



AVRUPA KADIN  
LOBİSİ TÜRKİYE  
COORDINATION  
FOR TURKEY EWL



# EWL CEEBBS REPORT

EIGE 9<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL MEETING

13-14 May , ISTANBUL

*Dr. Selma Acuner*

*EWL Coordination for Turkey*



AVRUPA KADIN  
LOBISI TÜRKİYE  
COORDINATION  
FOR TURKEY EWL



- The European Women's Lobby (EWL), established end of 1990s, is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the EU,
- Works to promote women's rights and equality between women and men.
- Has 28 EU member states and the 3 candidate countries, as well as 19 European-wide bodies, representing more than 2,000 organisations In Central Eastern Europe, the Balkan and the Baltic States (CEEBBS),
- A strong contact point in between national networks of women's organisations and EU institutions and forums.

# What is CEEBBS Taskforce



- The CEEBBS Taskforce was created after the 2014 General Assembly of EWL to share information, identify common challenges and strategies for action in the CEEBBS region to promote gender equality and a context sensitive women's rights agenda.
- Successive European Gender Equality Indexes (EIGE) demonstrate that progress towards gender equality in the region has stalled. The Taskforce consequently urges immediate action by domestic and European decision-makers as well as a new political commitment in the region.



- The CEEBBS Taskforce brings together women's rights advocates from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYR of Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey as well as representatives of 2 network organisations, the European Network of Migrant Women and the European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW). Together we are working to promote inclusive democratic and peaceful societies free of gender stereotypes and discrimination

# CEEGBBS REPORT



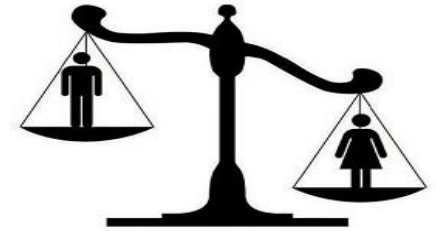
- **This report will bring that specific context into focus drawing on input from members of the European Women’s Lobby Taskforce on Central Eastern Europe, Baltic and Balkan State (CEEGBBS)**



# Women in Europe



- While, overall, women in the EU face similar structural challenges in reaching full equality, national and regional contexts are key in determining the scope and type of action for change.



- In the past decade, progress on women’s rights has been neither linear nor uniform across EU member states.
- EWL is taking stock on women’s rights and gender equality efforts in the region and sees this moment as an opportunity to amplify the voice of women’s organisations from the region by sharing their analysis at EU level.



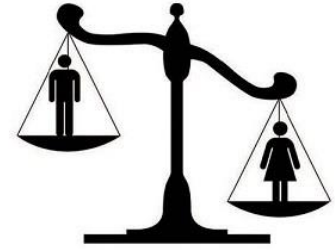
# Gender Equality is Stalling

- European Gender Equality Index, measuring gender equality in the European Union from 2005 to 2015, shows that CEEBBS countries all, with the **exception of Slovenia, ranked below the EU- 28 average score.** (EU average 30.1) Hungary ranks second to lowest in the ranking, followed by Romania and Slovakia.





# 6 KEY CONSTRAINTS



- The Taskforce has identified:
- **6 KEY CONSTRAINTS**  
to women's rights in the region?





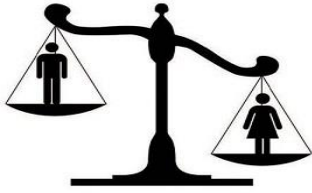
- 1. Reluctance to recognise gender equality as a democratic value and a fundamental human right.**
- 2. A strong religious, anti-women's human rights lobby and the rise of right wing populist politics, growing nationalism and conservatism.**



## Civil Society under threat

**3. Civil society, freedom of speech and assembly are under threat. Democratic spaces and financial resources are shrinking for civil Society and in particular for women's movements and women's organisations.**





## 4. Limited financial resources and institutional infrastructure to advance women's rights.

• Lifetime inequalities in pay and employment lead to an overall gender gap in earnings of some 40%. (EIGE data)

