

WE-EMPOWER REPORT: ONLINE MULTIPLIER EVENTS

A summary and evaluation of webinar and hybrid events organised by WE-EMPOWER project partners to promote the participation of migrant women in political and civic life in Europe (2022-2024).



PROMOTING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN EUROPE



Co-funded by
the European Union

The WE-EMPOWER Project

WE-EMPOWER is a 2.5 year transnational collaboration that aims at empowering migrant women, including gender non-conforming persons, to actively participate in civic and democratic life in Europe. Commencing in April 2022, the project unites seven women-led and migrant women-led organisations across Europe with a shared mission to protect migrant women's rights. It is co-funded by the European Union's ERASMUS+ programme.



Key outcomes of WE-EMPOWER include a study and a survey on migrant women's democratic participation in several European countries, an online toolkit and resource kit, and a treasure box of educational materials to promote engagement. Activities to achieve these results include international trainings, project meetings, and multiplier events, both in-person and online, designed to disseminate our findings and tools widely.

WE-EMPOWER Partner Organisations



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Introduction

The project, “Expanding Tools in Addressing Barriers for Migrant Women to Participate in Democratic Life” (**WE-EMPOWER**), brings together seven women-led and migrant women-led organisations, all dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of migrant women across Europe. Funded by the European Union’s ERASMUS+ programme, WE-EMPOWER aims to advance these rights by fostering inclusion and participation in democratic life.

Within the framework of the WE-EMPOWER project, **participation in democratic life refers to political participation in its broadest implication**: the right to vote, stand as candidates, join political parties, and have the right, opportunity, and space to influence public decision-making processes that contribute to the development of a society. Democratic life also involves being actively engaged in community and social life, and expressing active citizenship, such as participating in non-governmental associations and organisations that are concerned with the public and political life of the country.

The WE-EMPOWER project adopts an inclusive definition of migrant women. For our purposes, **“migrant women” refers to all women, including gender non-conforming individuals**, who have been displaced between countries, trafficked, moved from a third or European country to a destination in Europe, or are second-generation migrants. This definition includes third-country nationals, asylum seekers, refugees, undocumented migrant women, women with migrant parents, and mobile EU citizens. While our approach to defining migrants is broad, we acknowledge that migrant women experience varying degrees of resources and vulnerabilities.

Over the past two and a half years, the project partners have undertaken a **comprehensive and collaborative reflection process**, facilitated through research, three in-person transnational training sessions, and extensive dialogue with civil society actors, policymakers, politicians, and adult education providers. The project has also created a carefully curated online collection of non-formal educational resources, presented as a “Treasure Box”, and developed a toolkit featuring methodologies for community-building and strategic communication. A key component of the project has been the **organisation of online multiplier events**, with 10 such events held from 2022-2024. These events primarily took the form of webinar discussions, online interactive workshops and hybrid events.

Why Online Event Formats are a Practical Tool for Empowering Migrant Women

Webinars and hybrid events provide highly accessible and flexible platforms, offering significant opportunities to empower migrant women by delivering essential information and resources in formats that are both inclusive and engaging. As part of the WE-EMPOWER project, these events aimed to support key

objectives such as knowledge sharing, capacity building, and advocacy—essential for enhancing the participation of migrant women in democratic life.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

A major benefit of webinars and hybrid events is their accessibility. Webinars allow participants to join from anywhere, eliminating travel costs and geographical barriers, which makes them particularly inclusive for women from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Hybrid events, by combining in-person and online participation, further extend this inclusivity, enabling those who prefer face-to-face interaction to attend while also accommodating those unable to travel due to distance, financial constraints, or other commitments. This flexibility is especially valuable for those with demanding schedules, such as caring responsibilities or work commitments, as it enables them to engage without significantly disrupting their daily routines. As a result, both webinars and hybrid events have helped reach a broader audience of migrant women who may not otherwise have had access to such learning and empowerment opportunities.

Interactive Engagement

Webinars and hybrid events are not solely about delivering information—they actively engage participants. Unlike traditional, passive presentations, these formats include interactive elements like live polls, quizzes, and Q&A sessions, fostering a dynamic learning environment. The in-person aspect of hybrid events enhances this by facilitating direct interaction, networking, and more spontaneous discussions among participants. This interactive approach encourages active participation, which enhances understanding and retention of the material presented. Through this engagement, migrant women are not only better equipped to absorb the content but also feel more connected and empowered to apply the knowledge and skills gained in their own lives.

