

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2027

RWL REGIONAL
WOMEN'S LOBBY IN
SOUTHEAST EUROPE

An update of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022
integrating current issues and challenges in the
Western Balkans region in the light of ongoing
world crisis

December 2022

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2027

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“EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND JUSTICE”

December 2022



Foreword by the Chair

“More women in decision-making and peacebuilding is likely to result in more peace, stability and prosperity” is a grounded assertion both in theory and practice. Underrepresentation of women in peacebuilding and democratic governance in the Western Balkans and beyond is not only unjust but also wrong. With women representing half of the world population and being a strategic asset to be invested for a better future, to work for empowerment of women is both inspiration and challenge.

With this motivation, the RWLSEE has been working hard to pursue its vision to build a just, peaceful, prosperous and Euro-Atlantic future for our, countries, region and beyond, with women at the heart of leadership, equal with men.

We will continue our work towards implementing our vision and, this is why the RWLSEE has developed this four years Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027, to ensure meaningful participation of women in political decision-making, peacebuilding, peace negotiating tables and gender responsive processes where women’s vision and needs are integrated.

Towards this overarching aspiration, the RWLSEE have set four strategic goals to work towards:

- 1) Foster peace, democracy and reconciliation through empowered women’s leadership and equal and meaningful participation of women in politics and decision making in peace, security and justice processes and promote political determination to Euro-Atlantic processes in light of current geopolitical and security challenges in the region of the Western Balkans
- 2) Continue to work and advocate for accelerated gender equality in line with global WPS agenda, particularly in post-conflict and conflict settings, while sharing experiences with women from fragile contexts through dialogue platforms as safe and convenient environment for increased women participation and empowerment
- 3) Serve as regional peace mediator in track two peace processes in support of formal peace processes in the region, aiming at gender inclusive, peacemaking and peacebuilding, based on the Road Map developed by the RWLSEE

4) Build young women capacities to become leaders of change, mediators and agents of peace – through RWLSEE’s Regional Academy for women, leadership and mediation (RAWLM)

RWLSEE consider that more women in decision-making, peacebuilding and negotiating tables can result in more sustainable outcomes. We urge that women should play a key role in the process of deciding on peace and implementing peace and ensuring that peace is sustainable. In the ongoing global crisis and uncertainty we live in, time has come for women’s leadership to take charge over the world affairs for a better and safer world, given that man leadership generated serious failures. We must bring ourselves at the forefront and lead the changes for a better world.

In the aftermath of the 20th anniversary of the Resolutions 1325 and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform, and their renewed commitments, the impetus and readiness of governments should be demonstrated while their political will should be put in action for significant advancement of gender equality and comprehensive empowerment of women. International and regional organizations should respond more effectively towards these goals, as words and commitments are not enough.

We consider that logic and democratic reason call for women to be at the tables where decisions are being made. However these are not translated into reality. Therefore, we will work for this reality to change in favor of gender balance. It’s time to move from papers and commitments into actions. Time has come to bring ourselves to the forefront where big decisions are being made.



Dr. Edita Tahiri
RWLSEE Chair

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Abbreviations

RWLSEE	Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe
UNSCR1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
UN	United Nations
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSW	Commission on Status of Women
RAWLM	Regional Academy for Women in Leadership and Mediation
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CSO	Civil Society Organization
MP	Members of Parliament
EU	European Union
HQ	Headquarters
RO	Regional Office
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SC	Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
WB	Western Balkans
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

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ABOUT RWLSEE

About RWLSEE

Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Justice and Security in Southeast Europe (RWLSEE) is a regional women peacebuilding and mediation organization founded in 2006, in aftermath of conflicts in Western Balkans and as such is a unique in the region and beyond. Founders and leadership of the RWLSEE are women leaders of politics and civil society from seven countries of the region who in close cooperation with UN Women have established the organization and inspirationally works for women's central role in building peace, reconciliation and Euro-Atlantic future of all Western Balkan countries.

It operates in seven focus countries, Kosovo¹, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and North Macedonia, from where its membership comes from.

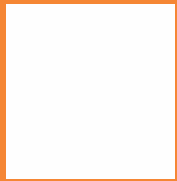
RWLSEE's vision is to build a just, peaceful, prosperous and Euro-Atlantic future for our societies, countries and region, with women at the heart of leadership equal with men.

The mission of the RWLSEE is to empower women in political and peace processes for achieving sustainable and gender inclusive peace, security, justice, reconciliation, prosperity in Southeast Europe and European and Euro-Atlantic integration for all seven focus countries in the region, in the complex and challenging post-conflict setting of the region.

The RWLSEE considers that underrepresentation of women in peacebuilding and democratic governance in the Western Balkans and beyond is not only unjust but also wrong. The striking absence of women from formal peace negotiations reveals a troubling gap between the aspirations and the reality of peace processes. The case of Balkans is typically illustrative for the fact out of five peace processes to end wars and resolve conflicts in the process of disintegration of former Yugoslavia, there was only one woman in peace negotiating table, who is the RWLSEE Chair. Therefore, we work for this reality to change in favor of gender balance. It's time to move from papers and commitments into actions.

RWL is committed to gender equality, empowering women and including a gender perspective in all political and peace processes in the region. The goal of RWL is to strengthen the women's leadership in peacebuilding and governances ensuring peaceful, stable and prosperous future in the region. Our goal is to have countries live side by side in equality and good neighborhood, in democracy, justice and reconciliation, while history of wars is put behind. RWL is dedicated to ensuring sustainable peace and security in countries and region through the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the region.

Our work started under a very specific post-conflict conditions when women were put in sidelines of political and peacebuilding processes, despite their vital role and sacrifices in the movements for freedom, independence, and democracy of countries in the region.



