




Psycho-Social Center

VATRA



**Woman in politics  
and  
decision-making**



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This project was funded, in part, through Grant Agreement the opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed herein are those of the Author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of State

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## Report

# **“RAISING AWARENESS OF THE PUBLIC OPINION ON THE PARTICIPATION AND ROLE OF WOMAN IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY”**

A project financed by the American Embassy  
October 2006 – February 2007



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## Introduction and Thanks

The project « Raising the awareness of the public opinion on the role of woman in political and social life of the country » realized in the framework of local elections 2007 is another field Vatra works out, for the empowerment and strengthening the social status of woman.

It's a fact that in Albania although women make up the majority of the population, their role in political and social life of the country still remains scarce.

Even though the law about Gender Equality has been passed, due to the patriarchal and conservative mentality inherited by the past, it will continue to be non functional, as long as the state will not undertake social reforms for the disappearance of women's discrimination.

Politics and decision-making, though predominated by men, should be woman's aims to achieve equal position and gain all the rights belonging to her.

Only this way can she display all her intellectual potential, putting in the service of a developed and democratic society.

Vatra for many years has worked for woman's empowerment particularly in Vlora, where the feminist movement in this county is not in the appropriate parameters.

Vatra's work and fight for the development and emancipation of woman is continually supported by the American Embassy. Given the opportunity, I would like to thank the Public Affairs Office, not only



for the support given to Vatra during these years, but also for the contribution towards the strengthening of woman's social status in Albania.

Likewise I would like to thank Vatra's staff, the representatives of political parties, women forums, the candidates proposed, and the representatives of Vlora District civil society, who were included in this project and contributed to its successful realization.

***Vera Lesko***  
***Executive Director***



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## The political situation and woman's position in society

The position and role of woman in society and community should be seen and treated in the historical context as well, evaluating thus the political and socio-economical changes occurring in the country.

During the centuries the Albanian society is characterized by the patriarchal mentality and extreme discrimination of woman. The unwritten laws and even more the Albanian customs have had in their attention the discrimination of woman. Similarly, the political development during 1920-1924, as well as during King Zogu's period did not bring any change in the woman's position in society. Only during the Post World War period, was set by law the equality between woman and man in Albania; where were included the political rights, participation in governing, the right to elect, job right, speech right, wealth right etc. Nevertheless, these rights remain in the formal aspect because the woman never enjoyed them, because of the totalitarian systems which are not in the position to guarantee woman's real integration in the country's social life. In a similar way, real equality between man and woman is not realized simply by promulgating some rights; it should be seen as a whole process developed in the economic and social aspect of it.

Political, economical and social changes during these last 15 years affected considerably even the position of woman.

Never before was she included in the history of the country during this period, as she is included in the struggle for political change and reform. The fight claiming her rights to have a higher social status in society



were and continue to be the priorities of woman's movement in the country. These efforts marked a qualitative step in the strengthening of woman's position in society.

Certainly, the times change and woman's status has evolved in conformity with the new elements gained during the historical development of the country that anyhow remain within a certain framework. Today we encounter new concepts which determine the development of society. Among these concepts, right and gender equality are becoming a priority every day.

Gender equality is essential for the development of a civilized society and likewise is for women; for the fact that only in this relation they are able to position and find themselves in society.

Also the consolidation of woman's position is conditioned by a series of economical social and political factors, which altogether stimulate her real integration in society.

Like all Albanian women, Vlora woman has continuously fought and has been included in important historical events, which have determined her role in political, economical, and social developments of the country. From this viewpoint we would say that her position in society should be seen in conformity with the developments and changes happening and still continue to happen in Vlora District.





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## Socio-economical situation and woman's position in society

Vlora is a county consisting of a population of 215 thousand inhabitants; 52% of it is women.

Vlora County is situated in the South of Albania and includes in its jurisdiction four Municipalities that are: Vlora Municipality with a population of 125.438 inhabitants; Orikumi Municipality 10.290 inhabitants; Selenica Municipality consisting of a heterogeneous population of 7830 inhabitants; and the Municipality of Himara with a population of 11.527 inhabitants; where the majority of it has immigrated to Greece. Vlora County includes 9 communes and 98 villages that have a population of 133.526 inhabitants.

