“The Flemish Model”

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Contents

• Historical context
• the “Flemish model” : how do we work with Equal Opportunities Policy in Flanders?
Historical context

• Flanders in the sixties
• second feminist wave: women’s movement in two sorts of parts:
  – existing organisations
    • socio-cultural
    • umbrella
  – newly created organisations
    • action groups
    • supporting structures
• convergence of energy
Historical context (2)

• Results:
  – legislation and attuning to international standards
  – creation of institutional mechanisms

• evolution and renewal
  – language
  – from volunteers to professionals
  – widening of concept to more target groups
The Flemish EOP

• Basics:
  – the Flemish competencies
  – the institutional mechanisms
  – the targetgroups for EOP
Flemish competencies

- **Assistance to people** youth protection, policy for the young, the elderly and the handicapped; family and welfare.
- **Culture** the arts, cultural heritage, museums, libraries, public radio and television, sports and open air recreation, tourism.
- **Economics** economic government initiatives, aid to companies, foreign trade (in cooperation and coordination with the federal government) exploitation of natural resources.
- **Energy** distribution of electricity and natural gas, promotion of the rational use of energy.
- **Public Health** support and quality control of hospitals, preventive health care, home care, nursing homes, mental health care
- **Housing** public housing, granting housing subsidies
- **Municipalities and provinces** administrative supervision and financing of the municipalities and provinces
- **International Cooperation** including entering into treaties for all matters that come under Flemish authority.
- **Agriculture and horticulture** support of agricultural and horticultural companies, promotion of agricultural and horticultural products.
- **Land Zoning and conservation** protection of nature, construction and management of green areas, parks and open spaces.
Flemish competencies

- **Environment** protection of the environment, waste disposal policy, supervision of hazardous companies; companies posing a threat to health and those otherwise declared a nuisance to their environment or neighbourhood.
- **Education** Flanders has three educational networks
- **Public works and transport** construction and maintenance of roads, sea ports, navigable waterways and regional airports, urban and regional public transport
- **Town and country planning** drawing up plans, setting up industrial areas, inner-city renovation, protection of monuments and countryside
- **Language legislation**
- **Scientific research**
- **Employment** employment services, special employment programmes
- **Water policy** production and distribution of drinking-water; treatment of waste water, sewage
Institutional mechanisms

• One ministry of Flanders
• a minister for EOP (now combined with welfare in the future minister-president)
• a service Equal Opportunities in Flanders situated in Coordination department
  – mainstreaming policy
  – vertical policy
targetgroups

• Women
• minorities:
  – gays and lesbians
  – allochtones
  – handicapped
  – age discriminations (children and elderly)
Actors for the policy

• Policymakers
• NGO’s
• Researchers
  ==> velvet triangle!
The velvet triangle

• To get the 3 actors together is a process
• basic conditions:
  – right to live
  – mutual trust and respect
  – interest in each others “world”
  – need for changes
Obstacles in the dialogue

• Balance formal and informal
• Balance in constructive criticism
• Different methods between volunteers and professionals
• Misunderstandings about the role of the actors
Webaddresses

- www.gelijkekansen.vlaanderen.be
- www.rosadoc.be
- www.steunpuntgelijkekansen.be