



Concept Note and Activity Plan
January 2011

Project Title: Regional Women's Lobby For Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe
<http://www.rwlsee.org>

Duration: 2011-2013

INTRODUCTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The Regional Women's Lobby (RWL) for Peace, Security and Justice in South East Europe (SEE) is composed of women leaders from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia that share a commitment to seeing their countries achieve full recovery from the devastation of the wars of the 1990s through advancement of justice and reconciliation leading to lasting peace, security and prosperity for future generations.

The RWL was established following a meeting in Zagreb in July 2006. This meeting was convened by UNIFEM at the request of a group of women political leaders from SEE to share information and exchange dialogue on the political situation in their countries and the region. In April 2007 the RWL held its first strategy meeting in Vienna and a second strategy meeting in April 2008 in Istanbul. A third strategic meeting took place in Zagreb in 2009 in conjunction with the prominent members of the RWL Advisory Board and a fourth strategic meeting was held in Tirana in 2010 to establish an organizational framework.

The RWL held its first international conference for guests in October 2008 in Kosovo, titled *A Secure Future for our region: Women Leaders speak out*. The President of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu and the Ministers of Internal Affairs, Justice, and Energy and Mining opened the Conference. Media coverage was excellent and wide-ranging, appearing nationally, regionally and internationally. A second international conference entitled "Women and Peacemaking in the Western Balkans: 10 years of UNSCR 1325" was held in Skopje in June 2010. High-level politicians, international actors and security sector institution representatives also attended this conference. In the past 4 years, RWL delegations have also participated in high-level advocacy meetings with figures such as Marti Ahtisaari, the former UN Special Envoy for Kosovo Status, the President of Kosovo, the President of Croatia, the Deputy Prime Minister of Macedonia, and others.

RWL is committed to empowering women and including a gender perspective in all the politics and activities in the region. The goal of RWL is to strengthen the position of women in democratization and the post-conflict recovery process, by advancing justice and reconciliation. RWL is dedicated to ensuring sustainable peace and security through the process of European integration of the region.

Recognizing that the attainment of lasting peace depends on achieving security for all peoples of SEE, the RWL seeks to promote a people-centered definition of security that transcends traditional military-centered notions of state security and places focus on the individual well being of women and men.

Members of the RWL are committed to combating all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, as well as all forms of religious and political extremism that undermine a culture of human rights, human security, and peace.

Participation in the RWL is grounded in mutual respect for diversity and the rights and dignity of all people, based on adherence to non-violence, non-discrimination, and respect for international human rights norms and legal standards.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and other international conventions and instruments call upon state parties to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. During the war and in its aftermath, women of South East Europe were denied protection from gender-based violence including rape. Women were also at the forefront of efforts to advance justice, peace and reconciliation. Nevertheless, today women still continue to be largely absent from official peace making processes.

Established as a reputable body to engage in high-level political analysis and advocacy, the RWL serves as a platform to for increasing women's participation in and influence over political decision-making, thus contributing to the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

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

- progressive media (national, regional and global)
- women political leaders and men political leaders dedicated to the RWL cause
- women's peace networks as well as youth networks
- security actors, including national police and army, as well as regional actors such as NATO, EU, and UN peace keeping forces
- mainstream think tanks, experts groups focused on human rights, peace and security and inter-ethnic dialogue

RWL is led by a Steering Committee comprised of seven members of RWL (one from each country). Responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to guide the RWL on strategic decisions regarding priorities for action in each country, regionally, and globally, identification of other needs (e.g. mobilizing assistance from experts to support RWL analysis) as well as decisions relating to management and resource mobilization. RWL is in the process of establishing an Advisory Board comprised of prominent international peace advocates and/or politicians who can contribute knowledge and expertise that will strengthen the work of RWL.

The RWL's focus on peace and stability in SEE is more important than ever. In the next few years, SEE will have to deal with several important issues. The events surrounding the status of Kosovo have serious repercussions throughout all of SEE, but in Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Macedonia especially. Bosnia & Herzegovina is facing increasing instability and stalemates in its own political situation, and Serbia finds itself facing questions of its future progress over the issue of Kosovo's status and transitional justice. During this important time the promotion of human rights, a gender perspective and tolerance are crucial steps to ensuring that conflict in SEE does not resume down the road. The two specific focus areas for RWL in this project period are promoting a women's conception of security within the Euro-Atlantic integration context and promoting and supporting the process of transitional justice in the SEE region.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

The project contributes to both long-term impacts (outcomes) as well as short-term concrete results (outputs).

Outcome 1:

Strengthened capacity of gender equality advocates, including youth and minorities, to influence peace and security agendas and support inclusive democratization at national and regional levels in the Western Balkans.

Output 1.1

Establish a vibrant SEE regional forum for women leaders to exchange information and experience with respect to the political situation in their countries and region.

