2022 Korčula School Think Tank

Korčula, 25-26 August 2022

– Transforming Politics through a Gender lens-
Recover, Restart, Retool 2022

Overarching topic: "Hard Political Choices Call for Imperative Ideological Responses"
Crosscutting topic: "Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the crux of the Ideological Divide"

R E P O R T

Note: The video report from the 2022 Korčula School can be viewed at:

(839) KORČULA SCHOOL 2022 - Think Tank Reportage - YouTube

Introduction:

1. **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 Korčula School Think Tank gathers women and men leaders from South Eastern Europe and from the European socialdemocratic family 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.

2. The 2022 Korčula School gathered in person **69 participants** from progressive and socialdemocratic parties and SD foundations in the region of the Western Balkans and from European socialdemocratic institutions. Many attended on ZOOM. (List attached)

3. In 2022 Korčula School discussions focused on the current political and ideological moment in the region; on the positioning of socildemocratic parties and potential for their individual in-country and regional action, on how to address the rising authoritarianism and right-wing conservativism. As

Hungarian Prime Minister Vikor Orban has spelled out in his twelve point right wing methodology[1], at the centre of this ideological divide, or rather right wing ideological assault lies gender equality, sexual diversity and reproductive rights. The latter was given a special session in order to identify the best socialdemocrative and progressive responses, as well to discuss the course of action particularly in view of the Regional Socialdemocratic Gender Equality Platform signed in 2015.

4. The 2022 Korčula School Think Tank was organized with **the support of the Olof Palme International Center and in cooperation with PES/PES Women, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), SOLIDAR, FES, the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity**.

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Part I – Partnerships and specific issues

Session I: "Participatory Democracy – are we there politically"

1. **Session 1 on "Participatory Democracy – are we there politically" was organized in cooperation with PES Women** as has been the practice over a number of years. The meeting was recorded and can be found at: (836) KORČULA SCHOOL 2022 - Day 1 Round Table 1 Participative Democracy - YouTube

2. Panelist at the session were:
   - **Lana Prlić,** Vice President SDP Bosnia and Herzegovina. MP
   - **Biljana Stojković,** professor University of Belgrade and presidential candidate in Serbia's last elections
   - **Laeticia Thissen**, Policy Analyst for Gender Affairs, FEPS
   - **Jure Zubčić,** county councilor for Zadar and president of the county SDP Croatia

   The session was **moderator by PESW President Zita Gurmai**.

   PES Women, **Katja Ziska**, presented the findings of the study that they have conducted on "Parity democracy for Europe - a political system that works for women" . **Nino Tsilosani,** Chairperson of Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia Party Women's Organization had excused herself.

5. **Highlights from the discussion**:
   - Currently democracy is in crisis. Preconditions to include all citizens, and minorities, in public and political dialogue are: free media; independent democratic institutions; citizens' trust in these institutions e.g. where trust in institutions are great it is possible to promote participatory democracy. There is also a perversion of participatory democracy like the referendum organised by Orban on LGBTQ rights and progressive forces need to find counter answers to this.

[1] https://telex.hu/english/2022/05/19/cpac-hungary-begins-with-orban-sharing-his-recipe-for-success