The socio-economic situation in Vlora County is not different from the general situation existing in the country. Last years the population has suffered considerable changes related to the displacement from rural areas to urban areas, as well as from Northern, Northeastern and Southeastern areas towards Southern municipalities such as Vlora, Himara or Orikumi. This growth of population number is accompanied by numerous problems of the infrastructure of the cities, unemployment, criminality growth, emigration, trafficking in human beings, the rise in the divorce rate, etc.

Unemployment is one of the most worrying issues in these municipalities. This situation influences negatively the economical development of family.

The majority of the family income is realized through emigration, which



is very much spread mainly towards Italy and Greece. The level of emigration in four municipalities is high and evaluated as 32% of the population active at work. It should be said that this phenomenon has made the majority of population active at work emigrate and thus contributing to the development of other EC countries.

Likewise, Vlora family encounters numerous socio-economic problems, which are caused not only by the growth of population and emigration, but above all in the marked patriarchal mentality existing in this area. Today it faces the growth of domestic violence, the rise in the divorce rate, child abandonment and high level of gender inequality.

From the gender point of view the woman should have equal rights with man and the other family members. She should be part of decision-making and problems solution, but in fact she is seen as a main figure only in family, whose duty is to grow up and educate children and not as a woman with a strong position to lead and manage every aspect of social life where family constitutes its fundamental basis.

The lack of woman's active participation in setting up business or leadership of various economical activities are related to the mentality inherited by the past, which have limited the woman the possibility to reveal her intellectual and managing abilities. Being detached from life, within the house's walls, uninformed on the developments in the country, they have a few possibilities to make contacts and to gain experiences, which could be used to the advantage of their economical interests. Therefore, they do not possess sufficient sources of capital, because in the majority of the cases these sources are possessed and managed by men.



In spite of the non favorable situation supporting her, such as the confrontation with numerous difficulties and various obstacles, last years are marked by a positive change in woman's strengthening in economics. Womens' small businesses in Vlora County are mainly concentrated in commerce where they occupy about 65% and much less about 25% in production; mainly in services and confections sector.

The development of private sector brought a new role to woman in economics, which gave her the right to be differently positioned not only in family but also in other directions.

During these years, women's rise of interest to ensure economical independence brought evident improvements even in the growth of their social status. Although this status would never be complete without woman's presence in politics and decision-making.

## Woman's position in politics and decision-making

Briefly referring to the past, we evidence that in general there is a lack of consolidated tradition of women's participation and presence in the political life of the country. According to historical facts, the Albanian parliament of 1920-1928, had no woman member. The highest participation of woman in parliament was achieved only during the totalitarian years of dictatorship, after the Second World War, where woman achieved about 38% of the total number of parliament members. Certainly this number is fictitious, and the woman has no decisive role in the democratic developments of the country.

Last years efforts have been made to change the woman's political situation, but they have been incomplete, not encouraging but in dif-



ferent periods in conformity with the situation and politics' interests. During important periods she is not given the possibility to influence or contribute to the political and public life of the country. Men predominate in local and central authorities. Thus, they are the main protagonists of Albanian politics. The ferocious mentality of men is obstacle for women in leadership. Men thanks to their ability, in order to realize and achieve everything, ignore and despise the role of woman in political, economical and social changes. They frequently hang over a question mark on the intellectual abilities and creative potentials of women; men express doubt and view with skepticism their inclusion in institution leadership.

Vlora is one of the Albania's counties, where woman is not only in minority in politics and decision-making but also in a discriminating situation.

This characteristic is noticed only in communes where the mentality about female is prejudicial, discriminating, and insulting, but even in municipalities of this county where the situation should have been somehow different.

Thus referring to local elections of 2003, in Selenica Municipality the total number of councilman in the Municipality Council was 17 and only one of them was woman. In Orikumi Municipality the number of councilmen was 17 and no one was woman. In Himara Municipality from 17 councilmen only 2 of them are women. In Vlora Municipality from 45 councilmen, 9 were women.

