

**ASEM Conference
Women's Economic Empowerment:
Creating Equal Opportunities in the World of Work
25-26 May, 2017**

Under the patronage of H.E. Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders

Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania

DRAFT PROGRAMME

24 MAY 2017, Wednesday	
7.00 (TBC) WELCOME RECEPTION HOSTED BY MR. LINAS KUKURAITIS, MINISTER OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOUR OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA (by invitation only)	
25 MAY 2017, Thursday	
8.00-9.00	Registration
9.00-10.00	OPENING SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video greeting of H.E. Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania • Opening speech Dr. Inga Žalėnienė, Vice-Rector for Education and Research of Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania • Welcome speeches <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Linas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania 2. Mr. Linas Kukuraityis, Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania 3. Mr. M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India 4. Mr. Motome Takisawa, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan TBC 5. Ministers from ASEM member countries • Family photo
3-5 min. max	
10.00-11.30	SESSION 1. Enabling policies of women's economic empowerment: legal environment, institutional mechanisms and effective implementation <p>This session is aimed to present policies and legislative initiatives in favour of women's economic empowerment and to discuss the effectiveness of implementation of gender equality policies, existing mechanisms and tools on national and local level in order to accelerate gender equality <i>de facto</i>. Enabling policies and legislation, and effective implementation help women to fully enjoy their rights, encourage and promote women's participation and leadership in</p>

	<p>economic, social and political issues. Enabling laws and policies address gender disparities and discrimination that exists across different sectors.</p> <p>The panellists are expected to present enabling policies and legislative developments of their respective countries, to share their experiences on how to promote effectiveness of implementation of women's empowerment and gender equality policies, including role of the governments, equality bodies, local authorities, other relevant stakeholders, and particular role and importance of women's NGO's, to touch upon achievements and challenges, to share good practices and lessons learned.</p> <p>Moderator Mrs. Agneta Skardžiuvienė, Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson (Lithuania). 5 min.</p> <p>Keynote speaker Mrs. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary General, Deputy Executive Director, UN WOMEN. 20 min.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ambassador Mara Marinaki, EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender Hon. Dr Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, Malta Mr. Hosams Abu Meri, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare of Latvia Ministers and Representatives of participating countries. Ms. Sylvie Durrer, the Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality (FOGE). Mr. Richard Tan, Chair, ASEAN Committee of Women Representative of EQUINET TBC. <p>Discussions 15 min.</p> <p>Timing Depending on the number of panellists – 10 minutes per presentation</p>
11.30-12.00	Coffee break
12.00-13.30	<p>SESSION 2. Economic Benefits of Gender Equality</p> <p>The session will present the actual situation of women in economy of the world and ASEM region in particular, major gender gaps, will present the research on economic costs of gender inequality, including costs of violence, research conclusions and recommendations, will discuss the benefits of gender equality and the global initiatives towards it.</p> <p>Moderator Dr. Eglė Krinickienė, Head of Gender Studies Laboratory of Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania) 5 min. OR Representative of participating countries</p> <p>Keynote speaker Representative of the World Bank TBC 20 min.</p>

	<p>Speakers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Virginija Langbakk, Director, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Presentation of the EIGE study “Economic Benefits of Gender Equality”. 15-20 min. UNESCAP study „E-Government for Women’s empowerment in Asia and Pacific“ TBC Ms. Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, member of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, member of the Committee on Human Rights. Presentation of Lithuanian situation on violence against women. TBC Dr. Eglė Krinickienė, Head of Gender Studies Laboratory of Mykolas Romeris University. Presentation “Social Economic Inequality from the Gender Perspective: Lithuanian Case” Dr. Nata Duvvury, Co-Director, Global Women's Studies, National University of Ireland Galway. Presentation on Economic cost of violence against women Researchers of participating countries presenting the results of the relevant studies including research on the costs of violence (UK, Finland, Austria, etc). <p>Discussions 15 min.</p> <p>Timing Depending on the number of panellists – 10 minutes per presentation.</p>
13.30-14.30	Lunch
14.30-16.30	<p>SESSION 3. Women’s Leadership and Gender-balanced decision-making</p> <p>The aim of this session is to discuss women’s leadership in the political realm, national, local levels, corporate policies, to present inspiring success stories of businesswomen/women from corporate sector, women-politicians, women on the highest positions of the governments, public administration, local authorities, women leaders in science and research, local community leaders, other achievers and trendsetters. The panellists are expected to share their experiences, express their opinions on the obstacles met and enabling factors.</p> <p>Moderator Emmeline Versoza, Executive Director of the Philippine Commission on Women TBC, 5 min.</p> <p>Keynote speaker Ms. Lim Hwee Hua, former Cabinet Minister in the Singapore Government, the first women-Government member of Singapore. 20 min.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Meher Afroze, Hon. Minister of State, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs of Bangladesh Ms. Laura Galdikiene, SWEDBANK, AB, Lithuania TBC Mr. Dalius Misiūnas, Director General of „Lietuvos Energija“ Ms. Naomi Koshi, Mayor of Otsu, Japan TBC Dr. Sarah Ahmed, Gender and water governance specialist, India. “Mainstreaming gender equity in water management, Gujarat case and wider global context”. <p>Discussions 15 min.</p>

