ABSTRACT

REWIND NET – HOW TO OPERATE AND HOW TO COOPERATE

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REWIND NET is the network of women's information and documentation centres from 15 countries, mostly post-communist countries from Central and Eastern Europe and some from Middle Asia. Although established only at the beginning of 2001, the network developed significant twofold activities, on the national level and regionally. There are also some products that are results of common activity, like Regional Women's Directory database, and some others.

The emphasis of the network is on common work of national centers on activities/projects on the regional level – researches, lobbying, seminars, as well as on services – various data regarding women’s groups and their activities in the region and wider, on-line databases of documents and libraries etc. Information services (info pool) through the Regional WEB-site. All of these mentioned points are on high level of development.

One of the emphasises is also cooperation with other similar network’s.

Internally, the network is working on developing common standards, developing and maintaining a structure of shared responsibilities.

Before the establishment of the network such organizations only existed in half of the countries. At the moment, the structure of both national women's INDOC's and their regional coordination is well established. However, due to the very short time of existence, it is still fragile and could be jeopardized by many internal and external factors.

As for the “problems” of operating, the size of the network and the level of development, which is still rather initial then advanced, is very demanding regarding operating. There are two forms of difficulties, one at a national level, and another on the level of regional coordination. Both levels are dealing with the structure of work as well as with the conceptualisation of the content. Last but not least, the problem of financial support is basic.

Talking about problems of cooperating, there is less problem of cooperating with each other. At least, so far, we have not noticed any problem of that kind. There may be possible problems with organizations and networks outside this one. This relates particularly to those from more advanced countries, centers that are well established, operating for much longer time, therefore, having different experiences, criteria, insights. Different levels of development, different socio-historical experiences, different approaches and different speed of development are the possible conflict points.