Bringing into attention the last elections of 2005, we see that in Vlora County from 52 state institutions, economical and socio-cultural, the



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woman leads 15 institutions, in education from 19, 9-grade and high school directorates only 5 are lead by women. The above figures show clearly about the discrimination of woman in this county, even though the number of educated women in every field is much higher than that of men.

What concerns us about woman's position in politics and decision-making is the fact that in comparison with previous years, their number in leading posts continually decreases. This has made the woman's role in Vlora county not to be present in the political and social developments of the country.

Being the state by no means tendentious to implement policies based on gender equality, it is the civil society with its work trying to help and influence the soothing of this inequality. The fact that many women associations have began dealing with women's right defense introducing the problem to the media and other public premises have sensitized not only women but also a great part of citizen opinion.

"Vatra" center has continually had in its center the work for the strengthening of women and girls. This work has been realized through the projects supporting directly this part of society, because the premises of Albanian politics are rough enough and towards them is noticed a discriminating and not supporting attitude.

Thus it is an undeniable fact that in Albanian society in general and Vlora in particular the woman does not enjoy the right of being part of processes and democratic developments and the right to be elected as well.

The aggressiveness of Albanian politics emerges openly particularly



during elections period, obliging many women not to be included in this process.

The same situation as in all the country is presented even in Vlora County. Here more than 10 parties which have their branches in this county no one of them have ever had a chairwoman. The leading posts for females in the party may at most go till the level of women forums chairwomen, (always in those parties where these forums exist) or in the level of leadership members. In any case, even in these leaderships, the situation of women leaves much to desire, in comparison to their voter percentage. Thus, we could mention some data from the parties adhering to Vlora:

Political Parties	Number of females in leadership (%)
Democratic Party	22
Socialist Party (in the Leading Committees)	29
Socialist League for Integrity	Only 1 deputy chairwoman
New Democratic Party	11
Republican Party	14
Environmental Agrarian Party	33
Democratic Alliance Party	36
Albanian National Front Party	38
Socio Democratic party	22

As seen in the above table, females are very little included in leading posts in the party. Small parties have the highest percentages, which due to their position in politics do not play any decisive role in the developments of the country's life. Big parties even though have a very high number of women committed in politics their level in leading posts remains low.



The situation is worse with the women's representation in parliament. No one of Vlora county Member of Parliament is female.

Similarly, the four Municipalities of the county are lead by men. This situation changes a little only in the municipality councils and communes. Their women member coming from Democratic Party occupies 18% and those of Socialistic Party 23% of the total number.

**Thus even though women make up more than 50% of the population they never equalize the polls' with leadership percentage.**

This mentality is that much evident, that has caused women's withdrawal, in order to approach such initiatives and aims. According to them a factor of inhibition of participating in the political and social life of the country is the fact that election campaigns in Albania are conceived as denigrating for the candidates towards one another.

In order to influence the improvement of current situation and encourage the women adhering in these parties, Vatra held a series of sensitizing activities, for the inclusion of a highest number as possible, as possible candidates for the local elections.

These activities were realized in the framework of the project:

**« Raising awareness of the public opinion, on the role of woman in the political and social life of the country »**

**Financed by the American Embassy**

This project aimed the sensitizing of Vlora County community to support women, who would candidate members of Municipality Council in the municipalities and communes of Vlora County.

In order to successfully realize the activities undertaken in the frame-



work of project's and its objectives fulfillment, Vatra's staff held some working meetings with the leaders of all Political Parties in the County, concretely in Vlora, Orikumi, Selenica and Himara Municipalities. The aim of these meetings was finding the best collaborating ways among Political Parties and Vatra, as well as taking the concrete measures by the Parties in order to increase the number of women in the lists for the members of Municipality Council.

During the meetings held, apart from the problems concerning a quiet campaign, increasing the participation of the inhabitants in the polls, as well as to introduce outstanding intellectuals of different fields etc, some problems were evidenced concerning the Parties themselves such as:

1. The difficulties that small Parties have in the creation of forums of women within them because in these Parties does not have supporters or intellectual women admitted as members.
2. Membership determined in percentage terms from the Parties should not be realized according to the internal rule set by them, but to be determined by law. Only this way will it be possible to increase the number of women in the leading forums of the Parties, in central and local institutions as well as in the Municipality Councils.
3. The leaders of these parties see women as competitors of the posts they hold and try at any cost to keep them away from the developments happening in the parties.





