

**Report on activities of the public institution
Center for Equality Advancement (CEA)
2009**

The public institution Center for Equality Advancement (CEA) was founded in 2003 by the Ministry of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania, the Office of the Ombudsperson of Equal Opportunities, and the NGO Kaunas Woman's Employment Information Center.

CEA's main goals:

1. To promote the enforcement and implementation of equal rights for women and men.
2. To develop tolerance in society, encourage individuals to combat discrimination due to sex, age, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, and reduce social exclusion in Lithuanian society.
3. To enhance democracy by promoting the equal representation of the interests of both women and men in the decision-making process.
4. To advance the economic independence of both women and men by providing equal and appropriate conditions for both to fulfill the right to work and to reconcile family and work responsibilities
5. To promote values of an open democratic society by encouraging gender dialogue.
6. To develop and promote gender equality ideas and change negative stereotypes of women and men, age groups, national, ethnic minorities, the disabled and other social groups in the society.
7. To advance and popularize ideas on gender equality.
8. To encourage dialogue and cooperation between NGOs and governmental institutions on projects and programs on equal opportunities.

From January 1, 2009, the Center had a staff of four people.

Financial sources for CEA's work come from project activities.

In 2009, CEA implemented following projects and activities:

1. GENDER MAINSTREAMING



1.1. Flexible work for family success and economic development (SUCCESS)

Project goal: to build the in-depth understanding and practical application of competences in

implementation of reconciliation of family and work culture in working environment by involving employers and municipal administration in trainings and develop the model of services and consultations needed for the families to reconcile family obligations and employment needs.

Project duration: August 2009- August 2012

Project activities in 2009:

- ❑ CEA together with its partner drafted the project proposal and submitted to the European Social Fund
- ❑ to prepare necessary documentation for the start of the project implementation (harmonization of partnership agreements, agreements on project partners' responsibilities, planning and coordination of the project activities, organize and complete procurement for the needs of the project)
- ❑ to organize 4 radio emissions at the beginning of the project in order to present the general idea on reconciliation of family and work, highlight the EU best practices and their practical benefits for the society in Lithuania
- ❑ to compose the programs and time tables for training and seminars with the employers and municipal administration
- ❑ to start selection process for the trainings and negotiate dates of the trainings. According to the project there will be trained 150 employers from 10 towns and 225 civil servants from 15 municipalities.

Project coordination: Kaunas Women's Employment Information Centre

Project funding: European social fund

1.2. Complex response to problems

Project goal: to introduce the innovative and complex measures for solving the problems of social exclusion by training and consulting the staff who directly work with the individuals and families at risk to poverty, unemployment and social exclusion.

Project duration: May 2009 – June 2011

Project activities in 2009:

- ❑ CEA contributed drafting the project proposal and correcting according to remarks and comments of the experts of the European Social Fund.
- ❑ CEA will prepare the programs and content for the cycles of the seminars for social workers, volunteers and personnel working with the individuals and families at risk
- ❑ CEA will organize and conduct cycles of professional trainings and competence building for the staff, volunteers and other personnel of social services providers from 5 municipalities
- ❑ CEA will contribute to the building the network of the social workers and social service

providers to work more effectively with the individuals and family at risk.

Project coordination: UNDP-Lithuania

Project funding: European Social Fund

1.3. Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalism – Lithuanian case

Project goal: to produce new and strategic knowledge on growing Catholic religious fundamentalism in public and political life in Lithuania, its deteriorating impact on women's rights and strategies employed by women's rights activists and organizations to resist and challenge them in order to contribute to supporting and strengthening responses to religious fundamentalism by women's rights activists and advocates.

Project duration: 2008-2009

Project activities in 2009:

- CEA staff drafted the first version of the 10-page article for the publication and submitted for further proceeding where presented the contextual analysis of the current situation in Lithuania and analysis of strategies by women's rights activists in challenging religious fundamentalism.
- CEA made twice corrections after editorial remarks and submitted the final corrected version to the board of the publication.