RWLSEE'S SUCCESSES

RWLSEE's SUCCESSES:

In over 16 years of our work, we succeeded to:

- influence significant changes in favor of women political empowerment in decision making and peacebuilding.
- inclusion of women in democratic governance as well as in gender responsive policies and actions in our focus countries
- we supported peace and reconciliation through our ideas and actions, through providing platforms for inter-ethnic dialogues on reconciliation and ways of breaking the war legacy of inter-ethnic mistrust.
- significantly contributed to the long-term development of peace-oriented societies by introducing legitimate process and institutions for effective conflict management.
- supported peace processes in the region and lobbied for meaningful participation of women including Vienna status talks and Brussels Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, Prespa Agreement on name dispute between Macedonia and Greece
- with our bottom-up approach supported by regional cooperation, we worked for localization of peacebuilding including mediation, as a foundation for sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding
- promote gender responsive rule of law, justice, security and economy as relevant pillars of democratic state building.
- foster transitional justice and seek international justice for conflict related victims of sexual violence in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.
- Promoting RWLSEE as a model of regional networking and cooperation in peacebuilding
- Finalizing together with UNDP and UN Women on Knowledge Product about RWLSEE titled "The Power of Women Organizing Across Borders: RWLSEE."
- Making commitments and joining **COMPACT on WPS-HA as the signatory since its launch at the Generation Equality Forum in 2021**

Today, RWLSEE is recognized as an effective model of regional cooperation among women in post-conflict time, which strives for women's role and vision to be integrated in addressing gaps in state building and peacebuilding in the region, including gender inequality, unfinished peace,

fragile democratic governance, fragile security and justice, incomplete transitional justice, incomplete normalization of neighborly relations, corruption, unemployment and other socio economic issues and slow pace of EU reforms.

It is inspired and works for WPS agenda and accelerated implementation of UNSCR 1325 and other relevant UN instruments for women's empowerment.

Its serves as a model of inspiration to be followed by women in pre-conflict, conflict, and post-conflict in other regions in the world.

Our joint goal is to advance the WPS agenda as a global struggle for having women and men equal in decision making, governance and peacebuilding, guided by international platforms for empowerment of women, gender equality and women's rights, including the UNSCR Resolution 1325 and other deriving resolutions, the Beijing Platform (1995), other relevant UN instruments such as CEDAW, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, European Policies on Gender Equality, COMPACT on WPS-HA, National Action Plans.

A key strategic partnership between RWLSEE and the UN Women and precious support from other international partners and donors, including governments of Sweden, Finland and Norway and their respective embassies in Kosovo and lately UN Agencies in Kosovo, have been vital for our successful journey in past 16 years.

We will continue our work towards implementing our vision and, this is why the RWLSEE has developed this four years Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027, to ensure meaningful participation of women in political decision-making, peacebuilding, peace negotiating tables and, gender responsive processes where women's vision and needs are integrated.

Towards this overarching aspiration, the RWLSEE have set four strategic goals to work towards:

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- 3) Serve as regional peace mediator in track two peace processes in support of formal peace processes in the region, aiming at gender inclusive, peacemaking and peacebuilding, based on the Road Map developed by the RWLSEE.
- 4) Build young women capacities to become leaders of change, mediators and agents of peace – through RWLSEE's Regional Academy for women, leadership and mediation (RAWLM)

The RWLSEE's Strategic Plan for next four years has been formulated considering the context of changing global and regional trends, and is an update of the previous four years strategic plan which has been discussed and agreed in the two days meeting of Steering Committee of RWLSEE in Istanbul (dates) supported by the UN Women Whereas, the previous four years strategic plan has been developed through the process of consultations were extensive inside the organization and with various stakeholders of the RWLSEE, including the UN Women, international experts, politicians/parliamentarians, international partners/donors, other UN Agencies operating in Kosovo.

VISION

RWLSEE's vision is to build a just, peaceful, prosperous and Euro-Atlantic future for our countries, region and beyond, with women at the heart of leadership equal with men.

MISSION

The mission of the RWLSEE is to empower women in decision making and peacebuilding for achieving sustainable and gender inclusive peace, security, justice, reconciliation, prosperity and European and Euro-Atlantic integration for all focus countries, in the complex and challenging post-conflict setting of the region.

CORE VALUES

- Believing in peace and dedicated to work for peace.
- Respecting diversity and capacities of individuals and groups for peacemaking
- Building trust between people ensures reconciliation and lasting peace.
- Integrity is core value ensuring sincere cooperation and tangible results.

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PROGRESS REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PREVIOUS RWLSEE' STRATEGIC PLAN (2019 - 2022)

Progress Review of Implementation of the previous RWLSEE' Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

The process of developing the new Strategy for 2023 – 2027 necessarily requires a progress review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022. This is a precondition before moving ahead with the development of the new Strategy. The summary of progress and highlights is given below. The progress review is based on the RWLSEE's work and successes presented in the Report on 20 years of implementation of WPS and UNSCR 1325 in the Western Balkans, issued in marking the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 ([chrome extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/http://rwlsee.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/Regional-Report_20-years-WPS-in-the-Western-Balkans_FIN.pdf](http://rwlsee.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/Regional-Report_20-years-WPS-in-the-Western-Balkans_FIN.pdf)).

OVERALL OBSERVATION

The structure and composition of RWLSEE provides a unique platform to influence important peace and political processes in relation to women. Its members, being women leaders in politics and civil society, enjoy a high reputation in respective states, have extensive experience in dialogue, peacemaking and conflict resolution. In line with its structure, composition and strengths, the RWLSEE chose regional cooperation as the best model of working to help overcome the wounds of wars in the region through the promotion of gender equality, peacebuilding, reconciliation, and democratic post-conflict governance to the benefit of all citizens.

The regional approach enabled the RWLSEE to mobilize women from all walks of life and diverse ethnic backgrounds to jointly struggle for gender equality and peacebuilding in all countries and entire region. Our regional platforms, international conferences, regional roundtables, and workshops provided opportunities of inter-ethnic and peace dialogues so to make peace processes more gender responsive and provide alternative channels for political influence.

It should be noted that the RWLSEE work was significantly impaired with the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemics and the most recent war raged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The pandemics had a direct impact with movement restrictions, which affected the RWLSEE regional approach to work. Nevertheless, the RWLSEE was very quick to adopt to

new circumstances and conducted a series of activities in an online format. On the other hand, the aggression by Russian Federation against Ukraine also had a negative impact on RWLSEE work because of the diversion of political elites' attention to this geostrategic development.

Regardless of these challenges, the members of the RWLSEE advocated consistently for the accomplishment of Strategic Plan goals at both the regional level and in respective countries.

1. Fostering peace through women's empowerment in decision making and peacebuilding

With the aim of fulfilling the first Strategic Goal, the RWLSEE supported peace processes in the region and lobbied for equal and meaningful participation of women in formal peace talks, including the Brussels dialogue on normalization of neighborly relations between Kosovo and Serbia. This involved the organization and mediation of activities and dialogue between women politicians and parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia, in support of the Brussels dialogue and peace processes as a key contribution for lasting peace in the region.

