



Laila Balga, Project Coordinator

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Dear friends!

Today, with another event from Rzeszow in Poland, we continue the project "Equal opportunities - a way to social welfare" of the Institute of Women's Rights and partners. Many thanks to Alina and Wlodzimierz! For the second year in a row, 8 organizations from Kaliningrad, Belarus, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland have been involved in the project partnership.

The main goal of the project is to increase the knowledge of NGO experts and decision-makers on equal opportunities for women and men in education, business, social care and health care, the media and decision-making processes. We promote the implementation of the 20 guiding principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights in partner countries. We will develop our package of proposals for strengthening gender equality for both decision-makers and NGOs themselves.

Our first meeting took place in Riga on November 23, 2019. I do not want to mention the pandemic, but in connection with this, NGO experts have been denied the opportunity to go to partner countries to exchange experiences from 2020. As a result, we have lost 15% of the Nordic Council of Ministers' grant, or 8,260 euros. But each medal has two sides. In 2021, the Nordic Council of Ministers has allowed us to invest EUR 2,368 in the local activities of each partner organization. Unfortunately, I have not yet received work plans from Lithuania,

Kaliningrad, Norway, Denmark and Belarus, with which we will have a special agreement.

The implementation and funding of the project will end for us on October 31, 2021, and all events will take place in a webinar format. Thank you to the managers of Latvia, Denmark, Estonia, Kaliningrad and Poland for the work done so far! On July 30, we will meet at a webinar in Belarus, and later at webinars in Norway and Lithuania.

After that, I will summarize the participants' proposals, as well as prepare certificates of successful completion of the project!

In conclusion, I would also like to inform you that the Latvian Institute of Women's Rights will cease its activities at the end of 2021, joining the International Women's Organization. Latvia, in co-operation with Kaliningrad, St. Petersburg, Norway and Finland, has submitted a new project application to the Nordic Council of Ministers, the topic of which is to provide knowledge to NGO experts, decision-makers and women in extreme difficulties.