Education Ministry, publishers, authors and other interested institutions, attended the conference. It was held at Tallinn Pedagogical University. The book containing conference papers is available at ENUT.

Lecture "Satisfaction or dissatisfaction with one's body image"

The above is the topic of a lecture to be given at ENUT on December 6, at 4 PM. The lecturer is Eha Rüütel, director of Health Studies Laboratory at Tallinn Pedagogical University. Discussion follows the lecture. All interested parties are welcome!

Please contact Katri Eespere at ENUT if you are coming: 640 9173.

Computer instruction at ENUT

Once a month ENUT gives free instruction on the basics of computer use to members of women's organisations. They learn Word processing, obtain an e-mail address via which they can correspond, and how to obtain information from Internet. The instruction period lasts three hours. Anyone interested should contact Marion Pajumets at ENUT: 640 9173.

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

Women's Organisations List

At its January seminar, ENUT introduced its women's and women's organizations electronic list. The audience members were advised on how to join the list, and they were encouraged to join it as well as to tell their friends about it. Instruction sheets for signing up in the list were distributed at the seminar and, also, via e-mail. The List already has 69 members.

How to join?

- * Using the e-mail address which you want to join the list, send a letter to listserv@lists.tpu.ee
- * Do not write anything into space "Subject"
- * The content of the letter is one line: subscribe naisorganisatsioonid
- * The list administrator will add you to the list, sending to your inbox a notice to that effect
- * The list's address is naisorganisatsioonid@lists.tpu.ee
- * When you write to that address, your letter will be distributed to all list's members
- * In the event of problems with the list, please write to the list administrator: naisorg@tpu.ee

Women's Studies List

The Women's Studies List serves mostly the academic communities, especially students of women's, men's and gender issues. The List distributes information about international and local seminars, conferences, and available grants. The List is also a virtual discussion room. The List was established in 1997 by Tallinn Pedagogical University's Women's Studies Centre. Barbi Pilvre administers the Women's Studies List.

How to join?

- * Using the e-mail address which you want to join the list, send a letter to naisuurimus-request@lists.tpu.ee
- * Do not write anything into space "Subject"
- * The content of the letter is one line: subscribe naisuurimus
- * The list administrator will add you to the list, sending to your inbox a notice to that effect
- * The list's address is naisuurimus@lists.tpu.ee
- * When you write to that address, your letter will be distributed to all list's members

DATABASES

ENUT considers it very important to keep current the women's organizations database. Updating information is obtained from the organizations at our seminars and by contacting them directly. ENUT asks all women's organizations to notify it of changes in its location, leaders, and/or program. We can get information to you only by having an up-to-date database.

HOME PAGE

ENUT's home page is updated regularly. Thanks to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry funding and the cooperation of KILDEN in Norway with our project, ENUT staff members received training on composing an ideal home page. How it should be arranged and what visual criteria have to be met. The staff, also, studied different databases that help to advance gender equality and the improvement of women's condition.

Please visit our home page: www.enut.tpu.ee

LIBRARY

ENUT library consists of about 3,000 volumes. At the moment we are re-cataloging our library and connecting it to the national electronic library catalog ELNET. This is a relatively time consuming process, but part of the books in our library are already posted in ELNET. This system helps our readers to locate the desired book.

At the same time, we are complementing our library with new publications, and serving our readers. Our library acquisitions are posted on our home page. The library is open weekdays 12-16. Visit us!

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