Motivated by historic anniversaries of the Beijing Platform+25 and the UNSCR1325/WPS agenda+20, the RWLSEE dedicated two annual international conference to addressing progress and challenges for women empowerment in post-conflict region of Western Balkans (in 2019 and 2020). These conferences resulted in adoption of relevant set of recommendations, calling for more support for women in post-conflict settings.

2. Building women capacities to become leaders, mediators and agents of peace

In line with the second Strategic Goal, the RWLSEE plans to continue with the 3rd phase of the Leadership Training Program of the Regional Academy for Women Leadership and Mediation (RAWLM).

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 peacebuilding processes, being that participation within governments or within civil society structures of the Western Balkans at local, national and regional level.

The aim of Leadership Training Program (LTP) is also to provide young women leaders the knowledge and tools to perform leadership in the fields of their work, in government or civil society engagement, with the goal of delivering positive changes.

The Academy modules delivered include: "Leadership in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation", "Leadership in Politics and Decision-Making", "Leadership in Peace Diplomacy", "Leadership in Negotiation", "Leadership in Good Governance", "Leadership in Parliaments and Parliamentary Diplomacy", "Leadership in Economy" and "Politics and Sociology of Leadership" and a guest lecture on "Women and Digital World."

Two stages of RAWLM were held, funded by UN Women through MFA Sweden fund (Phase IV and V).

Series of leadership trainings courses provided in areas of politics, peacebuilding, and democratic state building were held with RWLSEE SC Members in their role as trainers, aimed at empowering young women to lead changes carried out by RWLSEE. Second stage activity built on the first stage implemented in 2020, when the Regional Academy was launched. The Leadership Training Program (LTP) included eight main areas such as: peace diplomacy, peace negotiations, politics and decision making, peacebuilding and reconciliation, good governance, parliaments functioning and parliamentary diplomacy, economic challenges and prosperity, leadership theory and recovery from COVID-19. It included a guest lecture on 'women and digital world' as an important capacity building dimension for young women.

Conclusions and a joint product of this activity is that now RWLSEE have 45 young women prepared as potential leaders in politics and civil society (aged 18-30), from 7 focus countries of RWLSEE including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and high profile women leaders, members of the RWLSEE. This resulted in a joint declaration/media release coming out of the Regional Academy's Leadership Training Program of the RWLSEE.

3. Rwlsee becoming leading regional women voice in peacebuilding

RWLSEE provided dialogues between women in politics and civil society to create a synergy and greater influence of women in shaping gender inclusive post conflict governance and policies. More important we provide dialogue between women and government representatives of national and local levels making it possible for women's voices and needs to be heard by governments in quest for gender inclusive peacebuilding, democracy and sustainable development.

With the RWLSEE voice raised, amplifying the women's voices, the RWLSEE influenced and helped shape policies to build a better future in the post-conflict region of Western Balkans and beyond. RWLSEE have and will continue to address gaps in state building and peacebuilding in the region, including gender inequality, unfinished peace, fragile democratic governance, fragile security and justice, incomplete transitional justice, incomplete normalization of neighborly relations, autocracy, corruption, unemployment and, other socio-economic issues and slow pace of EU and Euro-Atlantic reforms.

To this end, the RWLSEE reached out to regional and international decision-makers to address unresolved matters in the region in order to have long-lasting peace. Specifically, the RWLSEE Chair of RWLSEE handed to UN the petition demanding International Justice for women raped during the war in Kosovo, sent letter to the EU calling for gender-inclusive agreement between Kosovo and Serbia and preservation of borders, made public statement on deteriorating political situation in Montenegro and more.

Strategic Plan 2019-2022 Activity Highlights

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST PLANNED RESULTS*

- Regional Academy for Women Leadership and Mediation (RAWLM), Leadership Training Program (LTP) with aim of capacitating young women in leadership for change and participation in politics, decision making, and peacebuilding was held, with training courses provided by women senior leaders from the region of WB.
- The Gender perspective in formal peace processes and gender provisions in peace agreements including the document reflecting this topic was developed with inclusive participation of all women participants in both activities, International Conference and Regional dialogue Conference
- New strategic vision on the future of WPS and a just, peaceful and prosperous future with women at the heart of leadership in politics and peacebuilding, in post 20 years period of the Resolution 1325 was developed and shaped through the platform of discussions and experience provided by the International Conference
- A regional consensus of women to demand 50% quota in government and formal peace process was reached, a way of ensuring necessary gender equality while working for quality
- Track two peace processes for inclusive peace
- making and peacebuilding were promoted further, with an impressive spirit of constructiveness and cooperation, that was built through 10 years of continuing dialogue between women MPs from Kosovo and Serbia
- A joint documents on gender provisions in peace agreements was developed, subject to the potential final Brussels Agreement, to be submitted the authorities of the Brussels Dialogue.
- The first phase of implementation of the RWLSEE project titled “Guidebook on Gender Inclusive Peacemaking” which aims to provide a knowledge base to future women peace negotiators and mediators is completed, as the RWLSEE project commitment to the WPS
- HA Compact of the Paris Forum on Generation Equality, to which the RWLSEE is a signatory partner.
- The discussions on the follow up of RWLSEE with other phases of this project were presented to the Deputy Director of the UN Women ECA, Blerta Cela, who participated in this conference and offered support for it.

