



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, FAMILY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



Letter of Invitation

WOMEN 20 YEARS AFTER BEIJING

Congress Centre Brdo, 13th and 14th November 2014

Year 2015 will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of adopting the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for action at the fourth World Conference on women in Beijing. Every five years, progress in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action is reviewed and the review is conducted at the national, regional and global levels.

Slovenia, as a signatory state, has firmly committed itself to implementing measures that will continue to pursue the goals towards the greater gender equality. Gender equality is one of the cornerstones towards a just society. Twentieth anniversary is an opportunity to look back, to review what has been done and to look forward to the future.

The Conference *Women 20 years after Beijing* will be an excellent opportunity to discuss gender equality and the position of women in general, to find out what has been done and achieved in Slovenia and what is the situation nowadays in comparison to 1995. Special focus will be given to specific areas of concern defined in the Platform for action. The main events, policies, changes in legislation that have had an important impact on situation of Slovenian women and gender equality policy will be highlighted. We will also identify areas where a considerable progress has been made and areas where special attention still needs to be given in order to improve the situation of women in Slovenia.

Are we facing positive changes and greater gender equality nowadays or, on the contrary, the deterioration of social, political and economic circumstances that affected the lives of women and lead to several inequalities? As our focus is positively oriented we believe we can come together and make a common statement, including some concrete proposals.

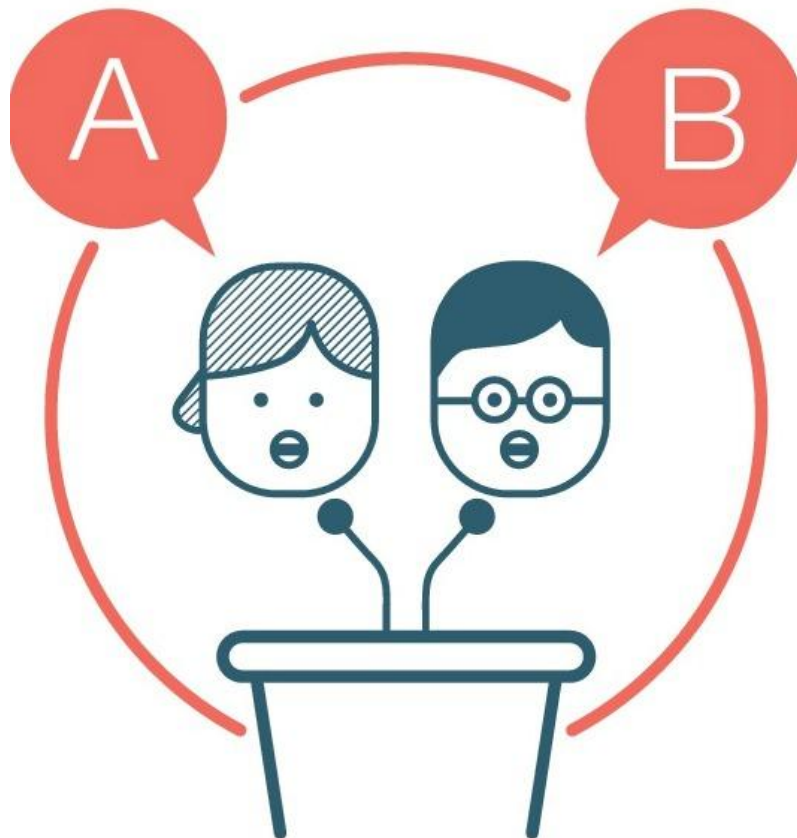
The Conference is organized by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the Women's Lobby of Slovenia, in the framework of the bilateral cooperation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 - 2014 for Slovenia.

We look forward to greeting you at the Conference *Women 20 years after Beijing* in Slovenia.



DRAFT PROGRAMME

WOMEN 20 YEARS AFTER BEIJING



Congress Centre Brdo, 13th and 14th November 2014



Thursday, 13th November 2014
Congress Centre Brdo

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration**

09.00 – 9.30 **OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY ADRESSES**

Dr. Anja Kopač Mrak, Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Tove Skarstein, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway

Metka Rokсандić, President of Women's Lobby of Slovenia

9.30 – 11.00 **PANEL 1: WOMEN IN SLOVENIA**

20 years ago the important political documents were adopted at the Fourth World Conference of UN on Women in Beijing 1995. As the signatory state, Slovenia committed itself to strengthening gender equality and to implementing measures set in the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women. As a member of the European Union, Slovenia fully respects the values of the EU and is firmly committed to implement one of its fundamental values - equality of women and men.

- What work has been done and what measures have been implemented in Slovenia to promote gender equality?
- What is the situation of women nowadays in comparison to 1995, regarding legislation and policy enforcement mechanisms in specific areas of concern?
- How wide is the gap between the adopted legislation and its implementation? How can we recognize this in practice?
- Can we say that we have achieved greater gender equality and in which areas? In which areas the progress has not been sufficient?