•



# Risk of



- **Cuts in social protection schemes, pension provisions and public services have impacted women's lives and increased the risk of poverty.**
- **The CEEBBS region has the largest European population at risk of poverty with 4 member states where more than a third of the population is on the threshold of poverty (Bulgaria 48%, Romania 40.4%, Latvia 35.1 % and Hungary 33.5 %).**

# Dramatic increase in violence

**5. The dramatic increase in violence and discrimination against women including prostitution, trafficking, the murder of women (femicide) and underage and forced marriages.**



# Gender Based violence More common than you think

**Gender-based violence**  
more common than you think

In the European Union, since the age of 15:

**1 in 3**

women has experienced  
**physical and/or  
sexual violence**

**1 in 2**

women has experienced  
**sexual harassment**

**1 in 20**

women has been **raped**



**1 in 5**

women has experienced  
**stalking**

**95%**

of victims **trafficked**  
for **sexual exploitation** in the EU are women

Sources: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey - Results at a glance*, 2014  
Eurostat, *Trafficking in human beings*, 2015  
Image: Margaret Jane Wollman/Shutterstock.com



**6. Armed conflicts in the neighbouring countries and post-conflict transition processes. Need equal representation of women in peace-making!**





# 8 PRIORITY AREAS



- The Taskforce has identified eight key priority areas for women's rights in the region .



# 1. STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT



## The CHANGE-MAKERS

**Strengthening, Supporting, Resourcing  
a strong women's rights movement in the region.**

### **Recommendations:**

**Allocate funding and ensure their existence**

**Recognise their knowledge and expertise and partner  
with WR NGOs in policy -making**





## 2. EQUALITY AND FEMINISM AS EUROPEAN VALUES

CANDIDATES FOR MAY ELECTIONS MUST PUT GENDER TO THE CENTER

Reclaiming feminism and equality between women and men as European values.



### Recommendations:

- Work to stop the perceptions created by conservative forces that denounce 'gender' as a criminal ideology that threatens family values.
- Hold EU countries accountable for the full implementation of EU standards and laws on gender equality, through annual monitoring on the implementation of EU standards and laws on gender equality by the European Commission;



### **3. ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE**

**Ensuring women's economic independence, reducing economic disparities between women and men and urgently tackling poverty based on gender and other intersecting forms of discrimination**

#### **Recommendations:**

- Ensure gendered targets for poverty reduction in the context of Europe2020;**
- Strengthen measures for tackling the pay gap and increasing women's employment;**

## 4. DECISION MAKING

World: 24.3, Europe 28.5



**Increasing women's participation and representation in politics and increasing the number politicians from women's movements.**

### **Recommendations:**

- **Adopt compulsory temporary special measures such as quotas at all levels; parity laws**
- **Support funding for women's causes in elected bodies;**
- **Where appropriate, change legislation on the establishment of political parties and political party funding so that women's parties and feminist political forces can participate**



## 5. EQUALITY BODIES

Strengthening accountable and **well-resourced gender equality machineries** whose mandates will take into account the principle of diversity and will be responsive to the needs of all women and girls.





# Some data on VAW

- **95% of all acts of violence taking place within the home are male violence against women.**
- **50 women each week in Europe are murdered by a partner or expartner.**
- **43% of all women in the EU experience psychological violence by a partner since the age of 15.**
- [https://womenlobby.org/IMG/pdf/facsheet\\_violence\\_against\\_women\\_and\\_girls\\_in\\_europe\\_2017\\_website.pdf](https://womenlobby.org/IMG/pdf/facsheet_violence_against_women_and_girls_in_europe_2017_website.pdf)



