



STABILITY PACT  
FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE



The Stability Pact Gender Task Force

GENDER EQUALITY IN Southeast EUROPE:

Six years later

2005

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**GTF REGIONAL CENTER FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

Savska 41/2, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel: +385 1 6137 783

Fax: +385 1 6137 784

[gtf@zg.t-com.hr](mailto:gtf@zg.t-com.hr) , [www.gtf.hr](http://www.gtf.hr)

## INTRODUCTION

For many women in SEE, significant changes have taken place and progress has been made to ensure that women benefit from their basic human rights. Women in SEE have better opportunities to contribute to political and public decision-making, and in the economic life of their countries than ever before. And balanced participation of women and men is at the heart of the functioning of pluralist democracy.<sup>1</sup>

### Why should democracy and gender be interlinked?

Firstly, women's political rights are an essential element of their human rights; and human rights are an indispensable aspect of any democratic framework. Secondly, in a democratic system the points of view of the dissimilar groups involved ought to be taken into account in creating any decision or in carrying out any strategy. In other words, democracy must include the opinions and insight of women as well as men. Lastly, possibly the single most crucial justification for connecting gender and democracy is that women effectively represent half of the human race and more than 50% of every single national population. Regardless of the existence of indistinguishable political rights between women and men, politics and public decision-making continue to be male-dominated fields. Men still decide on the political priorities. The challenge is to make the change from formal *de jure* equality to genuine *de facto* equality, from women's passivity in male party politics into the active partnership of women party members in determining gender balanced strategies of their party.

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<sup>1</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights "peoples of the United Nations have...reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom..."<sup>1</sup>

## Gender Equality Indicators 1999/2005

	1999	2005
CEDAW ratified	8/12	12/12
CEDAW Optional protocol ratified	0/12	8/12
Law on Gender Equality	0/12	7/12
National Gender Equality Mechanism	4/12	11/12

### THEN CAME THE GTF

In the SEE region in 1999, women's participation in politics was purely symbolic. As women's political participation and representation was a prerequisite to sustainable development of the SEE region, the GTF dedicated its mission to advancing gender-balanced participation in developing stable, prosperous and democratic societies in South East Europe.

Years of systematic work of the GTF on the political empowerment of women in SEE countries have brought important new experiences:

- the experience of women politicians working together across party lines, and across ethnic and state borders.
- the experience of cooperation between NGOs, parliaments and governments,
- the experience of women monitoring elections from a gender perspective.
- the experience of grass roots and mass media campaigning, consensus-building, advocacy & social dialogue.

## Percentage of women Ministers 1999/2005

COUNTRIES	1999		2005	
	Women / Ministries	Percentage (%)	Women / Ministries	Percentage (%)
Albania	2/17	11,8	1/14	7,1
B&H	0/12	0,00	1/9	11,1
Bulgaria	3/16	18,7	1/14	7,1
Croatia	2/18	11,1	4/14	28,6
Greece	1/18	5,6	1/16	6,3
Hungary	0/17	0,0	2/17	11,8
Kosovo	N A	N A	1/13	7,7
R. Macedonia	5/26	19,2	3/18	16,7
Moldova	0/20	0,0	1/19	5,3
Romania	1/15	6,7	3/18	16,7
Serbia	4/36	11,1	1/18	5,6
Montenegro	0/22	0,0	2/20	10,0
Slovenia	1/20	5,0	1/15	6,7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>19/237</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>26/216</b>	<b>12%</b>

## WHAT IS THE GTF?

The Stability Pact Gender Task Force<sup>2</sup> (GTF) is a South East European regional initiative born out of an Appeal sent to the participants of the Stability Pact summit in Sarajevo in 1999. Over 150 women's NGOs, prominent gender equality activists, experts and politicians from the SEE region and beyond signed the Appeal and presented it to the Stability Pact Special Coordinator. In all countries in transition, and most dramatically countries that underwent armed conflict, women's political participation was dangerously low (less than 7% representation in state parliaments).

<sup>2</sup> GTF encompasses twelve SEE countries and territories, namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, R. Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovenia.

