

2021 Korčula School Think Tank

Korčula, 27-29 August 2021

– Transforming Politics through a Gender Lens –

PROGRAMME

Overarching topic: “Recover, Restart, Retool 2021”

Crosscutting topic: “Rethinking Gender Equality”

Hybrid (in person/ZOOM/livestream)



“We must show solidarity with the most affected regions in Europe... to make sure the Green Deal gets everyone’s full support and has a chance to become a reality.”

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

About 2021 Korčula School Think Tank

The Korčula School Think Tank gathers women and men leaders from South Eastern Europe and beyond to discuss political, economic, social and cultural aspects of gender equality, as well as women's political leadership in the broader context of social democratic and progressive politics. The School, which is held annually, has become a recognised think tank due to its innovative, open, progressive, substantive and gender disaggregated approach to equality, democracy, human rights, social justice and overall transformative politics.

The 2021 Korčula School Think Tank, is organised in cooperation with PES/PES Women, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), SOLIDAR, FES and the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity and the S&D Group/GPF in the European Parliament. It is an event leading up to the 2021 Global Progressive Forum which will take place at the European Parliament in November 2021.

In 2020 the Korčula School discussions focused on South Eastern Europe/ regional perspectives on the crisis provoked by the COVID19 pandemic, especially on economic and social policies to address the post-crisis three Rs – Recovery, Restart, Retool. A year later, the 2021 Korčula School will review the developments and discuss the longer-term strategies to build a more sustainable, resilient, socially just and equitable model of recovery and promote gender equality. The focus will be on:

- i. **Just transition** – challenges and opportunities. To counter the climate and environmental emergency, structural changes to our economies and to the ways we live, produce, consume, travel and work are necessary and urgent. Such restructuring should address the current social inequalities and economic imbalances for a more just, socially responsible and sustainable world of the twenty-first century.

Guiding questions: How do we combine environmental and social justice? What would make the transition to climate neutral societies a just, fair and inclusive one? What tools and political will are required to achieve this?

- ii. **Green Deal and sustainable development – the strategy.** Vulnerability to future crises will depend on the degree and scope of the recovery. The EU is committed to strong solidarity between the EU and the Western Balkans especially in addressing the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in the region. The recovery needs to ensure that we build forward better, reseed



the momentum of the SDGs giving priority to crosssectoral and regional action, including a mainstreamed approach to gender equality. As these countries work towards meeting the criteria for EU membership, reforms should align with the EU Green Deal, the Digital Strategy, and the European Pillar of Social Rights. This strategy goes hand-in hand with the broader pan-European discussions on the future of Europe.

Guiding question: Where are we with this process? Do the Western Balkans have the same strategies and how are they, or not, coordinated?

- iii. **Inclusive and gender sensitive cities.** Building resilient and sustainable societies focusing on the regional and local is key to success. The discussion will aim to show how cities and regions implement the SDGs in a post-pandemic Europe and the region. Traditional city design and planning often fail to recognise the complex and unequal relations between women and men in society. All citizens should have a representative voice in governance, planning, and budgeting processes and, as the pandemic demonstrated, human security in cities will be one of the key elements to focus on.

Guiding questions: Is there any good practice in city inclusiveness? Human security in cities is a concern, how does it relate to women? Are urban solutions gender sensitive?

- iv. **Forging a new care deal to address inequalities – care economy as a cross-cutting issue.** The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has blatantly exposed the vulnerability of Europe's (health) care and welfare systems. They were already under increasing pressure not least due to societal and demographic change but because of the severe lack of societal and political values placed on care despite its undeniably essential role for any society to survive. The discussion will focus on how care inequalities are a complex but crucial phenomenon deeply interconnected with gender, demographic and regional inequalities calling for progressive answers.

Guiding questions: In the light of the ever more mobile nature of Europe, how can the EU ensure a fair balance between the migration care chains from Eastern and Central Europe on the one hand, and Western Europe's reliance on this workforce to keep its care system afloat? How does care work lie at the intersection of gender, class and migration? What are the necessary measures to bring about a quality, people-focused care deal?



v. **From reforms to structural change – who is the driving political force?**

As much as this pandemic is a catastrophe it is both a wakeup call and an unexpected, maybe catalytic, opportunity to get some things right. Progressive, left and socialdemocratic forces should be leading the charge not to give space to the wellfinanced, nationalistic, right wing and conservative forces to lead and define the restructuring.