Real-Time Adaptability

Another key advantage of webinars and hybrid events is their real-time adaptability. Hosts can respond to participants' questions, feedback, and needs, tailoring the content to address specific challenges or issues raised during the session. In hybrid formats, this adaptability is extended to both in-person and virtual participants, ensuring that no one is left out of the conversation. This responsiveness ensures that the information provided is relevant, meaningful, and directly applicable to the experiences of migrant women. By addressing their unique concerns, these events become powerful tools in equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate various aspects of their lives, including community participation, employment, and civic engagement.

Empowerment Through Participation

Crucially, webinars and hybrid events promote empowerment through active participation. By providing opportunities for migrant women to ask questions, share their experiences, and engage in discussions, these formats foster a sense of agency and ownership over the learning process. The in-person element of hybrid events can further strengthen this empowerment by creating spaces for personal connection and dialogue. This involvement builds confidence and helps participants recognise the value of their voices and experiences. It encourages continued engagement not only in future educational opportunities but also in community and political life, which is at the heart of the project's advocacy goals.

The webinar and hybrid event series within the WE-EMPOWER project have been essential tools for empowering migrant women by promoting knowledge sharing, capacity building, and advocacy in accessible and inclusive formats. Through interactive and adaptable sessions, these events have fostered a stronger sense of empowerment and engagement, supporting migrant women in building the skills and confidence needed to actively participate in democratic life. The hybrid approach, in particular, has extended the reach and impact of these initiatives, ensuring broader accessibility and deeper participation from diverse communities.

Evaluation of objective for online events

The consortium partners had set out for this deliverable 5 online workshops and 2 webinars (internationally, Romania/Italy, Spain, Denmark, Sweden and Germany). In terms of its quantitative indicator, we planned to reach 320 people trained including 215 migrant women, in English, Spanish, Danish, Romanian, and German.

The initial objective has been reached with online and hybrid events in the mentioned countries and languages. In total 375 people participated, with around 200 migrant women in estimation. Some events had a more general focus (informing mixed groups of stakeholders) while others directly targeted and attracted migrant women. We did not ask if some of them identify as queer, non-binary, trans, or otherwise.

The purpose of this report is not only to provide information on what online multiplier events took place in the framework of the WE-EMPOWER project but to also collate insights into best practices and lessons learned for future endeavours.

Overview of Online & Hybrid Events


KULU - Women and Development

Following the completion of the study conducted on migrant women's political participation in Denmark, KULU organised a **series of webinars that corresponded with the outcomes of the study**, mainly in attempting to address gaps in skills and knowledge concerning personal finances and civic rights along with training in storytelling.

Webinar Title	Themes	Speakers/Facilitator
Tips for Strengthening Your Personal Economy (in Danish)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgeting, identification of income, expenses, and savings; The importance of saving for several purposes, how expenses can be turned into savings, strategy and goal-setting, supporting your family; Different investment opportunities, scam alert, reflection on the money dreams ice-breaker. 	Stephanie Höglund, KULU; Ana Lindenhann, Babaylan and Hedelyn Colon Reyes, Babaylan
Date: 17 Aug 2024	Time: 18:30 - 19:30	Platform: Zoom
Event/Webinar Page: https://we-empower-ressourcer.my.canva.site/oekonomi		
Registrations	Migrant Women: 8; Other Stakeholders: 6; Total: 14	
Attendance	Migrant Women: 6; Other Stakeholders: 3; Total: 9	
Webinar Title	Themes	Speakers/Facilitator
From Arrival to Participation: Your Democratic Rights (in Danish)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratic rights and opportunities in Denmark; The importance of voting and politics for all; Democracy and Elections in Denmark. 	Stephanie Höglund, KULU; Sabah Abid, City Council Member of Høje Taastrup Municipality for the Social Democrats; Hedelyn Colon Reyes, Babaylan, and Lisbeth Vibe Utzon, Head of Integrationshuset Kringlebakken in Copenhagen
Date: 24 Aug 2024	Time: 18:30 - 19:30	Platform: Zoom
Event/Webinar Page: https://we-empower-ressourcer.my.canva.site/oekonomi		