Project funding: AWID

1.4. Petition to the President, Chair of the Parliament, Prime Minister, Minister of Social Security and Labor, Minister of Education, the Ombudsperson of Equal Opportunities and Institute of Human Rights Monitoring

In March 2009, nine women's NGOs and two human rights organizations wrote the petition expressing their concern about the ignorance of the government of Lithuania to follow the obligations undertaken under the EU on implementation of gender equality and antidiscrimination policies. This letter appeared after several gender-biased public speeches by the Minister of Social Security and Labor against the rationale of the international project "Gender Loops", supported by the EU Leonardo da Vinci program, on innovative educational methods for preschool and school staff on training gender equality for children and school students. The Minister, strongly backed by the conservative family NGOs and Catholic church, openly expressed his hostility against gender equality and equal opportunity educational policy goals and referred to the state family policy priorities which identify traditional family based on heterosexual marriage as the subject of the state.

In response to the letter of the women's NGOs the Minister issued the press release explaining his position that women's NGOs are confused along the terms of gender equality and antidiscrimination policy. According to the Minister these two policy fields are completely separated and cannot be converged. Though the Minister mentioned the obligations to the EU directives to implement gender equality policies in employment, once again highlighted his priorities to support the traditional family.

In July 2009, after the inauguration of the newly elected president of Lithuania, the Minister of Social Security and Labor R.J. Dagys was dismissed.

1.5. Conference “We do not ask but we demand”

The goal of the conference is to remind the government of Lithuania about the undertaken obligations under the UN Cairo conference declaration and action plan (1994) and evaluate the progress of the government of Lithuania after 15 years.

CEA together with its partners women’s NGOs – the Association of the Reproductive Health and Family Planning, New Women’s Generation Initiatives and few others- designed the organizational committee to make the concept of the conference, arrange the conference agenda, invite speakers and maintain logistic issues. The conference is arranged for October 20.

2. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

2.1. Invisible...1; Invisible...2; Invisible...3

Project goal: firstly, to improve social conditions for the third country nationals for their successful integration into Lithuanian society. Secondly, to contribute to the changing attitudes of Lithuanian society to the immigrants from stereotypical and xenophobic images of the foreigners in society towards positive, open and tolerant views.

Project duration: January, 1 – December 31, 2009

Project activities:

This project consists of three independent thematic parts which are composed as 5 minutes TV show and broadcasted on commercial TV channel LNK:

Invisible...1 has the goal to discuss the problems that immigrants are facing upon arrival to Lithuania and present these problems to Lithuanian society

Invisible...2 has the goal to present successful examples of the third country nationals’ integration in the labor market and the contribution of their work to the welfare of the country.

Invisible...3 has the goal to present the live stories of the third county nationals, introducing their motives to come to live in Lithuania, first impressions, expectations and different experiences.

CEA’s activities involve the search of the potential TV show participants, who are the third country nationals having temporal or permanent permission to live in Lithuania, to get the basic information about them and obtain their agreement to be interviewed and filmed for the TV show

On the basis of the primary questionnaire the CEA experts write the scenarios for each thematic part of the project and provides the text for each TV show which is read as voice-over during the show.

CEA invites experts and participate as experts in commenting very specific problems that are identified by the participants of the show and prepare 3-5 questions for the experts to discuss the problems in a more complex way and broader context.

CEA approach the employers where the participants work and identifies the benefits of having multicultural environment in work place and later propose the TV channel to interview and film

inquired employers.

CEA collects the information about the third country nationals, writes the articles about the project tasks and expected results, completes reports to the fund about the activities.

Project coordinator and broadcaster of the TV shows: commercial TV LNK

Project funding: European Fund for the Integration of the Third Country Nationals

2.2. Developing tolerance and cooperation based on mutual understanding between Lithuanian citizens and third country nationals

Project goal: to build the practical skills of cross-cultural communication between students from Lithuania

Project duration: January –September, 2009

Project activities:

- CEA experts conducted seven seminars for the students of Social Science college and one seminar for the students from various colleges on building skills for multicultural communication.
- CEA expert collected material and composed the manual “Multicultural diversity” which consists of theoretical chapter on social and political context of multicultural diversity and practical exercises which helps the trainers to employ them in building skills of cross-cultural communication.