These meetings had a particular importance because the contacts of collaboration were made among forums of Political Parties in the county and Vatra. Vatra would introduce them intellectual women and girls coming from civil society, who could be possible candidates in the lists of these parties for the local elections.

### Main activities realized:

- Radio talks
- TV debates
- Seminars
- Roundtables
- Publications
  - Leaflets
  - Poster
  - Television spot
  - Brochure

### Radio talk

In October 2006 a talk was held on the local radio station, in order to introduce the project and its aim. This talk aimed the community's acknowledgement of the situation of women in politics and decision-making in all Albania, and in particular in the Municipality of Vlora, Orikumi, Himara and Selenica. It also informed the public on the importance of the issue of gender equality in politics and leadership, as one of the problems that deny not only their right of being elected, but on the other hand becomes obstacle for the democratization of the country's life.



## Television talk

Two TV talks and debates were held in the local television stations of Vlora city.

In November was held the talk entitled: *“25-th of November, the International Day of Violence against Women”*. In this talk took part women well positioned in Vlora’s Local Authority, who treated social problems that woman of this county encounter.

Apart from violence the participants spoke and discussed about the position of woman in politics and institution leadership in Vlora city, the ways how this unfavorable position may change, as well as the importance of undertaking concrete and indispensable steps to change this situation not only on the part of the state, parliament, political parties but also from civil society’s part.

In February, once all political parties made the announcement of candidacy for Mayer, was held another TV program. There all candidates displayed their program, discussed and debated on the social status of women in the county, as well as the present conditions the woman founds herself.

### **Seminars with representatives of political parties, women forums and civil society\*.**

The seminars are considered to be the most important activities of

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(\*The figures given in the seminars held in four Municipalities refer to the period before the local elections of 2007)



the project. This is of the fact that they openly treat the problems affecting directly the community interest. They aim to gather information for better understanding of the situation as well as providing options and opportunities for coping with the problems.

In the course of the meetings held with the representatives of the political parties in the four town halls, the current situation of the political, economic and social life of the community was discussed. The themes of the seminars were defined in relevance to the problems.

**The first seminar** took place in Vlora city in October and discussed the theme *“The empowerment and development of women, a vital must for a democratic country”* the treatment of this theme was fueled by the reality of the situation concerning the women’s involvement in politics and decision-making in Vlora town. **None of more than 10 parties that have their branch in Vlora has ever had a chairwoman. The leading position of women in these parties is limited. They can reach as far as at the level of the members of the leading branches of those parties or the leader of women forums.** Not a good situation exists in the Town Hall Council either, where the parties are represented with respectively: PD (Democratic Party) – 18 % women, PS (Socialist Party) -23 % , Democratic Alliance Party PAD- 20 % while PDR, PR, PBK, PSD do not have any women among their members in the Council.

**The themes involved the discussion over the experiences, the**



**values, the hardships and challenges in the leadership of the central institutions facing the women who want to be a factor in the politics as well the work to be done by the civil society to influence over the Political parties on setting a quota for the those who are willing to be a determined factor in politics.** The participants discussed their experiences in the politics, shared their concerns and drew a range of recommendations for the ongoing work and contribution that all the actors should give for this problem. The following are some of the recommendations:

1. The involvement of the women in politics is first of all a decision that they should take by themselves. As long as they will be away from the politics and inferior to it, there exists the politics of men, for the men.
2. The change of the role of woman is not only realized only at the high levels of the governance, but it occurs even in her daily life, in her demands toward the society and the family and in the rights that she reserves to herself to be not only a voter but also a factor to bring about change and emancipation in the politics.
3. The work of the NGO-s working in this field should focus on drafting a legal framework to be proposed to the government, which should set an obligatory quota for the women in politics and decision-making.
4. Both the political parties and the civil society should show a good will for carrying out a common work to increase the capacities of the women that candidate for Mayor or Town Hall Council Chairs.