Conferences

- The International Conference “NEVER MORE URGENT: Investing in Women’s Leadership in Politics and Peacebuilding,” organized by the Regional Women’s Lobby in Southeast Europe (RWLSEE) and UN Women, with the support of the Government of Sweden
- International Conference “From Fragility to Empowerment: 20 years of Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Western Balkans”
- International Conference: Beijing +20 Regional Review for Western Balkans,
- Art and Peace Exhibition in Fano, Italy ‘NO MORE WOUNDS – MAI PIU FERITE’
- Regional Dialogue Conference “Towards inclusive peace: Women and gender approach in peace processes and reconciliation”
- Regional Peace Dialogue, Tirana, Albania

Academy and education

- Regional Dialogue Academy
- Local Peacebuilding training - Prishtina, Kosovo
- Local mediation training - Prishtina, Kosovo
- RWLSEE Steering Committee’s Strategic Meeting

Communications and petitions²

- Chair of RWLSEE handed to UN the petition demanding International Justice for women raped during the war in Kosovo
- Letter to the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Slovenia, to EU leaders Charles Michel, Ursula von der Leyen
- Letter from EU ensuring “NO LAND SWAP” AND GENDER INCLUSIVE AGREEMENT IN THE BRUSSELS DIALOGUE
- Published Article “Time has come for women to have more power”
- Statement on dangerous events in Montenegro, 05 September 2021
- Letter to UN demanding International Justice for women raped during the war’s in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia

International Engagements of RWLSEE LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY

RWLSEE has intensified the international engagements during 2021, with its lobbying and advocacy activities that aimed at raising the problems and gaps in implementation of gender equality, WPS and peacebuilding agenda in the post-conflict region of the Western Balkans, while requested more support for women in politics and decision

making, regional networking and cooperation among women and empowerment of youth in leading changes. RWLSEE has specifically emphasized new challenges to effective implementation of WPS agenda and peacebuilding including renewed ethnic tensions in the region, increasingly polarizing narratives, fragile peace, weak democracy, weak political systems and raising autocracy across the region, unresolved bilateral and regional disputes, incomplete transitional justice processes and particularly establishing the international justice for women war victims of sexual violence, delays in integration into Euro-Atlantic structures and pandemic conditions COVID-19 which further worsened gender equality agenda and especially increased domestic violence against women. For advancing the WPS agenda and shortening the road to gender equality, lasting peace and sustainable development in the Western Balkan and beyond, it has proposed to invest in women's leadership and gender power sharing between women and men in decision making in politics, government, formal peace processes that leads to gender inclusive peacemaking and peacebuilding. With women making up half of the world population, leaving them unincluded and underrepresented, the world risks to work with half capacities in building the better future, argues the RWLSEE.

During 2021, the RWLSEE, represented by the Chair, Dr. Edita Tahiri, participated in many international events, high level consultations, meetings, webinars, became a signatory and commitment maker of the UN Women WPS-HA Compacts in the Paris Forum on Generation Equality. These includes including the Mexico and Paris Forum on Generation Equality; in high level consultative meetings with high UN Women officials, including Sima Bahous, UN Women Executive Director, Aliya El- Yassir, UN Women ECA Regional Director, in consultative meetings of UN Women ECA with Western Balkans on CSW 65 and other relevant events; meetings in person in Prishtina with Osa Regner, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Gwi Yeop Son, UNDP Regional Director Europe and Central Asia, Ulrika Richardson, UN resident coordinator in Kosovo and others.

RWLSEE also expanded its partnership and cooperation with MWMN (Mediterranean Women's Mediators Network) and, the Italian partners, Academy of Fine Arts in Macerata, Fano Rocca Festival and Erasmus program together implemented the international peace project 'No More Wounds' in Italy.

RWLSEE participated and contributed to the Gender and Digitalization Summit in WB organized by UN Women ECA, took place in the Ukrainian Women's Congress, in the webinars on Afghanistan and Syria organized by the Global Alliance of Women mediators, in the Rome Mediterranean Dialogue organized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ISPI, etc.

Other activities and events contributed:

- the Rome 2021 Mediterranean Dialogue of Women's Forum
- the WPS-HA High-Level Side Event to Commemorate the 21st Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 the , 2021
- "Gender-Based Violence in a COVID-19 Context: "Activating Collective Responses, Innovative Partnerships and Proven Policies"
- The event on 25th anniversary of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

3

CURRENT POLITICAL CONTEXT

Current political context

The political context in which RWLSEE operates has significantly deteriorated. This situation is a consequence of larger geopolitical repercussions, unresolved bilateral issues, growing autocratic and populist tendencies in the region and stalemates in constructive initiatives. The Russian war raged against Ukraine and the consequent security, energy and economic crises further worsened the prospects of deepening cooperation and good relations that would lead to lasting peace in the region.

There are highly notable foreign influences aiming to disorient Western Balkans countries from EU and NATO membership. These influences are active in politics through their proxies, in economy and through culture, religion and ideology. The rise of extreme conservatism is present with elements of religious indoctrination through the education system and consequently, the society in general.

Enhanced activity of certain religious communities beyond the religious sphere and meddling into politics was noted. This could put in danger the overall separation of the state and religion, and the secular character of states in the region.

Multi ethnicity and co existence among nations of the region that was built for 20 years is at stake due to revisionism of power dynamics and even borders. The proponents of revisionism are using some of the unresolved bilateral issues to incite further division and crisis. In this contexts minorities are used as instruments for political interest and geopolitical ambitions.

The stalemate in the European Union enlargement process driven by Eurosceptic leaders is fueling insecurity in the region and is fainting the prospects of a European future for the entire region. The reigniting of the Berlin process with the conclusion of several deals gave some hope to the entire region.

Further, the EU facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia for some time saw no progress, with the exception of a deal reached to implement the Energy Agreement reached earlier. In fact, the withdrawal of Kosovo Serbs from legal and legitimate institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, in protest of the Kosovo government initiative to implement the Brussels agreement on license plates, marked a major setback in the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia.

The delays in EU accession paths for Albania and North Macedonia have also strengthened the position of the opponents of Euro Atlantic integration of the region. Furthermore, the rising of intercommunity tensions and political instability in Montenegro, is yet another indicator of the deteriorating peace in the region.

The region is also not immune to the rise of autocratic leaders and populist narratives. Both these have proven to be extremely detrimental to democracy.

All these trends have a negative repercussion on the position of women. In particular, the rise of autocracy, extreme conservatism and religious communities' influence in state and political affairs with have serious consequences for women participation in politics and decision making.

In general, as noted by United Nations Secretary General Report on Women, Peace and Security, the “world is experiencing a reversal of generational gains in women’s rights” and that the most “recent challenges to democratic and inclusive politics show once again that misogyny and authoritarianism are mutually reinforcing”.

Therefore, countries in the region needs to be extremely cautious and take measures to ensure that commitments and actions towards the enhanced inclusion of women in politics and decision making is maintained. Women in the region still continue to face serious barriers to meaningful and equal participation in decision making, peace and negotiation processes. Countries applying election quotas have maintained their moderate number of women representation. In other countries there are different but approximate levels of representation of women at high level positions.