Registrations	Migrant Women: 10; Other Stakeholders: 8; Total: 18
Attendance	Migrant Women: 8; Other Stakeholders: 5; Total: 13


Webinar Title	Themes	Speakers/Facilitator
From Storytelling to Change: The Voices of Migrant Women (in Danish)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms of storytelling, quiz about Greenland, video examples from Olsen's Greenland, and building connections through storytelling; Ways of sharing our experiences, quiz about Greenland, finding things in common as migrant women, our common struggles; Challenging political narratives with your story by creating nuanced discussions, consequences of political content, and Olsen's experience. 	Stephanie Höglund, KULU and Qupanuk Olsen, Qs Greenland
Date: 31 Aug 2024	Time: 18:30 - 19:30	Platform: Zoom
Event/Webinar Page: https://we-empower-ressourcer.my.canva.site/oekonomi		
Registrations	Migrant Women: 13; Other Stakeholders: 8; Total: 21	
Attendance	Migrant Women: 6; Other Stakeholders: 2; Total: 8	



Join at:
ahaslides.com/
KULU1


To join, go to: ahaslides.com/KULU1

"MONEY DREAMS" - ØKONOMISKE DRØMME



Menu

5 4 13 7/50



Red Latinas

Organised by Red Latinas in Spain, the webinar aimed to present the research report *“Political Participation of Migrants in Spain”* and to facilitate an **exchange of experiences among migrant women involved in local Spanish politics**. The discussion, held in Spanish with simultaneous English translation, centred on the progress of migrant women’s political participation, as well as the challenges and obstacles they face.

Webinar Title	Themes	Speakers/Facilitator
Expanding Tools in Addressing Barriers for Migrant Women to Participate in Democratic Life (in Spanish and English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrant women’s political participation in Spain; • Challenges and obstacles faced on entering politics; • The potential opportunities for increased participation for migrant communities and women. 	Marisol Herrero Trasvalina, Social Workers Party; Belinda Mtutuma, PODEMS, and Jesús Marilyn Padilla Flores, Popular Party
Date: 21 September 2023	Time: 16:00 - 18:30	Platform: Zoom
Event/Webinar Page: https://youtu.be/scNRfet5QWM		
Registrations	Unknown	
Attendance	43 participants, of which 38 migrant women	

We invated you our webinar

"EXPANDING TOOLS IN ADDRESSING BARRIERS FOR MIGRANT WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRATIC LIFE"

**THIS THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21TH 2023
SINCE 16:00-18:30 HR**

WE WILL COUNT WHIT WOMEN WHO ARE ACTIVE PART OF THE POLITICAN LIFE AND HAVE OPENED SPACES TO BE PART OF IT.

REGISTRATIONS :
<https://bit.ly/WebinarMujeresMigrantes>

we will have Spanish/English translation



REDLATINAS
Red de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe



WIDE+
Feminists transforming
Economic Development



**Funded by
the European Union**

Gabriela Germany and WIDE+

Following the completion of the study conducted on migrant women's political participation in Germany, Gabriela Germany in partnership with WIDE+, organised a two-part webinar series to **align with one of the key outcomes of the study which was the impact of mental health on migrant women** and their ability to participate in civic and democratic life.



Webinar Title	Themes	Speakers/Facilitator
Online Mental Health Training Workshop for Migrant Women - Part 1 (in English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health fundamentals e.g. Ginhawa framework, biopsychosocial model, mental health continuum, risk/protective factors; • Depression symptoms, risk factors, grief, and loss; psychological first aid principles; • Suicide awareness, debunking myths, recognising warning signs; • Understanding stigma and its impact on mental wellbeing. 	Dr Andrea Martinez, Assistant Professor of the University of the Philippines - Manila, and a mental health practitioner at MIND UK, and Kim Gerlach, Scent Practitioner and Breathworker.
Online Mental Health Training Workshop for Migrant Women - Part 2 (in English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxiety symptoms, panic attacks, thinking distortions, risk factors, and PFA; • Circles of Control: Workshop on controllable/uncontrollable aspects during the pandemic; • PTSD: Stress vs. acute stress, symptoms, and PFA; • Importance of self-care for mental health. 	Dr Andrea Martinez, Assistant Professor of the University of the Philippines - Manila, and a mental health practitioner at MIND UK, and Kim Gerlach, Scent Practitioner and Breathworker.
Date: 19 & 26 Sept. 2023	Time: 18:30 - 20:30; 19:00 - 21:00	Platform: Zoom
Event/Webinar Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/328571886385160		
Registrations	Day One: 22; Day Two: 19 (all migrant/BIPOC women)	
Attendance	Day One: 19; Day Two: 11 (all migrant/BIPOC women)	