Photo from the seminars organized in the City Hall of Vlora

**The second seminar** took place in the Town Hall of Himara in November and treated the theme: *“The full and equal involvement of women in the political life, a crucial factor to the democratization of the country”*. This municipality has a population of 11.000 inhabitants and is composed of the town of Himara and the villages of Palase, Gjinleke, Dhermi, Ilias, Vuno, Pilur, Kudhes and Qeparo. The inhabitants of Himare are engaged mainly in the tourism and emigration to Greece also helps them increase their incomes. None of the political parties that have their branch in the Town Hall of Himara has ever had a chairwoman. **The leading posts of the women within the party can go as far as at the level of the organizational secretary. 11 % only of the Town Hall council is represented by women, 89 % by men. A less good situation exists even in the council of elders, where there is no chairwoman and women are strictly prohibited to lead the village.** Considering that most of the population of this municipality is situated mainly in these villages, we understand that the position of women in this municipality is very problematic. In the local institutions the number of women having leading posts is 2,



one is the deputy chairwoman and the other is the headmaster of the high school. The seminar focused on the gender equality issues in politics and decision-making, the challenges facing women in the Town of Himara in their struggle to reach a position in politics, the underestimation of women' work and contribution in running the local institutions etc. Himara as municipality where tides of a conflicting politics coexist has its own problems that are reflected even in the issues concerning women and their position in the politics. This conflicting politics between the parties has fueled their lack of attention for other important issues, among them the role and position of women in politics and decision-making.

The following recommendations were drawn from the seminar:

- 1 The women who aim to become factor in politics and decision-making should not fall prey to the conflicting politics. They instead should join their forces and help the democratization of the political and social life in the areas where they live.
- 2 The women of rural areas should get involved in the events organized by women for the women, in order to facilitate their position in the society and family.
- 3 The gender equality in society and politics should initially start within the family. The way the children are educated today determines the future. Thus we may say that the woman being the educator of the children plays an important role in improving her social status.



Photo from the seminars organized in Himara municipality

**The third seminar** took place in the Town Hall of Orikum in December entitled *“Fighting the indifference of the citizens regarding an active participation in the elections”*. The Municipality of Orikum has a population of 10.887 inhabitants and includes the town of Orikum and the villages of Dukat, Tragjas, and Radhime. The position of the women in the Town Hall is not favorable. **The parties have never had a chair-woman. Even in the Town Hall Council of this town there is no woman as member. In the leadership, women have only leading positions in the educational institutions, concretely two women.** The themes of the seminar focused on the participation in the elections as an obligation for the citizens and the efforts to empower the role of the women in politics and leadership etc.

The following are the recommendations drawn from the seminar:

- The political parties should set a fixed quota and approve an internal ruling that regulates the involvement of women in politics.
- The school as an educational institution should pay paramount attention to the gender equality and education of the young people with the proper respect for each other.



- The women should support each other regardless their political beliefs, because only if joined together, they may be a force to be taken into consideration by the other party that makes the politics and leads the country.



Photo from the seminar held in Orikum Municipality

**The fourth seminar** took place in the Town Hall of Selenice in December entitled *“Fighting the prejudices that hamper the development and emancipation of women in the rural areas”*.

The Municipality of Selenica has a population of 7105 inhabitants. So far, its inhabitants suffer lack of attention by all the governments, which emerge in the lack of jobs and the prospective about its youth. The situation of women’s inclusion in politics in this municipality leaves much to desire. **In the inhabitants’ mentality a female party leader can not be thought of. In the municipality council is only a female and in institution leadership only a woman is the headmistress of a kindergarten.**

Being the patriarchal mentality of the inhabitants the most important





problematic in this municipality and the issues related to women and their contribution in the social and political life, the seminar was focused on the discussion of women discrimination in this municipality, female's education as an important factor to achieve changes in society; as well as the importance of women's participation in the socio-political life of the community she lives in.

