



As President of the European Women's Lobby (2002-2005) I had the honour to witness the start of the Forum 50 % and work closely together with them from European and International women's forums in furthering their ideas. The goal of the Forum 50 % is based on international (Declaration on Human Rights, art 1) and European (EC Treaty art 2, 3, 13 and 141) legal obligations towards equality between women and men. Forum 50% puts this issue on the table of Czech society in a dignified, skilled and professional way, enhancing not only politicians' knowledge on this concept of parity democracy, but also supporting women in demanding for this natural balance in society. It is like parents getting a baby: they have 50% chance to get a girl or a boy. When a family has already three sons they most likely long for the fourth to be a girl. This impartiality should also become an intrinsic concept within the composition of governing structures: after three boys it was already long time for a girl!

*Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel, MA
Former European Women's Lobby President*



Founding the civic association Fórum 50 % - that was apparently a right deed in the right time. Fórum 50 % is nowadays a major non-profit organization as far as women's participation in decision-making positions in the Czech Republic is concerned and its activities reach out to other fields that are relevant in terms of advocating gender equality. (At least its key role in the Czech Women's Lobby needs to be mentioned.) Nevertheless, especially its present members deserve to be credited for the significant success which they achieved in such a short time. The period before the two elections in 2006 offered an opportunity to make the issue of women's unequal share in political power visible and Fórum's members took the advantage of this and recast it in tangible success. Further, Fórum 50 % managed to establish itself as an independent civic association that communicates with parties across political spectrum and, today, also across various levels of the state administration. There is nothing more to add. Let us only wish for more activities and more non-profit organizations of this kind.

*Ing. Petr Pavlík, Ph.D.
Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague*

Opening Remarks

Dear friends!

You are now holding historically the very first Annual Report of Fórum 50% in your hands. There were several reasons why we prepared it. First, we wanted to summarize our achievements in the last year for our partners and supporters as well as for ourselves. Second, for those who do not know us yet, we intended to make our efforts visible and provide evidence of our transparent budgetary control and activities in general.

Last year – 2006 – was a great challenge for us. We broadened our activities in an extraordinary manner both qualitatively and quantitatively after less than a year of our existence. There were only two women employed in Fórum 50% in January 2006 holding a 1.5 workload all together, whereas in December of the same year there were already six women-employees holding 5 workloads in total.

We have initiated an array of projects, organized numerous independent activities, hired new colleagues, moved into offices of our own, found new co-workers and started cooperation with many partner organizations.

External circumstances vastly contributed to our success. It was especially due to the fact that 2006 was a year of elections. Thus many of our activities were related to the Parliamentary elections and the by-elections to the Senate and elections to municipal governments.

We gained a good reputation both within the media and the civic sector thanks to our hard and upstanding work. The work was highly demanding, but we liked it and therefore could frequently enjoy our accomplishments together.

We promise you all as well as ourselves to keep our energy and dedication up for the days to come. We are looking forward to new challenges that will be brought about by the year 2007. The top challenge has now most certainly been the birth of Jana Smiggels Kavková's son Adam. We wish them both the most of luck.

Lenka Bennerová
Organization Director



Adam Smiggels Kavka is not interested in our work (yet!)

Our Vision, Our Mission and Our Objectives

We focus on strengthening the role of women in politics and in decision-making processes in the Czech Republic. In compliance with the European Union priorities we aim to eliminate barriers that prevent women from the possibility to fully develop their potentials in the public life. Non-partisanship is the major principle of our activity.

Our Values

- equality of women and men in all spheres of public and private life
- solidarity with and support of all women regardless of their age, religion, origin and sexual orientation
- respect for difference
- parity (with an emphasis on decision-making processes) as a pre-requisite for a developed democracy
- justice for all
- cooperation and reaching agreement
- openness and transparency
- independence of political parties and movements

Our Vision

Fórum 50% strives for a society with equal representation of women and men in the public life.

Mission of the Organization

We support women in their entrance into public life with the aim of increasing their participation in all decision-making positions with a special emphasis put on politics.

Long-term Objective

Achieving gender equality in all decision-making positions, both appointed and elected ones.

Medium-Term Measurable Objective

Increasing the number of women representatives in the Parliament of the Czech Republic on to 30% after the elections in 2010.



This is NOT parity democracy for us!