## Women in National Parliaments 2005

Country/Territory	Lower or single House Elections	Seats	Women	Current % of women in parliaments
<i>Albania</i>	06 /2005	140	11	7,8
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> <sup>3</sup>	10/2002	42	11	26,2
<i>Bulgaria</i>	06/ 2005	240	53	22
<i>Croatia</i>	11/2003	152	30	19,7
<i>Hungary</i>	04/2002	386	38	9,8
<i>R. Macedonia</i>	09/2002	120	24	20
<i>Moldova</i>	03/2005	101	21	20,8
<i>Romania</i> <sup>4</sup>	11/2004	345	37	10,7
<i>Serbia and Montenegro</i>	09/2003	126	13	10,3 <sup>5</sup>
▪ <b>Serbia</b>	12/2003	250	30	12
▪ <b>Montenegro</b>	2002	75	9	12
<i>Slovenia</i>	10/2004	90	12	13,3
<i>Kosovo</i> <sup>6</sup>	10/2004	120	33	27,5

<sup>3</sup> Lower House figures.

<sup>4</sup> Lower House figures.

<sup>5</sup> prior to 2003 elections

<sup>6</sup> Recognized by UN SCR 1244.

The GTF Appeal called for the full and formal participation of women in the stabilization process in order to build peace, establish democracy, and ensure the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. From its inception, the GTF has based its activities on an assessment of regional and national women's needs and priorities<sup>5</sup>.

The GTF's ongoing monitoring of SEE priorities occurs not only regionally, but within participating states through civil society actors (women NGOs, trade union and political party women's groups), representatives of government and parliamentary gender equality committees and on the coordination of their initiatives with international governmental and non-governmental organizations with gender equality mandates in the region <sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The GTF has organized Eight (8) **Regional** Meetings of GTF Government, NGO and Parliamentary Representatives and hundreds of National and local meetings throughout SEE from 1999 – 2005.

<sup>6</sup> OSCE, ODIHR, Council of Europe, European Parliament, UNDP, UNIFEM, etc.

## IN CONCLUSION

Over the last decade, the legal status of women in SEE has undoubtedly improved; however, effective equality is far from being reality. Women are still marginalized in political and public lives, paid less for work of equal value, find themselves victims of poverty and unemployment more often than men, and are more frequently subjected to violence. This situation can be tackled efficiently by integrating a gender equality objective into the policies that have a direct or indirect impact on the lives of men and women. Women's concerns, needs and aspirations should be taken into account and assume the same importance as men's concerns in the design and implementation of policies. This is the gender mainstreaming approach<sup>7</sup>.

The Stability Pact Gender Task Force continues to play an important role in advancing gender equality throughout the SEE Region. Its "mainstreaming" approach allows it to make a significant contribution to the main priorities of the SEE Region and the Stability Pact. The GTF Perspective lies in its ability to link the SEE region's institutions and civil society actors with each other and with European Institutions on the road to meeting the clear standards of gender equality required for successful European Integration. The Gender Task Force Regional Center in Zagreb, Croatia, and its two National Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Macedonia provide an important institutional base for ongoing positive developments in gender equality.

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<sup>7</sup> Gender mainstreaming is "(re)organization, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender quality perspective is incorporated in all policies and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy making." *Equality between Men and Women*, Council of Europe

## SOME GTF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

OVER	500	Professionally-trained Trainers in 11 Countries have trained
OVER	16,000	Women in
OVER	600	Local Seminars and 70+ Parliamentary Political Party Seminars and 15+ Trade Union Seminars
OVER	25	National Campaigns in Southeast Europe

And the establishment of the first SEE Regional Think-tank for Gender Mainstreaming, the Regional Center for Gender Equality in Zagreb, Croatia

Today the GTF works on three pillars (ensuring sustainability of achievements):

### **1. Active Women's Citizenship / Political Empowerment / Cross Border Activity**

Targeting EURO Regions in SEE, Post Conflict areas, Roma and Minority Women, grassroots outreach, local democracy, etc.

