



**Minutes of the INECO Cyprus  
1<sup>st</sup> Gender Issues Meeting  
June 26<sup>th</sup> 2008, Larnaca,  
Cyprus**

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## **1. Introduction**

This document presents the discussions of the INECO Cyprus 1<sup>st</sup> Gender Issues Meeting.

The INECO Cyprus 1<sup>st</sup> Gender Issues Meeting, was held in the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2008 in Larnaca, Cyprus. The workshop focused on discussing with local stakeholders issues relevant to the gender dimension of the water problems (scarcity, groundwater overexploitation and depletion) that Cyprus has been facing in the last years.

## **2. Main outcomes & Discussion themes**

The main issues that were discussed and agreed upon during the INECO Cyprus 1<sup>st</sup> Gender Issues Meeting were the following:

- There is lack of water culture in the families of Cyprus;
- Women have a positive impact but this is not enough. In order to solve the problem all players (stakeholders) of the society must work together;
- The organized women associations and women groups of political parties can have a role in the efforts to solve the water problem;
- There is still lack of information on the water issues, the relevant authorities delayed too much to inform the people of the water problems we are facing now;
- The arid climate of Cyprus is one of the reasons for the over consumption of water (for cleaning purposes at houses, verandas, etc.)
- All participants filled in the questionnaire on problem identification and solution options;
- It was decided to create a local designated gender focal group within the framework of the INECO project in Cyprus, with the ultimate goal to act in the future as a pressure group to raise the water awareness and culture of the Cypriot families;
- A next Gender Issues Meeting will be held after the Tunisia Stakeholder Assembly;

## **3. Event discussion summary**

### **3.1 Introduction**

The meeting started with a welcoming address from Dr. Ioannis Glekas (Director of AEOLIKI Ltd), who presented the concept and framework of activities of the INECO project, addressing the principles and approach of the project, project activities in other participating countries, as well as the methodology that will be followed during the event.

Dr. Glekas then gave a brief overview of the current status regarding water management and the problems faced in Cyprus today, the focal problem studied within the framework of the INECO problem and the identified causes related to it. Then a video presenting the world water problems was presented.

### **3.2 Discussion on the causes of current water management issues**

The video triggered the discussion amongst the participants, which was moderated by Dr. Glekas with the help of Ms. Maria Christodoulou-Pyla.

The participants identified a number of issues for discussion and elaboration:

1. Women are primarily responsible for household use and management; therefore, they can influence (positively or negatively) their family members in developing water culture and consciousness;
2. In general there is lack of water consciousness among the majority of Cypriots that may negatively impact the attitude of the water conscious ones;
3. Women can and must be involved in the water problem through their organized women associations;
4. Water problems should be addressed through one Water Entity and not as it is today through a number of government authorities (Ministries, Departments);
5. There is lack of awareness on water-related issues among citizens and especially among the young boys and girls. Women can play a significant role in this aspect through their role as mothers;
6. The Government through the competent authorities informed the Cypriots of the water problems we are facing now with a great delay. The problem should be recognized and measures should have been taken in due time and not at the last moment;
7. In Cyprus we have a lot of foreigner women working as houseworkers who does not have water culture and are not aware of the water problems we are facing. Women must educate them to conserve water;
8. In the past when we did not have all the water amenities we have today, people were very sensitive to conserve water, while today we act irrationally;
9. The arid climate of Cyprus is one of the reasons for the over consumption of water (for cleaning purposes at houses, verandas, etc.);
10. The Government did not succeeded in persuading the Cypriots that we are facing water problems and so people act with no water consciousness;
11. Water conservation systems must be installed at houses, although this will raise the construction cost;
12. Penalties for over-consumption and water taxes are amongst the possible measures accompanied with rewards for adopting water conservation measures in every day activities.
13. A local designated gender focal group within the framework of the INECO project in Cyprus will be formulated, with the ultimate goal to act in the future as a pressure group to raise the water awareness and culture of the Cypriot families. Five of the participants formed the core of this group who will meet in September together with Dr. Glekas and Ms. Christodoulou-Pyla to organize the first actions.

### **3.3 Questionnaire on causes and objectives**

Finally, the 1<sup>nd</sup> questionnaire was distributed among the participants and explained by Dr. Glekas. All participants filled in the questionnaire.

It was decided that the local participant (Aeoliki) will prepare a review report on the results of the questionnaire, which will be discussed during the next Gender Issues Meeting.

The next Gender Issues Meeting was decided to be organized after the INECO Tunisia Stakeholder Assembly, scheduled for July 2008.

## **4. List of Participants**

### **Project Partners**

Dr. Ioannis Glekas (Aeoliki Ltd.)

Ms. Maria Christodoulou - Pyla

### **Participants**

Ms. Varvara Pavlimbei, Housewife

Ms. Andigoni Andrianou, Sales Marketing Manager at a local TV station

Ms. Maro Iacovidou, Journalist at a local TV and Radio station

Ms. Lia Orfanidou, Businesswoman

Ms. Sofia Sina, Self employed

Ms. Stavroula Petridou, Housewife

Ms. Kaiti Papoui, Hotelier

Ms. Maria Christodoulou, Businesswoman

Ms. Sotiria Pyla, Teacher

Ms. Avgi Panagidou, Housewife

Ms. Maro Koupa, Housewife

Ms. Aristeia Neocleous, Housewife

Ms. Christiana Savva, Electricity Authority of Cyprus

Ms. Lenia Variannou, Graphic designer

Ms. Mary Vassilaka, Civil Servant

Mr. Vassilis Vassilakas, Civil Servant

## 5. Event Programme

16:00 Registration

### Presentation of the video : “The precious Water”

16:30 – 17:00	Groundwater overexploitation in Cyprus: Effects and underlying causes	Dr. Ioannis P. Glekas, Aeoliki Ltd.
17:00 – 19:00	Discussion on the gender issues related to the water problems	All participantants (moderated by Dr. I. P. Glekas and Ms. Maria Pyla)
19:00 – 19:30	Questionnaire on causes and objectives	All participantants (moderated by Dr. I. P. Glekas and Ms. Maria Pyla)
19:30 – 20:00	Reporting of discussion outcomes	Moderators  All participants
20:00	Dinner – END OF THE MEETING	

## 6. Meeting Photos