- Looking at the horizontal gender segregation of policy institutions, women may have reached equality in so-called "soft policy" areas, such as in social, migration and civil liberties. However, many other domains remain overwhelmingly male dominated, such as in economic and financial decision-making or in conflict resolution matters.
- Despite progress in the recognition of women's rights and the importance of gender equality there are still many challenges remaining in an environment that is also experiencing a backlash. Patriarchal attitudes are hard to shed, violence and harassment against women persists in the political domain, selection of candidates remains predominantly male dominated and "traditional" barriers to women's broader political participation and activism is also determined by the life-work balance constraints.
- Issues that were addressed in the session were on female leadership – opportunities, barriers, lessons learnt; response and policies by socialdemocratic parties on issues such as the quotas; how to address patriarchal structures. Lessons learnt were provided by Lana Prlić, Biljana Stojković, Jure Zubčić and Laeticia Thissen. The PESW publication was presented by Katja Ziska.
- Special attention was given to the role of quotas both in political parties and in the executive. The latter still needs to be addressed more consistently. Quotas have given results, but should be viewed as an interim measure and not a goal. Without quotas there would be no parity in parties, but implementation varies across the region. Decision making still ends up being a "boy's club" difficult to penetrate. There is no woman leader of the progressive and democratic parties.
- Political education especially of women remains a priority. However, it is not enough since follow-up and sustainability has not been achieved. Women tend to leave politics after one mandate and there is no institutional follow-up. In Kosovo for instance, in spite of efforts to support women in politics and education only 3% of women are in Parliament.
- Democracy and its development is backsliding (regressive evolution). Participatory democracy implies active citizens who are asked to participate in decision making on policies especially local policies. Parties are detached from the public and electorate. Political elites are in cahoots with the big capital and have no connectivity with the citizens. There should be a distinction between citizens as objects and subjects. In the regions citizens are objects, targets for electoral political campaigns. After elections connection with elected representatives seizes until the next election cycle.
- Violence against women and harassment is prevalent throughout the region. For instance, over 50% of women in politics in Bosnia and Herzegovina has gone through some sort of violence and harassment. It exists within political parties, but primarily in the public domain. A big perpetuator of violence is the media – either government owned or run by big business looking for sensations and profit. There is hardly any "free media" and it is difficult to influence how they portray women politicians (generally negatively).
- FEPS and NDI have conducted a policy study on violence against women in politics in South-eastern Europe. (link). The study found decreased space for dialogue and political activities – deterioration of democratic space. But it also found that female political participation has positive impact on politics and local decision making all countries have gender quotas but varying levels of implementation.
- Networking and communication among progressive and socialdemocratic parties and civil society are very important and here the Korčula School has its specific role.

Roundtable II "Sustainable development – a comprehensive package for Europe"

The session was a follow up to the 2021 Korčula School discussion on sustainable development and the Green Deal, including on sustainable and gender friendly cities.

- **Raymond van Ermen**, Executive Director EPE
- **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director, Center for Democracy Foundation
- **Marta Szigeti Bonifert**, Member, CEE Gender Network Board
- **Sandra Krpan**, Deputy Mayor of Rijeka, WF SDP Croatia

The moderator was **Mojca Kleva Kekuš**, Member CEE Gender Network Board and Executive Secretary of the Primorska University in Slovenia.

The panel discussion can be viewed at: (849) KORČULA SCHOOL 2022 - Day 1 Round Table 2 Sustainable Development - YouTube

Highlights from the discussion

- During the last meeting of EU leaders in June, where the member states granted candidacy status to Ukraine and Moldova, Austria urged not to overlook the Western Balkans and tried to plead their case. The concrete perspective for Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve candidate status, the compromise between Bulgaria and Northern Macedonia and the holding of the first accession conference with Albania and Northern Macedonia are important results of these efforts," noticed the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs. . As accession to the bloc is a long and rocky process, the French push for a "European Political Community" that would allow for the gradual integration of candidate countries even before they officially join the union and which should be discussed in October in Prague is an important development.
- In the opinion of The-EPE, the proposed European Political Community should not be linked to membership or candidate membership to the EU (which are parallel and independent processes) and therefore should not be a 'waiting room'. It should be a ' situation room' to deal with 3 emergencies in terms of 'security and transformation' and a partnership builder to which correspond 3 baskets each with a dimension of international partnership :
  Basket 1. Regenerate Europe. Resilience in the face of the planetary consequences of the war in Ukraine, security and the transformation of supply chains. The transformation of our 'civilization' in the face of the threats posed by the 'planetary limits' (food, water, energy, raw materials) and their security consequences underline the need for new forms of cooperation between Member and non-Member States of the Union European 2 The European Political Community would have as one of its priorities, the security of supply chains and the 'sustainable' management of value chains. The transformative impact will be major on values, lifestyles, territories, industrial and financial sectors in Europe and around the world. •
  Basket 2. Regenerate the Planet. The transformation of our models for managing ecological emergencies and planetary boundaries, green energies, seas and oceans. 'Transformation' is an indispensable part of 'security'. The planetary boundaries revolve around nine key processes whose stability is essential to maintaining the atmosphere, oceans and ecosystems in the delicate balance that has allowed human civilization to flourish. Unfortunately, humanity is now crossing six of the nine planetary boundaries. The themes necessary for this transformation have been very well