### **2. Engendering Key Policies**

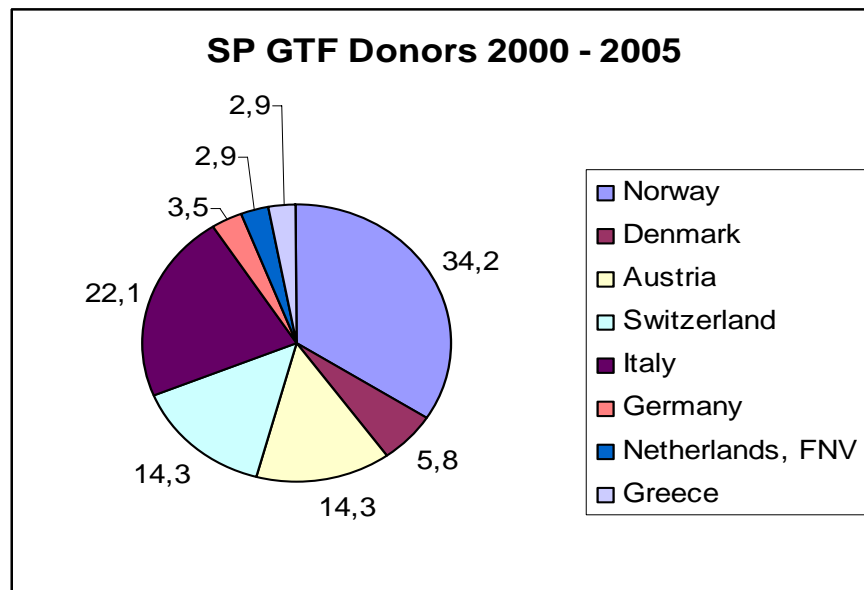
Economic, social, security policy: establishing and strengthening Social Dialogue, poverty reduction, refugee integration, etc.

### **3. Strengthening Gender Equality Machinery**

Improving the governmental framework for progress towards gender equality and European integration

## Donor contribution per Country

Country/Organization	Amount in Euro	Percent
Norway	1,170,000	34,2%
Denmark	198,000	5,8%
Austria	489,000	14,3%
Switzerland	490,000	14,3%
Italy	757,000	22,1%
Germany	120,600	3,5%
Netherlands, FNV	100,000	2,9%
Greece	100,000	2,9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,424,600</b>	<b>100%</b>



<b>Years</b>	<b>GTF Programs / Projects</b>	<b>Short Description</b>
00 - 05	SP GTF Institutionalization	Ensuring SEE regional exchange of gender equality best practices, program development, think tank for gender mainstreaming - GTF Regional Center in Zagreb
01- 04	Strengthening / Establishing Gender Equality Machinery	Support to SEE Government and Parliamentary Structures with a mandate for Gender
02 - 04	Southeast European Women's Role In Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Post-Conflict Dialogue	Ethnic minority and majority, Roma, displaced and refugee women contributing to sustainable peace through local, national and regional dialogue
02 - 03	Gender Issue Media Campaigns	Campaigns on Economic Rights of Women, Increasing Women's Political Participation, etc.
02 - 04	Women Mayors Link	Linking Women Mayors in SEE Nationally and Regionally
00 - 03	Women Can Do It I	Political empowerment for women candidates in a pre election timeframe
2002	Women Can Do It II	Engendering Parliamentary Political Parties in SEE
2002	Woman Voters Can Do It	Women's Voter Education and empowerment
02 - 03	Euro Regional Women Project	Cross Border exchange of women in media, local governance, NGOs, and pol parties
2003	Roma Women Can Do It	Political empowerment /increasing political skills of Roma Women
03 - 04	Women Can Do It III	Women in Local governance making a difference
03 - 04	SEE Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus	Women MP's cooperating cross party and regionally on issues of common concern
03 - 04	Social Dialogue & Women's Empowerment in Trade Unions	Establishing/ strengthening social dialogue on issues of concern to women
05 - 06	SEE Women's MP Exchange	Parliamentary exchange of best practices in policy areas related to gender and EU Accession
05 - 06	Roma Women Can Do It II	Political Empowerment of Roma Women in SEE and linking to European Institutions

