

Chapter II. 1

The black side of the “pink” reality¹

Who is the “target group” of the many institutions that deal with the issue of equal opportunities between women and men? Who is “Maricica” that is taken care by so many institutions, structures, organizations and people in Romania today? What is her opinion, what does she feel about what the work that is carried out for her, in her name, for her benefit? Is she being informed, does she trust, does she make use of the existing laws, institutions, programs, projects and people that are working to enhance her chances for equal opportunities with men? What do men, co-citizens of Maricica, feel, think about the efforts, at least about the former ones, that are being done to enhance the equal opportunities of women?

The women living in Romania and on the name of whom so many institutions and projects are created and supported, and so many people are working, are many, diverse, have different experiences, but are still discriminated against and compared with men in many areas of everyday life. It is not known and studied about what they want, what they feel, what they desire, how they are socializing for different social and cultural roles, how are they living as there are so few monographic or qualitative studies about their lives.

And maybe the most important failure of the Romanian feminism(s) or women’s movement is the fact that for many times it ignores, forgets, marginalizes, and patronizes the women in the name of who it speaks about or represents. Is it possible that “the workers” in the field of equal opportunities between women and men be the only beneficiaries of their own work?

At 1 July 2003, women were 51.2% of the total population living in Romania, 21.733.556 people from which 52% were living in the urban areas and 50.3% in the rural areas of Romania.

Women live, in average, 7 years longer than men; the average age of both women and men living in Romania is slowly increasing: in 2000, the average life expectancy for men was 67 years and 74.2 years for women; in 2003, it was 67.4 for men and 74.8 for women.

Compared with the year of 1998, both the number of marriages and divorces is decreasing. In 1998, there were 145.3 thousand marriages and 40 thousands divorces registered, and in 2003 134 thousands marriages and 33.1 thousands divorces registered.

The average age at marriage for both partners, women and men, is increasing both in the rural and urban areas. In 1990, the average age of the men when getting married for the first time was 27.4 years for the urban areas and 26.2 years in the rural areas. For women, these ages were 24.6 years in the urban areas and 22.5 years in the rural areas. In 2003, these numbers increased: 30.2 in urban areas for men and 29 years in rural areas; 27.2 in urban areas for women and 24.7 in rural.

The average age of women at the first birth increased both for women living in urban and rural areas. In 1996, for urban areas the average age of the first child was 24 and for rural areas was 21.8; in 2003, the average age of the first child for women living in urban area was

¹ Nicoleta Niță, working for the AnA Documentation center, realized the documentation for this part of the book.

25.7 years, and for women living in rural areas was 22.5 years. A constant difference of 3.2 years between the average ages of women living in urban areas compared to women living in rural areas when giving birth to the first child is maintained during this period of 6 years.

Since 1990, the number of divorces was not constant or did not have a constant line of increasing or decreasing. The bigger number of divorces were registered in 1994, 39.663 thousands and in 1998, 39.985 thousands; the smallest number of divorces was in 1992, with only 29.290 thousands divorces. In 45% of the divorces, there were no children. 33% of the divorces were in cases of one child of the parents, 13% of divorces were two children, and only 2% of divorces were three children. (The Statistical Annual, 2004)

The number of women that form the emigration population is increasing compared with the numbers from 2001 and 2002 and it is constant in terms of comparison with the number of men: there are more women that are living the country either to work in foreign countries or/and to marry foreign men. (These are two possible explanations for women outnumbering men in immigration population.) the only exception to these rule were 1992 and 2001, when there were more registered men than women that left Romania.

As towards the data for **education**:

- the number of pupils in preschool, primary, secondary, and professional education, there are more boys than girls. In 2003 and 2004, the numbers were the following:
preschool education: 323.151 boys and 313.558 girls
primary and secondary education: 1.093.345 boys and 1.928.881 girls
professional education: 173.865 boys and 105.259 girls.
- in the high school education, after high-school education and university studies, there are more girls compared with the number of boys. In 2003-2004, the numbers were the following:
high-school: 413.913 girls and 345.004 boys
after high-school: 33.923 girls and 20.809 boys
university studies: 340.329 girls and 280.456 boys.

In the last years, the gender differences were constant, both on the level of education and distribution.

