

In April 2016, the Ministry of Social Affairs organised several information activities to mark the Equal Pay Day. Also in spring, the Statistics Estonia published the “Strategy of Pay Gap Statistics 2016-2023”.

In June, the Government adopted the Welfare Development Plan for 2016-2023 and a plan for its implementation. Its gender equality sub-goal targets issues of equal economic independence of women and men, gender pay gap, balanced participation, negative impact of gender stereotypes, rights protection and institutional capacity. Measures planned vary from awareness raising to legislative initiatives. Most of the measures are expected to help to decrease gender pay gap, more specific of these being creating state supervision over implementation of the requirement of equal pay, developing guidelines on evaluation and comparison of jobs, preparing a gender pay gap analysis of public service organisations and recommendations for specific measures, preparing proposals to increase transparency of pay information etc.

In May 2016, draft amendment of the Victim Support Act was sent to the Parliament to describe women’s shelters’ service for victims of violence against women by establishing clear requirements for service providers and persons directly working with victims. The draft also includes amendments with a purpose that NGOs working with trafficking victims would re-gain the right to identify victims and to ask the Social Insurance Board to allow services for them. The amendments should enter into force on 1.01.2017.

In 2015-2016, the Ministry of Interior and Social Insurance Board in cooperation with Ministry of Social Affairs, Police and Border Guard Board and local partners are carrying out a European Social Fund project aiming to adapt and adjust the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences model to Estonian situation for the use in cases of domestic violence. MARAC is a cooperation-based case management model that aims to identify high risk victims and to assure their safety in cooperation with several institutions and specialists.

As gender equality is one of three priority areas of the Estonian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (May-November 2016), a conference was organised in co-operation with the Council of Europe in Tallinn on 30.06.-01.07.2016 to look at the progress of implementation of the CoE Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 and to launch discussions for the next strategy. In addition, more specific attention was paid to gender mainstreaming, covering practices from both national and international level; and to an impact of new media on gender equality.