



DRAFT 31/01/2018



Invitation

Democracy and equality beyond borders: promoting and strengthening asylum seeker, refugee and migrant women's rights

Events on 6-7-8 March 2018 in Brussels (Belgium)

Background

Several events focusing on different aspects and issues related to gender and migration will be held in Brussels on 6-7 and 8 March 2018. These activities are organised by Le Monde selon les femmes in cooperation with WIDE+ in the framework of two projects co-financed by the EU and the Open Society Foundations:

1. The project "The Europe we want? Feminist approaches to gender, migration and democracy" (Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union) is coordinated by WIDE Austria. It aims at strengthening anti-racist feminist approaches within adult education on global and development issues. Involved actors explore the linkages between gender, migration, economic justice and democracy and promote the empowerment of relevant multipliers for gender just and democratic European societies. Participants: CEIM (Spain), GADIP (Sweden), KARAT Coalition (Poland) and Le Monde selon les femmes (Belgium). All organisations involved are members of WIDE+ (Women in Development Europe) <https://wideplus.org/>
2. The project "#womensvoices_2018: Strengthening Innovative Solutions to protect Female Migrant and Refugee Rights" is coordinated by WIDE+ with the support of Le Monde selon les femmes. It aims at stimulate cross-national learning among women's rights, female migrant and refugee associations and where relevant, other stakeholders on innovative practices and strategies. Participants: organisations member of either WIDE+, ENOMW or their partner organisations in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The different workshops and events aim at exchanging findings, views and experiences from different perspectives and countries. They will contribute to disseminating good practice examples, highlighting current trends and challenges, and formulating recommendations to European politicians.

Registration

- The workshops held on **6 March** will be attended by invited project participants, who will receive further information in the coming days.
- The workshops on **7 March** in the morning (1) and on 7 March in the afternoon (2 at the European Parliament) are open to interested participants. There is a limited number of places available and previous registration required.
- The WIDE + internal meeting and General Assembly of **8 March** is open to WIDE+ members.
- WIDE+ members who are not involved in either project are requested to register with Evgenia Ivanova by 21 February 2018: info@wide-network.org.

Draft agenda (a final detailed version will follow)

Tuesday 6.3.2018

Morning - 09.00-13.00 (2 parallel sessions, with coffee break)

OSF Project: internal kick off meeting Who: Delegates involved in the OSF Project Agenda: Detailed programme to be sent to participants Venue: Le Monde selon les femmes, Rue de la Sablonnière 18, 1000 Brussels Responsible persons: Gea Meijers and Cristina Reyna	Erasmus+ Project: transnational partnership meeting Who: Participants in the Erasmus+ Project Agenda: field visit, Red Cross project aimed at women asylum seekers in Yvoir reception centre Venue: departure from Le Monde selon les femmes' office Responsible person: Stefania Del Zotto
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Afternoon - 14.00 -17.00 (2 parallel sessions)

OSF Project: internal kick off meeting Follow-up of morning session – detailed programme to be sent to participants later on. Venue: Le Monde selon les femmes' office	Internal (Erasmus+) transnational partnership meeting: Agenda: detailed agenda to be sent to participants in coming days. Venue: Auberge de jeunesse Jacques Brel, Rue de la Sablonnière 20, 1000 Brussels (TBC)
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Evening - 18.00: Joint dinner – venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 7.3.2018

Morning – 8.30 -11.30 (with coffee break)

Workshop: “Women’s migration between agency, exploitation and resistance”

In this workshop, which will involve all participants and local NGO and women’s associations representatives, speakers will discuss the links between economic development, gender and labour migration, trafficking, refugees and informal labour markets, with as aim to formulate recommendations for migrant women’s rights and democratic participation. After short presentations aimed at triggering the debate, participants will have ample time to discuss these issues at hand.

