8th of March is a day that is celebrated in the whole country, and it’s an official day off in Belarus. For most of people it’s a reason to express respect, appreciation and love towards women, but for others, and women themselves it is also a reason to speak about their economic and social rights.

BKDP has celebrated 8th of March within Decisions for life project by congratulating young self-employed women in Vitebsk region (Vitebsk, Orsha, Polotsk), Minsk and Minsk region (Uzda), Brest region (Baranovichi), Mogilev and Gomel region (Svetlogorsk, Rogachev, Zhlobin). For congratulations we have printed postcards with the poem created by women, it was about compilation of family and work, and being active in trade union; in total 2000 of postcards were distributed.

Along with congratulations of women, the project team took the opportunity to discuss the questions that are important to them, their needs and worries. Among professional problems of being self-employed, such as tax regulations, difficulties with getting a rent, permanent changes of legislation in their sphere, the women are concerned with many other issues: lack of social care (the money that are paid for pregnancy leave for self-employed women are less than regular amount), working hours (usually self-employed are obliged to work according to the working hours of the shopping center they are renting space in, and it’s difficult to change working hours according to their needs – breaks, child care, visits to the doctor, etc.), combining work and family life (the only day off self-employed women have is Monday, and even this day they usually have to spend on making procurements, bookkeeping, etc.)

For many of these women 8th of March is the day not only to feel themselves women, but to draw attention to their thoughts and needs, and while talking to each other, get motivation and encouragement for further actions.