

Interview for ENTRi

The Folke Bernadotte Academy's (FBA) Gender Adviser Course November Sandö, Sweden

20-25 November, 2016



FBA has during the past week conducted the third edition of the Gender Adviser Course, in which 22 participants gathered for a week on Sandö in Sweden. In their jobs, the participants work as gender advisers and gender focal points within EU, OSCE and UN missions as well as in other organisations.

The course provides personnel with a responsibility to promote a gender perspective in their organizations the opportunity to upgrade their knowledge and to strengthen their skills. The course builds on input from experienced gender experts working in international civilian crisis management missions, and on current research on the topic.

During the week, the participants have through the support of four mentors, been given new practical tools and theoretical knowledge that will strengthen their roles as gender advisers.

FBA's program for issues related to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security performed the course in cooperation with ENTRi, Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management.

Judith Mirmebe was one of the active participants in the course, and she shared her experience.

Where do you work and with what?

- I am the Gender Adviser to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SGSR) at the United National Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

In which way is this course useful for your work?

- Previously in my experience as a gender adviser, I have had to craft my own terms of reference. The course is spelling out the functions of a gender adviser in a very useful and simplified way. These days have made me look inward and think what I can give out as a gender adviser. It has also brought to the light how to organize and plan for trainings in terms of gender mainstreaming, and given me a new perspective on the traditional methods that I have been using before. This is very beneficial for me, and it will allow me to deliver clearer trainings on gender, how to demystify it, and to package my advice well.

What developments in regards to gender integration would you like to see happen in the mission?

- I would like the mission to recruit more female military officers, as well as more female workers in the Support Section and on high level positions. It think we should also start using a different and more updated approach on Gender Mainstreaming.

What did you like most about the course?

- The Speed Dating exercise! It is such a great and relaxed way to remember what we learned during the day. The mentometer buttons were also a great feature in the course! Actually, I really like all the interactive elements of the course. We got to use so many great learning tools that made everything we learned fall into place.

What will you bring with you from the course and what will you do when you get back to work?

- I will immediately apply the gender 'equality vs equity' method in my trainings. In December, I will run a workshop for women mediators and I will definitely use some of the excises from this course that shows practical implementation. I will soon also conduct gender analysis training for the National Parliament and also there I will use some of the interactive exercises that we used here at Sandö. I feel really inspired.