

Pozdravni govor, mr.sc Helena Štimac Radin
Konferencija, "Empowerment of Women"

Ladies and Gentleman,

It's a great honour for me to address at the opening of this important international conference on behalf of the Governmental Office for Gender Equality.

This conference is a great opportunity to exchange views and experiences about different issues regarding the current position of woman, and I am especially glad that this conference is taking place in Zagreb.

First of all, I would like to welcome representatives of the European Commission, Ombudswomen for Gender Equality, representatives of other governmental offices, as well as representatives of civil society organisations, and our regional and international guests.

Ladies and Gentleman,
in the last ten Years, Croatia strengthened its basic institutional mechanisms and also introduced important new legislation and strategies with a view to prevent all forms of gender discrimination.

In the same time I would like to highlight important role of women's NGO-s which have a very long tradition in Croatia and successful collaboration with different government bodies.

I thank European commission for it's financial support of these projects which cover so important issues such as status of rural women, social status of women members of national minorities, working women, naming the economic violence against women and others.

We strongly believe that empowering of women is the key to economic and social growth. No country can develop in a sustainable way without the full and effective participation of women in all aspects of life.

Allow me also to underline today the importance of regional and international cooperation and networking among institutional mechanisms for gender equality and NGO-s.

Last year Croatian parliament adopted new National Policy for Gender Equality, for the next five years period, which also includes measures to support various NGO activities including financial support for it's projects.

We are also looking forward to see future results of all awarded projects. Governmental Office for Gender Equality is opened for all forms of possible cooperation including the exchange information about Your future activities and project results.

Here we brought copies of our National Strategy for Gender Equality as well as the Croatian Gender Equality Act, both in English and Croatian.
Let me conclude with the best wishes for Your future work.

Thank You for Your attention!