The following recommendations were drawn from this activity:

- The education of women and girls is a very important factor which influences the strengthening of the social status and their active inclusion in social life.
- Women's participation in politics is an obligation for every society pretending to be democratic, therefore is the duty of the state to undertake measures and make laws for the political parties so that the women's rights are not infringed.
- The development of a society can not exist without the economical development and the perspective for education and employment. Therefore, the Government should undertake measures to develop employment programs, and special policies for municipalities such as Selenica, which have a very high level of poverty.
- During these years Selenica has been both out of the attention of the state and civil society. The organization and creation of NGOs from representatives of this community itself would be an opportunity, which would have helped the solution of numerous social problems this area has.



Photo from the seminar held in Selenica Municipality

## Roundtable with NGO representatives

Having in the center of their attention the difficulties evidenced during the working meetings the staff made with the leaders of Political Parties in the county, Vatra initiated a working table with NGOs operating in Vlora.

It's a fact that woman movement in this county is not active, not to say it does not exist at all. Even the women included and adhering in political parties are more interested in participating in various political meetings and organizations rather than struggling for their rights and a favorable socio-political status, which would position them in society.

Likewise, Vlora women is very little organized in women associations, even though is known that NGOs are the mechanism which enables their active inclusion in all fields they can give their contribution.

In this table, proposals were sought for intellectual well-known women for their contribution in civil society and social life.

The proposals drawn from NGOs were sent to all Political Parties in the county, which included in their lists 6 women from 10 candidates that were proposed.



Photo from the roundtable with NGOs

## Roundtable with the candidates winning the elections

Once the elections ended and the announcement of winning candidacies was made, Vatra initiated another working roundtable with representatives from Political Parties, winning candidates, as well as participants from civil society. The aim of this table was the analysis of the results achieved in the elections, the percentage of population's participation in the polls, the number of the women elected and the difficulties encountered during the implementation of the project, which continually mirror the real situation of woman in the communities they live.

The area of Vlore is historically characterized by some particularities, which distinguish it from the other areas of the country.

The inhabitants of Vlora are distinguished for having a harsh, strong and patriotic character. These qualities have continually influenced their inclusion in the most important events occurred in the country. One of the fields of life they are strongly included, apart from country defense, is politics. It's obvious that this is related to the fact that: politics is a determining factor in the establishment of a democratic



system for the development of a country.

From this view point we say that the inhabitants of Vlora embrace not only the change, but also they keep seeking it whenever the developments in the country do not function properly.

Their participation in the polls, considering all the elections held after the '90-ies, have been much higher than the participation in the other cities of the country. But even this important element that determines the democratic development of a country has decreased the percentage, particularly in two last election processes (parliamentary 2005 and local elections 2007).

Vlora inhabitants being disappointed with Politics, unsatisfied from the Governments, withdrew from and remained indifferent to this event. Even though their aspiration to be part of the democratic developments in the country, they have remained fanatical in electing continually men candidates.

Certainly this is related to the mentality of the area where historically men appear to be "lawmakers", even though the woman has played a quite important role in the historical developments of this area.

Even the local elections held this year proved that the woman's social status continues to be a concern for as long as the government will not undertake reforming policies to the advantage of development and emancipation of woman in the country.

In Vlora, from the 10 candidates proposed for Mayor by the Political Parties, 4 male candidates won in the four municipalities. This victory is related to the fact that no one of the main Parties in the county introduced woman candidates.

In the same way, from all the candidates proposed for Commune chairmen in 9 communes of Vlora, only one woman won in the Hore-



Vranisht commune. She had been leading this commune since the previous elections. She was re-elected by the community for other four years, which shows that women have good leading abilities and are successful.

**From 68 women proposed from the Political Parties for members of Municipality Councils, 17 women won.**

**In Vlora's Municipality Council, from 45 members 10 will be women members from 9 that were in the previous council.** The highest percentage in this council was achieved by the Socialist Party, which has 5 women members from 15, implementing thus the quota of 30% that had been determined in these elections.

