

Korčula School

LOSING GROUND,
GAINING VOICE

Rethinking Feminist Resistance in an Age of Populist Backlash 2.0

27-29 AUGUST 2026 · KORČULA, CROATIA

15th

EDITION · KORČULA SCHOOL THINK TANK
Transforming Politics through a Gender Lens

For fifteen years, the Korčula School has been a space where progressive leaders, thinkers, and practitioners come together to confront hard questions with honesty and courage. In this milestone year, we gather to shape a shared vision for the future of gender equality, one built on democratic progress, economic resilience, and social justice, in a world that demands both resilience and imagination.

"Defending gender equality is not a technical exercise, it is a strategic political imperative."

PROGRAMME 2026

THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST 2026

Arrival Arrival of Participants

7:00 PM Board / Advisory Council Meeting & Dinner

FRIDAY, 28 AUGUST 2026

9:00 – 9:30 AM Opening — 15 Years of the Korčula School
Daša Šašić Šilović, Chair International Board, CEE Gender Network · Aleksandar Spasov, President, CEE Gender Network Advisory Council, Professor, Faculty of Law, "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University, Skopje · Melita Mulić, Councilor for Human Rights and Civil Society, Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Croatia

9:30 – 11:15 AM Round Table 1: Navigating Today's Backlash — Political Context
Moderator: Borko Stefanović, MP and VP Party of Freedom and Justice, Serbia
Marija Lugarić, MP, President of the Committee for Gender Equality, Croatian Parliament, SDP · Ann Linde, former Minister of Sweden (ZOOM) · Zita Gurmai, President PESW, Member, Board CEE Gender Network · Laszlo Andor, Secretary General, FEPS · Carlos Roldán Mejias, Social Policy Coordinator, Solidar

11:15 – 11:30 AM Coffee Break

11:30 AM – 1:15 PM Round Table 2: Navigating Today's Backlash — Institutional Challenges
Moderator: Pia Locatelli, VP SP Italy, Member CEE Gender Network Board
Višnja Ljubičić, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality Croatia · Brankica Janković, former Director for Equality Serbia · Nataša Vučković, President ALDA, Secretary General, Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia · Kaća Djuričković, Team Leader, Gender Equality Cluster and Western Balkans Gender Programme · Lola Milojević, consultant CEE Gender Network

1:15 – 2:15 PM Lunch

2:15 – 3:45 PM Round Table 3: Rising Beyond the Backlash — Feminist Politics and Progressive Strategy and Action for the Future
Moderator: Jure Zubčić, SDP Croatia Zadar, Member CEE Gender Network Advisory Council
Joško Klisović, VP of PES in the European Committee of the Regions · Machris Cabrero, Coordinator, Progressive Alliance (ZOOM) · Marta Lehmann, President SP Women, Lucerne · Barbara Hellferich, Professor, G5+ · Olivera Kovačević, TV Journalist, Serbia · Dajana Bakić, President Rainbow Rose, Socialdemocratic Party, Bosnia and Herzegovina

3:45 – 4:15 PM Formulation of Key Messages, Next Steps and Conclusion
Moderated by Daša Šašić Šilović, Chair International Board, CEE Gender Network

4:15 PM Evaluation Activities
Radojka Kraljević, Prof.dr.sci. & Nataša Čulibrk, Prof.

8:00 PM Night Owl — Networking Reception
MC: Nikša Marinović, actor

SATURDAY, 29 AUGUST 2026 · BOARD AND ADVISORY COUNCIL SESSION

9:30 – 11:00 AM Open Session
Moderator: Tamara Tripić, President DDM Serbia, Secretary General CEE Gender Network
Student demonstrations and elections in Serbia · Navigating the positioning of Women's Forums · Evaluation activities

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Closed Session (Board / Advisory Council)
Upcoming 2026 activities · High Level Political Korčula School 2027 · CEE Gender Network strategy 2027 · Upcoming country elections · Communications and Management

1:00 PM Board and Advisory Council Lunch · Departure