The persons working the educational system in Romania in 2003-2004 was 281.272 from which ONLY 27.98% were men.

- in the preschool: 0.19% men and 99.8% women
- primary and secondary schools: 24.51% men and 75.49% women
- professional and skills school: 47.94% men and 52.06 women
- after high-school: 33.53% men and 66.47% women
- universities: 57.54% men and 42.46% women.

As many studies concerning education in Romania show, boys are the ones more inclined to give up on school compared to girls, 1.4 boys compared with 1.1 girls.

The data for the Roma population living in Romani, the OSI Report from 2002 shows that 3% of Roma women and 7% of Roma men finished a high-school, compared with 63% of Romanian women and 73% of Romanian men.

Work area

The data are different for the different work domains; it can be noticed that, in general, for the majority of work domains, men's incomes are bigger than women's incomes. There is one exception, the area of constructions, where women have bigger incomes than men, but where they are only 12.77% of the total population working in this domain. For example, the medium income of a man in *the financial domain* is 22 183 597 lei compared with 15 750 276 lei of a woman; in *the health system*, the medium income of a man is 6 988 944 lei compared with 5 939 889 lei of a woman.

The number of pensioners is increasing in Romania, with women being a higher number of pensioners than men; the medium value of a pension for a woman is significantly smaller than the medium pension of a man.

(The Statistical Bulletin in the Domain of Work, Social Solidarity and Family, no.3 (51), 2005)

In March 2004, out of 140 Senators—members of the Upper Chamber of the Parliament of Romania – only 12 were women; and out of 345 Deputies – members of the Deputies' Chamber of the Parliament of Romania – only 38 were women.

So far, NO WOMAN was elected for the position of the President of Romania.

Until the 2004 elections for Presidency, no woman has run for this position.

In 2004, until the general elections, the Cabinet of the Prime-Minister was formed of 24 members, and only 2 women were having the positions of Ministers in it. In the Cabinet starting 2005, out of 25 Ministers, 5 were women.

After the general election in 2004, Bucharest has as a Prefect a woman, the first woman holding this executive position: Mioara Mantale, representing the Democratic Party. In terms of administrative organisation, Romania has 265 cities and 2686 villages. The greatest majority of the mayors of the cities and villages are men: out of 2951 representing the total number of mayors in Romania, only 109 are women. In Bucharest that is made up of 5 administrative parts, so far there was no woman elected as mayors of one of these counties and also there was NO WOMAN elected for the position of the General Mayor of Bucharest.

The results of the 2000 elections brought the highest percentage of women's political representation since the first elections from 1991: 10.3 %, comparing this with the percentage of 5.5% of women elected in the previous legislation. After the last Parliamentary elections in November 2004, the percentage of women's political representation stayed at 10.3%. This percentage is under the medium percentage of women's legislative representation in the world which is 15.6% and quite under the medium within the European states, which is 18.7%. And it can be very easily noticed, the percentage for Romania is well under the medium within the Scandinavian countries, 34%, which are leading in the world and in Europe, with Sweden as the leader with a percentage of 45.3% women's representation.

(Most of these data are taken from *Revista 22*, no.819, November 2005)

The percentage of young people – under 30 year old -- starting their own business in Romania increased in 2005 with 2.5% compared with 2004, the number of women decreased as more

women do not start their business. The number of firms having as a founder a woman started to decrease compared with the firms started by men, where the number has doubled from one year to the next. The number of women that decided to start a firm/business was not constant between 2000 and 2003. In 2003 only 33.7% of new businesses are initiated by women compared with 34.7% in 2000.

(These data are taken from the Annual Report of the National Agency for Small and Medium Firms, http://www.mimmc.ro/raport_anual/profilul_intreprinzatorului_roman/.)

The percentage of women out of the total female population in Romania being in the fertile period of their life, between 15 and 44 years, that are using pills as contraception increased from 41% in 1993 to 48% in 1999 and reached 58% in 2004. In 1993, only one woman out of four was using **a modern method of contraception**. In 1999, the percentage of women that were using a modern method of contraception, 23%, was close to the percentage of women that were using traditional ways of contraception, 25%, but more than half of the percentage of women from the total female population in Romania was using NO method of contraception. In 2004, it is the first time after 1989 when in Romania the percentage of fertile women from the total female population of Romania that are using modern methods of contraception is bigger, 34%, compared with the percentage that is using traditional ones. In 2004, pills and condoms are the most frequently used methods of contraception, reaching 13% of people asked in the survey.

