

## **Gender Equality in**

### **Finnish Structural Fund Strategy:**

In Finnish:

[http://www.intermin.fi/intermin/images.nsf/files/db511699f8baf9bfc225732a0040fcef/\\$file/rakennerahastostrategia\\_30072007.pdf](http://www.intermin.fi/intermin/images.nsf/files/db511699f8baf9bfc225732a0040fcef/$file/rakennerahastostrategia_30072007.pdf)

The Structural Fund strategy promotes female entrepreneurship, creating work places for women especially in male dominated branches, conciliation of work and family lives, gender equality actions in work places and influences on creating versatile occupational structure of both women and men. A central aim is to safeguard work places for both women and men in order to ensure and increase the attractiveness of regions. Furthermore, when implementing the strategy the equal participation of both women and men has to be secured.

The implementation of the Structural Fund Strategy and the programmes considers the Commissions Roadmap for equality between women and men 2006 – 2010 (Com 2006/92). A special focus will be on gender mainstreaming and on creating structures which support the possibilities to fulfil the EU double strategy of gender equality promotion (gender mainstreaming + individual projects or actions) with Structural Fund Programmes.

### **National ESF Programme (excluding Åland)**

In Finnish:

[http://www.rakennerahastot.fi/rakennerahastot/tiedostot/asiakirjat/ohjelma\\_asiakirja\\_ESR.pdf](http://www.rakennerahastot.fi/rakennerahastot/tiedostot/asiakirjat/ohjelma_asiakirja_ESR.pdf)

(Guiding the funding and implementation of ESF projects)

Gender equality will be promoted according to the EU double strategy. Individual projects are still needed. They can focus on both women and men and can be funded from all ESF Programme Priorities. On the other hand gender equality promotion will be integrated as part of all action in all level and in all phases.

The gender equality perspective will be considered when relevant. The gender analyses of the operational environment, current situation and the addressed problem is the starting point. Therefore it is essential to have gender divided statistics available. If the analyses show gender inequality gender perspective has to be taken into account throughout the whole project period.

### **ERDF Programme of Western Finland**

(Guiding the funding and implementation of ERDF projects)

In Finnish:

[http://www.rakennerahastot.fi/rakennerahastot/tiedostot/asiakirjat/ohjelma\\_asiakirja\\_EAKR\\_LS.pdf](http://www.rakennerahastot.fi/rakennerahastot/tiedostot/asiakirjat/ohjelma_asiakirja_EAKR_LS.pdf)

The general principles guiding the action are:

- promotion of co-operation and partnership between authorities and actors
- increasing the regional competitiveness
- **improving gender and territorial equality**
- Co-operation and coordination of different programmes
- Sustainable development

Priorities:

- 1 Promoting Entrepreneurship
- 2 Promoting Innovation and Networking Activities and Strengthening Knowledge Structures
- 3 Improving Territorial Accessibility and Operational Environment
- 4 Developing Large Urban Areas (Focus on Tampere and Vaasa = not on South Ostrobothnia)

One criterion for approving a project application in Priorities 1 and 2 is that the project promotes equality (Not specified whether gender or territorial equality).

The qualitative targets of Priority 1:

- 1700 new Companies of which 680 founded by women and 1020 by men
- 9300 new workplaces of which 3720 for women and 5589 for men
- 50 new workplaces in R&D of which 20 for women and 30 for men
- Projects promoting equality (not specified whether gender equality) allocated 7,0 MEUR/ 14 %

The qualitative targets of Priority 3:

- 50 new Companies of which 20 founded by women and 30 by men
- Projects promoting equality (not specified whether gender equality) allocated 2,4 MEUR / 9 %

### **South Ostrobothnian Regional Plan 2030**

In Finnish: [http://www.epliiitto.fi/upload/files/maakuntasuunnitelma\\_2030.pdf](http://www.epliiitto.fi/upload/files/maakuntasuunnitelma_2030.pdf)

- More working places for women

The Regional Plan 2030 points out that during the last decade women's unemployment has been greater than men's in South Ostrobothnia. Also there are fewer women active in the labour market than men. The Plan stresses the need to create more working places for women and to increase the number of people active on labour market.

### **South Ostrobothnian Regional Development Programme 2007-2010**

In Finnish: <http://www.epliiitto.fi/upload/files/MAOHJwww.pdf>

- Support for female entrepreneurs. Special focus on young rural women.

There is an acute need for new companies on service sector since the number of services in South Ostrobothnia is below the national average. As the population is aging and many current service sector entrepreneurs (mainly women) are retiring there is clear need for such measures and actions that encourage and support especially young women in the rural area to start their own business. According to the Programme 'the measures that support female entrepreneurs have positive impact not only on the number of services and the level of employment but on gender equality, too.'