

Drive for Democracy II – shrinking space for civil society with focus on women organizations

13 June 2022, Stockholm

The EUSBSR partnership wants to establish a European Baltic Sea Strategy Forum for Gender Equality and Growth 3.0 with connection to the Eastern Partnership. The aim is to strengthen equality between women and men in innovation and entrepreneurship thus improving democratic development and economic growth. The seminar *Drive for Democracy I* focused on foreign policies and international cooperation. *Drive for Democracy II* will focus on the importance and conditions of civil society organizations. We need to:

- Discuss the shrinking space for civil society organizations in general and especially women`s organizations and its importance for democratic and economic development.
- Highlight the importance of civil society women`s organizations for developing equality between women and men as a prerequisite for a democratic and economic development at all levels in society (CEDAW, Agenda 2030, WEF, World Bank et al).
- Discuss how gender equality between women and men can be ensured in financial support systems for innovation and entrepreneurship by using the strategy gender mainstreaming without gender stereotyped decisions.
- Discuss good practices and capacity building.

Zoom-link for digital participation:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81152555069?pwd=cG1TRHRrVHVWeEZJeldnNUpnY3hndz09>

Moderator Britt-Marie S Torstensson, Winnet Sweden

- 13.00 **Welcome!**
Britt-Marie S Torstensson, Winnet Sweden, and Mats Hellström, Norden International
- 13.05 **Drive for Democracy II seminar program**, moderator
- Part 1 Democracy and space for civil society organizations**
- 13.15 **Introductory remarks, Democracy and shrinking space for civil society organizations**, Mats Hellström, Norden International
Q&A
- 13.35 **Gender equality a prerequisite for democratic and economic development**, Gertrud Åström, Women`s Baltic Peacebuilding Initiative
Q&A
- 13.55 **Capacity building**, Johan Magnusson, Teamleader Macro Regions, EU Commission

- 14.10 **Discussion with all participants**
- 14.20 **COFFEE**
- PART 2 From politics to praxis – Women’s organizations as drivers for democracy and economic growth**
- 14.30 **Experiences and good practices of the Winnet model to mobilize women,**
Anna Aleksyan, Winnet Armenia
Q&A
- 14.50 **Estonian women organizations as drivers for democracy,** Sirje Vällmann,
ETNA
Q&A
- 15.10 **Women organizations in Poland,** Marta Hozer Kocmiel, Winnet Centre of Excellence ®
Stettin University
Q&A
- 15.30 **BRAINSTORMING: Design for gender equality between women and men**
to be ensured in financial support systems for innovation and
entrepreneurship
- 15.45 **Reflections,** Gertrud Åström
- 15.50 **Next step for European Baltic Sea Strategy Forum Gender Equality and Growth 3.0**
Closing
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