Despite the moderate participation of women in political and decision making posts in some countries, there is still dissatisfaction with the quality of this representation. It has been observed that many women holding such positions are themselves decision makers. Rather, they are instrumentalized and serve to represent the interests of their male family members or businesses.

The state of affairs within political parties has seen no progress towards the equal participation of women in leading structures. Moreover, there is evidence of unequal treatment as well as psychological and economic violence against women in politics.

4

RWLSEE's STRATEGIC GOALS

RWLSEE's STRATEGIC GOALS

RWLSEE reviewed its progress and the new political and security context in the region. In light of its progress and the changing context, the RWLSEE adapted its strategic goals that will lead the RWLSEE towards the fulfilment of its vision.

The four Strategic Goals for 2023 – 2027 are:

IV.1. Foster peace, democracy and reconciliation through empowered women's leadership and equal and meaningful participation of women in politics and decision making in peace, security and justice processes and promote political determination to Euro Atlantic processes in light of current geopolitical and security challenges in the region of the Western Balkans

In meeting this strategic goal, RWLSEE will remain committed to fostering peace and democracy in the region. The advocacy efforts towards the bigger involvement of women leaders in peacemaking processes, i.e. in unresolved bilateral issues of the region will have positive. The increased presence of women in negotiating tables will bring new solutions to the table and will represent an added value to the processes. It will further ensure that any future agreement will be gender sensitive.

RWLSEE will also advance this goal through continuous engagement in promoting the need for full political commitment towards European Union and NATO membership of the countries of the region, as a guarantee for lasting peace. Extensive efforts will be made to raise awareness of all the citizens of the region of the risks posed by foreign authoritarian influences aiming to divert countries of the region from Euro Atlantic integration.

This strategic goal will be further achieved by channeling the RWLSEE energy towards maintaining the secular character of the states of the region and objecting any attempt by religious communities to meddle in state and political affairs. Moreover, similar attempts to introduce religion practicing and teachings into education systems will be strongly opposed by the RWLSEE.

In efforts to promote and preserve peace in the region, RWLSEE will engage in preserving multi ethnicity and tolerance among communities. To this end, RWLSEE will raise the awareness on the intentional creation of tensions between nations and communities of the region by using minorities as an instrument to reach larger geopolitical goals.

Finally, in reaching this strategic goal, RWLSEE will alert the public and stakeholders on the risks from the rise of authoritarianism and populism in the region. Sensitizing the public on the

consequences of authoritarianism and populism is an imperative for RWLSEE in particular due to the inevitable link between authoritarianism and deterioration of women rights and participation in public spheres.

Last but not least, RWLSEE will continue its pressurizing EU and global decision makers through communiques and petitions to further peace and democracy in the region.

The RWLSEE identified a set of priority objectives that will guide its efforts in meeting this strategic goal. The priority objectives for the first strategic goal are, as follows:

- o Increase number of women leaders involved in democratic and peace making processes.
- o Advocate for the resolution unresolved bilateral issues in the region
- o Promote actively the EU and NATO accession as well as the prevalence of the BerlinProcess
- o Raise awareness on the risks from foreign authoritarian influences diverting region from Euro Atlantic integration.
- o Condemn publicly, and engage against, the interference of religious communities into state, political and educational affairs.
- o Promote multi ethnicity and oppose the use of minorities as instruments for geostrategic interests.
- o Alert against rising authoritarianism and populism

IV. 2. Continue to work and advocate for accelerated gender equality in line with global WPS agenda, particularly in post conflict and conflict settings, while sharing experiences with women from fragile contexts through dialogue platforms as safe and convenient environment for increased women participation and empowerment

RWLSEE will expand its efforts in respective countries to increase participation of women in public life and the overall empowerment of women. To this end and using its network and existing platforms will work with partners and stakeholders. Due to the deteriorating trends in the security of women globally, as noted by UN SG Report on WPS, special attention will be paid to advocating for a safe and convenient environment for women and girls.

In reaching this goal, RWLSEE will increase its interaction with political parties in respective countries of the region. This enhanced interaction and cooperation will focus on providing ideas, successful examples and lessons learned, from the vast experience of RWLSEE members, for the improvement of position of women within political parties. Increasing the quality and quantity of women representation at decision making levels will be a special area of focus.

In furthering this strategic goal, political parties will be urged to undertake measures to prevent and address cases of violence against women in politics, which is present with political parties throughout the region and beyond. Especially, special measures are required ahead and during election campaigns as period with increased violence against women in politics.

Cooperation will be enhanced with judiciary and police institutions to advocate for the prioritization of cases of women, in particular those active in public life, to ensure that these women are not discouraged from civic and political activity.

Partnerships and alliances with leading civil society organizations will be sought to promote joint areas of interest and shared concerns. Community engagement initiatives will be prioritized to increase visibility and awareness on women empowerment as well as to motivate and inspire women to become active members of society and potentially leaders.

In advancing this goal, the use of media, as well-established platforms, will be targeted to promote women empowerment and overcoming traditional and community barriers to that end. Special themes such as raising awareness against hate speech, promoting gender based budgeting at all institutional levels and more will be highlighted.

The priority objectives for the second strategic goal are:

- o Promote the implementation of the WPS agenda in the groin.
- o Interact and offer support to political parties in increasing the quality and quantity of women representation at decision making levels.
- o Advocate with political parties to introduce measures sanctioning violence against women in politics.
- o Liaise with justice and police institutions to prioritize cases affecting women in public sphere.
- o Partner and build alliances with CSOs' and media to promote women empowerment and joint interests and to further RWLSEE strategic goals.
- o Utilize COMPACT as a platform for dialogue and implementation of WPS commitments enforcement.

IV. 3 Serve as regional peace mediator in track two peace processes in support of formal peace processes in the region, aiming at gender inclusive, peacemaking and peacebuilding, based on the Road Map developed by the RWLSEE

Considering many outstanding issues in the region, the RWLSEE will engage to provide its expertise and insights into the final resolution of these issues. RWLSEE provides a mediation service in track two peace process in support of peace processes in the region. Our comparative advantage is that mediation we offer is of regional character, thus providing regional experience sharing (from our membership) in searching for solutions.