Activities include:

- Operational strengthening
 - Office costs 2011-2013
 - One time Equipment Costs
- Institutional capacity building
 - Program Manager and Administrative Assistant Salaries 2011-2013
 - Capacity building workshop for RWL SC on EU legislation and directives related to GE and Balkans
- Website redesign
- Steering Committee Strategic Planning Meetings in 2011, 2012, and 2013

Budget: 155 600 USD

Output 1.2

Within the SEE Euro-Atlantic integration debate increase the prominence of a women's perspective of the concept of "security" through advocacy actions.

Activities include:

- Monitoring reports
 - "Women's Security Situation in SEE" Report, Baseline 2011, Monitoring 2012 and 2013

- Annual Conferences to Present and Launch Monitoring Reports, 2011-2013
- Book to commemorate five year anniversary of RWL establishment
- EU targeted advocacy actions
 - High level meeting with Catherine Ashton
 - EU Parliament Hearing/Meetings with EU Officials, Consultations with DG Enlargement on Progress Reports
- Regional Targeted Advocacy Actions
 - Meetings with Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs and Defense in Macedonia and Albania to lobby for 1325 implementation

Budget: 288 000 USD

Outcome 2:

Break barriers of mistrust and ethno-centric politics and promote better understanding between the different national groups of SEE as a strategy to increasing long-term peace and security.

Output 2.1

Women's regional peace networks supported to engage in inter-ethnic dialogue and to contribute to major ongoing political processes at national and sub-regional level.

Activities include:

- Interethnic dialogues between women politicians from Kosovo and Serbia
- Interethnic dialogues between Albanian and Macedonian women politicians in Macedonia
- Interparty dialogues between women politicians in Albania
- Interethnic dialogues between women politicians from Republika Srpska and Federation entity in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Budget: 110 000 USD

TOTAL THREE-YEAR PROJECT BUDGET: 553 600 USD

ACTIVITY MATRIX:

Category of Activity	Activity	Purpose	Partners	Location	Timeline	Budget Breakdown	Total Budget (USD)
EU Lobbying Activities	High level meeting with Catherine Ashton and 3 person RWL delegation, 2 day trip.	To lobby for women inclusion in technical negotiations and advocacy for women in peace processes more generally.	RWL Advisory Board,	Brussels	January 20-31, 2011	Travel: 2500 USD Accommodation: 1500 USD, Per diems: 1000 USD	5000.00
	Capacity building workshop for RWL SC on EU legislation and directives related to GE and Balkans	Strengthen knowledge and capacity to create advocacy strategies on 1325 issues aimed at influencing EU	RWL Steering Committee TAIEX, TASCO, UNIFEM Brussels	Skopje	Feb 15-31, 2011	Travel: 4000 USD Accommodation: 8000 USD, Per diems: 3000 USD	15000.00

	EU Lobbying trip: European Parliament Hearing on Women Peace and Security Issues in Balkans to be held in Security/Defense Committees; Meeting with relevant EC officials for lobbying; and participate in consultations with DG Enlargement. 4 day trip of 3 RWL delegates	Influence EU approaches to managing peace and security policy in Balkans and strengthen the GE component in the EU Progress Report as method to pressure governments in region	RWL Advisory Board, RWL Steering Committee	Brussels	March 15-31, 2011	Travel: 2500 USD Accommodation: 2500 USD, Per diems: 2000 USD	7000.00
Regional Lobbying	High level meetings with Minister of LSA and Minister of Defense in Macedonia, 3 member RWL delegation.	Lobby for support for a NAP process, raise awareness of 1325.	RWL Chair and SC	Skopje	January 20-31, 2011	Travel: 2000 USD Accommodation: 1500 USD, Per diems: 1500 USD	5000.00
	High level meeting with Minister of LSA and Minister of Defense in Albania 3 member RWL delegation.	Lobby for support to include 1325 elements into current revision of National Strategy on GE and DV, raise awareness of 1325.	RWL Chair, Filoreta Kodra, RWL SC	Tirana	January 20-31, 2011	Travel: 2000 USD Accommodation: 1500 USD, Per diems: 1500 USD	5000.00
Monitoring Reports	Women's Security Situation in Southeast Europe Baseline Report	Evidence based advocacy, establish baseline and monitor.	Helsinki, RWL Coordinator		Feb - Sep 2011	Research costs =17000, Writing costs = 11 000, Translation =6 000	33000.00

	Women's Security Situation in Southeast Europe Monitoring Report	Evidence based advocacy, monitoring.	Helsinki, RWL Coordinator		Feb - Sep 2012	Research costs =17000, Writing costs = 11 000, Translation =6 000	33000.00
	Women's Security Situation in Southeast Europe Monitoring Report	Evidence based advocacy, monitoring.	Helsinki, RWL Coordinator		Feb - Sep 2013	Research costs =17000, Writing costs = 11 000, Translation =6 000	33000.00
	Book to commemorate five year anniversary of RWL 100-150 pages, 1000 copies	Awareness raising of 1325 and visibility raising of RWL as leader in region on WPS for past 5 years	RWL Coordinator and SC		Feb - Sept 2011	Research and Writing 12 000, Translation 5000	17000
Conferences/RWL Meetings	One day International Conference to Launch Women's Security Situation Monitoring Report combined with 1.5 day meeting of all RWL members	Presentation of baseline report and its recommendations; launch of 5 year anniversary book; awareness raising and visibility; meeting of all members.	RWL	Sarajevo	Oct 2011 (for 1325 anniversary)	Travel: 15 000 USD Accommodation: 22 000 USD, Translation: 5 000 USD, Per diems: 8 000 USD	50000.00
	One day International Conference to present progress and challenges from Women's Security Situation Monitoring Report combined with 1.5 day meeting of all RWL members	Presentation of progress and recommendations; awareness raising and visibility; meeting of all members.	RWL	Podgorica	Oct 2012	Travel: 15 000 USD Accommodation: 22 000 USD, Translation: 5 000 USD, Per diems: 8 000 USD	50000.00