identified in the "System Change Compass implementing the Green Deal" 1 » prefaced by the President of the Commission. The European Political Confederation/Community should set up a High Level Committee responsible for redefining the ten key elements of the economic and social model and translating them into policies, finance and business management, namely prosperity, progress, judicious use of resources, convergence as a prerequisite for competitiveness, purchasing power, responsible finance, public incentives, performance, leadership and finally governance.
Basket 3. Regenerate Confidence. Digital lever for a society of trust and just transition, the fight against corruption, a regeneration of finance. The European political community should have the mission of building a 'Society of Trust and Just Transition' in a world where, on the one hand, violence and corruption are causing enormous damage and undermining the wish to 'live together' and on the other hand the social consequences of the ecological crisis undermine 'resilience'.

Western Balkans Countries and Citizens should advocate in favor of a European Political Community in place still this year. It is in your interest. The European Political Community would include - if they so wish - the EU and its member states, all candidate states for EU membership, Norway, Great Britain, Turkey, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The European Political Community should be set up from 2022 and would be informal. It would not put in place “regulations”. Its members would not vote, they set up partnerships. Partnerships should be moved from the EU to the EPC level when deriving from EU “supporting competences” - in which the EU can only support, coordinate or complement the action of member countries since it has no power to pass laws and may not interfere with member countries’ ability to do so. It means your governments and your citizens would be involved in partnerships related to EU policies in the fields of public health, industry, culture, tourism, education and training, youth and sport, civil protection, administrative cooperation. It would include i.a. the European Innovation Partnerships, the European Blockchain Partnership and partnerships related to the Green Deal as the European Climate Pact. With its third basket, the EPC should become the first Political Community in the world of a new paradigm combining digital transformation to implement SDGs, trust, and AI for Citizens Empowerment (and not against Citizens Rights as in China).

The European Political Community must not only be an immediate 'de facto association' of States whose leaders would meet regularly from this year 2022, it must also be 'a de facto association of companies in favor of a mindset change , trade unions and "citizen-actors"' who are doing their part in the collective transformation effort to ensure the management of common goods in a new way, which are, as the Nobel Prize winner Elinor Ostrom defines them, "common reservoirs of resources" which will have to be managed in a new way, having to the spirit of "future generations", by guaranteeing not only the rights of citizens to enjoy them without discrimination, but also allowing their direct participation in the management of "a shared environment for which everyone is accountable". It is proposed that on 6 and 7 May 2023, be held an online pan-European multi-stakeholder conference 'Regenerate Europe' with the participation of the European Partnerships. This initiative will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 1948 Hague Conference on Europe, when those who were to lay the foundations of post-World War II Europe came together under the chairmanship of Winston Churchill. The conclusions would be presented to the United Nations, as a pledge of cooperation for a society of trust and just transition with other parts of the world, on the UN Twin Summits, the Summit for the Future and the SDGs Summit convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations in September 2023. The gender perspective should be mainstream into this SDG perspective and not only within the SDG 5.