Project coordinator: Social Sciences College

Project funding: European Fund for the Integration of the Third Country Nationals

2.3. Path to tolerance: An Innovative Training Tool in Schools

Project goal: to enhance the knowledge and capacities of the school teachers on the issues related to diversity, human rights, equality and equal opportunities for all and introduce the innovative and interactive materials for teachers to improve their skills and help integrating tolerance education into their daily work with students

Project duration: January-May, 2009

Project activities:

- CEA with the cooperation of the Department of National Minorities and Lithuanians Living Abroad under the Government of Lithuania organized and conducted 5 seminars for the teachers of ethnic minority schools in Širvintos, Šalčininkai, Visaginas, Trakai and Vilnius.

- As a results 167 teachers representing 5 different regions were trained and received manual and DVD on diversity, democracy and tolerance. Additionally, the Center for Equality Advancement distributed other literature on equality and equal opportunities for the libraries of the ethnic minority schools

Project funding: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Vilnius

2.4. Media for Diversity

Project goal: to present the good practices of implemented EU-funded projects on involving media in the antidiscrimination, tolerance-building and respect for diversity public discourse.

Project duration: November 2008-February 2009

Project activities:

- CEA replied to the initiative of the European Commission to describe in detail the project *Innovative Educational Strategies for Social Partners: Towards Practical Implementation of Equal Opportunities* implemented in 2006-2008 and completed application form to submit the project results as good practices in the EU to demonstrate the role of media in advancing the diversity agenda
- After the selection process of 150 initiatives throughout European Union, CEA initiative was selected as one among 30 the best projects which succeeded in combining innovation and originality in addressing diversity issues. CEA initiative was one among five projects from Central and Eastern Europe and won competition along such a huge media companies as BBC, Channel 4 National UK Television Broadcaster, VRT – National Flemish Boradcaster, Frenc Boradcasting Regulatory Body etc. CEA representative was invited to participate in the seminar in Prague to discuss the best practices on diversity agenda in media.
- On 5 and 6 February 2009, CEA director participate in the seminar. Around 90 leaders, including representatives of almost all the 30 initiatives and representatives of the European Commission gathered to discuss and provide recommendations to media, civil society and policy makers.
- Good practice of Lithuania appeared in the publication of the European Commission “Media4Diversity. Taking the Pulse of Diversity in the Media”, 2009

No funding for this project (only seminar in Prague was fully covered by the European Commission)

2.5. ENAR (European Network against Racism)

In 2006, Lithuanian NGOs working in the field of human rights and anti-discrimination created the national coordination network ENAR-Lithuania. CEA jointed this initiative and appointed Project Coordinator Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovič to represent it. Along with ENAR's Lithuanian coordinator, Edita Ziobiene (Lithuanian Human Rights Center director) Ms. Pilinkaite-Sotirovič represents ENAR-Lithuania at the EU level.

Project goals:

- Promote tolerance, equality and non-discrimination.
- Promote close cooperation of Lithuanian NGOs working in the field of human rights and equal opportunities.

Project activities:

- Training seminars.
- Analysis of the situation in Lithuania.
- Dissemination of EU good practices.

Project coordinator:

Lithuanian Human Rights Center

Project partners:

Center for Equality Advancement

Center of Civil Initiatives

Roma Community Center

3. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**3.1 Ways of implementing the EU directives on Violence against Children, Young People and Women: Good Practices and Recommendations**

Project goal: to evaluate the process of changes in legislation considering violence against women, children and youth in new member states in the period from 1991 to 2006 and identify and explore the EU impact on the changes in the national legislation

Project duration: September 1, 2007 – August 31, 2009

Project activities in 2009:

CEA completed research which consisted of questionnaire composed of 112 questions and comments. The aim of the questionnaire was to identify and explore the process of changing the legislation concerning violence against women, children and youth that has been introduced in Lithuania in the period from 1991 to 2006. The questionnaire identified the laws and other legal instruments that have been introduced and political actors that have contributed to the changes.