The RWLSEE's track two peace process between women politicians and parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia, with participation of women from region, in support of the Brussels Dialogue on normalization of neighborly relations between Kosovo and Serbia takes place for over 9 years. It has continued even in times when official track one peace process of the Brussels Dialogue was stalled in past few years, by showing that breakthrough is possible when vision and peace reason prevails.

This joint peace journey of women started with big difficulties and under polarized atmosphere, however in many years of this negotiation exercise it not only has produced greater mutual understanding but also shaped the dialogue approach into one of trust and rapprochement. It narrowed down differences and broadened the views on possible peaceful outcomes.

This regional mediated track two peace process demonstrates how women across borders and ethnic lines can go beyond party lines to think and discuss more for future than for past. They show commitment to peace building and call for a meaningful inclusion of women in formal peace processes and gender inclusive peace agreements while highlighting the relevance of genuine implementation of peace agreements.

RWLSEE will continue to support regional dialogues between women parliamentarians and leaders in support of ongoing peace processes in the region.

The objectives of the third strategic goal are:

- o Continue with the two track process.
- o Ensure the provision of RWLSEE insights into formal peace processes in the region.
- o Ensure that any agreement reached in the peace processes is gender sensitive and these agreements have no negative repercussions on women.

IV. 4 Build women capacities to become leaders, mediators and agents of peace through RWLSEE's Regional Academy for women, leadership and mediation (RAWLM)

The fourth strategic goal will focus on promoting peace by providing capacity building education and training to young women in order to have them be agents of peace. RWLSEE aims to transform women potential into an important force for peacebuilding in the implementation of the WPS agenda through investment in inter generational partnerships in young people's communities.

Participants will continue to be equipped with skills and knowledge to propose and implement adequate and inclusive solutions for sustainable peace, we will enhance the women participation in peace building and political leadership. RWLSEE believes that women possess comparative advantage in peace promotion compared to men, particularly in terms of being more dialogue oriented, less confrontational and less corrupted. The relevant research and data from practice informs that more

women in peace processes and governance more makes it more likely to have sustainability of outcomes. The specificity of capacity building program of the RWLSEE rests in the fact that trainings and lectures will be provided by prominent women politicians and experts from various relevant areas from the region and internationally, which will be enriching in terms of regional experience sharing.

The RWLSEE program on capacity building will continue to be implemented through the Regional Academy for Women in Leadership and Mediation (RAWLM). The delivered courses so far were well received by participants and seem to be addressing the needs of women for

effective leadership. In the next four years, RWLSEE will see into possibilities of introducing a follow up mentoring program to coach women graduates of the Academy for a period of one year. Project proposal on this is developed and Donor Pitch ready to be shared for funding - <http://rwlsee.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/RAWLM-3-pages-Pitch.pdf>

In parallel, the RWLSEE will continue with training of local women in mediation and peace building as it did earlier in March 2019, in cooperation with UN agencies and UN experts. The program plans to expand geographically in other focus countries as per needs assessment and, be a long term program dependent on resources.

RWLSEE with its high profile women membership, who have experienced wars and were affected by wars and plays significant role in peace building in the region, present worthwhile experience in peace building programming and training. We must gather expertise and lessons from their experiences and share it with young generation of women leaders so to prepare them to be leaders of change. It is particularly vital to ensure that promising generations of women peace builders from Western Balkans build their expertise on existing knowledge and practice.

RWLSEE also plans to share this knowledge in publications as well as provide database of peace building efforts that have been taking place in the Western Balkans with special focus on women's participation.

The priority objectives for the fourth strategic goal are:

- o Educate young women through the Academy.
- o Mentor Academy alumni
- o Train women on mediation and peace building skills
- o Create the network of RWLSEE Academy alumni.
- o Engage Academy alumni to promote RWLSEE strategic goals.

NB:

RWLSEE' STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 – 2027: as an update of the Strategic Plan 2019- 2022 – is prepared by the UN Women' national consultant, Fitim Mulolli based on the RWLSEE' Strategic Plan 2019-2022 authored by dr. Edita Tahiri, and based on the discussion's ideas, input, presented in the RWLSEE' Istanbul Meeting, in December 2000.

6

RWLSEE POSITION ON CURRENT POLITICAL AND POLICY ISSUES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

RWLSEE position on current political and policy issues in the Western Balkans

- EU and US and other western countries to be attentive of the regional repercussions of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.
- Completion of the EU facilitated Kosovo Serbia dialogue with final peace agreement centered on mutual recognition, as a key contribution for lasting peace in the region
- Speeding up EU integration for all six Western Balkans countries, by extending candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo while welcoming candidate status for Albania and North Macedonia
- the EU enlargement in the Western Balkans has strategic and geopolitical importance to counter geopolitical ambitions of Russia as well as of newly emerging nationalists' projects such as 'Russian world' and 'Serb world.'
- Full support to the Berlin Process for empowering regional cooperation and development in the Western Balkans
- Concerned of fragile peace and democracy in the region; we stand against growing corruption and autocracy in countries which undermine liberal values and weaken economies leading to massive emigration of youth from our Countries while WPS agenda has been further undermined.
- EU should help prevent the rising authoritarianism and populism in the region, by using its mechanism and criteria of EU integration.
- EU, US and UK to condemn and prevent the use of minorities as instruments for political purposes of countries in the region, adoption of unique standards for minorities in the region.
- Support and advocate on bringing international justice for women raped during wars in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia
- Bigger involvement of the US and to resolve outstanding issues in the region and prevent geopolitical ambitions of Russia in the Western Balkans region and other non western countries.
- EU to and US to stop Serbia to destabilize the region, given its meddling in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina
- strengthening and regional cooperation among the countries in the region, Support

the good neighboring relations; implementation of bilateral agreements (the Prespa agreement and the good neighbor agreement between North Macedonia and Bulgaria) finding real solutions, making key decisions for the future of the country, and with the aim of accelerating membership in the membership in the EU.

- WE oppose attempts of religious communities to interfere with state affairs and education, which is growing dangerous phenomena in the region.
- International community to prioritize the decrease of tensions in Montenegro and help preserve prowestern Montenegro by countering anti western forces in the country.
- Support the stability, functionality, multi ethnicity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Support activism by civil society organizations and activists
- Support the strengthening of women`s regional cooperation.
- Enhanced role of the RWLSEE on various issues at regional, national and local levels
- RWLSEE leverages its reputation to provide direct expert advocacy on issues to Parliaments and other legislative bodies.
- Concerned with growing femicide, we call on international and national authorities to take effective measures to end it, free and protect women from being killed, and punish perpetrators.

