



Implementation of Gender Equality Strategies

We continue to present the activities in project partner countries related to the gender equality strategy implementation and the related events.

Portugal



Documentary screening and discussion

On July 9th, as part of the FEM-ABLE project, to which Porto Femme and Casa das Associações have joined, the documentary "Novíssimas Cartas Portuguesas" by Irina Pampim Silva, Cecília Honório, and Paula Miranda was screened. This documentary work establishes a connection between the **active presence of Portuguese women in the political and social context of the Estado Novo regime and the current state of female participation in politics.**

The event also featured a discussion with Municipal Deputy Susana Constante Pereira and Diana Loureiro, a research fellow of Fem-able. For one hour, **the barriers to female political participation were discussed**, such as the balance between personal and professional life, gender stereotypes and cultural norms; while also addressing intersectionality, feminism in health, discriminations in the Municipal Assembly; the portrayal of femicides as 'crimes of passion' in the media; and the potential stagnation felt by women in the feminist struggle.

Debate: "Female participation in different fields of the political arena"



Universidade Lusófona organized a debate on July 23rd with the objective of **discussing women's participation at different stages of political party life**, considering **various perspectives, positions, and ages within the political spectrum**. The event, held at Casa das Associações in Porto, was attended by Andreia Peniche (leftwing party), Clara de Sousa Alves (rightwing party), Mafalda Folhadela (center-right), and Susana Constante Pereira (leftwing party).

For approximately two hours, topics such as gender stereotypes, cultural norms, and the balance between personal/family life and professional life were discussed as the main barriers to women's participation in the political arena, according to the **perspectives of various political orientations.**

Cyprus

FEM-ABLE in Action



On the 13th of July, CSI participated in the **Women in Business & Beyond Conference** in Limassol, Cyprus. CSI maintained an active presence throughout the event with a booth, an engaging panel discussion and an impactful live social experiment, representing the FEM-ABLE project.

A significant highlight of the conference was the **vivid representation, discussions on the FEM-ABLE project and the National Strategy developed**, dedicated to raising awareness about the importance and impact of equal gender representation in politics. **This focus encouraged public discussions on the significance of women's political participation and representation at local, national and European levels.**

A further notable aspect of the conference was CSI's live social experiment, which addressed gender stereotypes and prejudice against women, as well as broader societal perceptions of women and their roles in society. Such an engaging and lively experiment sparked increased awareness and discussions about the importance of equal representation for women. **The experiment emphasised the need for well-developed National and European strategies to break gender stereotypes, ultimately striving for gender equality as a fundamental goal.**

CSI also moderated and participated in a **dynamic panel discussion** focused on "Women Empowerment: Breaking Barriers and Overcoming Challenges." The panel featured inspiring stories of women who have overcome obstacles, broken barriers, driven change and fostered inclusive environments in their workplaces. **Attendees gained practical insights and inspiration to empower their journeys and make a meaningful impact in the business world and beyond through the presentation of the developed National Strategy.**



Highlights from the 'Women in Business & Beyond' Conference: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-hB_0i83eE



Italy

The fourth event in Italy took place at the University of Palermo's Faculty of Political Science, engaging undergraduate students in an interactive session on gender equality in politics. The session opened with a **quiz on international, EU, and local gender issues**, introducing the FEM-ABLE project's **National Gender Strategy** alongside similar University initiatives. This sparked interest in resources like inclusive language guides and women's leadership programs, highlighting potential development areas for UNIPA.

Afterward, a review of key moments in **Italy's feminist movements** connected past activism to present-day socio-political dynamics. A motion debate then encouraged students to critically examine gender quotas' role in increasing women's political representation. This non-traditional, debate-focused approach was well-received, providing a refreshing shift from lectures to **participatory learning**.



Spain

On 29th September, La Xixa and the theatre company La Xixa Lab presented the Forum Theatre play *A Gender Matter* in the neighbourhood of L'Esquerra de l'Eixample in Barcelona.

This event, organised in collaboration with a grassroots feminist collective "**Feministes de l'Esquerra de l'Eixample**", marked the successful conclusion of the **FEM-ABLE project** in Barcelona.

During the forum following the play, the audience, or "spect-actresses," addressed crucial topics such as **gender discrimination in professional and leadership contexts**, the importance of collective strength, and how to prevent violence in conflict resolution.

In La Xixa we believe that **creating forums is essential for making gender discrimination visible and collectively finding transformative alternatives to confront and manage conflicts!**



Lithuania



Between August and October 2024, Social Innovation Fund organized two **face-to-face workshops for the politicians and women's leaders**, and one online event for wide **public**. All the events were aimed at promoting Lithuanian **National Strategy for gender equality in politics** and to discuss the practical steps for the implementation of the strategy, which seeks to **create more inclusive political environments**. These events were part of Work Package and were designed to disseminate information, raise awareness, and foster dialogue on overcoming barriers to female political participation.

The first workshop took place on August 28 in Prienai, followed by a second on September 27 in Kaunas. Both workshops **introduced the National Gender Equality Strategy** and aimed to discuss ways to promote gender equality in political participation, particularly in the context of Lithuania's local political landscape and the **upcoming elections on October 13**. The workshops were designed as interactive sessions, fostering awareness and stimulating critical discussions among key stakeholders. Both workshops successfully created a platform for female politicians to engage in meaningful discussions about the barriers to their political participation. The interactive format encouraged participants to share personal experiences, enhancing mutual support and understanding.



The October 8, 2024, online event highlighted the importance of women's political representation, **encouraging support for female candidates** in the upcoming October 13 national elections. Using Lithuania's National Gender Equality Strategy, the event addressed **barriers women face in politics and the benefits of gender equality**. Participants engaged in discussions on gender quotas, policy improvements, and empowering women for leadership roles. The event successfully raised awareness and fostered commitment to promoting women's representation in Lithuanian politics.

Partners



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