Introducing Fórum 50 %

The civic association **Fórum 50 %** was established in summer 2004. Its objective is to change the present, uncomplimentary situation of the Czech political scene where women at all levels of the decision-making processes - municipal and regional as well as the parliamentary level – are underrepresented and thus, in general, excluded from the decision-making processes.

Administrative Board (2006):

Anetta Riglová (Chairwoman)

Věra Honusková,

Marta Kozáková

Organization Employees:

Lenka Bennerová Directress

Jana Smiggels Kavková Project Coordinator - „*Equal Opportunities in Politics*“
(at present fulfilling her parental duties)

Kristina Gotteltová Project Coordinator – „*Equalizing Women’s and Men’s Opportunities in Decision-Making and in Politics*“

Markéta Kadlecová Independent Project Worker - „*Equalizing Women’s and Men’s Opportunities in Decision-Making and in Politics*“

Kateřina Beňová Web Editor - „*Equalizing Women’s and Men’s Opportunities in Decision-Making and in Politics*“

Monika Klimentová Project Coordinator – „*Let’s Give Women a Chance!*“

Petra Ondřejová Project Coordinator – „*Let’s not be afraid of Quotas, Affirmative action for the assertion of women in politics!*“

External CoWorkers:

Kateřina Marksová Volunteering Workers Coordinator

Miluš Kotišová Aspirant Women Politicians
Induction Trainer

Contact Information

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Team of Fórum 50 %

2006 Projects Overview

Project Name: Non-Partisan Induction Training of Party Women Members and Women Aspirants

Year: 2006

Donor: Slovak-Czech Women's Fund (SCWF)

Objectives

The main aim of this project is to help women aspirants to develop and realize their objectives, consolidate their competencies and skills essential for more successful enforcement of their political program (including the Measures for Equal Status of Women and Men). The induction training will further encourage the women trainees in their efforts to bring new aspects of cooperation into the Czech political culture, such as skills related to information and communication sensitivity, concentration on problem-solving, etc.

Activities

The training is divided into the theoretical and practical part.

The theoretical and theoretical/practical part consists of:

- seminar on gender mainstreaming and other methods of equality policies
- seminar on social and political problems from the perspective of various streams of feminisms
- work with the media
- ethical code of a woman politician
- organization skills – how to build and lead a team of her own
- cooperation skills, including mediation
- exercises to develop greater information and communication sensitivity
- foreign language
- „My Program" – developing an election program of her own

Practical part involves:

- mentoring
- public appearance and a public interview
- minimum publication activity (3 articles on priorities in „My Program")



Miluš Kotišová and a working group at the training.

2006 Projects Overview

Project Name: Women's Rights, Azerbaydzhan and the Czech Republic, Phase 2

Year: 2006

Donor: Foundation Open Society Fund Prague, Program titled East - East: Partnership Beyond Borders Programme 2006

The objective of the project was to provide women workers active in non-governmental, non-profit organizations in Azerbaydzhan with information concerning women's/human rights' issues and to introduce the ways in which these issues are being solved in the Czech Republic. The interactive program was composed of a number of visits to a wide range of civic society organizations. A special attention was paid to the most burning issues for women in Azerbaydzhan, such as domestic violence against women and women trafficking.



"Azeri" women and their Czech guides

Project Name: Equalizing Women's and Men's Opportunities in Decision-Making and in Politics

Years: 2006 - 2008

Donor: European Social Fund and the State Budget of the Czech Republic

Project Objectives

- increasing general awareness about women's significance in both social and working life
- weakening prejudices and gender stereotypes impeding women's active participation in public life and politics
- cooperation with non-profit organizations that focus on gender issues and women's rights

Project Activities:

1. Activities in Media and Education

- two public debates on „Women in Politics“
- pre-election media campaign „Enough of Ties!“ invoking electorate activity and support of women in/for politics
- exhibition of photographs „Women Off-Side? 2006 Elections from the Gender Perspective“
- competition for political parties „Women Friendly Party“ assessing a political party that best promotes and follows the policy of equal opportunities for women and men

2. Research Activities:

- press monitoring
- public opinion polls concerning women in politics and their support
- gender analysis of the 2006 Czech Parliamentary Elections

3. Women's/Gender Non-Profit Organizations Networking in the Czech Republic

- regular meetings of the women's non-governmental non-profit organizations platform the Czech Women's Lobby as a part of the European network – European Women's Lobby
- publication of an electronic newsletter „Síťovka“ that provides members of the Czech Women's Lobby with useful information and offers dissemination of their announcements directed at other Lobby's members



Media Campaign



Photo exhibition

Project Name: Let's Give Women a Chance!

