



2023 KORČULA “SCHOOL” THINK TANK

– Transforming Politics through a Gender Lens –

PROGRAMME

25 (Friday) – 26 (Saturday) August 2023

Hybrid (in person/ZOOM)

“Hard Political Choices Call for Imperative Political and Ideological Responses”

- i. The Balkans and Ukraine – Similarities and Lessons learned**
- ii. Regional Perspectives – Socialdemocracy 3.0**



The Pre-Korčula Think Tank is conceived as a high-level event bringing together progressive and socialdemocratic leaders, politicians and civil society representatives from the region and Europe to share lessons learned and experiences from the Balkan conflicts of the nineties that may be relevant for the current war in Ukraine and its resolution. Gender lens will be applied in addressing the above topics. The roundtables, i.e., the topics and the discussion on the first day of the programme are designed to be interconnected in order to provide a more comprehensive perspective on the differences, similarities, consequences and solutions of relevance to the present state of affairs regarding the war in Ukraine and the Western Balkans.

The second day of the Korčula Think Tank will be devoted to socialdemocracy 3.0 from a European and regional perspective. Capacity building will be a special session since it is a strong tool for political empowerment and skill building of socialdemocratic parties in the region. The CEE Gender Network in cooperation with the FEPS has conducted a project on the gender pay gap in the region. The findings will be presented at the Korčula Think Tank.

THURSDAY, 24 August 2023	
Arrival of participants	Cocktails
FRIDAY, 25 August 2023	
PRE- KORČULA SCHOOL THINK TANK HIGH LEVEL EVENT The Balkans and Ukraine – Similarities and Lessons learned	
9:00-9:30 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bjorn von Sydow, President, European Forum 2. László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS 3. Ana Sundström, Secretary General of the Olof Palme International Center 4. Nika Siličić Maroević, Mayor of Korčula (SDP Croatia) 5. Daša Šašić Šilović, Chair, CEE Gender Network, President European Partners for the Environment
9:30-10:15 am	<p>High level kick off – The Western Balkans and the war in Ukraine Moderator: László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS/ Radmila Šekerinska, VP PES, CEE Gender Network Board member</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stefan Löfven, President PES, former Prime Minister of Sweden (ZOOM) 2. Zoran Zaev, former President SDUM North Macedonia, former Primer Minister, North Macedonia 3. Tanja Fajon, President SDP Slovenia, Minister of Foreign Affairs Slovenia, VP PES, MEP (ZOOM) 4. Damian Gjikuri, Secretary General, SP Albania 5. Ann Linde, former Minister of Foreign Affairs Sweden (ZOOM)
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45am- 1:00 pm	<p>Roundtable I: Lessons learned from the Balkans (gender aspects mainstreamed)</p> <p>Moderator: Daša Šašić Šilović, Chair, CEE Gender Network, President European Partners for the Environment</p> <p>Key speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Radmila Sekerinska, VP PES, CEE Gender Network Board member 2. Ranko Krivokapić, former President SDP Montenegro, former Speaker of Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Montenegro 3. Knut Flekenstein, FEPS Special advisor on the Western Balkans 4. Saša Magazinović, MP SDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, representative in the Council of Europe 5. Borko Stefanović, VP Party of Freedom and Justice Serbia, MP Parliament of Serbia 6. Sinišam Hajdaš Dončić, Vice President SDP Croatia, MP Chair Parliamentary Committee on Internal Affairs and Security

	<p>Discussants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ranko Ostojić, <i>Member of Presidency, SDP Croatia, former Minister of the Interior of Croatia</i> 2. Visar Ymery, <i>Institute for Social Studies, Pristina, former deputy leader of the Socialdemocratic Party of Kosovo</i> 3. Nataša Milojević, <i>President FOSDI, Serbia</i> 4. Sonja Lokar, <i>former CEE Gender Network Executive Director</i> <p>Open discussion</p>
1:00- 3:00 pm	Lunch
3:00-4:30pm	<p>Roundtable II: Mitigating the long-term impact of the Balkans crisis and existing challenges – a progressive perspective (gender aspects mainstreamed)</p> <p>Moderator: Tamara Tripić, <i>President Network for Democratic Dialogue, Member CEE Gender Network Board</i></p> <p>Key speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bojan Marinčić, <i>International Secretary SDSM North Macedonia, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia</i> 2. Romina Kuko, <i>International Secretary SP Albania, Deputy Minister of the Interior</i> 3. Lana Prlić, <i>Member of Presidency, MP SDP Bosnia and Herzegovina and Member CEE Gender Network Board</i> 4. Kimmmo Kiljunen, <i>MP Finland</i> <p>Discussants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goran Radosavljević, <i>VP SDP Serbia, Professor</i> 2. Ledjon Shahini, <i>Executive Director Qamal Stafa Foundation, Albania</i> 3. Marta Szigeti Bonifert, <i>former Executive Director Regional Environment Center, Member, CEE Gender Network Board and the EPE Board</i> 4. Jure Zubčić, <i>Member, SDP Croatia Main Board, President SDP Zadar</i> <p>Open discussion</p>
4:30-4:45pm	Wrap up and concluding remarks
4:45-5:00 pm	Press Conference
6:00-7:00 pm	Visit to the city of Korčula hosted by the Mayor of Korčula, Nika Silić Maroević
7:30pm	Reception

Note: Potential topics:

- Similarities and circumstances – a causal analysis of the two wars.
- Geopolitics, the EU, USA, Russia and China and the Western Balkans with a focus on the current state of affairs.
- What did the peace-negotiated solutions resolve and what are their consequences and impact on the current situation and cooperation in the region?
- Addressing the culture of societal violence, especially towards women, misogyny, intolerance – a “decontamination” perspective.
- Media and the culture of misinformation – how do socialdemocratic and progressive parties communicate with the electorate
- How can progressive and socialdemocratic parties and civil society organisations, especially peace activists e.g. women’s organisations, position themselves and contribute to peacebuilding, peacemaking and resolution?
- Was support from European sister socialdemocratic parties and foundations instrumental in the activities of the above actors and in support of women’s organisations?
- What are the proposals to address today’s challenges (e.g. corruption), cross-border issues and tensions, potential for political and economic regional cooperation, e.g. the Open Balkans.