- We should focus on environmental rights but also on obligations. In this sense the focus is on public participation, information and social justice. These are the tenets of democracy. The environmental community is using these all over the world as tools at all levels, including in local communities as main tools. Now the SDGs are the main global objectives valid until 2030. The UN SG has emphasized that we are not making progress – there is a lack of tools and mechanisms for concertation and dialogue.
- At the European level we are lacking – partnerships (the EU is a community of partnerships!), water and sanitation and land use. These are the areas where we shall be having challenges for the future. The two decades of heatwaves are getting worse and draughts are there. The disappearance of water for irrigation, industrial use, nuclear power stations will be increasingly more challenging. Therefore, how to address these – climate change, food supply (disruption is already there in countries and globally), the approaching winter will bring forward the energy challenges. Political interests, more partnerships, united thoughts for the future and finding sustainable solutions involving citizens as main actors. The Budapest District II has a mayor who communicates with citizens and invites partners to resolve issues. Global frameworks are needed, partnerships, united activities and in the Western Balkans this is much more important than ever. Initially in the environmental movement 2/3rds were women. The cross-fertilisation of initiatives helped the process and the exchange of tools. In this sense, the importance is to forge partnerships between the political and the environmental sense. Continuous education should be also a goal otherwise we shall have regression. Women have a strong role to play both politically, economically, and socially.
- This is the first year in Croatia to have water restrictions on the beaches. Each citizen can contribute. Draughts in Europe are becoming a reality, floods are coming, fires and high winds are there. Europeans should not only used to these changes but also take action individually and collectively. The COVID lockdown has also regenerated our attitude towards nature. War in Ukraine is going to bring lack of energy and heating. The city of Rijeka has a very good social programme which will in this situation have to be strengthened since we shall be confronted with the lack of heating, foodstuffs and alike. The introduction of social panels costs and the Croatian government is asking citizens to bear part of the costs. Do they really have the resources? Is the government responsible in this. The days ahead will not be easy, and will the politicians talk about these challenges and address them?
- The challenges demand immediate reaction. Citizens are not fully aware of this, and we have not prepared our citizens for the change. We are already experiencing the consequences.
- Rijeka has civic education in schools which also teaches children about the environment, climate change and ecology and young people are much more aware of this. Adaptation is key. Education is key and as politicians we must be clear in our messages to the citizens.
- Higher energy prices will make people revert to traditional energy sources like wood and lignite (not only coal) with consequences to health risks. Climate action failure is number 1, extreme weather no. 2 , no 3 biodiversity, 4 social cohesion erosion, livelihood crisis, infectious diseases.
- The worst case is inaction. Working with youth and women is a must. Ut these issues must be looked at as political topics, since young people are not aware of the political dimension. The referendum in Slovenia on water supply had huge impact on the outcome of elections in Slovenia.
- Major opportunity is created by societal innovations fpr developing digital tools to promote a more just transition. This would provide people with funds to be distributed by the token economy. Today there are the opportunities which have been unthinkable a decade ego. The regression in terms of human rights and democracy can be addressed by the use of new tools to redress the negative processes including on the environmental and sustainable development.

- We have forgotten the tools from the past e.g. rain harvesting. Our current infrastructure is not built for the future. People have forgotten how to confront environmental challenges. Innovation is also key and working groups at the community level can help. Recycling, reforesting, repair ("reperaj" in Rijeka as a practice). Solidarity is also a key ingredient in the coming months as the crisis deepens.

Roundtable III "Gender pay gap – challenges and in-roads"

The session was organized in cooperation with FEPS through a joint project on the gender pay gap in the Western Balkans. FEPS presented its findings while the discussants from Croatia and Serbia the situation in these countries, including the review of the gender pay gap in a region in Croatia. This is one of the on-going projects with FEPS.

- **Nebojša Paunović,** Adviser, Office of the Ombudswoman for Gender Equality
- **Olgica Lola Milojević,** gender equality consultant, Serbia
- **Sanja Biježančević,** Member Main Board SDP, President Regional SDP Croatia for Osijek Baranja County
- **Martina , Member of the** Cabinet of Deputy Prime Minister of North Macedonia

The session was moderated by **Laeticia Thissen**, Policy Advisor in FEPS. The discussion can be viewed at: (839) KORČULA SCHOOL 2022 - Day 1 Round Table 3 Gender Pay Gap - YouTube