In March 2009, CEA presented the results of the completed research in the workshop of partner organizations from 10 countries in 2004 accessed to the EU and international conference.

The results of the completed research were analysed in the comparative perspective and

presented in the published book *Violence in the EU Examined* edited by Milica Antic Gaber. University of Liubljana: 2009. The leaflets where recommendations for the EU and member states to effectively resolve the problems of violence against women, children and youth were published in English and Lithuanian. The coordinating institution the University of Liubljana sent 50 books and 100 leaflets presenting recommendations of the research and the project for distribution. CEA

In August 2009, CEA organized press conference to present the results of the comparative analysis between 10 countries accessed to the EU in 2004, introduce the recommendation of the research and highlight the main problems of Lithuania in the context of these 10 countries. CEA organized the press conference was organized in the Baltic News Service which is the central office for the media conferences. The press release was sent to 18 national newspapers, 27 radio stations, 11 TV channels, and 60 local newspapers by BNS agency. CEA sent press release to the Delegation of the European Commission, Ombudsperson of the Equal Opportunities, Ombudsperson of the Child's rights, Ministry of Interior, Women's information centre, NGO conference, human rights network. CEA invited three speakers to make brief presentations at the press conference: the member of the Parliament of Lithuania, Ausrine Marija Pavilioniene, the chief of the Board of Police at the Police Department, Renatas Pozela and the director of the Vilnius city Shelter for Women and Child, Nijole Dirsiene.

14 journalists attended the press conference. Additionally the Ombudsperson for Child's rights and her advisor and 3 representatives of women NGOs and 1 representative of trade-union attended the press conference. There was broad coverage of the press conference in the biggest electronic news portals, paper newspapers, national TV and some commercial TV stations.

Project coordinator:

University of Liubljana Faculty of Arts, Slovenia

<http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/fakulteta/Dejavnosti/ZIFF/DAPHNEeng/oprojektu.htm>

Project partners:

Partner organizations from the following states: Slovakia, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Malta, Hungary and Cyprus; Czech Republic

<http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/fakulteta/Dejavnosti/ZIFF/DAPHNEeng/Partnerji/partnerji.html>

Project funding

European Commission Daphnie II program

3.2. Developing mechanisms and implementation of social and legal protection from violence against women

Project goal: provide training on structural aspects of gender inequality and gender-based violence for the psychologists of the university and shelters in Kyrgyzstan

Project duration: January - May 2009

Project activities:

- CEA experts Margarita Jankauskaite and Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic composed the program of trainings on structural gender inequalities, analysis of gender-based violence, good practices of the EU, and insights for work with perpetrators with the purpose to reduce violence against women
- CEA experts traveled to Kyrgyzstan and conducted 2-days trainings for the psychologists of the universities and shelters and participated in one-day expert seminar together with the psychologists of the shelters helping them to design the program to work with perpetrators

Project coordinator: Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan

Project funding: European Commission

3.3. *Zero Tolerance to Violence Against Women* on the occasion of international 16 Days activism campaign on Violence against women

Project aim: The Center for Equality Advancement (CEA) has organized 16 Days Campaign on Combating Violence Against Women in November 2009. The aim of the campaign was to motivate society for zero tolerance to violence against women and remind the politicians about the undertaken obligations under the international treaties and CEDAW to combat violence against women in Lithuania

Project duration: November 16 – December 10

Project activities: CEA approached all women's NGOs requesting information on their planned activities for the 16 Days Campaign. Collected information was prepared in Lithuanian and English languages and distributed through national and international channels about the activities all over Lithuania. The list of activities was widely distributed to the Lithuanian mass media and NGO forum. The English version was sent to the Center for Women's Global Leadership which collects information from groups that are organizing local events for the 16 Days Campaign and then compiles the details in an online International Calendar of Events.

