

May 26th, 2021

## PRESS RELEASE

### Oeste + Igual Project Focus Group Session

On May 25th, the Oeste + Igual Project Focus Group session took place, which aims to be a pilot project in the implementation of policies and good practices in the areas of Gender Equality and Reconciliation of Professional, Family and Personal Life.

The activity started at 10 am and was attended by the Project team, Municipal Focal Points, companies and the West Region association.

At the opening session, Paulo Simões, Executive Secretary of OesteCIM, thanked everyone for their presence and highlighted the importance of the Project for achieving the United Nations' goal of sustainable development, Gender Equality.

This was followed by the Portuguese Association for Diversity and Inclusion, represented by Mónica Canário, who presented the Charter for Diversity, an initiative of the European Commission created with the aim of encouraging employers to implement and develop internal policies and practices to promote diversity and equal opportunities at work.

It was then up to Susana Almeida, from SHL Portugal, to streamline the analysis of the Portuguese policies underlying the "3 in Line", of the Program for the Reconciliation of Professional, Personal and Family Life 2018-2019. The objective of the initiative was to carry out a SWOT analysis, identifying Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats existing in companies and institutions in the West Region with regard to gender equality and the reconciliation of professional, family and personal life.

At the end of the Focus Group session, it is planned to draw up a summary report of the main measures to be implemented in the West Region.

*Through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are partners in the internal market with the Member States of the European Union.*

*As a way of promoting a continuous and balanced strengthening of economic and trade relations, the parties to the EEA Agreement have established a multi-year Financial Mechanism, known as EEA Grants.*

*The EEA Grants aim to reduce social and economic disparities in Europe and strengthen bilateral relations between these three countries and the beneficiary countries.*

*For the period 2014-2021, a total contribution of €2.8 billion has been agreed for 15 beneficiary countries. Portugal will benefit from an amount of 102.7 million euros. Learn more at [www.eeagrants.gov.pt](http://www.eeagrants.gov.pt)*

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Promotor:



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