GADIP - Gender and Development in Practice

Within the WE-EMPOWER project, **GADIP organised a series of hybrid events that took place physically while streaming activities online via Zoom.** The first of these included the conference, “*Gender Backlash 3*”, which took place in Gothenburg, Sweden in April 2022. Topics of the conference included the progress and effects of the anti-gender movement in Sweden, fostering trans-inclusive feminist movement building, mobilising for abortion rights in Argentina and Ireland, and the resistance from the feminist movement in Belarus. The event concluded with a communal discussion, where participants reflected on the key lessons from the day and explored ways to move forward together.

The second hybrid event organised by GADIP was “*Women’s Voices 2*” which focused on **empowering migrant women to fully exercise their democratic rights.** Held in Gothenburg in

April 2023, the conference explored barriers to democratic participation that are often overlooked in integration policies and how they can be addressed through adult education and community learning.

In the lead-up to the European Parliament elections, GADIP organised a panel discussion as part of the WE-EMPOWER project, featuring candidates from various political parties. The discussion focused on **gender perspectives at the EU level and the role of foreign-born women in politics.** The event was facilitated both in-person and online via Facebook Live.

Gender Backlash 3 International Feminist Conference	
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome
10.30 – 12.00	The progress and effects of the anti-gender movement - a conversation between researchers, politicians and civil society
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 13.45	ILGA - Europe: A Trans-inclusive Feminist Movement
14.00 – 15.00	Ireland and Argentina: Mobilization for abortion rights
15.15 – 16.00	Belarus: How the war destroyed women’s hopes for peaceful democratic change and a more equal society
16.15 – 17.00	Group discussion and conclusion
	

Webinar Title	Themes	Speakers/Facilitator
Gender Backlash 3 (in Swedish and English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion of the rise of the anti-gender movement and its effects on the feminist movement; Building a trans-inclusive feminist movement; Mobilisation for abortion rights in Ireland and Argentina; How the war destroyed women’s hopes for peaceful democratic change and a more equal society. 	Soraya Post, Feminist initiative; Oliver Jänkhe, Trans activist and organizer of West Pride in Gothenburg; Lena Martinsson, Professor in Gender Studies; Cianán Russell, ILGA Europe; Maria Teresa Bosio, Abortion Activist in Argentina; Ailbhe Smyth, Abortion Activist in Ireland, and Evgenia Ivanova, Feminist Activist in Belarus.

Date: 29 April 2022	Time: 10:00 - 17:00	Platform: Göteborgs
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		föreningscenter and via Zoom
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Event/Webinar Page: <https://www.gadip.se/2023/10/14/gender-backlash/>

Registrations	Zoom: 13, Facebook event: 41
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Attendance	Zoom: 13; In-person: 45 (estimated half migrant women)
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Webinar Title	Themes	Speakers/Facilitator
Women's Voices 2 (in Swedish and Spanish)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodology study circles for migrant and refugee women in Trollhättan and Lilla Edet municipality. The problem faced by Latin American women in finding work in Spain 	Nancy Contreras, GADIP; Maria Nordberg, Lilla Edet Municipality, and Delmi Galeano, Red Latinas
Date: 20 April 2023	Time: 18:00-19:30	Platform: Viktoriasalen and Zoom

Event/Webinar Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/688660962946063>

Registrations	Zoom: 8; Facebook event: 8
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Attendance	Zoom: 8; In-person: 15 (estimated half migrant women)
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Webinar Title	Themes	Speakers/Facilitator
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<p>The Role of Foreign-Born Women in Politics</p> <p>(in Swedish)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of political institutions in facilitating migrant women's access to education, employment, and democratic participation; • Strategies to combat racism and discrimination in Europe; • The impact of new legislation on gender-based violence; • Perspectives on sex work legislation; • Approaches proposed to enhance the political participation of migrant women. 	<p>Hanna Gedin, the Left Party; Simona Mahomsson, Liberals, and Evin Incir, Swedish Social Democratic Party</p>
<p>Date: 6 May 2024</p>	<p>Time: 18:00-20:00</p>	<p>Platform: Folkets Hus Hammarkullen & Facebook live</p>
<p>Event/Webinar Page: https://www.facebook.com/100059272194949/videos/2803779619790408</p>		
<p>Registrations</p>	<p>Facebook event: 39</p>	
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Facebook Live: 40; In-person: 15 (estimated half migrant women)</p>	

