

3rd Annual Conference of the European Network Cities for Children June 29 and 30, 2009 in the Stuttgart City Hall

Meeting of the Working Group 4 Work-Life Balance on June 30, 2009 in Room 30/31 in the Stuttgart City Hall

Moderation: Blandine Gall, City of Strasbourg, France

Agenda:

1. Get-together: Round of introductions
2. Wrap-up: the meeting in Strasbourg on 9-11 February, 2009
3. Collect: Reports from the member cities
4. Decide: What to do for the next meeting?

1. Persons and responsibilities

->See Attachment

2. Strasbourg 9-11 February, 2009

Work life Balance (WLB) is linked to gender equality. It is still more a topic for women than for men. Finding a better balance between the two genders can be a solution for the problem. Other approaches are given by the recommendations of the meeting in Strasbourg in February 2009, which were recalled and repeated.

3. Collecting new ideas. Reports of the member cities

The city of Vilnius talks about their plan to install childcare centres in universities, shopping centres or theatres.

The city of Ljubljana reports about the discussion about Kindergartens in Slovenian companies. On the one hand women want to work, but on the other hand they want to have time with their children. They worry about some people arguing that the company takes care of the children, so the mother is able to work all day long.

The participants agree on the general statement to be more practically. They want to do more real projects.

The city of Vilnius offers to analyse the labour laws to suggest alterations for a better WLB. They remark that this is more a topic for national governments than for municipal administrations. For that reason a better lobby work is desired. Some proposals therefore:

- Find out the responsible people in the governments, which are impressive for the issue of WLB
- Do a presentation about the Meeting and the recommendations for those persons

The participants notice that it is necessary to give more importance to WLB on an international level. The aim is to make more people aware of the issue, through a

Europe-wide-campaign, with posters, discussions and/or concerts for example. The campaign should present a perfect system and give best practice.

On national level, the word WLB should be at least introduced to strategies of the governments to enhance the relevance of the issue. Therefore some concrete recommendations should be given.

The City of Rijeka commends to use homepage <http://www.citiesforchildren.org> more intensely. All members should have a look in the forum regularly. Moreover a newsletter could provide actual information for all members.

4. Decide: What to do for the next meeting

The participants agree on the proposal of the city of Vilnius to study the labour laws. Therefore all member cities are asked to send in

- a. their reports about the obstacles of the national labour law and the positions of the national government and
- b. contacts of personalities, who are sensible for the discussion about WLB until the end of this year, **31 December, 2009**.

The city of Vilnius will find out differences and similarities to create one text, which will be discussed during the next meeting in **Vilnius in April 2010**. An invitation will follow until the end of the year.

Sebastian Seeger, City of Stuttgart

Attachment: List of participants



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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