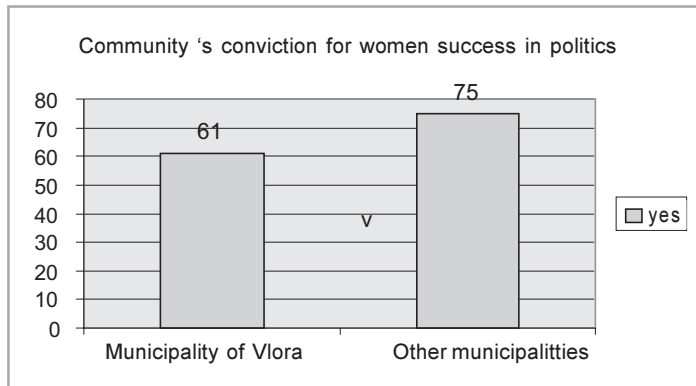
**In Selenica Municipality will be 5 women councilors from 1 that was in the previous council; in the Municipalities of Orikumi and Himara only one woman each.**

It is not necessary to make a detailed analysis of these indicators that evidence the predominance of men's role in these political forces. They are the main protagonists of politics in this county. **This fact was evidenced from the analysis of questionnaires realized in the framework of the project where 61% of the people participating in the survey in Vlora and more than 75% in the other municipalities said that: women can be more successful than a man politician. But it is the patriarchal mentality and tradition that decides the woman's evaluation.**

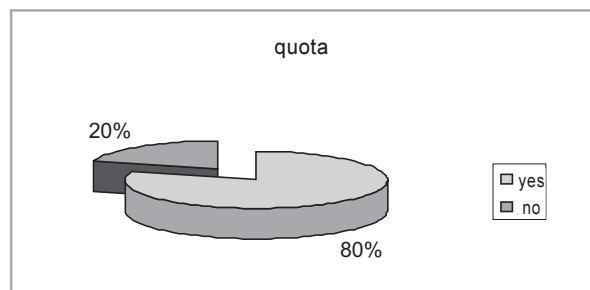
To the question: "Do you think that women are more successful than men in politics?" the participants in the survey answered:



Municipality	Yes	No
Vlora	61%	39%
Orikumi, Himara, Selenica	75%	25%



An important fact evidenced from the questionnaires' analysis, was that over 80% of the participants in the survey in four Municipalities, thought that, **it is very important setting the women's quota by law, so that she is not hold to ransom of the political leaders desire.**



Likewise 75% of the people participating the questionnaire in Vlora Municipality, 82% in Orikumi Municipality, 62% in Himara Municipality 80% in Selenica Municipality have affirmed that **participation of women in decision-making is important not only because they are capable**



**and successful, but also because woman by nature is less corrupted and more organized. These traits would have influenced the implementation of the best practices the state compiles for the development of the country.**

In the same way, more participation of women in decision-making would have been a good indicator of gender equality implementation; an important factor for a democratic and civilized society.

All the problems evidenced during the project's realization became object of discussion in this roundtable, where both leaders of political parties and the winning mayors in four Municipalities promised that: the improvement and implementation of woman's social status will be priority of their future work.



Photo from the roundtable with the candidates winning the elections.

## Publications: TV spot, leaflet, poster, brochure

During January and February 2007 in local television stations was published a television spot, which transmitted the citizens the message of a high participation in the elections, a duty that reflects the degree of development of a civilized society.



In the framework of this project was published the leaflet entitled: “The quota about the women in politics changes her role in society” and the poster: “I have the right to elect and be elected”. These publications aimed raising the awareness of community about the improvement of woman’s position in politics and decision-making. They were both delivered in all the areas, communes and villages including these municipalities.

The publication of this brochure in the framework of the project brings a clear situation in relation with the participation of women in politics and decision-making in Vlora County.







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## Recommandations

1. The state should undertake direct political, economical and social reforms about women, in order to strengthen their social status.
2. To determine by law the quota about women in politics, not only to position them in the field, but also for the reforming and democratization of the parties themselves.
3. Women should be organized and act for the creation of a wide feminist movement, with intellectual potentials in order to seek their equal position in all fields of life.
4. NGOs, the most important institutions of civil society, should fight to promote the best values of women, in order to implement the law about gender equality, which is a very important element for the development of a civilized society in a democratic state.