6

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

V.1. Presence in communities

RWLSEE maintains its operation in seven focus countries namely It operates in seven focus countries, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and North Macedonia, from where its membership comes from. Through our membership in seven countries and established respective branches with highly prominent women from politics and civil society we have direct access and regular contact with the people who are dedicated and works for peace on daily bases as well as communities who are in need for reconciliation and interested to build social cohesion. Our outreach goes beyond our membership given the numerous civil society organizations are led by our

members and belong to different NGO networks or national or regional levels. Most of our engagements are with communities in post conflict social reconstruction, in efforts of helping reconciliation and peace, while we also work and mediate in political crisis of countries which are not rare given the ongoing incomplete democratic, state-building, and neighborly relation processes in

the region. With particular focus we work to support the peace efforts between Kosovo and Serbia facilitated by EU aiming at normalizing peaceful neighborly relations processes. In this regard we facilitate for many years a second track peace dialogue between women politicians and parliamentarians from both countries, with regional approach, and with aim at helping final agreement be reached in a way that will contribute to lasting peace and stability in the region and allow for both countries become members of EU. Our projects depend on availability of resources and desire by those communities to continue working on the project.

V.2. RWSLEE responsiveness to its mission

The RWLSEE Chair and Steering Committee Members are primarily responsible for carrying out the mission of our organization, who are prominent leaders and passionate peace builders. The entire membership of our organization is engaged in implementation of the projects and in particular to those projects specific to their countries. The RWLSEE Coordinator is responsible in managing the projects and supporting the work of RWLSEE Chair, helped by an assistant with part time job. UN Women Office in Kosovo, since the establishment of RWL, continues to provide core support for the function of the RWL such as providing free of charge office space and covering the costs of RWL staff, even in absence of sustainable funds. The expertise of RWLSEE members for conflict resolution and peacebuilding is based on their practical work in the field as well as academic grounds and beyond that the vision and courage for forward looking changes needed for the Western Balkans countries be anchored in peace and prosperity where all people will live in democracy and equality without difference. Hence, the

RWLSEE is well prepared for its responsibilities. We have a good understanding of the projects we undertake on women leadership in peace and governance, on mainstreaming gender in peacebuilding and public policies.

V.3. Networking and Partnership

Towards achieving its mission, the RWL seeks to mobilize support and engage in partnership nationally, regionally and globally with diverse strategic actors, including:

- UN Women remains the strategic partner on our path towards achieving the goals of the strategy.
- Strengthened partnership with key supporters, the Government of Sweden and embassy in Kosovo and other supports Finland, Norway and respective their embassies in Kosovo.
- Women and men leaders, politicians and parliamentarians dedicated to the RWL cause.
- Women's peace networks as well as youth networks
- National governments, local governments and regional actors
- Partnerships with local, regional and international media to enhance journalism skills and media train media professionals on gender sensitive reporting on WPS activities.
- International and regional organizations such as UN Women, other UN agencies, EU, OSCE, etc.
- Foreign countries and their embassies in Kosovo, where the RWLSEE headquarters are based.
- Security actors, including national police and army, as well as regional actors such as NATO, EU, and UN peace keeping forces.
- Justice actors, including national justice institutions as well as international actors, UN, EU
- Mainstream think tanks, experts' groups focused on human rights, peace and security and interethnic dialogue
- RWLSEE accomplishes its mission in cooperation with networks of partners at all levels, community level for implementation of projects and at national and international level for support on resource mobilization.

7

FUNDRAISING – CRITICAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR MISSION

FUNDRAISING - CRITICAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR MISSION

Even after the 2015 Global Study on Women, Peace and Security identifying the lack of dedicated funding as the principle impediment to the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, limited funding for WPS agenda remains the same.

Resource mobilization and increase on funding remains a critical issue and one that the RWLSEE faces. To sustain the goals and effective work of the RWLSEE the crucial factor remains the strategic partnership with UN Women as well as with our supporting partners Sweden, Finland, Norway and UN agencies. In

next period, we will carry out fundraising with other potential International Donors. RWLSEE must be supported because its role and mission in the Western Balkans is has been effective in amplifying women voices for changes, we need for ensuring peace, security, justice, prosperity and Euro-Atlantic future for all seven focus countries. This having in mind the complex and fragile situation in the Balkans, due many problems pending solution including fragile political and security context in region related to unfinished peace, incomplete normalization of neighborly relations and insufficient progress in democracy, rule of law, economy, security, justice, respect for human rights, women rights and ethnic minority rights and other socio-economic issues and slow pace of EU reforms.

8

REFLECTION ON RWLSEE IMPACTS

REFLECTION ON RWLSEE IMPACTS

RWLSEE has achieved many broad impacts, beginning with the simple fact that it could exist and develop despite national, ethnic, and philosophical differences on women rights and gender equality issues.

RWLSEE all time made sure to focus on developing trust among its diverse members to sustain the alliance and build consensus on key issues. Later, RWLSEE work gained traction and begun to impact policy making in the region and made women politicians more sensitive to women's issues.

Key impacts:

- Developed solidarity, unity, and trust among women from different national and ethnic groups.
- Cultivated greater attention to gender equality issues among politicians.
- Fostered the collaboration between civil society and politicians and contributed to more inclusive democratic, responsive and accountable governance and stability in the region.
- Increased the international profile of women's issues in Southeast Europe (SEE)

