

## 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

### WIP: Women Initiative for Parity

<b>1. Main theme</b>	Strengthening of women’s organisations
<b>Related themes</b>	Gender balance in decision making
<b>2. Implementing country</b>	Lithuania
<b>3. Implementation level</b>	National
<b>4. Main goal and objectives of the good practice</b>	<p>Improving gender equality mechanism through strengthening advocacy and lobbying skills of women’s organisations to combat inequalities and promote gender equality in systematic way, in particular parity in decision making</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To strengthen women’s organisations</li> <li>-To promote more women in politics</li> <li>-To promote interest of young people to gender equality</li> </ul>
<b>5. Target group/groups</b>	NGOs, actively working in gender equality sphere, Women politicians clubs, Youth, studying in higher education institutions, politicians, society
<b>6. Name of lead organisation/body implementing the practice</b>	<p>Kaunas women’s employment centre</p> <p>NGO</p>
<b>7. Partners, if relevant</b>	<p>Social Innovation Fund and Lithuanian Women’s Lobby organisation.</p> <p>NGOs</p>
<b>8. Period of implementation</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>9. Funding/Financial resources and other resources</b>	The EEA and Norway Grants supported the project.
<b>10. Description of good practice and its activities</b>	
<p>Women’s organisations in Lithuania for the years actively work on the grassroots level towards women’s advancement and empowerment, promotion and protection of women’s rights, eliminating inequalities and promotion of gender equality in many fields, including women’s leadership and gender balance in politics. Their work might be even more effective, when they are equipped with professional lobbying skills, better knowledge of the EU and international</p>	

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gender equality legislation, commitments and other instruments, rules of collaboration with media etc. It is necessary in particular in their work towards gender balance in decision-making. In this field rating of Lithuania remains below the EU average and positive changes are very slow. Women’s organisations experience lack of efficient, professional skills and capacities of systematic and consistent lobbying to promote women in politics and decision-making.

Main activities of the project.

### Trainings performed:

- For women’s organisations:
  - development of competences and skills in advocacy, lobbying and monitoring of implementation of gender equality policies on the basis of good practices from Iceland and Italy
  - acquiring and improving knowledge of the EU and international gender equality legislation, commitments and other instruments, improving of monitoring and reporting skills, f.i., drafting Shadow reports for UN CEDAW.
- For youth:
  - development of general competences in gender equality, with the particular focus on gender balance in politics, women’s leadership and combating stereotypes regarding roles of women and men with the view of involvement of young people to gender equality wo

### Analytical activities:

- The content of the programmes of 3 political parties was analysed from the gender equality point of view and the suggestions how to integrate gender equality aspects into these programmes were made

### Round table discussions:

- Round table discussions were performed with the participation of the members of the club of women-politicians “Milda”, representatives of women’s organisations and youth organisations, local and national level politicians on the importance of gender balance in decision making and the ways to achieve gender parity in the Seimas (Parliament and municipal councils) as well as how to integrate gender issues into the programmes of political parties

National conference „50/50“ organized in order to make influence on gender balance in politics was organized

### Awareness raising:

- Awareness raising campaign for women’s rights “LT Parliament in a Different Way“ focused on exploring and discussing inequalities between women and men in power-related and decision-making positions was organized

### **11. Impact/results of monitoring and evaluation of good practice**

Extended number of members of Lithuanian Women’s Lobby organization (LMLO) - up to 40 members;  
Strengthened skills in advocacy, lobbying and monitoring of 120 representatives of NGOs.  
Social network of gender equality lawyers created  
10 round table discussions organized

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	<p>National conference „50/50“ organized in order to make influence on gender balance in politics</p> <p>Strengthened skills of 50 representatives of LMLO on the EU and international gender equality commitments and drafting of the UN CEDAW Shadow reports</p> <p>100 young people learned about gender roles and 24 of them were integrated to LMLO’s activities as volunteers</p> <p>The content of 3 programmes of the political parties was analysed in terms of the gender equality and suggestions how to integrate gender equality aspect into political programmes were drafted</p> <p>Awareness campaign for women’s rights “LT Parliament in a Different Way“ reached all regions of Lithuania</p> <p>And finally – strengthened Lithuanian Women’s Lobby organisation consistently continued it’s efforts towards parity in politics. As a result, number of women in the Seimas (Parliament) increased by 5 percent in 2020</p>
<p><b>12. Lessons learned</b> <b>Main challenges and obstacles encountered, how they were addressed</b></p>	<p>Creation of women’s clubs, uniting women-politicians from different political parties and leaders, should be initiated by NGO, but not by political party.</p>
<p><b>13. Success factors of the practice</b></p>	<p>One of the success factors - Involvement into project activities Club of women-politicians MILDA. This broad network unites women from the different political parties – despite of the dependence to different parties women-politicians support gender equality issues. In their meetings (sometimes initiated and/or facilitated by women’s organisations) women-politicians discuss how to strengthen women’s positions in politics, how to solve gender equality issues, how to attract young people etc.</p>
<p><b>14. Ways in which the practice could be improved</b></p>	<p>National context should be taken into account by those who would wish to use this example an relevant adjustment of the content of activities made</p>
<p><b>15. Advice and recommendations for those, who wish to implement this good practice</b></p>	<p>The world experience many challenges today. When developing the content of the project activities actual challenges and their consequences on women’s situation need to be taken into account</p>



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EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
LOBBY  
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

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<b>16. Source of good practice, contacts, references</b>	Social Innovation Fund, Kaunas Women's Employment Centre. Lithuanian Women's Lobby Organisation, <a href="http://www.lmlo.lt">www.lmlo.lt</a> .
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