	Timing Depending on the number of panellists – 10 minutes per presentation.
16.30-17.00	CLOSING SESSION OF THE DAY Moderators’ review and conclusions of each session
7.00 PM	GALA RECEPTION HOSTED BY H.E. LINAS LINKEVIČIUS, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA (by invitation only)
	26 MAY 2017, Friday
9.00-10.30	SESSION 4. Gender challenges in education, STEM and occupational segregation in labour market The session aims to discuss gender aspects in education, leading to further occupational segregation of the labour market, existing challenges and the ways of combating such obstacles as gender stereotypes in education, uneven choices of studies, including lack of girls in STEM, ICT sector, and lack of boys in social, care sectors and humanities, need to upgrade skills for women. Occupational and sectoral segregation of the labour market is expected to be discussed with the particular focus on gender segregation in ICT sector, as one of the structural factors determining the gender pay gap as well as it’s negative effects on women’s economic situation. The panellists are expected to discuss the ways, effective tools and methods to decrease labour market segregation, to present results achieved and good practices, in particular, in ICT sector. Moderator Representative of an ASEM country 5 min. OR Ms. Eglė Radišauskienė Viceminister of Social Protection and Labour of Lithuania Keynote Speaker: Ms. Mari Kiviniemi , Deputy Secretary General, OECD. 20 min. Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Eduardo Cabrita, Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister of Portugal 2. Mr. Simonas Gentvilas, Member of Parliament of Lithuania 3. Ms. Helena Morais Maceira, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Closing of gender gap in STEM boosts the productivity and growth. 4. Representative of the initiative “Women Go Tech”, Lithuania. The first mentorship programme for young women willing to make a career in technology sphere, under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Lithuania. 5. Prof. dr. D. Šatkovskienė, Institute of theoretical physics and astronomy, Vilnius University, Lithuania, Member of the European Platform of Women Scientist, BASNET chair. Discussions 15 min.

	Timing Depending on the number of panellists – 10 minutes per presentation.
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.30	SESSION 5. Women's entrepreneurship The session is aimed to discuss promotion of women's entrepreneurship, achievements, obstacles and challenges and the ways to cope with them, to share success stories, good practices and lessons learned. Moderator Pvz. , Dr. Dalia Foigt-Norvaišienė, Chair of Board, Lithuanian Business Women's Association., 5 min. Keynote Speaker: Ms. Madi Sharma , UK Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Entrepreneur, Founder and Owner of „Madi Group“ . 20 min. Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Vanessa Erogbogbo, Head of ITC's Women and Trade team of the International Trade Centre. Presentation of the initiative "SheTrades". Ms. Asako Osaki, Visiting Professor, Kwansei Gakuin University, School of Policy Studies, Japan. "Economic Empowerment of Women: Challenges in Rural Areas in Japan" Ms. Silvia Sartori, Communication and Networking Expert , SWITCH-Asia Network Facility. Link between inclusive, green business and women's entrepreneurship. Ms. Vilma Misiukoniene, Board member, European and external Affairs, European Centre for Women and Technology. Business Women from ASEM countries Discussions 15 min. Timing Depending on the number of panellists – 10 minutes per presentation.
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-15.00	SESSION 6. Family friendly policies – the way to increased female/gender equal employment and elimination of gender stereotypes This session will focus on different elements of reconciliation of work and family life and its impact on women's employment rates. Different models, strategies and key elements of reconciliation policies could be presented as well as their effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses and value added. It is expected that the panellists of this session would concentrate on positive effects of flexible working arrangements and family friendly workplaces, challenges and benefits in relation to gender equality, promotion of the idea of shared responsibility within the household to decrease the double burden of women. The panellists are also encouraged to touch upon recognition and value of the unpaid care and domestic work mostly done by women. Provision of public

	<p>services, improved infrastructure and social protection policies could facilitate the reconciliation of job and family obligations.</p> <p>Panellists will also be invited to focus on the different models of maternity/paternity/parental leaves and their impact on women's employment and on care sector, childcare and care for the dependant family members in particular. This is related to accessibility and affordability of childcare services, existing challenges and necessity to increase women's employment rates. New technologies enabling part-time and family friendly work arrangements will also be discussed.</p> <p>Moderator TBC 5 min.</p> <p>Keynote speaker Prof. Dalia Leinartė, Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Global Perspective.) 20 min.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Ji Hyun Hong, Korean Women's Development Institute, Republic of Korea. South Korea's major policies and achievements in family friendly policies 2. Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief, Population Unit, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). "Work and care across the life course: spotlight on reconciliation needs and policies for older employees with caring responsibilities". 3. Ms. Manuela Tomei, Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department, ILO. Presentation of "Women at Work initiative". 4. Amb. Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin, Head of Department for Asia and the Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden. 5. Mr. Richard Tan, Chair, ASEAN Committee of Women TBC 6. ASEM member countries/NGOs (Asian and European sides) <p>Discussions 15 min.</p> <p>Timing Depending on the number of panellists – 10 minutes per presentation.</p>
15.00-16.00	<p>CLOSING SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderators' review and conclusions of each session • Final document (resolution) of the Conference
<p>Morning 9.00-13.00 TBC</p>	<p>26 MAY 2017, Friday</p> <p>Sightseeing tour of Vilnius/Trakai (optional)</p>

Prepared by:

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