

Women4Advancement

The project "Equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making for women advancement"

Membership Support Regranting Scheme 2024 / RE-GRANTING AGREEMENT No. MASF2024-006

Women's political participation for advancement: from analysis to action

1. Main theme	Gender balance in politics and decision making
Related themes	Combating gender stereotypes
2. Implementing country	Lithuania
3. Implementation level	National
4. Main goal and objectives of the good practice	<p>Main goal - to encourage women to engage and actively participate in political life and elections, as well as to reduce gender stereotypes in political activities, through information, education and advocacy activities supported by evidence-based and data-driven analytics.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase opportunities for women to participate in politics by awareness raising in the society and so creating a relevant and enabling discourse towards gender parity in democratic society 2. To perform analytical monitoring of women's involvement and participation in political life and prepare recommendations how to increase women's participation 3. Prepare and implement educational and awareness raising activities, based on the data of analytical research 4. To promote application of temporary special measures 5. To disseminate widely information on the project, it's activities and the results
5. Target group/groups	Women politicians and potential politicians, local and national level politicians, the society and media
6. Name of lead organisation/body implementing the practice	Lithuanian Women's Lobby Organisation NGO - National Association of Lithuanian Women's Organisations
7. Partners, if relevant	Lithuanian Association of Local Authorities National authority
8. Period of implementation	January-December 2023

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<p>9. Funding/Financial resources and other resources</p>	<p>National budget</p>
<p>10. Description of good practice and it's activities</p>	
<p>Women's representation in politics is far from balance. In 2024 women comprised 31,4 percent in municipal councils and only 10 percent of mayors are women. In the Parliament in the beginning of 2004 women's share was only 28 percent and the Speaker of the Parliament is a woman. Though in the Government situation is better - share of Ministers - 40 percent and Prime Minister is a woman. According to the Gender Equality Index of the European Institute for Gender Equality in the domain of power score of Lithuania is only 48,6 points – the lowest score comparing with other domains.</p> <p>Municipal elections took place in February 2023 and national elections will be held in October, 2024. Therefore, the project was structured in a way that allows to analyse and take into account the results of municipal elections when developing, targeting and implementing advocacy awareness raising and educational activities.</p> <p><u>Awareness raising activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An information campaign on the benefits and necessity of gender balance in policy formulation, implementation and enforcement, which included social media messages, podcasts on women's empowerment and participation in politics, entitled "The Courage to Lead" - Online TV programmes "Dose of Feminism", articles on portals and social media to activate women in politics, national and regional radio programmes <p><u>Analytical activities- analytical monitoring of women's involvement and participation in political life and elections:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of political parties' 2020 election programmes from a gender equality perspective, identifying which parties and to what extent they include solutions to gender inequality in their election programmes. - Analysis of women's involvement and participation in the 2023 municipal elections, identifying the factors that enable women to be elected - Identification of the link between women's participation in local politics and the gender equality situation in municipalities, which will lead to the development of a gender equality index for 60 municipalities in Lithuania <p><u>Training and education activities to empower women to become more active in politics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national debate on "Women's political participation for progress: from analysis to action" - Discussion at the Lithuanian Science Council on promoting gender balance in decision-making positions <p><u>Advocacy activities on the application of temporary special measures to increase the number of women in politics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of good practices on application of temporary special measures - Analysis of the EU and international legal instruments on application of temporary special measures 	

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- Drafting suggestions on the amendments of national legislation, based on good practices and EU and international obligations
- Round table with the parliamentarians aimed to discuss the well-grounded suggestions on the amendments of legislation

Dissemination of the project and its results.

<p>11. Impact/results of monitoring and evaluation of good practice</p>	<p>Main Impact of the project –improved opportunities for women to participate in politics, in particular by changing stereotypical approaches of the society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Well- grounded and targeted 48 messages prepared reached 270 000 users -9 podcasts "The Courage to Lead", reached 18000 users. -3 Online TV programmes "Dose of Feminism" broadcasted, on portals and social media 6 relevant articles published and disseminated, 3 national and 3 regional radio programmes prepared, aimed to activate women in politics, to attract attention of the society on the importance of women in politics, obstacle and ways to remove them. - gender analysis of the election programmes of 10 political parties performed and recommendations for political parties produced. - analysis of the results of municipal elections performed, which allowed to identify factors, enabling women to be elected and on this basis recommendations for trainings, educational and awareness raising activities prepared. - well grounded suggestions to amend 3 relevant laws, including suggestion regarding temporary special measures drafted presented and discussed with to 80 participants, including politicians. <p>Expected result – increased number of women in the Parliament after coming national elections in October 2024.</p>
<p>12. Lessons learned Main challenges and obstacles encountered, how they were addressed</p>	<p>No particular specific obstacles were encountered. However, discussion regarding application of the obligatory temporary special measures between politicians, lawyers is still going on and not so much progress reached. Some parties apply voluntary quotas in their electoral lists.</p> <p>It should be mentioned also, that gender stereotypes are changing slowly and continuous longer-term complex efforts are needed to systematically monitor and address them.</p>
<p>13. Success factors of the practice</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Complex approach: interrelated analytical activities + awareness raising activities + advocacy activities + educational activities. 2. Well-developed content of the awareness raising and educational activities, based on the facts and data of the research and analytical activities. 2. Well-selected popular channels for awareness raising activities.

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	<p>3. Opportunity to attract well known experts and gender-sensitive scientific researchers and professional journalists.</p> <p>4. Territorial coverage of the project activities - all municipalities.</p>
14. Ways in which the practice could be improved	Project framework might be extended by the separate component aimed to target specifically young women – potential politicians and involving network of women politicians which might provide mentorship and serve as a role models.
15. Advice and recommendations for those, who wish to implement this good practice	<p>Both well-developed content, well developed methods, attraction of competent experts and well-selected channels are important for achieving expected results.</p> <p>Different target groups of voters need different methods and approaches. For instance, between young people more popular are such methods as social media campaigns, interactive educational tools, animated videos, when older people prefer traditional media, reading articles in paper newspapers etc.</p>
16. Source of good practice, contacts, references	Lithuanian Women’s Lobby Organisation, www.lmlo.lt/