Guiding questions: How to stimulate the economy and finance the recovery? How to overhaul the public social sector, how to deal with unemployment and poverty, how to use this unfortunate situation to make European countries and systems more sustainable, socially sensitive, gender sensitive and just? Will democracy be in peril as authoritarian leaders flaunt their “strong grip” reassuring the population of their supreme control? Where are progressive and social democratic forces in this crucial moment?

vi. **Bringing it home – regional trends.** The Western Balkans is a region still haunted by the consequences of the war of the 1990s, struggling with the consequences of an ill thought-out transition to democracy, an unjust new economic and social order and haunted by the lack of rule of law, corruption, nationalistic, conservative and right wing ideologies. Gender equality in this transition has been the litmus test and often the victim of rightwing ideology and form of governance.

Guiding questions: How to contextualise both the trends and solutions to this region’s issues? Is this the moment for a strong push by the democratic and progressive forces in the region? Do they have the strength to do so? What regional priorities should be focused on? What are the short-term quick wins and long-term sustainability strategies? What is the role of social democratic parties in this process? Can they form broad coalitions with other progressive parties and the civil society?

vii. **Social democratic regional gender platform – current and future.** In 2015, at the initiative of the CEE Network for Gender Issues and in cooperation with socialist and social democratic parties’ women’s forums, a regional Gender Equality Platform was signed by social democratic parties from the region and other partners of Europe.

Guiding questions: How far has the implementation of the Platform been achieved? What is the role of women’s forums of social democratic parties



and what are the lessons learnt? What organisational methods work best? What challenges should be addressed? The discussion will also be based on the results of a questionnaire prepared by the CEE Gender Network and analyses conducted by a number of gender equality experts.

The 2021 Korčula School key discussion topics will be accompanied by three training sessions:

- i. **Just transition: The what and the how**
- ii. **Retooling gender equality: Putting words into action & improving political culture**
- iii. **Channeling resources into women's rights: Gender budgeting as a method to address gender inequalities**

The Korčula School has a think tank and informal format. It fosters a free, open and substantive debate among participants. For the benefit of our stakeholders, the meeting will be recorded and livestreamed (unless otherwise specified), with note takers. Recommendations and political messages from each session will feature, without attribution, in the final report. The meeting will be in English and some sessions will be livestreamed and recorded.



Thursday, 26 August

Arrival of participants and welcome drink

Friday, 27 August

8:30-9:00

Registration

9:00-9:15 am

Opening

Peđa Grbin, President SDP Croatia

Zita Gurmai, President PESW

Daša Šašić Šilović, Chair CEE Network for Gender Issues, President European Partners for the Environment

BLOCK I: Restarting: Strategy for a Just Transition Partnership – CEE Gender Network & SOLIDAR & Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

9:15-10:30 am
(livestream)

Roundtable I

**Just Transition –
challenges and
opportunities**

Introduction: Mikael Leyi, General Secretary, SOLIDAR

- **Jovana Trenčevska**, Director of State Labour Inspectorate, Member of Executive Board of WF, SDUM, North Macedonia
- **Goran Radosavljević**, Director FEFA Institute, Belgrade, VP SocialDemocratic Party Serbia
- **Rada Borić**, MP, Member City Assembly Zagreb, Croatia

Moderator: **Pia Locatelli**, International Secretary, PSI, Member International Board, CEE Network for Gender Issues

10:30-11:00 am

Training Module

**Just Transition:
the what and the how**

Andrea Casamenti, Just Transition Project Officer, SOLIDAR



<p>11:15-1:00 am (livestream)</p>	<p>Roundtable II</p> <p>Green Deal and Sustainable Development – the strategy</p>	<p>Introduction: Maria Joao Rodrigues, President FEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kata Tüttö, Deputy Mayor Budapest and Vice President PES Committee of Regions • Marta Szigeti Bonifert, former Executive Director REC, Board member The European Partners for the Environment and the CEE Gender Network • Nataša Vučković, Executive Director, Center for Democracy Foundation • Irina Lazzerini, Sustainable Energy Expert • Raymond van Ermen, Executive Director, European Partners for the Environment <p>Moderator: Sonja Schirmbeck, Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Zagreb</p>
<p>1:00-2:15 pm Lunch</p>		
<p>BLOCK II: Retooling: Inclusiveness and Gender Activism</p>		
<p>2:15-4:15 pm (livestream)</p>	<p>Roundtable III</p> <p>Inclusive and gender sensitive cities</p>	<p>Introduction: Kata Tüttö, Deputy Mayor of Budapest and Vice President PES Committee of Regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joško Klisović, President of the Zagreb City Assembly • Benjamina Karić, Mayor of Sarajevo, BH • Mišo Krstičević, Mayor of Ploče, Croatia • Nika Silić Maroević, Mayor of Korčula Town <p>Moderator: Nataša Milojević, President FOSDI, Serbia</p>
<p>4:15-5:30 pm</p>	<p>Training Module <i>(closed session)</i></p> <p>Re-tooling gender equality – Putting words into action & improving political culture</p>	<p>Trainers: Katja Ziska and Louise Olander, policy advisers, PESW</p>
<p>8 pm</p>		<p>Cocktails, projection of a documentary film “The New No-Normal” by Nataša Milojević (FOSDI Serbia)</p>