Comparing the percentage of women within married couples or consensual couples, the most likely to be sexually active, that are using any method of contraception, modern or traditional, increased in time: 57% in 1993, 64% in 1999 and 70% in 2004. Comparing the same categories of the female population, living in urban or rural areas, the ones in the urban areas are most likely to use a method of contraception: in 1993, 59% in urban area compared with 55% in rural area; in 1999, 65% from urban area compared with 61% living in rural area. In 2004, the difference did not exist anymore, as the results showed that 70% of female population, living either in the urban or rural area is using a method of contraception.

(The data are taken from The Study of Reproductive Health in Romania in 2004, Ministry of Health, Synthetic Report, May, 2005)

Violence against women continues to be a huge problem in Romania. Statistical data show that a number of 800 000 women are suffering frequently violence against them or a violent treatment against them. Police is declaring that only one out of possible six victims of domestic violence is coming to declare it. In Bucharest, only three shelters for women are in function. Violence in the family has different forms, and besides the physical violence, there are other forms that not many people are recognising as being a form of violence: psychological violence, economic violence. The statistical data also show that every second day a woman is killed as a result of violent beating.

(The data are taken from the Statistical Report of the General Inspection Department of the Police, 2003)

In Romania, almost half of the total female population was once verbally aggressed, one out of three was physically abused, and one out of thirteen was forced into unwilling sex, usually in this last situation the husband or partner was the aggressor. International studies show that 16% of deaths during pregnancy period are caused by the partner's violent behaviour.

(The data are taken from The Study of Reproductive Health, <http://www.unfpa.ro/violenta/Politici/>)

Psychological violence towards women is twice bigger compared to the one towards men, 16% to 9%, and there are no differences in terms of ethnicity or age.

(The data are taken from the National Research on Family Violence and at the Work Place, Centre for Equal Partnership, Romania, 2003)

Women represent 72.5% of **economic violence within the families**. Because the number of men victims of economic violence is very small, the research focused mainly on the economic violence against women. And a portrait of the victim could be constructed:

- It affects mostly women age between 30 and 49.
- Women of any religious background, ethnicity and level of education.
- Mostly divorced women or women that have been through a divorce process during their life time; 22% of women that suffer economic violence are divorced; 48% of victims, the majority, are married women.
- Women living in a partnership are most likely to suffer from economic violence.
- Women having as income ...
- There were no significant differences found in regards to area of living, urban or rural, and geographic area of Romania.

(The data are taken from the National Research on Family Violence and at the Work Place, Centre for Equal Partnership, Romania, 2003)

Sexual harassment that implies physical force:

- 1.7% of the adult population living in Romania knows about sexual harassment at the work place or at school;
- it is present everywhere, both in rural or urban areas, in small or big cities, in all the regions of Romania;
- This type of sexual harassment is twice bigger against women, 2.6%, than against men, 0.5%, no matter their ethnic or religious background. As these data show, sexual harassment using physical force is mostly a form of violence against women.
- Comparing within the age groups, within the youth it is most likely to happen, 3.6% of cases of the people between 18 and 29, in 1.5% of cases of people between 30 and 49, and very slightly to happen for people after 50.
- This kind of sexual harassment is most frequent for highly educated people, 4.2% of cases declaring to face it, represents 40% of the total population of victims of sexual harassment using physical force.

(The data are taken from the National Research on Family Violence and at the Work Place, Centre for Equal Partnership, Romania, 2003)

The health condition of people living in Romania is very poor and also people usually go to doctors only when they are very, very sick. A recent research carried out in November 2005 by the ISRA Centre Marketing Research showed that 25% of people questioned do not go to a doctor not even once a year, 27% go only once a year for a general health checking. The percentage of women that are going to the doctor at least once a month is bigger compared with the percentage of men.