Highlights from the discussion

- The gender pay gap in North Macedonia is today 15%, decreased from 18% through the policies of the SDUM since it came to power. The minimum wage, as a systematic tool, has been introduced in 2017 and has since increased from 150 euros and is in 2022 300 euros. This impacts the gender pay gap since there are now less women in the traditional women's jobs such as the textile industry.
- The research done in Croatia recently conducted shows that women are working in trade, education, health - generally women's professions. The increase in wages was less than those for men. The Croatian labour force is primarily of secondary education level, over 50% of women. The highly educated women are on the increase but their wages are not commensurate. Women have bigger wages than men in mining and construction/civil engineering whereby men represent the less educated workforce so women are occupying better paid jobs. The gender pay gap is persistent at the highest level of political high level functions. Overall, women have made headway in percentages in the Parliament, local administration and ministry of foreign affairs. The biggest gener pay gap is paradoxically among the most educated levels of 20%. The gender pay gap increases according to the

number of year worked – especially among those above 45% which down the line affects pension levels and exacerbates poverty among them.

- The gender pay gap is a complex phenomenon and both horizontal and vertical segregation. The complexity demonstrates the reasons for the gender pay gap. Gender pay gap in Serbia is around 14% with percentages changing depending on the methodology and the year when the research was conducted. The gross wage for women has increased by 3,4% in Serbia. Women are more educated than men according to statistics so that 60% of women have a university diploma. However, women between 55 and 65 years' experience the biggest gap in the labour force which will affect their pensions. The ratio of employed women above 45% is at the lowest level – half a million of women have no earnings. Women are especially dominant in traditional women's professions such as health and education and social service, care economy. 1/3 of women in leadership positions although they have the same qualification still receive less in wages. The only difference is at the level of pensions – women tend to receive higher pensions because they assume the pension of their deceased husband and therefore the level is higher. 21% are the wages of women in relation to men in the financial and insurance sector. According to the global gender gap report there are four key dimensions for the wage gap: economic potential for participation, education, health, and political empowerment. The gender pau gap does not only happen as women start their careers but progresses across their working life. Serbia together with Lithuania has progressed in terms of the gender pay gap in relation to the previous period.
- There is a tendency that the gender pay gap cannot be so quickly resolved. In Croatia we conducted a project on an important topic – we deal with gender pay gap, violence against women and others and they are a consequence and not the source. So we are trying to treat the malady with pain killers. This also relates to the gender pay gap as we have lost the broader picture in dealing with partial reasons for it. It is more important to go back to the reasons and sources of inequality and the gender pay gap. In a competitive economy discrimination will always persist so we need to look at qualitative and long term solutions for gender inequalities. Regressive forces and the right are on the rise exacerbating these problems. Such a society consumes all initiatives including social activism which is then integrated into the principles of profit. We have heard that gender equality should be looked at from the financially quantified perspective, will miss the point as we become a commodity and only find palliative solutions. In this sense we should be self-critical. The statistical office in Croatia has demonstrated that the gender pay gap during the COVID pandemic in Croatia has fallen nearly for 50% and in 2022 became 7% (from 13% to 7%). Of course, the analysis for this trends is another issue. Potential reasons lie in the COVID pandemic consequences in the labour sector.
- This also raises the issue of the value of work and especially in sectors dominated by women who earn less. Data that we have spoken about also relates to the labour market and the market in general. Women do not have equal opportunities, and all this goes beyond number and percentages. Social and cultural norms are important. In simple terms women are primarily mothers and less workers as their primary function. Male participation in the labour force is looked at through a different perspective – men are seen as bread winners in our societies. The deconstruction of gender roles should also be a methodology when analyzing this issue.
- Monetary value of unpaid work was conducted in Serbia. It spoke about unpaid work cost and its contribution to the GDP. The differences in unpaid work in the aging economy impact the wage gap. Women spend 75% doing unpaid work in comparison to men (they work one hour more per day than men both in paid and unpaid work). This relates to the labour market in the neo-liberal framework whereby women who are working in the majority for instance in IT

design are experiencing a decline in their wages. Women are predominantly present in the media and that profession tends to see lower wages for women who are in the majority. The socialdemocrats do not address this problem in finding solutions for new labour patterns and platforms.

