

Milestones in women's way to equality

Conclusions from international comparison

Grundtvig Learning Partnership 2012 – 2014

	The right to vote and equal rights	Dates Germany	Dates Austria	Dates Poland	Dates Spain
1	Beginning of the women's movement Beginnings of women's participation in the parliament and other governmental institutions	1849 first women's movement 1865 - Founding of the first women's association 1919 - 37 female members of the parliament - 8,7% of the members	1848- Women's movement 1918/19 - 6 female members of the parliament - 3,5% of the members	1830 - the first patriotic association of women 1919 - 8 women became members of parliament – 1,85% of the members	1906 - Founding of the first women's association 1931 - 3 women in the parliament, then again from 1976
2	Women allowed to participate in political associations and parties Women in higher positions as an role model for other	Imperial law about associations (Reichsvereinsgesetz) 1908 Female Prime minister since 2005	1867 Dec. constitution 1893 1. Women association for only 3 months Female Social Minister 1966, 1990 Minister of Women's Affairs	1905 – 1913 depending to partition Female Prime minister 1992 1997 Minister of Justice	End of XIX Century 1931 Minister of Health
3	Right to vote Equality of men and women in the constitution	1918 1949	1918 1920 only formal	1918 1921	1931 1931-1939.- 1939-1977- Removed 1978

4	Equality of men and women in the Civil law	From 1958 patriarchal rights removed	1811 ABGD First Civil law for Germany and k.k. Monarchy countries modified during centuries	1952 Constitution 1964 Civil Code	1931-1939 1939-1977-Removed 1978
5	Marriage partners can keep their own family names	1993	1994	1964 Civil Code Family Code	Always
6	Advancement of women and protection of employees against sexual harassment	1994	1994	1974 Labour Code	1999
7	Registered civil partnership of homosexual women's and men's couples have almost the same rights as hetero-marriages	2001	2010 not the same rights as hetero couples	Not regulated	2005
8	EU-Regulations for General Equal Treatment Act are implemented in	2006	2004	2011	2007

Conclusions:

We can talk about political and equal rights with the beginning of XX century, since women had the "right to vote" and are represented in parliaments like men.

Austria 1918/1919 – 6 women in parliament Poland 1918 – 8 women in parliament
Spain – from 1931 and then again 1976 Germany 1919 – 37 women in parliament

After the 1.WW Austria, Germany, Poland became democratic republics.

Spain II Republic in 1931. Equal rights in the constitution/with political, social and civil rights/ women voted in 1933 and 1936.

Removal of the most women's rights.

Since 1930 different political totalitarian system emerged: dictatorship, fascism. Spain from 1936-1975 Franco-regime.

Women are segregated at home with the support of the Catholic Church.

Austria /1938 -1945/ and Germany / 1933-1945/ organized „motherliness" and gender segregation.

Communist system in Poland, new constitution 1952 with equal rights.

Since the 60ties/seventies second, "Women's movement" with reform in family law, working issues, mother's maternity leaves,...

	Right to education, work and culture	Dates Germany	Dates Austria	Dates Poland	Dates Spain
1	Women's access to education/second level of education/	1893	1892 foundation of the 1 st gymnasium/ secondary school for girls	Beginning of XIX century –private schools 1825- Institute of governesses	1857- 1882- Removed 1883
2	Women's official right to study at the University	1900 - 1909	1896 - 1945	1894	1882-1910
3	Women allowed to take post-doctoral qualifications	1920 1923 First female University Professor	1907 Else Richter became 1 st University Professor	1919 –the first female habilitation 1934 –the first female Professor	1910
4	Equal treatment of men and women anchored in the civil law – the same salary for the same work, gender neutral job posting	1980	1979	1974 Labour Code	Gradual starting in 1978
5	Advancement of women and protection of female employees	1994	1994	1974 Labour Code	1999
6	Women's right to obtain a kindergarten place for their children	1996	Regulated since 2010 and regards only one year before school entry	Not regulated	Not regulated

Conclusions:

Women's access to education on the secondary level started more or less at the same time in all 4 countries.

The opening of the universities' doors for the women took some time. It depended on the faculty /first philosophy, medicine much later/.

We have talked about the women's rights during Authoritarianism:

Germany: During the NS Government 1933 – 1945, women were deprived of passive vote rights and other gained rights of equality were withdrawn.

Austria: at the end of WW1 women had many rights which were withdrawn in the period of "Austrofascismus" 1933-1938. Many women were forced into emigration during that period i.e. before the outbreak of WW2. Or lived and survived in hideouts. Several of Austrian Women took a clear position and fought against the regime.

Spain: the Franco-regime abolished women rights.

Poland: during communist time 1945-1989 women had equal rights.

	Woman's position in the family	Dates Germany	Dates Austria	Dates Poland	Dates Spain
1	Standard Guidelines for civil marriage a/ since when civil marriage was possible b/ when civil marriage became obligatory / or not at all	1875 – Standardised in the various German states	1783 "Ehepatent" 1938 civil marriage obligatory	a/ 1809 -1825 in Russian partition under Napoleon Code b/ 1945	1931-1939- II Republic 1939-1977- Removed 1978-
2	First legal regulations for maternity leave	1878	1885 for industrial workers	1924	1900
3	The civil law states that the husband has the sole right to decide in all marriage and family issues	Valid in the period 1900-1958		up to 1921	Valid in the period 1939-1975.
4	Anti-baby pill	1960	1960ties	1966	1961, clandestine. 1978
5	Abortion not-prosecutable in the first 12 weeks	1974	1975	1956 + regress 1997	2010
6	Reformation of marriage and family law (the legal role division in the marriage removed)	1976	1976	1964	1975- 1 st phase 1981- 2 nd phase
7	Legal penalty for rape in the marriage and forced sexual acts	1979 Penal reform	1989	1932 Makarewicz Criminal Code	1989 Penalreform
8	Bashers have to leave the accommodation	2010	1997	2008 proposition only	2004

Conclusions:

1. In general:

In Poland and Spain a backlash is taking place due to influence of the Catholic Church, so in many aspects the situation in these two countries is similar. For other reasons the analyzed situation is similar in Germany and Austria.

2. Civil marriage:

2a/ During the 19th century the situation was similar in all countries, civil marriage was not obligatory. In Poland it was possibility under Napoleon Code – short time 1809 -1825.

In general there were religious marriages and civil marriage only for exceptional cases. In Spain only religious marriage.

Same regulations for divorce: from the religious point of view anyway not permissible, civil divorce in special cases.

2b/ The situation in the 20th century is varied. Poland had obligatory civil marriage after 2nd WW, and then after the Concordat with the Vatican 1977 religious marriage dominates again, has civil impact and is sufficient. Same situation in Spain – religious marriage has civil impact. In Germany and Austria civil marriage became obligatory.