Saturday, 28 August

**BLOCK I: Accelerating History for Just and Sustainable Development
Partnership: CEE Gender Network & Foundation for European
Progressive Studies**

09:15-09:30 am	Opening	László Andor , FEPS Secretary General Daša Šašić Šilović , Chair CEE Network for Gender Issues, President European Partners for the Environment
9:40-10:30 am (livestream)	Plenary I - Forging a new care deal to address inequalities – care economy as a cross-cutting issue	The dependency on east-to-west care labour migration in Europe Elena Zacharenko , EU Policy Expert Inequality and the care economy: Regional Perspectives Ana Čupeska , assistant professor, North Macedonia Labour and inequalities Zoran Stojiljković , President Trade Union “Independence”, professor Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade Moderation: Laeticia Thissen , Policy Analyst for Gender Equality, FEPS
10:45 am-1:15 pm	Workshop Channelling Resources into Women’s Rights: Gender Budgeting as a Method to Address Gender Inequalities	Introduction speech Nilufer Gagatay , professor, University of Utah Trainers: Marion Böker , Executive Vice President of the International Alliance of Women (IAW) and board member in the European Women’s Lobby Janet Veitch , Chair of the UK Women’s Budget Group and independent expert



	<p>10:45-11:00 Welcome & Tour de Table</p> <p>11:00-11:30 Introduction</p> <p>11:30-11:45 Setting up Surgery (Facilitators set out format for “surgery hours” and collective discussion on which issues the group will focus on)</p> <p>11:45-12:00 Break</p>	
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1:15-2:30 pm

Lunch

BLOCK II: Regional Trends and Development

2:30-4:30 pm	Plenary Roundtable I	<p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peđa Grbin, MP, President SDP Croatia • Knut Fleckenstein, former MEP, SPD and Special Advisor to the President of PES (Balkan / Eastern Europe) • Zlatko Dizdarević, Journalist and Diplomat, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Ranko Krivokapić, MP, SDP Montenegro • Snežana Kaleska Vančeva, MP, President WF SDUM North Macedonia • Dragan Šutanovac, President of the Strategic Policy Council, former president of Democratic Party, former Minister of Defense, Serbia • Jan Marinus Wiersma, Vice President, European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranko Ostojić, Vice President SDP, Croatia • Daša Šašić Šilović, Chair, CEE Network for Gender Issues
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4:30-5:30 pm	Plenary Roundtable II	<p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biljana Borzan, Member of European Parliament, SDP Croatia • Laszlo Andor, FEPS Secretary General • Andreja Katić, Vice President Social Democrats of Slovenia, President WF • Pavle Bogoevski, Director, Progress Institute, Skopje, North Macedonia • Nenad Klapčić, Secretary General, New Left Croatia • Višnja Ljubičić, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, Croatia <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saša Magazinović, MP, SDP Bosnia and Herzegovina • Tamara Tripić, President Network for Democratic Dialogue, Belgrade, Board Member CEE Gender Network
7:30 pm	Reception	
Sunday, 29 August		
9:00-10:00 am	Plenary III (closed session)	<p>Meeting with ombudspersons for gender equality:</p> <p>Višnja Ljubičić, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, Croatia</p> <p>Brankica Janković, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, Serbia</p> <p>– open platform</p>
10:00-11:30 am	SD regional gender platform SD – current and future	<p>Introduction: Lovorka Marinović, President CNI, Board Member CEE Gender Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olgica Milojević - Lola, gender consultant • Maja Sedlarević, Member CEE Gender Network Advisory Council <p>Moderator: Dijana Hanis, Member CEE Gender Network Advisory Council</p>



2021 Korčula School Think Tank organized by



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GLOBAL PROGRESSIVE FORUM 2021

Until our next gathering, let the thought of Dolores Huarte follow us:

**Every moment is an organizing opportunity,
every person a potential activist,
every minute a chance to change the world.**

THANK YOU! WILL BE CONTINUED...

E-MAIL: ceegendernet@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/CeeGenderNetwork>

TWITTER: @CEEGERNET

WEB: ceegendernet.org

PODCAST: Klackalica / Seesaw