- The North Macedonian government provided state assistance to companies that were unable to provide the minimum wage. Women in rural areas are now receiving social pensions to boost up their autonomy.
- 60% women at the EU level, counting for 50% of the labour market, have minimum wages. There is a complex relationship between the gender pay gap and the labour market participation especially in different sectors. Could there be a better gender balance in the labour market?
- Quotas can be a good tool but also a two-edged sword. It is more important to look at education and the change of mentality and conduct. For instance, when we adopted the Istanbul Convention, we have introduced legislation but we do not have a social infrastructure to support it. Gender equality is not a women's issue but possibly more a male issue in terms of doing away with the patriarchal patterns and roles. In North Macedonia a new law is in preparation for paternal leave. Overall, the proposed EU directive to decrease the gender pay gap is overall good but the EU does not seem to have a broader vision.
- Politics should be more supportive of those creating policies to address gender inequality and the pay gap. The issue of gender pay gap needs a multi-disciplinary approach overall in addressing inequalities in the labour market.
- The socialdemocrats should in this neo-liberal environment forcefully go back to the basic principle of equal pay for equal work. The region has suffered from "oppression" of women and men in the labour market after the introduction of neo-liberal changes. However, the momentum, after the COVID pandemic may be the moment to address the principle of equal pay for equal work. Could there be compacts with companies, like UN Women did in Latin America, on equal pay. Socialdemocratic party should allocate more time to these topics.
- One of the key aspects of the EU pay transparency directive is to place the burden on the company and not on the individual. Here the notion of sanctions seems to be an effective measure. In Island thanks to the equality act in 2020 companies are sanctioned and the gender pay gap has closed. The problem of the EU directive including transparency addresses companies of more than 250 employed which is an issue. Monitoring is going to be very difficult – as with all other EU directives which demonstrate the implementation impotence of the EU.
- Trade unions should be partners in addressing this issue. Unfortunately, trade unions in the region are weak, for instance in Serbia. When they are active, they generally address the level of wages/salaries but not the gender gap. And yet overall labour rights of both women and men are at stake. Nobody is really addressing the root problems.
- The Covid crisis demonstrated how trade unions are deficient. Workers' rights in Serbia are catastrophic; wages are very small. In a factory there was a discussion whereby women were emphasizing their low wages and poverty and the competition among women and men is big. After work women end up cleaning the factory although it is not their job, women can leave their post twice a day and if they have their period they are supposed to wear red scarfs ("Red Scarf" documentary). This is the situation especially with the unqualified labour force.

Roundtable IV "Inclusivity and social justice"

At the 2021 Korčula School Solidar and the CEE Gender Network have introduced the topic of social justice. As a result, a project was started in Serbia at one of the Universities. The 2022 discussion was building on this experience and a continuation of cooperation with Solidar. The CEE Network for Gender Issues is a strategic partner of Solidar. The panelists were:

- **Goran Radosavljević**, Professor, Director FEFA Institute, Belgrade, VP Social Democratic Party Serbia
- **Tamara Tripić**, Member CEE Gender Network Board
- **Andrea Casamenti**, Policy Advisor, Solidar (ZOOM)
- **Visar Ymeri, Institute for Social Sciences, Priština**

The moderator was Snežana Vančevska Kaleska, President WF SDUM, MP.

The discussion can be viewed at:

(839) KORČULA SCHOOL 2022 - Day 1 Round Table 4 Social Justice - YouTube

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Part II – Politics, ideology and socialdemocracy in the region

Big political and ideological shifts cause big political and ideological often uncontrollable actions. Being complacent on the progressive and socialdemocratic side is not an option. It is an imperative, history teaches us. The world, Europe and the region is today still plagued by the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. However, Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ensuing war has further exacerbated the situation on all fronts – social, political, economic, military with serious ramification for Europe. The Western Balkans are again coming to focus as an unstable region, discussions around EU accession have accelerated, in-country politics remains divisive and socialdemocratic parties are grappling both externally with the current challenges and internally with their own positioning.