In the last years, in Romania, **registered HIV cases** are increasing. In 1996, there were 4 978 cases of HIV, 2 980 men and 2 088 women. These cases increased in number, in 2001 there were 8 019 register HIV cases, 4 633 were men and 3 386 were women. In 2003, it increased to 8 467 cases, 4 881 men and 3 586 women. It can be seen that the number of cases among male is bigger every year compared with the number for women. Both national and international experts concluded that the actual number of HIV positive persons in Romania can be 5 to 10 times bigger than the registered number.

(The data are taken from the site of the National Institute for Statistics, <http://www.insse.ro>)

The main reasons for death, both for women and men in Romania are:

- Diseases of the cardio-vascular system, 773.8 dead women/100 000 inhabitants compared to 749.8 dead men/100 000 inhabitants)
- Tumours in 162.8 dead women/ 100 000 inhabitants compared to 241 dead men/100 000 inhabitants.
- Diseases of the breathing system: 47 dead women/100 000 inhabitants compared to 83.2 dead men/ 100 000 inhabitants.
- Diseases of the digestive system: 53 dead women/100 000 inhabitants compared to 90.8 dead men/ 100 000 inhabitants.

These data are registered at the end of 2003. In general, the number of death among men is higher than among women.

(The data are taken from the site of the National Institute for Statistics, <http://www.insse.ro>)

The victims of trafficking that have been helped by the Office for International Migration in Bucharest, in 2004:

- in 2003, they register 132 cases of sexual exploitation and 21 cases of labour exploitation;
- in 2004, they register 132 cases of sexual exploitation and 10 cases of labour exploitation;
- The 132 cases register by OIM in Bucharest as sexual exploitation were all women, 25 of them between 14 and 18 years, in 90 of the cases the women were between 18 and 25 years. 58 of the 132 were women coming from the rural areas and 74 from the urban areas.

(See www.antitrafic.ro/sections/sdfnsf/srjnj/adsbn)

In 2003, **the number of convicted persons** was 11 335 from which 8 983 were men and 1 074 women. In 2004, the total number of convicted persons decreased to 8 970 from which 8 102 were men and 868 were women. These data are part of the 2004 Report of the activities of the Court of Appeal and its subordinated institutions in Bucharest.

Romania and the index for human development

The Global Report for Human Development (GRHD) from 2004, places Romania on the 69th place out of the 177 countries analysed based on its indices of human development (IDU). Romania got 0.786 points and in order to know how it was calculated please see UNDP Report for 2004, www.undp.ro. For the issue of equal opportunities between women and men, two indices were made:

The Index for gender disparity in human development (IDS) (it uses the same indices as the ones specific for IDU but the value is calculated separately for men and for women.) In 2004, Romania is placed on 56th place among 144 countries, its value of IDS is 0.784. Romania's value of IDS is a bit smaller than the value of IDU, 0.786. Within the group of Central and East European countries and the members of the CIS where the IDS were calculated, Romania holds the 15th place.

The Index of women's social participation (IPF) determines what is the percentage of women who hold rights to participate in different area of public activities compared with men. There are 4 indicators: the medium salary of a woman compared with the medium salary of a man; the percentage of women holding leading/executive position in the public sector, the percentage of women in legislative bodies and the percentage

of women having scientific or intellectual jobs. The data show that Romania's IPF of 0.465 is close or similar with the value of IPS of the countries in the same geographical region. (See the Table at pg.21 of the Human Development Report for Romania, English version, 2004)

Romania - Gender Empowerment Measure as Compared with Other Selected Countries (Source: Human Development Report for Romania, English version, 2004, pg.21, <http://www.undp.ro/publications/pdf/NHDR2005eng.pdf>)

Country	Gender empowerment measure (GEM) value	Seats in Parliament held by women (% of total)	Female legislators, senior officials and managers (% of total)	Female professional and technical workers (% of total)	Ratio of estimated female to male earned income
Norway	0,908	36,4	28	49	0,74
Slovenia	0,584	12,2	29	55	0,62
Hungary	0,529	9,8	35	62	0,59
Croatia	0,560	17,8	26	51	0,56
Macedonia, TFYR	0,517	18,3	19	51	0,55
Romania	0,465	9,3	31	56	0,58
Ukraine	0,411	5,3	38	64	0,53
Turkey	0,290	8,8	23	54	0,33

Source: Global Human development Report, 2004

(Translation by Ioana Borza)

Chapter II.2 (selection)

The perceptions of women and men concerning the idea of equal opportunities between women and men reflected in public opinion polls in Romania (selection from the text)

How do people perceive the idea of equal opportunities between women and men? What is their definition of this concept? How much people still believe in the idea of equal opportunities between women and men?