SATURDAY, 26 August 2023

2023 KORČULA “SCHOOL” THINK TANK

– Transforming Politics through a Gender Lens-

Regional Perspectives – Socialdemocracy 3.0

9:00-11:00 am

Socialdemocratic parties – European and regional prospects (consolidation, strategy, upcoming elections, support)

Moderator: **Pia Locatelli**, International Secretary SP Italy, Member, CEE Gender Network Board

Key Speakers:

1. **Maria Joao Rodrigues**, *President, FEPS (ZOOM)*
2. **Sabina Glasovac**, *VP SDP Croatia, MP*
3. **Zita Gurmai**, *President PESW, MP MSZP Hungary*
4. **Paula Carvalho Olovsson**, *International Secretary SDP Sweden*
5. **Antony Beumer**, *S&D Group Secretary General, European Parliament (ZOOM)*
6. **Aleksandar Spasov**, *Adviser to the President of North Macedonia*

Discussants:

1. **Irfan Čengić**, *MP SDP Bosnia and Herzegovina*
2. **Adnan Gibrani**, *MP Sweden*
3. **Vinka Lozica**, *Councilwoman Korčula, New Left Croatia – “Korčula after party”*
4. **Harald Troch**, *MP SPÖ Austria*

Open discussion

Concluding comment: Maria Joao Rodrigues, President FEPS

Note: Upon demand a discussion on the current situation of socialdemocratic parties in the region:

- what has worked and what are the challenges (weaknesses and strengths)
- capacity to respond to the country, regional and EU challenges – internal and external communication
- upcoming election prospects including the role of women’s and youth forums (addressing issues from the CEE Gender Network/FEPS 2022 project)
- relationship with PES parties, foundations, the S&D Group in the EP

11:00-11:15 am

Coffee will be served during the session

11:15 am – 1:00pm

Capacity building – a critical review (the experience, the challenges, the needs, and the demand)

Moderator: **Ana Sundström**, Secretary General of the Olof Palme International Center

	<p>Key speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Jelena Pekić, MP SDP, Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Director Forum for Left Initiatives</i> 2. <i>Pavle Bogoevski, Director, Progres Institut, North Macedonia, Member CEE Gender Network Board</i> 3. <i>Mojca Kleva Kekuš, Executive Director, Progresiva, SDP Slovenia, Member CEE Gender Network Board</i> 4. <i>Marigone Drevinja, Researcher, Institut for Social Studies, Pristina</i> <p>Discussants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <i>Kido Koenig, General Secretary EFDS</i> 6. <i>FEPS - capacity development methodology</i> <p>Open discussion</p>
<p>Note: This session should stem from the previous one addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lessons learned from capacity building initiatives conducted within parties and by foundations especially focusing on participants, methodology, resources – expert and bibliography, sustainability e.g., training on gender equality • learning from the FEPS capacity building approach, its objectives and scope based on the cases of the FEPS Open Progressive University and Ones To Watch projects • experiences with external support and current demand 	
<p>1:00-2:15 pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>2:15 – 3:30pm</p>	<p>Gender Pay Gap project presentation</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Lovorka Marinović</i>, President CNI Croatia, Member CEE Gender Network Board</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Laeticia Thissen, Senior Policy Analyst on Gender Equality, FEPS (ZOOM)</i> 2. <i>Andreja Poje, Msc, Slovenia</i> 3. <i>Brankica Janković, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Serbia</i> 4. <i>Bogdan Banjac, Commissioner for Protection of Equality, Office of Ombudsperson, Serbia</i> 5. <i>Kristijan Kevešević, LLB, Deputy Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, Croatia</i> 6. <i>Tanja Ivanova, senior Researcher and President of Reactor (Research in Action) North Macedonia</i> 7. <i>Radojka Kraljević, PhD, University Professor, Libertas University, Croatia</i>
<p>Note: The findings from the new policy study by the CEE Gender Network and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies on the gender pay gap in the Balkan region will be unveiled in this session. Based on a situational analysis, this joint initiative looks into the gender pay gap divergences and similarities observed in contrast with EU countries. This session shall thus serve to explore some of</p>	

the main policy recommendations presented in the policy study. The discussion will present progressive responses to address the gender pay gap taking into consideration old and emerging peculiarities characterizing women's labour market participation (part-time, gender-segregated labour markets, remote/platform work and labour migration patterns). The results will feed into the socialdemocratic party positioning on the issue and, broader, into indicators of poverty and social injustice.

3:30- 4:00pm	Closing and wrap up
4:00 – 4:45pm	Advisory Council meeting
Note: The Korčula Think Tank will hold its CEE Gender Network Board meeting on Sunday, 28 August 2023.	
Afternoon	Networking and departure of participants