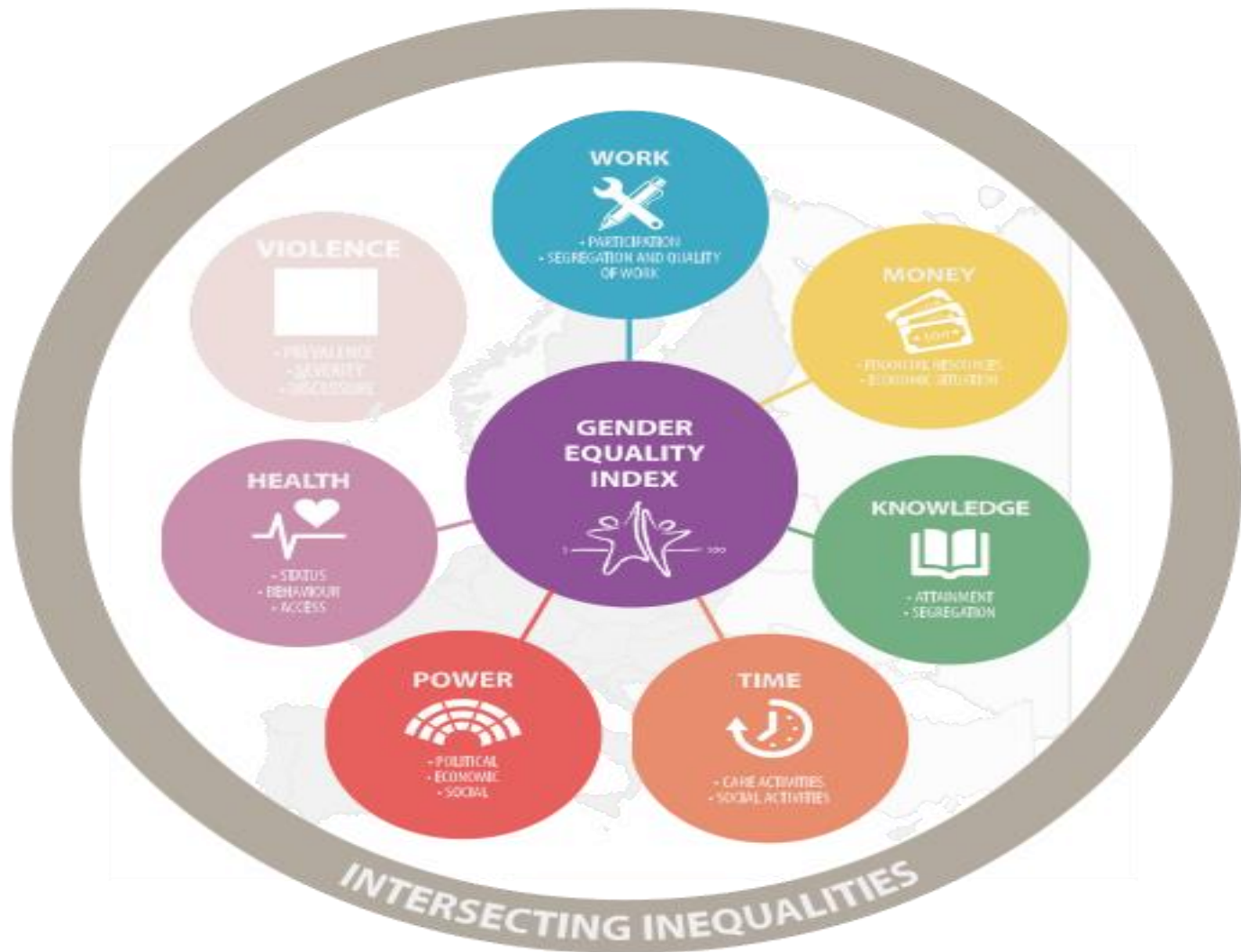
# 7. INTERSECTIONAL DISCRIMINATION

**Ending intersectional discrimination of women from minority groups, including of Roma women and migrant and refugee women.**

## **Recommendations**

- **Ensure access to services and assistance to all Romani, migrant and refugee women and girls as required, in line with human rights;**
- **Sign the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;**

# Intersecting inequalities





## 8. MORE WOMEN IN PEACE- MAKING

**Maintaining a peaceful Europe by ensuring participation and representation of women in all stages of peace-making processes.**

### **Recommendations**

- **The Taskforce calls for a responsible politics leading towards a de-escalation of conflict and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace-making processes.**

- 





• **THANK YOU**

• You can reach CEEBBS Report at:

• **[www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org)**