CEA organized press conference on November 24, 2009 and invited the following speakers: Lyra Jakuleviciene, Director of the UNDP-Lithuania, J.E. Swedish ambassador U.Cronenberg-Mossberg, Zydrunas Savickas, the sportsman, Romas Viksraitis – the director of the „Elfai“ theatre. The aim of the press conference was to highlight international, European and Lithuanian policy developments in the field of violence against women and appeal to the culture and sport agents to express zero tolerance towards problem of violence against women in society. Moderator of the press conference Ms. Lyra Jakuleviciene presented the brief report about global situation of the problem of violence against women and emphasised the UN position of zero tolerance towards violence. The Swedish ambassador as the representative of the EU presidency country summarised the EU policies in the field of violence against women. Ms. Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic, the project coordinator of the Center for Equality Advancement, referred to the limits of current policies of Lithuania and argued about the lack of political will to recognise violence against women as the public problem rather than private issue. The sportsman Zydrunas Savickas called the modern man to consolidate their forces and express their firm condemn towards the crimes of violence against women. The director of the “Elfai” theatre Romas Viksraitis appealed to the mission of art in the current world and invited the artists and actors to bring social realities in the world of culture and develop the language of art socially responsive to the current situation. The issues discussed in the press conference were covered by media: Baltic News Service, LNK television, internet portals www.alfa.lt and www.delfi.lt,

Lithuanian radio.

On the eve of the International Day of the Combating Violence against Women, CEA organized the workshop of billboards at the Shelter of Mother and Child in Vilnius, where the activists of women's organizations, social workers of the shelter and some victims of domestic violence gathered to make the billboards for the campaign *Zero Tolerance for Violence against Women* on November 25

CEA in cooperation with the "Elfai" theatre and Ramune Kudzmanaitė theatre studio organized the theatrical performance – parody of the Parliamentary session on November 25, 2009. CEA collected the texts of the parliamentarians' speeches from the Parliamentary sessions, available on the parliament internet portal, for the scenario of the parody. The action of the campaign took place at the centre of Vilnius. The women's NGOs activists were keeping the billboards that addressed zero tolerance to violence against women while the actors were performing. Some activists were distributing the prepared leaflets for the observers in the street about the information where to seek for the help in the case of domestic violence.

Project funding

UNDP - Lithuania

4. OTHER PROJECTS

4.1. Village-based Women's Center for Public Responsibility in Democratization, Georgia

CEA director Virginija Aleksejune was invited by the Taso Foundation in Georgia as international expert and conducted two 1 day seminars in on the following topics:

1. Issues of gender equality in the European Union member states,
2. Gender equality laws and principles as necessary condition for society's economic and social development
3. How to work to reach gender equality and justice at municipal level

Seminars took place in 2 village based women's centers in Georgia. Additionally the meeting with the leaders of Georgian women's movement and Taso Foundation staff in Tbilisi was organized to discuss the most urgent questions on gender equality and women's rights and share experience on women's movement strategies in the current situation.

4.2. Endowment fund for the organization

CEA participated in the new initiative to apply for the Endowment fund by the Baltic-American Partnership Program. This has been innovative support mechanism for the NGOs in Lithuania. Ten leading non-governmental organizations in Lithuania were granted this endowment fund. CEA, as one of these 10 leading organizations, received the Endowment fund. This was the second installment before the closing BAPP program.

4.3. General Assembly of International Gender Policy Network (IGPN) and Training Workshop on women's political participation and representation, Istanbul, Turkey

On January 20-23 CEA director Virginija Aleksejune and project manager Margarita Jankauskaite attended the General Assembly of IGPN where discussed the issues of women's movement in Lithuania, advocacy work, obstacles in promoting ideas of gender equality and implementing diversity friendly policies in Lithuania and shared good practices.

IGPN in partnership with international Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) organized the training workshop on women's political participation and representation where CEA representative actively participated.

