

# Bulgarian Gender Equality Coalition



Royal Netherlands Embassy



Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation



Council of Europe Information Center

Project: "Bulgarian Gender Equality Coalition – Becoming a Broad Basis for Personal and Institutional Change"

## INFORMATION SHEET № 8

### Eighth Forum of Bulgarian Gender Equality Coalition – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Council of Europe Information Centre

**THEME: Reconciliation of professional and family life**

**LECTURERS:** Lilia Abadzhieva /Ministry of Labour and Social Policy/, D-r Lilia Dimova /Agency for Social Analyses/

**PARTICIPANTS:** Representatives of NGOs, state institutions, universities, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences /BAS/

**AGENDA:**

- Lilia Abadjieva /MLSP/ presented the results from a study organized by Stability Pact, in which MLSP has been working together with partners from Latvia, Denmark and France.
- D-r Lilia Dimova /ASA/ presented the results from a study entitled "Women in the informal economy in Bulgaria" carried out by the Agency for Social Analyses /ASA/ and Women's Alliance for Development /WAD/ in 2004 and 2005.

In the discussion, the Forum participants exchanged opinions on issues related to the duration and form of maternity leave, the good and bad practices and corporate policies regarding parental leave and flexible working hours; women's unpaid labour in the household and child care, the informal economy and the reasons why it is the women who are easily persuaded to participate in it. At the end of the discussion, BGEC members agreed that it is a matter of urgency to lobby the Parliament to adopt a Bill on Equal Opportunities and certain amendments in the state policy regarding parental leave and compensations

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