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2021 Korčula School Think Tank

Korčula, 27-29 August 2021

– *Transforming Politics through a Gender lens* –

Check against delivery

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

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 COVID-19 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, re seize the momentum of the SDGs giving priority to cross-sectoral 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 recognize 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 wake-up call and an unexpected, maybe catalytic, opportunity to get some things right. Progressive, left and social-democratic forces should be leading the charge not to give space to the well-financed, 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 right-wing 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	<p>Peda Grbin, President SDP Croatia Zita Gurmai, President PESW (ZOOM) Nika Silić Maroević, Mayor of Korcula Town Daša Šašić Šilović, Chair CEE Network for Gender Issues, President European Partners for the Environment</p>
BLOCK I: Restarting: Strategy for a Just Transition Partnership – CEE Gender Network & SOLIDAR & FES		
9:15 am – 10:30 am (livestream)	Roundtable I Just Transition – challenges and opportunities	<p>Introduction: Mikael Leyi, General Secretary, SOLIDAR (ZOOM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jovana Trenčevska, Director of State Labour Inspectorate, Member SDUM Women’s Forum Executive • Goran Radosavljević, Director FEFA Institute, Belgrade, VP Social Democratic Party Serbia • Rada Borić, MP, Member City Assembly Zagreb, Croatia (ZOOM) <p>Moderator: Pia Locatelli, International Secretary, PSI, Member International Board, CEE Network for Gender Issues</p>
10:30-11:00am	Training Module Just Transition: the what and the how	Andrea Casamenti , Just Transition Project Officer, SOLIDAR
11:15 -1:00 am (livestream)	Roundtable II Green Deal and Sustainable Development – the strategy	<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 (ZOOM) • 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 • Zefi Dimadama, Lecturer Panteion University, Vice President PESW PESW (ZOOM) • Irina Lazzerini, Sustainable Energy Expert, Energy Community Secretariat (ZOOM)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raymond van Ermen, Executive Director, European Partners for the Environment (ZOOM) Moderator: Sonja Schirmbeck , Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Zagreb
1:00-2:15 pm	Lunch	
BLOCK II: Retooling: Inclusiveness and Gender Activism		
2:15 – 3:30 pm (livestream)	Roundtable III Inclusive and gender sensitive cities	Introduction: Kata Tüttö , Deputy Mayor of Budapest and Vice President PES Committee of Regions (ZOOM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benamina Karić, Mayor of Sarajevo • Nika Silić Maroević, Mayor of Korcula Town Moderator: Nataša Milojević , President FOSDI, Serbia
3:30-5:30pm	<i>Training Module</i> <i>(closed session)</i> Re-tooling gender equality – Putting words into action & improving political culture	Trainers: Katja Ziska and Louise Olander , policy advisers, PESW
8pm		Projection of a documentary film “The New No-Normal” by Nataša Milojević (FOSDI Serbia)

Saturday, 28 August

BLOCK I: Accelerating History for Just and Sustainable Development



Partnership: CEE Gender Network & FEPS

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
9:40am-10:30am (livestream)	Plenary I - Forging a new care deal to address inequalities – care economy as a cross-cutting issue	<p>The dependency on east-to-west care labour migration in Europe Elena Zacharenko, Doctoral Researcher on care and social reproduction, East-West migration and gender equality policies in the EU (ZOOM)</p> <p>Inequality and the care economy: Regional Perspectives Ana Čupeska, assistant professor, North Macedonia, Member of the FEPS Scientific Council (ZOOM)</p> <p>Labour and inequalities Zoran Stojiljkovic, President Trade Union “Independence”, professor Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade (ZOOM)</p> <p>Moderation: Laeticia Thissen, Policy Analyst for Gender Equality, FEPS (ZOOM)</p>
10h45 am-1:15 pm	<p>Workshop Channeling Resources into Women’s Rights: Gender Budgeting as a Method to Address Gender Inequalities</p> <p>10h45-11:00 Welcome & Tour de Table 11:00-11:30 Introduction 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) 11:45-12:00 Break 12:00-12:30 Surgery hour 13:00-13:15 Surgery hour</p>	<p>Introduction speech Nilufer Cagatay, professor, University of Utah (ZOOM)</p> <p>Trainers: Marion Böker, Executive VP of the International Alliance of Women (IAW), Board member in the European Women’s Lobby and independent expert on gender budgeting Janet Veitch, Chair of the UK Women’s Budget Group and independent expert (ZOOM)</p>

1:15 – 2:30 pm Lunch

BLOCK II: Regional Developments

2:30-4:30 pm

Plenary Roundtable I

Discussants:

