



# BiZ DE VARIZ

WOMEN MOVEMENT ASSOCIATION AT THE RURAL REGION

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Subject : Turkish and Estonian Civil Society Cooperation

Date : Rize, January 20, 2026

Dear Ms. Karmen JOLLER  
Minister of Social Affairs  
The Republic of Estonia Ministry of Social Affairs  
Suur-Ameerika 1, 10122 Tallinn  
E-mail: karmen.joller@sm.ee and info@sm.ee

Dear Ms. Joller,

Our association, in partnership with the Estonian Disabled Women's Association (Estonia), the Lithuanian Women's Society (Lithuania) and the Gender Studies, o.p.s. (Czechia), implemented the "Civil Society Dialogue for Empowered Women" project in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Estonia (The brochure for this project is attached.). This project was supported by the European Union. The project was implemented between 01.04.2021 – 30.01.2023.

The aim of the project is "Overall objective: to strengthen the position of women in Rize and improve the information exchange and sustainable cooperation between Turkish and European CSOs. Specific objectives: (1) To ensure information exchange about Women-friendly Cities and "women with disabilities" approach of women's CSOs between Turkish and Estonian CSOs; (2) To establish the "women in local governance e-platform"; (3) To inform the Turkish public on the EU and the European public on Turkey."

The project has been successfully implemented in Türkiye, Estonia, Czech Republic, and Lithuania.

The International workshop with subject of "Women's Rights with Disabilities in Estonia" for lively and colourful society dialogue among NGO was done in Estonia. The International workshop was held in two phases. At the first stage, travel observation and examination works have been implemented. During those examination works, presentations have been performed by the people who know well the point. At the second stage; group works and presentations called as indoor area work were done. This workshop provided to attendants to make strength democracy and law subject to estimated political dimensions. Eesti Puuetega Naiste Ühenduste Liit (EPNÜL) served as a role model for Turkish participants. The International workshop not only has increased



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the information and capacities of the participants but also provide an opportunity to them for practicing as a part of solution. So, they have increased their self-confidence.

Achievements of the project:

1. Better information sharing about Project partners and opportunities and difficulties due to enlarging of EU in future were shared through negotiations.
2. A dialogue has been established between EU Member States and Turkiye where "concerns and views will be discussed sincerely and clearly".
3. Entering of Estonia to EU, learnt lessons, Lecturing about points like rights of disabled women, Activities of NGOs with women subject in EU and Estonia, Gender Equality in Estonia and EU Countries.
4. Estonian participants have had the opportunity to get to know Turkiye closely.
5. Estonian participants have learned about the works Turkey has done during the EU harmonization process.
6. Better information sharing about the project partners opportunities and difficulties due to enlarging of EU in future were shared through negotiations.

Our project team in Estonia is very successful. Disciplined and dedicated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Kylli Haav, Ms. Janika Paulus, Mrs Vaike Pähn, Ms Marju Reismaa, Ms Jelena Pipper. The PowerPoint presentations were particularly impressive. The participants loved them. They served as role models for the participants.

We are in constant dialogue with Eesti Puuetega Naiste Ühenduste Liit (EPNÜL). We are currently preparing a joint project proposal. The purpose of this project is "to strengthen the voice and actions of local civil society for climate justice and inclusive climate local governance in Turkiye by engaging with the most vulnerable, excluded and disadvantaged groups of society, such as disabled women."

We want to implement this project to create a bigger synergy in the project site and to increase the sustainability of the project. With the contributions of Estonia Missions and EU Missions that put value on 'Disabled Women's Rights' a great synergy and the multiplier effect will be generated.

I respectfully submit this information to your attention.



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Berrin YEGEN MOLLAVELIOGLU  
President of the Board of Directors

Appendix: Project brochure