4.4. UNDP Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights (EOWR)

UNDP –Ukraine called for international experts on the promotion of education without gender bias and integration of gender knowledge and gender sensitivity into the educational system. Margarita Jankauskaite applied to this call and was selected to provide cycles of trainings for the school teachers with the goal to introduce of a pedagogical methodology on gender standards for teachers of secondary and high schools of Ukraine; build capacity of teachers in overcoming gender biases in education and integrating gender knowledge and gender sensitivity in the system of education of Ukraine; facilitate the introduction of gender sensitivity in the Ukrainian society through education system

Margarita Jankauskaite periodically travels to Kiev, Ukraine, to provide trainings from July till December, 2009.

4.5. Envisioning Europe: Quality in Gender+ Equality Policies

Since 2007, CEA staff member Vilana Pilinkaitė-Sotirovič has participated in the European Union financed research project FP6 "QUING: Quality in Gender+ Equality Policies." In 2009 research covered the comparative analysis between Lithuania and the EU on gender and equality policies. The report on comparative analysis was prepared and submitted to the European Commission. Since February till September the article "Limits of Europeanization: family, marriage and reproduction policies in Lithuania" was drafted and submitted to the final QUING conference in Budapest October 1-4, 2009.

4.6. Membership at the Platform of Development Cooperation

Since 2007 CEA actively participates in the activities of the Platform of Development Cooperation.

- CEA member Margarita Jankauskaite participated in the training on development cooperation at the summer school in the Romania in June 21—30, 2009
- Virginija Aleksejune participated in Radio News Broadcasting to present the objectives and aims on development cooperation issues.

4.7. Electronic Catalogue of CEA library

CEA jointly with the Office of the Ombudsperson for Equal Opportunities has developed an electronic catalogue that includes approximately 3000 documents: books, periodicals, methodological materials, research, reports, video materials, booklet and pamphlets. The library is constantly renewed and updated. (http://www.gap.lt/library_search)

4.8. New LOGO and website

CEA has selected the design company to create new logo and website. The concept and image of the new logo was developed. The new logo and website is still under construction.

4.9. Cooperation with the M. Riomeris University and Vilnius University

CEA closely cooperates with the academic establishments. Annually the students from Vilnius University and M. Riomeris University choose our Centre for their professional practical training to obtain practical skills in the fields of social work, social policies and social movement. Students participate in the CEA project activities, participate in the trainings and contribute to the effective work and project results.

4.10. Drafted new project proposals

CEA is constantly involved in search for calls for projects in the sphere of gender equality, antidiscrimination, equal opportunities and drafts new project proposals responding to these calls.

In 2009, CEA staff participated in 6 consortiums for the call on Reconciliation of family work, funded by European Social Fund, but only 2 projects drafted by CEA were selected.

In January, CEA as a partner organization to European Business-Women Association drafted the project “Gender Equality in Governance– Guarantee of Democracy“ and applied to the Norway Grants call on cooperation development. The project was selected for funding, but the implementing institution – European Business Women Association rejected the grant due to cumbersome administrative mechanism of grant management.

CEA together with partner organizations Institute of Human Rights Monitoring and Office of the Ombudsperson of Equal Opportunities drafted the project *Intercultural dialogue: Awareness, Prevention, Protection* under the EU Fundamental Rights and Citizenship 2007-2013 grant competition. The final decision about the project is not received yet.

CEA submitted two projects to the embassy of the United States upon their proposal in the sphere of human rights. The project “Trauma and empowerment” targets women – victims of domestic violence with the goal to help them overcome experienced violence through

the collective activities. This project was selected for funding.

The other project “Diversity in School Agenda” aims to provide theoretical knowledge and practical skills for teachers to build tolerance and open for diversity values for their students during the training process. The final decision about funding is pending.

CEA with the partner organization of Social partnership fund “Magnum Bonum” submitted the project proposal “School for everyone” under the call of the European Fund for the Integration of the Third Country Nationals. The decision about funding is not yet announced.

5. PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, PRESS COVERAGE, OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS

February 2009. CEA staff was invited by the Ministry of Education and Science to participate in the round-table discussion of the heads of educational centers and present the tool “We can change” as a complex measure for teachers’ professional trainings. Though the presentation of the tool was very successful, the further cooperation with the educational centers has been pending due to the shortage of state funding for the professional trainings for teachers.

