Equal gender policy in Sweden. What are the origins and mechanisms? Could these mechanisms be implemented in my country?

The answers I want to find in my PhD research, which is dedicated to Swedish woman’s organizations and their role in shaping equal gender policy in Sweden in 1960-70.

Today Swedish woman, despite some problems (still difference in wages with man, for example), have better living conditions and social position, than women in other European countries, and far better than in Russia. At present both Swedish men and women have two roles – as family breadwinner and parent.

Of course, this would be impossible without certain state measures, such as child allowance (barnbidrag), parental insurance (föräldraförsäkring), including paternity leave (pappaledighet), and law, appointed the gender equality (jämställdhetslag).

I consider, that the origins of equal gender policy refer to the beginning of the 1960-s and the whole 70-s have been the years of usage of this policy. I also think that equal policy is the part of Swedish model as a whole, with its effort to find compromise between different opinions.

The state was strong, but there were however other forces, which initiated the equal gender policy. I mean apolitical women’s organizations (especially Fredrika Bremers Förbund) and the woman’s organizations, connected with all political parties (except vpk – kommunister, which had no special woman’s organization).
Despite the fact, that every party had its own decision of how the equal gender policy should be look like, all of them were agreed that this policy should be provided for the better society. That’s what we unfortunately don’t have today in Russia.

What we need today is to unite all political sources to provide equal gender policy and to make the lack of equality between men and women the part of societies’ problem, not only concern of female organizations, which, by the way, are not so active in political scene, as were Swedish woman’s organizations in 1960-70.