	One day International Conference to present progress and challenges from Women's Security Situation Monitoring Report combined with 1.5 day meeting of all RWL members	Presentation of progress and recommendations; awareness raising and visibilty; meeting of all members.	RWL	Belgrade	Oct 2013	Travel: 15 000 USD Accomodation: 22 000 USD, Translation: 5 000 USD, Per diems: 8 000 USD	50000.00
	Steering Committee Strategic Planning Meeting	Strategic planning	RWL SC	Istanbul	2011	Travel: 3500 USD Accomodation: 2500 USD, Per diems: 2000 USD	8000.00
	Steering Committee Strategic Planning Meeting	Strategic planning	RWL SC	Tirana	2012	Travel: 3500 USD Accomodation: 2500 USD, Per diems: 2000 USD	8000.00
	Steering Committee Strategic Planning Meeting	Strategic planning	RWL SC	Skopje	2013	Travel: 3500 USD Accomodation: 2500 USD, Per diems: 2000 USD	8000.00
Interethnic Dialogues between Kosovo and Serbia	Interethnic Dialogue between women politicians from Kosovo and Serbia	Confidence building of women politicians to engage in technical negotiations and dialogue.	RWL	Podgorica	Feb 1-15, 2011		Phase 2 UNIFEM funds

	Interethnic Dialogue between women politicians from Kosovo and Serbia	Confidence building and capacity building of women politicians to engage in peace processes and reconciliation.	RWL SC, Women politicians from Serbia	Depends on political context	Sept 2011	Travel: 5 000 USD Accommodation: 8000 USD, Translation: 3 000 USD, Per diems: 4 000 USD	20000.00
	Interethnic Dialogue between women politicians from Kosovo and Serbia	Confidence building and capacity building of women politicians to engage in peace processes and reconciliation.	RWL	Depends on political context	Mar 2012	Travel: 5 000 USD Accommodation: 8000 USD, Translation: 3 000 USD, Per diems: 4 000 USD	20000.00
	Interethnic Dialogue between women politicians from Kosovo and Serbia	Confidence building and capacity building of women politicians to engage in peace processes and reconciliation.	RWL	Depends on political context	Sept 2012	Travel: 5 000 USD Accommodation: 8000 USD, Translation: 3 000 USD, Per diems: 4 000 USD	20000.00
	Interethnic Dialogue between women politicians from Kosovo and Serbia	Confidence building and capacity building of women politicians to engage in peace processes and reconciliation.	RWL	Depends on political context	May 2013	Travel: 5 000 USD Accommodation: 8000 USD, Translation: 3 000 USD, Per diems: 4 000 USD	20000.00

Other Interethnic/ interparty dialogues		Strengthen knowledge and capacity of women in politics and reconciliation				Travel: 2 000 USD Accommodation: 3 000 USD, Translation: 4 000 USD, Per diems: 1 000 USD	
	Interparty dialogue between women parliamentarians in Albania		RWL SC, Albanian women politicians	Tirana	2011		10000.00
		Strengthen knowledge and capacity of women in politics and reconciliation				Travel: 2 000 USD Accommodation: 3 000 USD, Translation: 4 000 USD, Per diems: 1 000 USD	
	Interethnic Dialogue between women politicians in Bosnia from Federation and Republika Srpska		RWL SC, Bosnian politicians	Sarajevo	2012		10000.00
		Strengthen knowledge and capacity of women in politics and reconciliation				Travel: 2 000 USD Accommodation: 3 000 USD, Translation: 4 000 USD, Per diems: 1 000 USD	
	Interethnic Dialogue between Albanian and Macedonian women politicians in Macedonia		RWL SC, Macedonian women politicians	Skopje	2012		10000.00
Operational Costs	Office			Pristina	2011-2013	700 USD per month	25200.00
	Admin Assistant	Trnaslations, website maintenance, financials, communications		Pristina	2011-2013	800 USD per month	28800.00
	One time equipment cost	Computer, phone etc		Pristina	2011	Onetime	4000.00
	Website redesign and				2011	Onetime	1000.00



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Program Manager

Newsletter, policy briefs,
database of regional
information, press
releases, advocacy
letters

Home-
based

2011-2013

1600 USD per
month

57600.00



Total:

553600