## Current projects

Period	GTF Programs / Projects	Donator
April 2005 – March 2006	Social Dialogue & Women's Empowerment in Trade Unions, Serbia and Vojvodina	Italian government
June 2005 – April 2006	SEE Women's MP Exchange	German government
August 2005 – September 2006	Roma Women Can Do It II	Norwegian government

Country	Governmental	Parliamentary	NGO
Albania	(to be appointed)	(to be appointed)	<b>Jeta Katro Beluli</b> Millennium Women Coalition <a href="mailto:jkatro@albmail.com">jkatro@albmail.com</a>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	(to be appointed)	<b>Azra Hadžiahmetović</b> <a href="mailto:azra.hadziahmetovic@efsa.unsa.ba">azra.hadziahmetovic@efsa.unsa.ba</a>	<b>Klelija Balta</b> <a href="mailto:klelijasostaric@yahoo.com">klelijasostaric@yahoo.com</a>
Bulgaria	(to be appointed)	(to be appointed)	<b>Stanimira Hadjimitova</b> Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation <a href="mailto:gender@fastbg.net">gender@fastbg.net</a>

Country	Governmental	Parliamentary	NGO
Croatia	<b>Mirna Ivančić, prof.</b> Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister <a href="mailto:mirna.ivancic@vlada.hr">mirna.ivancic@vlada.hr</a>	to be appointed	<b>Lovorka Marinović</b> , IOM Croatia <a href="mailto:lovorkam@iom.int">lovorkam@iom.int</a>
Greece	<b>Efi Bekou</b> Secretary General for Equality <a href="mailto:gsequality@otenet.gr">gsequality@otenet.gr</a>	<b>Apostolos Kaklamanis</b> Speaker of Parliament <a href="mailto:speaker@parliament.gr">speaker@parliament.gr</a>	<b>Anna Karamanou</b> , MEP Secretary General of "Political Association of Greek Women" <a href="mailto:Karamanou@ath.forthnet.gr">Karamanou@ath.forthnet.gr</a>
Hungary	<b>Szilvia Szabo</b> <a href="mailto:szaboszilvia@freemail.hu">szaboszilvia@freemail.hu</a>	<b>Zita Gurmai</b> <a href="mailto:zita.gurmai@mszp.parlament.hu">zita.gurmai@mszp.parlament.hu</a>	<b>Marta Bonifert</b> <a href="mailto:mszboni@hu.inter.net">mszboni@hu.inter.net</a>

Country	Governmental	Parliamentary	NGO
Kosovo	<b>Cyme Mahmutaj</b> Advisor for gender equality and human rights to Prime Minister <a href="mailto:cymemahmutaj@hotmail.com">cymemahmutaj@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Melihate Trmkoli</b> <a href="mailto:melifg@hotmail.com">melifg@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Vjollca Kuqi</b> Qeliza NGO network <a href="mailto:v_kuqi@yahoo.com">v_kuqi@yahoo.com</a>
R. Macedonia	<b>Elena Grozdanova</b> Head, Unit Promoting Gender Equality, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy <a href="mailto:elenagro@yahoo.com">elenagro@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Blagorodna Mingova Krepieva</b> <a href="mailto:blagorodna@mt.net.mk">blagorodna@mt.net.mk</a>	<b>Savka Todorovska</b> Union of Women's Organizations of Macedonia <a href="mailto:sozm@mt.net.mk">sozm@mt.net.mk</a>
Moldova	(to be appointed)	(to be appointed)	<b>Ecaterina Mardarovič</b> <a href="mailto:ec_mar@hotmail.com">ec_mar@hotmail.com</a>