Speakers:

- Tanja Salecl, M.Phil., Equal Opportunities Department, MLFSAEO
- Dr. Maca Jogan, Professor Emeritus
- Sonja Lokar, European Network on Gender Equality
- Katja Zabukovec Kerin, Association for Nonviolent Communication

11.00 – 11.30 **Break**



11.30 – 13.30 PANEL 2: WOMEN IN EUROPE

Beijing Platform for Action is the fundamental international instrument for implementation of women's rights and empowerment and it is binding for all European states. Platform for action contains a series of measures and is divided into 12 different areas of concern. The EU has been regularly monitoring the implementation of the instrument. Financial and economic crisis in Europe has led to the adoption of measures that have worsened the situation of women. Sometimes such measures are also influenced by tradition, religion and culture.

- What is the estimation of the progress made in the area of equality between women and men in Europe or in specific countries (Croatia, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein)? Has the situation of women improved?
- What was the progress in the area of gender equality in other European countries? What were the obstacles and how did we overcome them?
- What are the major setbacks encountered by women preventing us from achieving greater equality between women and men?

Speakers:

- Representative of the European Women's Lobby, Brussels (TBC)
- Representative of the Norwegian government (TBC)
- Sigidur Ingibjorg Ingdottir, member of the national parliament, Iceland
- Dr. Ankica Čakardić, Faculty of Arts, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Representative of Liechtenstein (TBC)

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 15.30 PANEL 3: FUTURE CHALLENGES

Year 2015 signifies an important year of global solidarity for women's rights. Based on the revised Millennium Development Goals a new development program will be adopted. Slovenia is taking part in this process and has an important role as a member of the EU. Equality of women and men is one of the fundamental values of the EU. In order to achieve this goal, relevant legislation and policies have to be adopted. In this context involvement of women, women's organization, organizations of civil society and their viewpoints and positions on issues are crucial.

- Does the adopted legislation on gender equality contribute to the greater equality between women and men in Slovenia?
- What is the influence of the national and EU legislation on Slovenian reality and what is our contribution to policy-making?
- What kind of policies and measures are needed in order to ensure real progress?
- How to achieve greater integration and observance of real equality of women and men at local and national level, as well as in family life?
- What kind of policies and measures are needed to change / improve the situation?

Speakers:

- Dr. Barbara Rajgelj, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
- Dr. Svetlana Slapšak
- Dr. Jasna Podreka, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

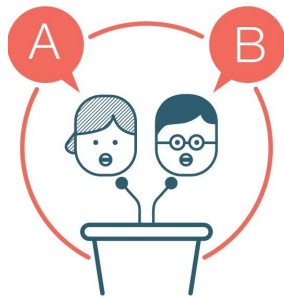


15.30 – 17.00

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

TOPIC 1: WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING

(translated to English)



For the development of democracy and democratic citizenship it is crucial to increase participation of women, to promote their empowerment and to improve their social, economic and political status.

- How has been the legislation in the field of political decision-making and involvement of women in politics developed? What kind of impact do measures in political decision-making have on women?
- Do women in local politics have the same opportunities as men?
- What needs to be done to increase the participation of women in decision-making positions in economy? Do we need changes in legislation, incentive measures or something else?

Speakers:

- Dr. Milica Antić Gaber, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana
- Angela Murko Pleš, Women's Lobby of Slovenia
- Sonja Šmuc, The Manager's Association of Slovenia

TOPIC 2: WOMEN AND THEIR ECONOMIC STATUS

(in Slovene only)



Beijing Platform for Action requires governmental efforts to encourage economic independence of women. Possibility of a woman to provide for herself is therefore of a core importance. Women have less opportunity than men; therefore, their economic independence is inadequate. Employment rate of women is lower, consequently the unemployment among women is higher. More women than men earn less than average salary and less women's earnings are above the average. Women have more likely precarious employment, are more often absent from work due to child care and their pensions are lower.

- Has there been any progress in economic status of women since 1995?
- What are the possibilities for the improvement of women's economic status?
- Are there any relevant measures to encourage the integration of inactive women to labour market?

Speakers:

- Andreja Poje, M. Phil., Slovenian Association of Free Trade Unions
- Marta Turk, Meta Institute
- Maja Kovač, M. Phil., Faculty of Economics



TOPIC 3: WOMEN IN PRIVATE LIFE

(in Slovene only)



Several changes happened to people's private lives in the past 20 years; i.e. changes in family life, structures of family, changes in gender roles and models.

- Is the current definition of family sufficient? What defines it and what is its role?
- Have those changes caused higher level of gender equality or even *re-domestication*?

Slovenian women are overburdened with unpaid caring work in private life. There is a high demand for care services in Slovenia, especially in private sphere (e.g. care services for elderly, children, and household assistance). Several questions on equality arise while discussing unpaid and paid care services. Austerity measures in the area of social welfare cause additional pressure to families, in which women do most of the unpaid work. Unpaid work represents almost 40 % of Slovenian GDP.

- What changes are needed?

