

WOMEN'S NETWORK OF CROATIA

Croatia doesn't have a National Gender Equality Policy since 2015 because of lack of political will and regardless of the legal obligation of the Government to adopt new policy.

After this year's parliamentary elections, new Parliament has more women MPs. Women's Network of Croatia has direct contacts with MPs, especially members of the Gender Equality Committee and we are already in process of organising thematic discussion during session of the Committee regarding CoE Recommendation on Sexism and adoption of new Gender Equality Policy.

Croatia is in process of adoption of a new state budget. It is important to advocate for the adoption of the new Gender Equality Policy; financing, support and specific measures for protection of women's rights exactly at this moment so that the organisations from different parts of Croatia, who provide direct help to women and barely survive, would get necessary support for their work, and to enable systematic implementation of measures for protection of women's rights.

At the same time process of defining priorities of the ESF is ongoing and it is important to define the priorities in protection of women's rights through National Gender Equality Policy in order to be reflected in priorities of the ESF and its implementation in Croatia.

Objectives of the project:

- Strengthen advocacy/watchdog capacities of women's rights associations;
- Strengthen capacities of MPs and MEPs related to women's rights;
- Advocating defining of clear policy for protection of women's rights and securing support and finances for work in that field.
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Activities:

- Preparatory meeting – 15 associations of the Network from 10 different cities: defining problems and advocacy goals;
- Letters to state institutions with proposals regarding national gender equality policy;
- meetings with representatives of the Government (meeting with vice-president of the Government Boris Milošević) and institutional mechanisms (Office for Gender Equality, Ombudswoman for Gender Equality);

- *Online meetings with clubs of MPs, phone conversations, letters;*
- *Organising thematic discussion with members of the Gender Equality Committee of the Croatian Parliament – phone conversations, email communication, meetings outside Parliament;*
- *Thematic discussion during online session of the Gender Equality Committee organised in cooperation with women's associations on the subject of the EU Gender Equality Strategy and the new national gender equality policy, with participation of the member of FEMM Committee and representative of the European Women's Lobby;*
- *Online campaign for adoption of the National Policy for Gender Equality.*