Think Tank Korčula School

– Transforming Politics through a Gender lens-

PROGRAMME

Recover, Restart, Retool

Regional and gender equality perspectives

1-4 October 2020

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 issues, as well as women’s political leadership. The “School” has become a recognised think tank due its innovative, open, progressive, substantive and gender disaggregated approach to equality, democracy, human rights, social justice and overall transformative politics.

The 2020 Korčula School discussion will focus on South Eastern Europe/regional perspectives on the crisis provoked by the CORONA-19 pandemic. It will couch the discussion within the current political environment in the region, especially post parliamentary elections in some countries. The focus will be on economic and social policies to address the post-crisis three Rs – Recovery, Restart, Retool. The perspective is that of progressive and social-democratic parties and the lens is promoting equality and equity from the perspective of gender equality. More specifically the sessions will focus on:

i. feminist lens to economic recovery – chance to get it right
ii. social care – gender sensitive social care systems and strengthening capacities to transform and retool
iii. restart and retool –progressive and socialdemocratic political responses
iv. the current political, economic and social environment in the region and implications for human rights and gender equality

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the uncertainty of travel possibilities, especially across borders, the 2020 Korčula School will be conducted on-line over four days 1-4 October 2020. e-Discussions organized in 2020 by the CEE Gender Network with its partners, FEPS, PES Women and regional partners, on related topics will also serve as background and contribution to this year’s discussions. The tactics are to use the substantive outcomes of each session and present them at the strategic session on political responses.

The Korčula School has a think tank and informal format and fosters a free, open and substantive debate among participants. For the benefit of our stakeholders, the meeting will be recorded and livestreamed, with note takers. Recommendations and political messages from each session will feature, without attribution, in the final report. The meeting will be in English with interpretation provided by our Belgrade office.

Feminist lens to economic recovery – chance to get it right

Thursday, 1 October 2020 – e-Roundtable I (2020 Korčula School)
16:00 – 17:45h (virtual) Brussels/Zagreb time

Women in Europe are working hard, but the economy is not working for women. In the year 2020, the gender gaps in employment, earnings and unpaid care work remain so wide and women's situation on the labour market is so precarious that it is possible to talk of a 'feminisation of poverty' in Europe.

The COVID-19 crisis has further highlighted the economic inequalities between women and men. While women play a key role in helping the world through overcoming the pandemic as healthcare workers, teachers and more, few are recognised due to persistent inequalities, biases & stereotypes that have been exacerbated throughout the crisis. Women in part-time, low-paid and precarious work have lost their jobs, female-dominated industries like hospitality and tourism are on the ropes, and women who make up the majority of essential service and healthcare workers are exposed to unsafe working conditions. At the same time, the lockdown brought new challenges for women's work-life balance and an increased burden of unpaid care responsibilities for children, other dependents and their communities.

With COVID-19 putting at risk the hard-won advances achieved on women's rights in past decades, it also finally spotlights that the current economic system is unfit to work for women. But will the demands of feminist and women's movements be heard and transcend the glass ceiling? Can we use this crisis to finally shift towards a more equal and just society that leaves no one behind?

With this session, PES Women and CEE Network for Gender Issues will initiate the Korčula Summer School with a session that not only assesses the current socio-economic situation for women in the region and the rest of Europe, but that also dares to look into a brighter future with a fair, sustainable and inclusive economy that works for everyone and that puts people before profit.

Moderator
Ana Pirtskhalava, YES Secretary General (Georgia)

Opening
Daša Šašić Šilović**,** Chair, CEE Network International Board, President The European Partners for the Environment

Opening Remarks
Zita Gurmai**,** President PESW, Vice President MSZP (Hungary), Member CEE Network International Board

Panel Discussion
Lina Gálvez Muñoz**,** MEP S&D Group in the European Parliament
Karolina Leaković**,** former Women's Forum President, SDP Croatia
Nela Porobić Isaković**,** Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Laura Albu**,** Vice President, European Women's Lobby, Romania

Questions & Answers



Welfare and Care Economy

How to strengthen gender equality and decent work in social care systems

Friday, 2 October 2020 – Roundtable II (2020 Korčula School)
16:00-17:30 (virtual) Brussels/Zagreb time

The coronavirus outbreak has been a major shock for our global economies and for our, as can be seen now, fragile social systems. The effects are felt on a much bigger magnitude for women. They have been in the forefront of handling the crisis as care workers or working in other essential sectors. Equally they remain key unpaid care providers in private households and the society as a whole.

At the same time, although there is a lack of reliable data, there is a significant number of migrant women from Eastern and South Eastern Europe working as care workers in Western Europe. They are often working in precarious and underpaid, as well as unregulated, work conditions. Therefore, the questions of gender equality and decent work require a more prominent place on the European agenda.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), the CEE Gender Network and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) have joined forces to gain a better grasp of social care regimes and to address major intra-EU tensions arising from the imbalance between Eastern and South Eastern countries care workforce supply and Southern and Western care workforce needs. This constitutes an important building block of the #Eucares4care Roadshow, part of the joint FES-FEPS project "Feminist Europe – Does Europe care for care?".

We are inviting you to this roundtable discussion in the framework of the Korčula-School 2020: We would like to discuss with you the care models in place in the region whilst exploring tailored, progressive recommendations for a fair, well-functioning care economy in Europe. Together with you we want to contribute to a Feminist Europe, where our economic systems are based on gender equality, diversity, wellbeing, solidarity and justice!