Co-chairs: Silke Steinhilber (tbc) and someone from Le Monde selon les femmes

Proposed speakers: Christa Wichterich (WIDE+), Carla Cingolani (Mujeres en Zona de Conflictos),

Speakers to be confirmed:

- from OSF project Luciana Davies (Spain), Olesya Malyugina (Poland)
- from Belgian local NGOs

Who: Public session

Venue: Maison des associations internationales, Rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels (TBC)

Translation : EN-FR provided.

Wednesday 7.3.2018

Afternoon at the European Parliament (registration required *)

Venue: European Parliament, rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels

12.15 – 13.30: sandwiches

13.30-15.00 – Room to be confirmed

Workshop on gender and migration in the framework of the “Feminist Forum” of GUE/NGL

Summary:

This workshop will focus on two specific topics related to gender and migration from a feminist perspective: on the one side the parallel between security narratives in several European countries and the undermining of women’s rights and, on the other side, current migration trends and evidence showing an increase in human trafficking and increased vulnerability to exploitation affecting women.

Proposed structure:

- The first speaker will provide general elements of context and of analysis for further reflection focusing in particular on the challenges of current policies and discourses.
- The second speaker will give an overview of current trends in women’s trafficking between Africa and Andalusia based on a three-year research and ongoing NGO work on the ground.
- The third speaker, who has a first-hand experience of asylum seeking, will explain how women remain vulnerable to violence once they are in Belgium and how current policies undermine women’s rights.
- MEPs’ intervention on current challenges and debates at EU level.
- Based on these contributions, recommendations will be proposed.
- Exchange of view with the audience.

Speakers: Annemarie Sancar (WIDE-Switzerland), Carla Cingolani (Mujeres en Zona de Conflictos), Halimatou Barry (GAMS Belgique, Le Monde selon les femmes). Additional speakers will be proposed by the GUE/NGL Group and present MEPs are likely to speak too and most probably chair the session.

15.00-16.00 – Room to be confirmed

Exchange of views with MEP Maria Arena, S&D group and other MEPs from different political groups and countries committed to women’s rights – programme in progress

Title to be confirmed: Open societies within a fortress? Gender, migration and security discourses in Europe

Exchange of views on gender and migration focusing on 5 specific aspects with speakers from different countries and background: issues will include gender and reception of asylum seekers, integration of migrant women (including access to rights, education, health, to the labour market, empowerment), violence against women, trafficking, links between development, trade and migration (in particular in relation to trade agreements), participation of women in the democratic life of reception societies, etc.

The programme is in progress, speakers will include Members of the European Parliament and a selection of 5 speakers from the 2 projects and/or WIDE+ membership. Proposed speakers from the OSF project include: Jelena Hrnjak or Mirjana Savic from Atina – to be confirmed.

* Who: public session with limited places, registration is compulsory, modalities & deadline to be confirmed soon.

Translation: EN-FR provided.

Thursday 8.3.2018

9.00-11.00

Joint WIDE+ Working space

11.15- 13.00

WIDE+ General Assembly 2018

Who : WIDE+ members

Venue: Maison des associations internationales, Rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels (TBC)

Practical issues

Participants are asked to organise their travelling and accommodation.

Le Monde selon les femmes will send relevant information on potential accommodation options, local transport and other practicalities by 7 February 2018 (most of the venues mentioned in the current programme are located at max. 30 minutes distance from one another by public transport).

For Erasmus+ project participants and OSF delegates costs are covered (please follow the relevant rules and make sure you keep the receipts as required).

For a limited number of WIDE+ members (beyond the project participants), the organizers offer a support of 400.00 EUR. To apply for this support, please write an e-mail to: Evgenia Ivanova, info@wide-network.org by 6.2.2018.

If you have any specific question, please contact:

Erasmus+:

Stefania Del Zotto: Stefania@mondefemmes.org

Claudia Thallmayer: thallmayer@wide-netzwerk.at

OSF Project:

Gea Meijers: info@wide-network.org

Cristina Reina: cris_reyna@hotmail.com

Looking forward to meeting you in Brussels soon!



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