Years 2006 - 2007

Donor: Foundation Open Society Fund Prague

Objectives

This project directs its attention to the municipal level of politics in the Czech Republic. Based on analyses of the municipal elections in Autumn 2006 this project wants to draw attention to the fact of women's under-representation in the municipal authorities in the Czech Republic and further develop induction trainings for women political aspirants also outside Prague.

Activities

Gender Analyses of the autumn 2006 Municipal Elections and Senate By-Elections

- gender analysis of the 2006 Municipal Elections in all statutory towns in the Czech Republic and in Prague
- analysis of the regular Senate by-election
- distribution of the finalized analyses to the municipal authorities of all statutory towns in the Czech Republic and to the local authority of the Capital of Prague
- launching an interactive project on the Web that contains comprehensive statistics related to women's representation in the municipal authorities of the Czech statutory towns

Media Activities

- education and information activities – series „Na bělidle“ – Czech Broadcasting Company 6 (Český rozhlas 6)

Non-Partisan Induction Training of Women Aspirants for Politics

- three events of induction training of women aspirants for politics

Events

„Let's Give Women in Communal Politics a Chance!“ – a national meeting of elected female representatives of the Czech statutory towns and the Capital of Prague

Contents of the meeting:

- introduction to the problematic of equal opportunities of women and men - the issue of women's under-representation in politics respectively; introduction of Fórum 50%
- introduction to the main concepts of gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting
- panel discussion with Czech local women politicians
- debate on future cooperation among women in local and regional female politicians



Meeting of local women politician in Prague

2006 Projects Overview

Project Name: Equal Opportunities in Politics

Years: 2005-2007

Donor: Foundation Open Society Fund Prague

Objectives

The goal of the project is to accomplish systemic changes in the field of equal representation of women and men in decision-making processes and thus to increase the number of women in politics. Individual activities respond to the causes of women's unequal representation that were detected through expert studies conducted within previous projects of Fórum 50 %.

Main Activities:

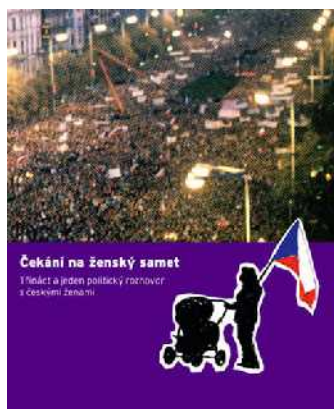
- assistance in dissolving existing stereotypes about women in politics
- increasing awareness about the issue in the media
- increasing awareness about and thus willingness to carry out changes within political parties and among legislation makers
- comprising a detailed material about the issue
- increasing awareness within the public about the advantages of parity in decision-making processes
- efforts to adopt legislation on parity implementation and to implement rules within political parties concerning equal representation of women and men

Within two years, a number of experts became involved in the project. Among others, they were: Miluš Kotišová, dr. Petr Pavlík from Charles University, Petra Rakušanová from the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic etc.

Because of the character of the discussed issue and its effects on the whole society, we find *publicity* connected with the project and women's political participation in general highly important and helpful.

Activities

- publication activity – a book of interviews with Czech women politicians „Čekání na ženský samet“ („Waiting For Women's Velvet [Revolution]“)
- expert study on political participation of women „Česká politika: ženy v labyrintu mužů“ („Czech Politics: Women in Men's Labyrinth“)
- seminar for legislators „Česká politika: parita zatím v nedohlednu“ („Czech Politics: Parity Is Still Far Away“)
- working meetings with political parties representatives
- initiation of a non-partisan platform of women politicians „Česká prezidentka“ („Czech Presidentess“)
- regular information dissemination and mediation for target groups involved in the project
- administration of Web sites as a source of information
- working meetings with journalists and press releases



A Book "Waiting For Women's Velvet"



An Analysis: Czech politics: Woman in Men's Labyrinth

Future Plans

In the future, we will continually strive for equal representation of women and men both in politics and public life. In order to make this happen, we intend to:

- lobby for an adoption of mandatory affirmative action that will lead to equal participation of women and men in decision-making positions
- conduct media campaigns that will draw the public's attention to the existing under-representation of women in politics and will seek solutions to this issue
- focus on other spheres of public life (state administration and commercial sector) and will address more cities and towns, besides Prague
- be active within the Czech Women's Lobby network that is to become a partner of the state administration in creating equal policies for women and men
- change the way women and men are portrayed in/by the media
- make expert public involved in finding the solution to the issues of equal opportunities

Our Plans in 2007

- seminar on lobbying for women's non-profit organizations
- international conference on affirmative action
- another year of competition „Women Friendly Party“
- two more rounds of public opinion polls on women in politics
- lecturers training and a wider offer of induction trainings for aspirant women politicians outside Prague
- publication of material on harmonizing family and work life and on affirmative action
- round tables on „Harmonizing Family and Work Life“
- debates with university students
- exhibition of photographs „Women in Unconventional Professions“
- information campaign preceding the regional elections
- „Open University“ – a pilot study program of political education for women



Our goal: Achieving gender equality in decision making, both elected and appointed positions.

Other Activities of Fórum 50 % (besides projects)

Approval of Premises for Use - Fórum 50 % moved from Foundation Open Society Fund to new premises at Plzeňská 846/66 in April 2006.

Football Match - Members of our team are scared of nothing thus they took part in a soccer tournament.

Congratulations to Newly Elected Parliament Women Representatives - On the first Parliament session we wished them the best of luck and presented them with a symbolic flower.

Poděbrady – On October 2, 2006 Fórum 50 % prepared a debate on equal opportunities for secondary school students in Poděbrady.



Football match

Output for the Media – Our analyses' results, reports as well as our selves appeared many times in the media - Czech TV, TV Prima, TV Nova, ČT 24, ARD and radio programs „Na bělidle“ and „Bona Dea“.

Public Debates and Participation at Conferences - Fórum 50 % regularly takes part in public debates and meetings, and contributes to other the topic related conferences.

Web Sites – We administer Web sites www.padesatprocent.cz that represent an important source of information. Our section on elections' results from gender perspective has become a part of the National Library Digital Archives.



Czech TV

Fórum 50 % has been grouping and organizationally supporting an informal non-partisan platform of women politicians and non-party women titled **Česká prezidentka („Czech Presidentess“)**. The platform supports and searches for female political talents and thus directly works towards the election of the first Czech Presidentess and/or Prime Ministress.

Czech Women's Lobby – Within the network of non-governmental non-profit organizations Fórum 50 % comments the document amendment procedures related to equal opportunities. Moreover, Fórum 50 % publishes its statements and lobbies for women's rights and the policy of equal opportunities of women and men.



Women Politicians at Opening exhibition “Women Off-side?” and at our press conference on release of the book “Waiting For Women's Velvet”

2006 Receipts and Expenditures

Results of the budgetary control in classification according to main and economic activities in whole CZK

<i>Title</i>	<i>Main Activity</i>	<i>Economic Activity</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Consumption of material	229 667	0	229 667
Reparations and maintenance	1 685	0	1 685
Travel expenses	454	0	454
Representation expenses	23 550	0	23 550
Other services	1 117 596	0	1 117 596
Salaries	1 317 672	0	1 317 672
Mandatory social insurance	426 390	0	426 390
Gifts	684	0	684
Other expenses	6 561	0	6 561
Member fees	3 283	0	3 283
Expenses in total	3 127 542	0	3 127 542
Revenue from sales of services	4 380	0	4 380
Change in product stock supplies	100 908	0	100 908
Interests	2 360	0	2 360
Accepted financial contributions	1 572 813	0	1 572 813
Service subsidies	1 618 067	0	1 618 067
Revenues in total	3 298 528	0	3 298 528
Revenues - Expenses			170 986

2006 Incomes in Total	2 616 024 CZK	100 %
Donors:		
JPD3 and MPSV ¹	1 419 384 CZK	54.3 %
Open Society Fund Prague	1 039 078 CZK	39.7 %
Slovak-Czech Women's Fund	153 900 CZK	6 %

¹ MPSV – Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

Thanks

Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to all of those, who in any way supported the activities of our organization. We wish to thank both, our regular and individual donors and our partners, cooperators and volunteers. Without their donations, contributions and dedication our activities would not be possible.

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Foundation Open Society Fund Praha



European Social Fund



Slovak-Czech Women's Fund



Global Fund For Women