Session 1: European integration, Ukraine crisis and Regional trends – a political and geostrategic discussion

The session focused on addressing the geopolitics and potential instability, peace and security, authoritarianism and the right vs progressives and socialdemocrats, the ideological and political divide, dealing with corruption and corrupt practices.

- **Tanja Fajon**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia, MEP and President of SDP Slovenia (ZOOM)
- **Zoran Z**aev, former Prime Minister of North Macedonia, and President of SDUM
- **Maria Joao Rodriquez** – European integration as a part of the bigger European package of reform (ZOOM)

Moderator: Daša Šašić Šilović, Chair CEE Gender Network

Sessions 2a and 2b: European integration, Ukraine crisis and Regional trends – a political and geostrategic discussion – focus on country trends

Every year regional and country trends are the focus of the Korčula School, i.e. a discussion among political leaders from the region. The main point of discussion was that the region is fragile; many elections have taken place; outcomes have not always been favourable for the progressives and socialdemocrats; what is the political vision for the future. The panelists were:

- **Romina Kuko**. Deputy Minister of Interior Albania, President City Board of Tirana, International Secretary SP Albania
- **Siniša Hajdaš Doncić**, Vice President SDP Croatia, MP
- **Radmila Sekerinska**, former Minister of Defense of North Macedonia, former Vice-President SDUM
- **Pier Virgilio Dastoli**, President, Movimento europeo Italia

The moderator was **Laszlo** Andor, General Secretary FEPS. The discussion can be viewed at:

(839) KORČULA SCHOOL 2022 - Day 2 Panel 2 - YouTube

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The panel was continued with the participation of:

- **Ranko Ostojić**, Vice President SDP Croatia, MP
- **Pia Locatelli**, Honorary President SIW, International Secretary SP Italy, Member of Presidency PES
- **Denis Begić,** Member of the Swedish Parliament, SDP Sweden
- **Nenad Čanak**, President LSD Vojvodina (Serbia)

The session was moderated by **Pavle Bogoevsk**i, Executive Director of Progres Institu Skopje and member of CEE Gender Network Board. The discussion can be viewed at:

(839) KORČULA SCHOOL 2022 - Day 2 Panel 3 - YouTube

Session 3: Socialdemocracy - present and future in the region

The focus was on progressive and socialdemocratic parties' strategies, tactics, political priorities, political choices and alliances, party capacities and strengthening

- **András Pulai**, Director of Strategy, Publicus Research, Hungary
- **Nataša Milojević**, President FOSDI, Serbia
- **Miroslav Živanović**, (ZOOM
- **Ante Lešaja**, professor political sciences and participant Praxis Korčula School

The moderator was **Andreja Katić**, former Minister of justice of Slovenia and Minister of Defense, President WF SDP Slovenia.

The discussion can be viewed at:

(839) KORČULA SCHOOL 2022 - Day 2 Panel 4 Socialdemocracy - YouTube

Special session : Is gender equality a reality in socialdemocratic parties in the Western Balkans -a case study of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia,

The session presented a review of political positioning, forms of response (political/ideological) and the activities of women's forums (analysis done by CEE Gender Network and FEPS), regional gender equality platform review. Panelists and consultants working on the project were:

- Radojka Kraljević
- Olgica Lola Milojević
- Sanela Bašić
- Nataša Nelević
- Ana Chupeska

The moderator was **Lovorka Marinović**, President CNI, Member CEE Gender Network Board and Regional Project Manager. The discussion can be viewed at:

(839) KORČULA SCHOOL 2022 - Day 2 Panel 5 Case Study - YouTube

The session on Saturday, 27 August 2022 morning was dedicated to "Gender equality, sexual and reproductive rights at the crux of the ideological divide", i.e. a session that summed up the discussions at the 2022 Korcula School, reviewed the status of the CEE Gender Network Project and the next steps.