Country	Governmental	Parliamentary	NGO
Montenegro	<b>Nada Drobnjak</b> Gender Equality Office <a href="mailto:nadad@mn.yu">nadad@mn.yu</a>	<b>Daliborka Pejović</b> <a href="mailto:Daliborka.pejovic@skupstina.mn.yu">Daliborka.pejovic@skupstina.mn.yu</a>	<b>Branka Vlahović</b> Woman Today <a href="mailto:vbranka@cg.yu">vbranka@cg.yu</a>
Romania	<b>Minodora Cliveti</b> Committee for Equal Opportunities <a href="mailto:opegal@cdep.ro">opegal@cdep.ro</a>	<b>Anca Boagiu</b> <a href="mailto:anca.boagiu@galaxy.ro">anca.boagiu@galaxy.ro</a> , <a href="mailto:politiceconomice@pd.ro">politiceconomice@pd.ro</a>	<b>Dina Loghin</b> SEF, Equal Opportunity for Women Foundation <a href="mailto:dina@sef.ro">dina@sef.ro</a> <a href="mailto:dloghin@mail.dntis.ro">dloghin@mail.dntis.ro</a>
Serbia	<b>Dragana Petrović</b> <a href="mailto:dragon52@EUnet.yu">dragon52@EUnet.yu</a>	<b>Lejla Ruždić</b> <a href="mailto:leila@eunet.yu">leila@eunet.yu</a>	<b>Nataša Perišić Pavlović</b> <a href="mailto:natasapp@ptt.yu">natasapp@ptt.yu</a>

Country	Governmental	Parliamentary	NGO
Slovenia	<b>Violeta Neubauer</b> Coordinator for International Cooperation - Office for Equal Opportunities <a href="mailto:vijolica.neubauer@gov.si">vijolica.neubauer@gov.si</a>	<b>Majda Potrata</b> <a href="mailto:majda.potrata@dz-rs.si">majda.potrata@dz-rs.si</a>	<b>Liana Kalcina</b> Council of Europe Information and Documentation Center <a href="mailto:liana.kalcina@dcse.nuk.si">liana.kalcina@dcse.nuk.si</a>
Vojvodina	<b>Snežana Lakičević</b> <a href="mailto:radizene@neobee.net">radizene@neobee.net</a>	<b>Maja Sedlarević</b> Gender Equality Committee <a href="mailto:sedlarevicm@sv.org.yu">sedlarevicm@sv.org.yu</a>	<b>Marija Gajicki</b> Vojvodjanka – Regional Women's Initiative <a href="mailto:gajickim@EUnet.yu">gajickim@EUnet.yu</a>

## SP GTF Leadership

Sonja Lokar  
GTF Chair  
+386 12 444 119  
[sonja.lokar@siol.net](mailto:sonja.lokar@siol.net)

Lone Dybkjaer  
GTF Co-Chair  
[ldybkjaer@europarl.eu.int](mailto:ldybkjaer@europarl.eu.int)

Mary Ann Rukavina-Cipetic  
Associate Director  
+385 1 6137 783  
[mary-ann.rukavina@zg.htnet.hr](mailto:mary-ann.rukavina@zg.htnet.hr)

## SP GTF Advisory Board

Ciril Ribicic (SLO)

[ciril.ribici-cr@g-kabel.si](mailto:ciril.ribici-cr@g-kabel.si)

Liljana Popovska (RM)

[Lpopovska@sobranie.mk](mailto:Lpopovska@sobranie.mk)

Helga Konrad (AU)

[atff@bmaa.gv.at](mailto:atff@bmaa.gv.at)

Amb. Bisera Turkovic (BiH)

[info@css.ba](mailto:info@css.ba)

Elisabeth Rasmusson (NOR)

[elisabeth.rasmusson@nrc.ch](mailto:elisabeth.rasmusson@nrc.ch)

Osnat Lubrani (UNDP)

[osnat.lubrani@undp.org](mailto:osnat.lubrani@undp.org)

Pia Locatelli (IT)

[pialocatelli@infinito.it](mailto:pialocatelli@infinito.it)

Morana Palikovic Gruden  
(CRO)

[zaposlena@bello.hr](mailto:zaposlena@bello.hr)

Dasa Silovic (CEE Net)

[dsilovic@yahoo.com](mailto:dsilovic@yahoo.com)

Milka Puzigaca (S/MN)

[nsscan@eunet.yu](mailto:nsscan@eunet.yu)



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