March 6-11, 2009. CEA together with the Institute of Human rights monitoring and other human rights organizations planned to organize the meeting “For diversity, against racism” on March 11 – the Day of Renewal of Independence of Lithuanian state. In 2008 March 11 had a very strong resonating effects due to the demonstration of neo-Nazis and ultra rights groups with the open xenophobic and racist slogans. In 2009 the same ultra rights organizations planned the similar meeting and got the permission from the municipality to organize it. Therefore the human rights organizations appealed to the civil society to unite the forces and organize the alternative meeting that will call for democracy, human rights, open society and tolerance. However, the Vilnius municipality rejected to issue the permission for the human rights organizations to organize this meeting. By this prohibition the Vilnius municipality violated the constitutional rights for peaceful meetings.

April 30, 2009. Margarita Jankauskaite participated in the Radio talk-show on the women’s surnames in Lithuanian language. Some academics wrote a letter to the president and parliament of Lithuania protesting against the currently existing law allowing gender-neutral women’s surname and pointing the connection between women’s surname and morals. Margarita Jankauskaite and the representative of the Ombudsperson for Equal Opportunities provided arguments against the position of some academicians.

June 9, 2009, Presentation of the book *Feminist conversations. Women, trauma and empowerment in post-transitional societies* at the Vilnius city shelter “Women and Child” took place. CEA project coordinator and the author Vilana Pilinkaite-Soritovic of the article in this book presented her ideas for the representatives of academic circles and women’s NGOs

April-September, 2009. Cycles of training for journalists under PROGRESS program funded by European Commission. Margarita Jankauskaite conducted trainings on multiple discrimination, gender-based stereotypes, men and masculinities.

Since **February, 2009** Margarita Jankauskaite and Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic joined the informal network of women scientists and participate in their meetings, discuss the ongoing research in the field of gender equality.

September 5-10, 2009. Virginija Aleksejune participated in the human rights forum organized by ODHIR/OSCE in Warsaw, Poland and presented the paper on gender equality issues in Lithuania

November 5-6, 2009. Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic participated in the Human Dimension meeting on Combating violence against women at OSCE, Viena, Austria, and presented a paper on limits of legislation in Lithuania in the field of effective mechanisms to combat VAW.

December 3-4, 2009. Virginija Aleksejune Participated in the Nordic-Baltic Gender Equality Forum *Gender and Financial Crises* in Ryga. Forum was organized by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The aim of the seminar *Gender and Financial Crisis* is to discuss the problems people today face in the ongoing financial crisis

December 5-6, 2009. Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic participated in NECE Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, and presented the tool “We can change” for the international experts on civic education.

6. PUBLICATIONS OF CEA STAFF IN 2009

Margarita Jankauskaite. 2009. “Kultūrinis lyčių tapatybių formavimas (Cultural context of gender identity)” in A. Pavilionienė and E. Kuliešytė (eds). Lytiškumas: socialiniai, kultūriniai ir sveikatos aspektai (Sexuality: social, cultural and health aspects). Vilnius: Senoja

Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic. 2009. “Šeimos instituto istorinė raida: nuo tradicinės link modernios šeimos? (Historical perspective on family institution: from traditional to modern?)” in A. Pavilionienė and E. Kuliešytė (eds). Lytiškumas: socialiniai, kultūriniai ir sveikatos aspektai (Sexuality: social, cultural and health aspects). Vilnius: Senoja

Dovile Budryte and Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic, 2009. “Lithuania: Progressive legislation without popular support” in Rechel, B. (ed.) *Minority rights in Central and Eastern Europe*, London, New York: Routledge (in press)

Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic. 2009. “Paradoxes of Gender Equality in Lithuania: Violence against Women and Equal Opportunities” in Budryte Dovile and Rieg Natalie (ed). Feminist conversations. Women, trauma and empowerment in post-transitional societies.

Virginija Aleksejūnė

Director, Center for Equality Advancement