Moderator
Türkan Karakurt, Director, FES Zagreb

Welcome & Opening Remarks
Laszlo Andor, Secretary General, FEPS

Scene setting - #EUcares4care Feminist Europe Roadshow
Laeticia Thissen, Gender Equality Policy Advisor, FEPS

Panel discussion - "Does Europe care for care?"

Klára Dobrev, Member of the European Parliament (EMPL), Hungary
Sanela Čekić Bašić, Assistant Dean for international cooperation, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Goran Lukič, Workers' counseling Ljubljana (Delavska svetovalnica), Slovenia
Nino Žganec, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb

Questions & Answers

Concluding Remarks - "Now is the time to demonstrate we care about care" -
***Daša Šašić Šilović*,** Chair, CEE Network International Board, President The European Partners for the Environment

Recover, restart and retool –progressive and socialdemocratic politics

Saturday, 3 October 2020 - e-Roundtable III (2020 Korčula School)
15:00-16:30h (virtual) Brussels/Zagreb time - Session 1: Recover, Restart, Retool
16:45-18:15h (virtual) Brussels/Zagreb time - Session 2: Recover, Restart, Retool

Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic and the immediate healing is a priority. But analyzing and looking back at the fissures in our societies and governing systems permeates throughout our immediate concern. These should inform our mid-term and long-term recovery and solutions. Above all this is a time for the progressive, left, social-democratic forces to recoup, revisit where Europe, and South Eastern Europe, fell short in the protection of equitable socio-political systems, social justice and solidarity. Indeed, progressive and socialdmeocratic principles and positions have been vindicated. However, this is not a time to triumph but to amass lessons that may be instrumental to launch ambitious and bold recovery plans and guide the strategic choices we make for the "new" post-Corona order at all levels. 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.

How to stimulate the economy and finance the recovery? How to rehabilitate the public health sector, how to deal with unemployment and poverty, how to use this unfortunate situation to make our countries and systems more socially sensitive, gender sensitive and just? Will democracy be in peril as authoritarian leaders showing their political strong hand assume the responsibility of reassuring the population of their supreme control? Will globalization be seen as the main culprit for the spread of COVID-19. 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.

15:00-16:30h (virtual) **Session 1: Recover, Restart, Retool**

Moderator
Mojca Kleva Kekuš, President Progresiva (Slovenia), Member CEE Network International Board

Keynote Speaker
***Biljana Borzan*,** Vice President S&D Group, European Parliament (SDP Croatia)

Panel Discussion
Kalinka Gaber, Member CEE Network International Board (North Macedonia)
***Mikael Leyi*,** Secretary General SOLIDAR/SOLIDAR Foundation
***Elisa Spiropali*,** Minister of State with the relations with Parliament, Albania
***Nataša Vučković*,** Secretary General Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia

Discussion

16:45-18:15h (virtual)	Session 2: Recover, Restart, Retool

Moderator

Pia Locatelli**,** Honorary President, Socialist International Women, Member CEE Network International Board

Keynote Speaker
Maria João Rodrigues, President FEPS

Panel Discussion
Pier Virgilio Dastoli, President European Italian Movement (Italy)
Marta Szigeti Bonifert**,** Hungarian Women's Business Association, CEE Gender Network International Board
Daša Šašić Šilović**,** Chair, CEE Network International Board, President The European Partners for the Environment

Discussion

European Forum
for Democracy and Solidarity

CEE NETWORK FOR GENDER ISSUES

Regional Exchange – trends, challenges and priorities

Sunday, 4 October 2020 - e-Roundtable IV (2020 Korčula School)
09:30-10:45h (virtual) Brussels/Zagreb time

The discussion will focus on South Eastern Europe/regional perspectives on the crisis provoked by the CORONA-19 pandemic within the current political environment in the region, especially post parliamentary elections in some countries and preparations underway for local elections. The focus will be on regional economic and social policies to address the three Rs – Recovery, Restart, Retool. The perspective is that of progressive and social-democratic parties and the lens is promoting equality and equity from the perspective of gender equality.

Are challenges different because these were transition countries? Is the current regional political environment conducive to inter-state cooperation to address the consequences of the pandemic? Are solutions and measures to address the crisis commensurate to the situation? Is there long-term planning and strategy or are the measures taken by governments palliative? Are policies and measures mainstreaming gender equality to address imbalances or are they gender neutral? A number of countries went through parliamentary elections – what has changed in terms of strategies and what are the challenges? Does dealing with rising poverty, demographic situation, climate change follow the European recovery agenda and how does the strategy spelled out in the State of the Union address by Ursula von der Leyen respond to or match regional trends and aspirations especially as she has mentioned support to the Western Balkans? Finally, within this environment how are progressive and social-democratic forces responding to the post-election situations in individual countries in the region?

Moderator
Tamara Tripić, Member CEE Network International Board

Keynote
Radmila Šekerinska, Minister of Defense, North Macedonia (SDUM)

Panel Discussion
Tanja Fajon, President a.i. SDP Slovenia, MEP S&D Group in the European Parliament
Teuta Vodo**,** Secretary International, SDP Albania/Executive Director FQS
Ranko Krivokapić, MP, former Speaker of Parliament and President SDP Montenegro
Dragan Šutanovac, President, Council for Strategic Policy Serbia, former Minister of Defense and President of the Democratic Party (Serbia)
Evin Incir, MEP S&D Group in the European Parliament, Sweden

Discussion