Speakers:

- Dr. Tanja Renner, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
- Dr. Ana Marija Sobočan, Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana
- Dr. Majda Hrženjak, The Peace Institute

17.00 – 17.30

CONCLUDING REMARKS



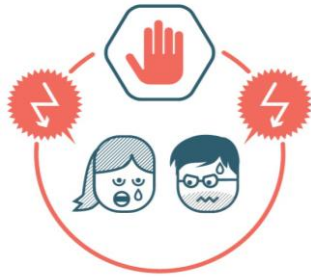
Friday, 14th November 2014
Congress Centre Brdo

09.00 – 10.30

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

TOPIC 4: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Physical, sexual, psychological violence, sexual harassment, stalking, threats, forced marriages, pornography, prostitution, trafficking in women and murders are widespread criminal acts against women and girls. Violence against women is the matter of human rights and gender equality. It is a responsibility and a reflection of a democratic society.



- How does Slovenia deal with violence against women?

Speakers:

- Špela Veselič, Association SOS Help-line for Women and Children - Victims of violence
- Dr. Katja Filipčič, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana
- Katjuša Popović, Ključ, Centre for Fight against THB

TOPIC 5: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Not only consultation and treatment of diseases connected to child birth or sexuality, but also quality of life and better interpersonal relationships are part of sexual and reproductive health.



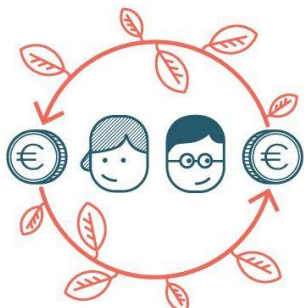
- How do Slovenian women exercise sexual and reproductive rights? Are those rights at risk?
- How do the austerity measures in health care system influence those rights?
- Mental health is an important part of a health care system and a requirement for a long and healthy life. How can be mental health seen from the gender perspective?

Speakers:

- Dr. Dunja Obersnel Kveder, Women's Lobby of Slovenia
- Dr. Barbara Mihevc Ponikvar, National Institute of Public Health
- Dr. Mojca Urek, Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana



TOPIC 6: POVERTY



Everyone has a right to decent life, appropriate accommodation, food, water, sanitation, education and medical care. Due to the austerity measures and restrictive social transfers poverty among Slovenians rises.

- Why is the poverty among women, especially elderly and single parents increasing?
- What are the measures to prevent poverty among Roma women, migrants and rough sleepers?
- What measures should be adopted in order to efficiently combat poverty?

Speakers:

- Dr. Vesna Leskošek, Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana
- Dubravka Hrovatič, Social Work Centre Novo mesto
- Tereza Novak, Slovene Philanthropy - Association for promotion of voluntary work

10.30 – 11.30

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

11.30 – 12.00

Break

12.00 – 13.00

WOMEN'S MANIFESTO 2014 - DECISION FOR THE FUTURE

Beijing's Platform for action remains a political challenge for a country which has committed itself to achieving greater equality between women and men and therefore to realizing adopted political commitments and international obligations. Areas, where women face several obstacles, still remain. Further stagnation or even regression in gender equality shall be prevented. Slovenian government needs to put forward already adopted obligations and show that gender equality issues are very high on our list of concerns. Women's manifesto 2014 will be a document with concrete proposals for the government and politicians who will be involved in the future gender equality policy. Our goal is that Women's manifesto 2014 will be taken as a core document and a basis for a common act in the area of women's rights and gender equality. Women's manifesto 2014 should also be a basis for our cooperation in putting forward women's demands as a part of European and global movement in structuring and auditing the UN development goals after 2015.

13.00 – 13.30

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Martina Vuk, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Metka Roksandić, Women's Lobby of Slovenia

13.30

Lunch



APPLICATION FORM

Conference *Women 20 years after Beijing*

Congress Centre Brdo, 13th and 14th November 2014

Name and surname	
Organisation and function	
E-mail address	
If you have any special needs let us know (vegetarian or special diet, movement impairment, other)	

The Conference will be co-financed by the bilateral fund of the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 - 2014 for Slovenia.



BASIC INFO AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Event	Conference <i>Women 20 years after Beijing</i>
Venue	Congress Centre Brdo, Slovenia http://www.brdo.si/en GPS coordinates: N 46°16.378', E 014° 22.826'
Date	13 th and 14 th November 2014
Organizer	Ministry for Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in cooperation with Women's Lobby of Slovenia
Official language of the Conference	Official language will be Slovene. Translation to and from English will be provided for the first day only.
Costs	The Conference will be co-financed by the bilateral fund of the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 - 2014 for Slovenia.
Travel and accommodation	Travel and accommodation for the speakers will be organised by the Ministry. Please let us know your preferences regarding travel arrangement (see contact person). Eligible cost is plane, train or bus ticket. Please save the boarding pass if travelling by plane.
Participants	Participants will be NGOs, experts, politicians, public sector, academia. Number of participants is approximately 100.
Contact person	Dr. Sonja Robnik, 01 369 75 09, sonja.robnik@gov.si