

Being Heard in Eastern Europe



cv Hanne Severinsen

- **Advisor for PM Yulia Tymoshenko, Ukraine**
- **Project coordinator for the Danish Helsinki Committee**
- **MP Denmark 1984-2007**
- **Member of Copenhagen City Council 1974-84**
- **For 17 years Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**
- **Rapporteur for Ukraine for 12 years**
- **Member of the UN Committee for the Status of Woman 1984-88.**
- **Chairman of the liberal party's equal rights-commission 1978-82**

UN World Conferences

- Mexico 1975 **Equality – Development - Peace**
- Copenhagen 1980 Plan of Action - NGO Forum
- Nairobi 1985 Forward Looking Strategy

(end of the cold war, and end of 'peace'- issues, religion the new problematic issue)

- Beijing 1995 Platform for Action
- New York 2000 Mainstream

Became a norm-setting and networking-building process.

Every Government had to produce "we are so good" speeches in front of their NGOs

Being heard in Denmark after 1975

Awareness-raising

- Red/blue-stockings movement
- All women out on the labourmarket
- Call for more women in the political parties
- Creation of political woman's network
- Call for quota or positive discrimination ?
- Network among women MPs across party lines

Being heard in Denmark after 1975

Legislation

- Law on Equal Rights council
- Law on equal rights, - Law on National Action Plan
- Law on equal representation in commissions
- Law on maternity leave for men, - Law on maternity leave fund

- *Equal representation on company boards ??*
- *Obligatory share of maternity leave ??*
- *Commission on equal-wage problems ??*
- *Women immigrants (headscarves, parallel society...)??*

Being heard in Denmark after 1975

Implementation

- **Plan of action in all Ministries/mainstream**
- **Ministry of Equality/yearly discussion in the Parliament**
- **National women-committee of MPs and NGOs to coordinate international activities**
- **National reports to CEDAW**

Denmark in EU– some figures from year 2007 of the report of gender equality

- 72% in the labour market **nr 1**
- 36% part-time job **nr 7**
- 17% behind men's wages **nr 10**
- 39% in Parliament **nr 3**
- 27% in Local councils **nr 9**
- 23% heads of **private enterprise nr 25**

**Nordic countries the same, but on private enterprise
other nordic countries are better**

European Union measures/directives

- Directive of equal wages for equal work
- - of equal access to education and labour market
- - of social security and pension
- - on maternity leave and job security

- Yearly report and discussion on the whole EU-system
- **Konferences, workshop, seminars, networking East-West**
- **Quota of women in the EU-system ??**

Council of Europe and eastern Europe

Since **1949** promoter of **democracy, human rights and rule of law**

- From 1989-2008 **all European** states become members (except Belarus)
- Starting point for many MPs further career
PACE demand : women in the national delegation
- Parliamentary Assembly's **monitor** procedure
- **1995 Ukraine membership - on conditions, now still being monitored**
- **1999 Ukraine *close to be excluded***
- **Active civil society, many active women**
- **dangerous to be critical journalist - Gongadze-case**
- **Election monitoring 1999 and 2002 neither free nor fair -**

Gender situation in Ukraine

some trends

- **High level of education**
- **Still many keep stereotype roles**
- **Relatively strong in academics, - and weaker in business.**
- **Low level of political representation (with few high ranking as exceptions)**
- **The political world very centralised, - (dominated by the system of closed party list for the whole country) –parties more as 'firms with common (commercial) interest'**
- **Very active journalists**
- **Very active NGOs**

The situation in Ukraine before 2004 presidential election

- **No rule of law**
- **Widespread corruption**
- **Nouveaux riches Oligarchs (-> Kleptocracy)**
- **Inflation: very poor wages and pensions**
- **Ordinary people survive in informal economy (woman-grown-vegetables on a small piece of land)**
- **Opinion polls: no trust in the election process**
- **Media "temniki": no trust in the media Self-censorship**

Orange revolution 2004



Orange revolution 2004



“They lived happily ever after”?

- **January 2005 President Youschenko inauguration**
- **New Government Tymoshenko**
- **Freedom fighters as ministers**
- **Sincere wish for European integration**
- **European response: you are only neighbour's like others**
- **2005 Internal rivalry - September dismissal of the whole Government – agreement with opposition leader Yanukowich on amnesty for election fraud - new opposition now support the new Government**
- **2006 Parliament start the new year using the power from the amended constitution to fire the whole Government**

“They lived happily after”?

- **2006 March election technically ok (complicated with local elections), Result a “hung” parliament.**
- **“orange” socialist swing and form the Government with Yanokowich as PM.**
- **April 2007 President calls for early election**
- **Dangerous crisis – but relatively ok, election September 2007**
- **December 2007 Yulia Tymoshenko forms new Government (a new orange coalition with 2 votes majority, but by June 2008 two MPs have already departed)**
- **Presidential administration and PM Government perform an open war of accusations against each other.**

Yulia Tymoshenko, Deputy-Prime Minister 2000-2001 Prime Minister 2005 and 2007



Ukraine in a stalemate

facing lots of challenges

- **Disagreement on who should lead a new anti-corruption body**
- **Disagreement on measures against inflation**
- **Disagreement about a new constitution and election system**
- **Unclear division of power: Nearly three Governments in Ukraine**
- **Rumours that the opposition are prepared to form new alliances with the President - and the same rumours about the Government. Mutual mistrust**

Ukraine women facing many problems

- **Health problems – Decrease in life expectations - 10 % decrease of the population**
- **70,888 domestic violence complaints were made to Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. Courts issued rulings in 67,639 domestic violence cases. Warnings were issued to 5,412 people, 52,739 people were fined, 277 were sentenced to community service, and 8,973 were jailed**
- **Spouse abuse: Estimated : at least 50 percent of all Ukrainian women have been subjected to physical violence or psychological abuse at home.**
- **Prostitution: illegal, but widespread and largely ignored by the government.**
- **Sex tourism : increasing in the country; no laws to address it.**
- **Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation.**

Being heard : Ukraine *is on* the right way and Europe could help, - but

- **REMEMBER**

THAT THINGS TAKE TIME.....

