

Regional Academy for Women Leadership and Mediation



What is the project about?

The Regional Academy for Women Leadership and Mediation (RAWLM) is a project that aims at consolidating the role of women in the political, peace, and security agenda in the region. The project's goal is to increase women's participation in political leadership and decision making as well as in peace-building processes, being that participation within governments or within civil society structures of the Western Balkans at local, national and regional level.

This project feeds into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in 2015, reiterating gender equality and women's empowerment as integral to each of the 17 goals. It is also in line with the UNSCR 1325 affirmation that women should be given greater access to leadership roles in peace and security, and the aim of the SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment.

It targets young women from each country, from NGOs and political parties. It strengthens their voice and capacities to take action, and provides a scheme of cooperation and networking without which concerted action is impossible. Moreover, because skills do not necessarily mean opportunities, the RWLSEE network will work to facilitate those spaces of action for the young women involved in this project.

The Academy is a project designed by **Dr.Natalia. A. Peral**, *Independent Consultant*, upon the request of the **Regional Women Lobby (RWLSEE)**

What is the added value of this project?



Regional Character & Local Ownership. Our Academy is designed to be implemented regionally, it is sensitive to its context, generated from the region for the region, from women to women. It not only addresses regional needs, but also strengthens the ties among women of the region from different generations.



Three dimensions of women empowerment. The academy works across three dimensions of women empowerment as active agents of peace and change: agency, relations and structure. Thus, it seeks to impact at individual, community and societal level.



Agency. The academy highlights the agency of women in bringing about peace and positive change in the region, as advocates of a better future, and as relevant actors of the political, economic and social landscape of the region.



Intergenerational Exchange. The academy contributes to close the generational gap that has excluded young women from accessing to information and taking action, while consolidating an intergenerational dialogue of women for peace and security in the region.



Three pillars: Learning, Networking and Doing. The RAWLM understands that women empowerment for increasing participation and decision making in politics, peace and security depends of a concerted effort of three pillars: 1) learning to build awareness and skills, 2) networking to consolidate women voices in joint actions with others, and 3) effectively doing specific actions in the field of politics, peace and security.

THE ACADEMY IS:



A **HUB** for consolidating women's voice, participation and decision-making in politics and peace.





An **Incubator of women leaders** for peace and sustainable change.




The **regional reference point** for adult and young women of the region to connect for the mutual interest of strengthening their voice and their participation and decision making in politics and peace building.

What are the RLWSEE's strengths for this project?

 **Strong women/Experienced leaders.** The project is developed and implemented by highly experienced members of RLWSEE that have dedicated their life to peace and politics in the seven targeted countries of this project. They also are -and have been- actively working to improve gender equality in politics and peace-building. The women that made RWLSEE have the capacity to transfer the lessons they have learnt along their careers in order to help increase young women's influence and participation in these processes as well. They are also an unique model to inspire and be followed by women of conflict and post conflict societies in other regions of the world.

 **A well established network.** RWLSEE has remarkable success in these subject across the region and each member is an already well-established woman leading within the agenda of politics and peace-building. Therefore, RWLSEE seeks to include young women's voices and to work with young women's organisations to increase their participation in politics and peace processes.

 **Logistics capacity.** RWLSEE is present and operational in seven countries of the Western Balkans facilitating the recruitment of the targeted population and the interventions to be implemented with this project.

If you are an interested donor, please contact:

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