- **Peda Grbin**, MP, President SDP Croatia
- **Knut Fleckenstein**, former MEP, SPD and Special Advisor to the President of PES (Balkan / Eastern Europe)
- **Dragan Šutanovac**, Predsjednik, Vijeće za stratešku politiku Beograd, bivši predsjednik DS Srbije i bivši Ministar obrane Srbije
- **Tanja Fajon**, President Social Democrats, Slovenia, MEP (ZOOM)
- **Ranko Krivokapić**, MP, SDP Montenegro
- **Zlatko Dizdarević**, Journalist and Diplomat, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Snežana Kaleska Vančeva**, MP, President WF SDUM North Macedonia

Moderator:

- **Ranko Ostojić**, VP SDP Croatia
- **Daša Šašić Šilović**, Chair, CEE Network for Gender Issues

4:30-6:00pm

Plenary Roundtable II

Discussants:

- **Biljana Borzan**, MEP, SDP Croatia
- **László Andor**, FEPS Secretary General
- **Andreja Katić**, Vice President Social Democrats of Slovenia, President Women's Forum
- **Pavle Bogoevski**, Director, Progress Institute, Skopje, North Macedonia
- **Jan Marinus Wiersma**, Vice President, European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity (ZOOM)
- **Nenad Klapčić**, Secretary General, New Left Croatia

Moderators:

- **Saša Magazinović**, MP, SDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Tamara Tripić**, President Network for Democratic Dialogue, Belgrade, Board Member CEE Gender Network

7:30 pm	Reception	
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Sunday, 29 August		
9:00-10:00am	Plenary III (closed session)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predrag Fred Matić, MEP Croatia: Gender Implications within the EP Strategy (VIDEO) • Višnja Ljubičić, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, Croatia (ZOOM) • Brankica Janković, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Serbia (ZOOM)
10:00-11:30am	SD regional gender platform SD – current and future	<p>Research presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olgica Milojević - Lola, gender consultant • Maja Sedlarević, Member CEE Gender Network Advisory Council <p>Gender Equality and the Work of Women’s Forums – Analysis of research results (Radojka Kraljević & Lovorka Marinović) Lovorka Marinović, President CNI, Board Member CEE Gender Network</p> <p>Moderator: Dijana Hanis, Member CEE Gender Network Advisory Council</p>

Annex 1



2021 Think Tank Korčula School – Transforming Politics through a Gender lens – Recover, Restart, Retool II Regional and Gender Equality Perspectives 27-29 August 2021, Korčula/hybrid

PES Women workshop: “Re-tooling gender equality – Putting words into action & improving political culture”, 27 August, 15:30-17:30

In the context of the 2021 Korčula School, PES Women wants to share tools and insights which we have been working on in the past year when it comes to improving gender equality in political culture and party structures. We want to empower the participants to recognise and fight patriarchal ruler techniques and reflect on how they are (or are not) used against women in politics. The aim of the workshop is also to link this empowering exercise with a discussion about how to make party political life in the region even more gender equal in a concrete way and encourage an exchange of best practices.

Agenda

15:30 – 15:45 Participants arriving from the previous session & introduction by Katja Ziska & Louise Olander from PES Women

15:45 – 15:55 Welcome by **Zita Gurmai**, PES Women President

15:55 – 16:10 Warm up session – “Gender role expectations in politics”

- *Write a word cloud describing the qualities you feel you are expected to show as a political actor because of your gender? What traits or behaviours are you not “supposed” to show? Share with the group.*

16:10 – 16:20 Introduction to 7 ruler techniques

16:20 – 16:35 Breakout Session I – participants in smaller groups discuss the following questions and exchange experiences:

- *Have you experienced or witnessed any of these ruler techniques in your political career? How did you/would you address them?*

- *What tools could be implemented to overcome a toxic working/political culture?*
- *Has COVID-19 affected the political culture with regards to the use of ruler techniques in your political environment?*

16:35 – 16:45 Reporting back from first breakout session

16:45 – 16:50 Introduction to how to change political culture and improve gender equality in parties – “PES Women gender equality checklist”

16:50 – 17:00 Impulse speech for Breakout Session II by **Evelyn Regner**, S&D Member of the European Parliament from Austria and Chair of the European Parliament Committee for Women’s Rights and Gender Equality

17:00 – 17:15 Breakout Session II - participants in smaller groups discuss the following questions and exchange experiences:

- *Does your party fulfil all the points on the gender equality checklist? If not, where can it be improved? Do you have any other examples of good gender equality practice from within your party?*

17:15 – 17:30 Reporting back from breakout sessions & summarizing main take-aways

Contact Details

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