

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING
CONDITIONS (“EUROFOUND”)
AND
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF GENDER EQUALITY (“EIGE”)

1. This Memorandum of Understanding between Eurofound and EIGE sets out their areas of close Cooperation. These areas have been chosen to maximize the benefits to both agencies and to avoid any duplication of activities in the identified areas of common interest.
2. The basic roles of EIGE and Eurofound in this cooperation are:
 - Eurofound conducts surveys, monitoring and basic research in the areas of working conditions, living conditions, industrial relations, social dialogue and impacts of globalisation and industrial change on those¹. In most of its research, Eurofound pays attention to the gender differences in the research material and reports the results for both genders. Eurofound’s role is to provide key actors in social policy making with reliable and comparable information, findings, knowledge and advice drawn from comparative research. Eurofound’s research results and data sets provide valuable inputs to EU and national stakeholders and to the activities of EIGE. Eurofound can provide useful research results, data sets and insights for EIGE on the development of gender equality in Europe.
 - EIGE plays a vital role in providing the expertise needed to develop equality policies across the European Union. The main activities of EIGE are to collect, record, analyse and disseminate information on gender equality Community-wide. Based on strict criteria, it develops methods to improve the objectivity, comparability and reliability of data at European level. Based on the objective, reliable and comparable information collected it develops methodological tools to support the integration of gender equality into all Community policies. The Institute also organises activities to foster the exchange of experience and the development of dialogue at European level with all relevant stakeholders, such as Community and Member State institutions, the social partners, non-governmental organisations, research centres, etc. The Institute also organises conferences, campaigns and meetings at European level in order to raise EU citizens' awareness of gender equality.

¹ Eurofound regulation: EF Council Regulation (EC) No 1111/2005 of 24 June 2005 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75 on the creation of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.
Add EIGE regulation here.

3. Both parties will, on a regular basis, in particular, during the development of the future work programmes and activity plans, consult each other and exchange their annual work programmes before final approval.
4. Based on the annual work programmes, specific cooperation arrangements (Annual Action Plans) will be agreed between the two Directors before the end of January via an exchange of letters.
5. They will also consult about and exchange their respective Mid-term programmes. This consultation will be included in the timetable for drafting these programmes to allow sufficient time for input.
6. In addition, the two Agencies will continue to review their respective current and future work programmes in order to identify additional opportunities for cooperation as new areas of activity are undertaken by each of the Agencies in the future.
7. Both parties will cover their own costs arising from this cooperation as far as it is within the ordinary annual work programmes. For additional activities requiring more resources, special agreements will be made.
8. Working meetings will be organised at the following levels:
 - a. At a general level, both Directors will be invited, when relevant, to attend each other's Board meetings.
 - b. Experts and staff of both agencies will participate in the activities of expert and working groups of the agencies where relevant.
 - c. Experts and staff will participate, where relevant, in the development of surveys questionnaires and in various Networks. Ad-hoc meetings or invitations may be extended to each other on specific subjects.
9. Both parties will nominate main contact persons for specified areas of common interest.
10. This Memorandum of Understanding in no way affects the regulations establishing the two organisations.

This Memorandum of Understanding enters into force when duly signed by the Directors.

Jorma Karppinen
Director
European Foundation for the Improvement
of Living and Working Conditions



Date: 22 November 2010
Place: Vilnius

Virginija Langbakk
Director
European Institute for Gender Equality



Date: 22 November 2010
Place: Vilnius