9

RWLSEE ACTION PLAN

RWLSEE ACTION PLAN

Regional Women Lobby Action Plan for 2023				
Nr	Activity	Responsible	Timeline	Budget
1	Support the Brussels dialogue on normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia/continuation of dialogue between women politicians/parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia/lobbying to involve women in the dialogue process and implementation /shaping the gender inclusive outcome of the Brussels dialogue.	RWLSEE UN Women MPs Kosovo and Serbia	Throughout 2023	US\$ 44,000
2	Inter-ethnic community trust building dialogues/roundtables with the aim of contributing to the peacebuilding, community building and development	RWLSEE UN Women	Throughout 2023	US\$ 28,000
3	Continuation of Local Community Dialogues on women in decision-making at local level to encourage a dialogue between women in politics and representatives of CSOs to address women and community issues at local level / Enhancing the role of women mayors as potential agents of change	RWLSEE UN Women Women Mayors (Regional)	Throughout 2023	US\$ 33,000
4	Implementation of a local mediation training project	RWLSEE UNWOMEN	Throughout 2023	US\$ 42,000
5	Lobbying at the UN level – A roundtable at the UN headquarters in NY on women’s empowerment in the Balkans	RWLSEE Political parties	Throughout 2023	US\$ 23,000
6	Lobbying at the EU level in view of newly elected leadership and euro parliamentarians – on women’s empowerment and support for RWLSEE	RWLSEE NGOs’ Media	Throughout 2023	US\$ 19,000
7	Ensuring exchanges with women networks outside the region to exchange lessons learned and good practices linked to women’s contribution to peace-building processes; and participation on behalf of the RWL SEE in global forums to	RWLSEE	Throughout 2023	US\$ 24,000

	contribute to peace-building processes internationally			
8	Promote the RWLSEE goals through events and personalities in the sphere of art, media and sports	RWLSEE Artistic associations Regional media Sports associations	Q2-3 of 2023	US\$ 33,000
9	Phase III of Regional Academy for Women Leadership and Mediation (RAWLM). Planned in III Phases/ three years.	RWLSEE / UN Women	Q2-3 of 2023	US\$ 330,000
10	Identify most successful participants of the Academy to enter the mentorship track	RWLSEE Selected Academy alumni	Q3 of 2023	US\$ 5,000
11	Create the Academy Alumni Network and plan to engage them in RWLSEE activities	RWLSEE Selected Academy alumni	Q3-4 of 2023	US\$ 8,000

RWLSEE Chair, Steering Committee (SC) and Members list:

Kosovo

1. **Edita Tahiri**, Chair of RWLSEE, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief Negotiator, Kosovo
2. **Luljeta Vuniqi**, RWLSEE Member, Former Ambassador and Executive Director of Kosovar Gender Studies Center, Kosovo
3. **Teuta Sahatqija**, RWLSEE Member, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Former Member of Parliament, Ambassador and President of Women Parliamentarian Caucus in Kosovo Parliament, Kosovo
4. **Hykmete Bajrami**, RWLSEE Member, Minister of Finance, Former Minister of Trade and Industry, Member of Parliament, Kosovo
5. **Xhevahire Izmaku**, RWLSEE Member, Former Member of Parliament, Kosovo
6. **Time Kadrijaj**, RWLSEE Member, Member of Parliament, Kosovo
7. **Arjeta Rexha**, RWLSEE Member, Executive Directress, Gender Training and Research Center (GTRC) RWLSEE Member, Executive Directress, Gender Training and Research Center (GTRC), Former Government Official, Kosovo

Croatia

1. **Gordana Sobol**, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member; Former Member of Parliament, Minister without Portfolio, Chairwoman of the Parliamentarian Committee on Mandate and Immunity, Croatia
2. **Morana Paliković-Gruden**; RWLSEE Member; Vice president of City Assembly of city of Zagreb, Member of the Committee for social services, Vice-President of the Croatian Olympic Committee, Croatia
3. **Lovorka Marinović**, RWLSEE Member; President of Center for New Initiatives, International Consultant for gender equality and migration, Croatia
4. **Melita Mulic**, RWLSEE Member, Expert on Strategic Communication – European Commission TAIEX Project in Western Balkans; Professional Diplomat; Former Member of Parliament, Croatia

Serbia

1. **Sonja Biserko**, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member; Founder and President of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Serbia
2. **Nataša Mičić**, RWLSEE Member, Member of Parliament, Vice-president of the Liberal Democratic Party, Serbia
3. **Gordana Čomić**, RWLSEE Member, Former deputy Speaker of Parliament, Member of Parliament, Serbia
4. **Staša Zajović**, RWLSEE Member, Coordinator of Women in Black Network, Member of Women's Peace Coalition, Serbia

5. **Ljiljana Radovanović**, RWLSEE Member; Member of Women in Black Network, Member of Women's Peace Coalition, Serbia
5. **Izabela Kisić**, RWLSEE Member, Executive Director of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. **Memnuna Zvizdić**, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member; Director of NGO Žene Ženama, Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. **Nada Tešanović**, RWLSEE Member; Minister of Family, Youth and Sports in Gov't of Rep. Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. **Lidija Živanović**, RWLSEE Member; Former Director, Helsinki Citizen's Parliament, Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. **Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić**, RWLSEE Member; Director, Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AGE BIH)

Albania

1. **Eglantina Gjermeni**, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member; Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to OSCE and International Organization in Vienna; Former Member of Parliament; Former Minister of Urban Development and Tourism, Albania
2. **Mesila Doda**, RWLSEE Member, General Secretary of the Party for Justice, Integration and Unity, Former Member of Parliament, Chairwomen of the Alliance of Women Parliamentarians in Albanian parliament, Albania
3. **Eni Çobani**, RWLSEE Member; Lawyer; Mediator; Professor, TV personality, Albania
4. **Mirela Arqimandriti**, RWLSEE Member; Director of Gender Alliance for Development Centre, Albania
5. **Eni Vasili**, RWLSEE Member; Albanian journalist, Writer, Host of TV talk show 'Open', former news reporter, Albania
6. **Majlinda Bregu**, RWLSEE Member (position on hold), Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC); Former Minister of European Integration, Former Member of Parliament, Former Head of Albanian Parliamentary delegation to European Parliament, Albania

Montenegro

1. **Nada Drobnjak**, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member; Member of Parliament, Chairwoman of the Parliamentarian Committee on Gender Equality, Montenegro
2. **Ljubomirka Mira Asović**, RWLSEE Member; President of League of Women Voters of Montenegro
3. **Slavica Striković**, RWLSEE Member; Managing Board Member of NGO Women Action, Montenegro

North Macedonia

1. **Irina Pockova, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member;** President of Women's Citizens Initiative and Director of Public Revenue at Sveti Nikola Municipality, Former Chairwomen of Women's Chapter of SDA political party, North Macedonia
2. **Teuta Arifi, RWLSEE Member;** Mayor of Tetovo, Former Deputy Primeminister, Member of Parliament, North Macedonia
3. **Savka Todorovska, RWLSEE Member;** President of the National Council for Gender Equality, North Macedonia