



The Secretary General

To the signatories of the European Charter
for Equality of women and men in local life

Brussels, 15 April 2013

Welcome in the Atlas of signatories of the Charter!

Dear Madam or Sir,

Since its launch in May 2006, the European Charter for Equality of women and men in local life has been a great success all over Europe. To follow-up its implementation and provide support to the 1300 signatories, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) created an Observatory in March 2012.

“How to promote the Charter in my region?”, “My city has signed the Charter, what is the next step?”, “How can we draft and implement an action plan?”, “Which other cities have signed the Charter in my country?”, “Where can I find examples of good practices?”, “Who should I contact if I need help with the evaluation of an action plan?”. To answer these questions, the Observatory launched a website, www.charter-equality.eu. This website was revealed on the 31st of January 2013, on the occasion of the International Conference of local Elected Women: *Equality between women and men: A priority for Global development*, held in Paris.

The website is available in English and French. An instant translation tool also allows you to translate the majority of the pages in your own language.

The Observatory website is still under construction and will evolve further in the following weeks and months. New features will soon be available: you will be able to subscribe to the Observatory newsletter, search for best practices in the Atlas, find information on funding in your country, etc.

The Atlas is a search engine for signatories and action plans. It is a key tool for networking, dissemination and promotion of best practices. Being present in the Atlas can increase the visibility of your local or regional authority at European level and contribute to promote its activities in the field of equality between women and men.

Your contribution is essential for the success of the Observatory. As signatory of the Charter, your local or regional authority is already mentioned in the Atlas. Only basic information has been published so far: the name and the type of your local/regional authority, the number of inhabitants and the date of signature of the Charter. We invite you to complete (and correct if necessary) your profile by adding information about your Action Plan (if you already drafted one) and the actions that you have implemented (preferably in English or in French). If you wish, you can also attach your Action Plan and share examples of good practices.



You can update your profile in the Atlas on the Observatory website by clicking "Atlas of Signatories of the Charter" and then on "Update your data". Your username is your e-mail address (the one used to send you this e-mail) and your password is "charter_2013". You can change your password anytime by clicking on "Lost your password?".

To enable the Observatory to meet your expectations the best way possible, we would also be grateful if you could inform your national coordinator (Anna Guðrún Björnsdóttir, anna.g.bjornsdottir@samband.is) on your needs regarding the implementation of the Charter.

See you soon on www.charter-equality.eu!

Frédéric Vallier