In 2000, Open Society Foundation made the first Gender Barometer in Romania after 1989. In 2005, the National Council for Combating Discrimination organized a survey about attitudes concerning the phenomena of discrimination in Romania and included also questions concerning the issue of equal opportunities between women and men. In what follows we will compare the results of the two researches and discuss them.

Within this period of five years, and taking into consideration that the researches were done by two different companies, at the request of two different institutions, there were NO changes within the perception of the population. In 2000 36% of people answering the questions of the survey consider that equality of opportunities between women and men does exist. In 2005 the percentage was close: 35%.

The same conclusion can be drawn about the perception concerning the lack of equal opportunities between women and men. In 2000, 50% consider that there is no real equality between women and men, and in 2005, 48% thought the same.

In terms of gender differences to answering the questions, women mostly than men are the ones that do not perceive that there are equal opportunities between women and men, and especially young women, up to 35 years.

In general, the situation of men is perceived as being better compared with the situation of women. 45% of people asked in 2005 considered that men are better and clearly better than women. And 38% of people think that men and women in Romania have similar situations.

In terms of how men and women living in Romania define equal opportunities between women and men there were no significant changes in the hierarchy of answers between 2000 and 2005. In both years, the first place is taken by the understanding of equal rights. Thus, in 2000, 34% of men and 30% of women gave this understanding to the concept of equal opportunities, and in 2005, 61% of men and 51% of women. The second place in this hierarchy is taken by the understanding of “taking decisions together”, but in a much smaller percentage: only 13% of men and 17% of women in 2005. The third place is the understanding of having “the same amount of family responsibilities”, but again, the percentages are smaller: 8% of men and 15% of women gave this answer in 2005. Even if the hierarchy of answer is the same for both men and women, what differs is the percentage of men and of women that place different answers on this scale. What is relevant to notice is the huge difference in percentage at the answers given by men between the understanding of “having equal rights” and “having the same amount of family responsibilities”: 61% to 8% in 2005. This remark, in our opinion, comes to support the description of the current Romanian society which is still highly patriarchic in its core values as the man is still perceives as “the head of the family” in 76% of the answers in 2005 compared with 83% of answers in 2000, and the woman is seen as “the muster of the house” in 61% of answers in both 2005 and 2000.

In terms of the equal share of the family or house responsibilities, there are differences between women and men in assuming them and sharing them. The idea of equal opportunities between women and men in reference to family responsibilities sharing is still NOT perceived as a family partnership or it is perceived by very few. In 2000 70% of respondents said that “men are responsible to bring money to the house” and 63% of respondents answered that “it is mostly women that should take care of the house”. In 2005, the answers to these issues were 67% of respondents on the issue of men and 64% of respondents on the issue of women. There are no huge differences in percentages between the two moments in time.

One can conclude from the observations made on the results of the two national surveys carried on in Romania on the idea of equal opportunities between women and men that:

- In the last five years, the perceptions of men and women in Romania on the issue of equal opportunities between women and men did not change.
- The idea of equal rights between women and men is still highly appreciated and supported, even if the fact that there STILL are laws that discriminate women is recognized.
- The situation of women and men, generally speaking, is perceived as being similar or with no significant differences, BUT STILL, in general, the situation of men is perceived as being far better or at least better than the situation of women.

- There is a small consideration to assume family responsibilities in equal amount and the perceptions about the gender roles are still “well” distributed: men should bring money at home, women should take care of the house.

In conclusion, in terms of equal opportunities between women and men seen by the people living in Romania, there still is a patriarchal view, even if its characteristics may vary within the three “different Romanias” described by Vladimir Pasti, the capitalist Romania, the rural Romania, and the industrial Romania. This is the situation in terms of perceptions with one year before Romania becomes member of the European Union.

(Translation by Ioana Borza)