Föreläsning och Webinar:
Kvinnors röster för ökad demokrati

20 April
- Viktoriasalen
Linnégatan
21, 413
04 Göteborg

Maria Nordberg
projektledare
Lilla Edels
kommun

Nancy Contreras
projektledare
Gadip

WOMEN'S VOICES 2

Delmi Galeano
Aktivist
Red de mujeres
Latinoamericanas
SEDOAC,
Spanien

Kl: 18:00-19:30
anmälan görs till: info@gadip.se

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94286000825?pwd=UGZuNGdRdVlnNGRkZWZlVWVhZlR1LWpZaD09>
Passcode: 600654

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

ABF

WIDE

LILLA EDELS KOMMUN

Panelsamtal med kandidater till Europaparlamentet från S, V och L

Genusperspektivet på EU nivå och utrikes födda kvinnors roll i politiken.


Hanna Gedin (V)


Simona Mohamsson (L)


Evin Incir (S)

6 maj 18-20 Folkets Hus Hammarkullen

Vi bjuder på kaffe från 17:30
Fri entré
Ni hittar mer information på gadip.se & abf.se/goteborg

I samarbete med

ABF

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE

A.D.R.I - Associazione Donne Romene in Italia

The first edition of the Feminist Solidarity Forum, held as part of the “GLORIA – Feminism and Strategic Approach to Gender Equality” project, featured a compelling hybrid panel discussion titled **“Europe at the Crossroads – Equal Participation of Women at All Levels: A Prerequisite for Peace, Prosperity, and Societal Change.”** Experts from the WE-EMPOWER project group from the Romanian Women’s Lobby and ADRI explored essential topics such as women’s leadership, feminist solidarity, the political involvement of migrant women, and cyber violence against women in politics.

The project was implemented by the Community Safety and Mediation Center Foundation, in collaboration with the Romanian Women’s Lobby Association, Foreningen Hedda, the Network of East-West Women, the Bulgarian Platform of the European Women’s Lobby, and MagyarNői Erdekérvenyesítő Szövetség/Hungarian Women’s Lobby. It received financial support from the Active Citizens Fund Romania, a program funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021.

Webinar Title	Themes	Speakers/Facilitator
Feminist Solidarity Forum Panel 1: “Europe at the crossroads - Equal participation of women at all levels: A prerequisite for peace, prosperity and societal change” (in Romanian, Italian and English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The regression in women’s rights across Europe, especially in light of recent crises.• The ongoing barriers to women’s equal participation, including the undervaluation of caring roles and the lack of opportunities for assertiveness.• Advocating for a Europe where women and girls, in all their diversity, are free from oppression and exploitation.	Silvia Dumitrache, ADRI; Mary Collins, European Women’s Lobby; Dina Loghin, European Women’s Lobby; Andreea Fedor, Femeile se implică Association; Laura Albu, Romanian Women’s Lobby, and Irina Sile, Romanian Women’s Lobby.
Date: 29-30 October 2023	Time: N/A	Platform: Iasi, Romania and via Zoom
Event/Webinar Page: https://youtu.be/uPeVS1F1HwY?si=riBeT0M1h5c3dq9C		
Registrations	Registrations were managed by an external organisation.	
Attendance	Zoom: 83; In-person: 53 (estimated one-third of migrant women)	



Reflections on Organising Webinars & Hybrid Events

What Worked Well

Based on the experiences of organising and participating in webinars and hybrid events, WE-EMPOWER project partners identified several successful strategies. **One notable success was the establishment of diverse speaker selections.** Ensuring that the majority of speakers were migrant women proved effective in creating an inclusive environment, empowering attendees by featuring voices that resonated with their own experiences and challenges. Actively recruiting engaging and knowledgeable speakers who addressed the specific concerns of the audience further enhanced participation and relevance.

The use of **hybrid event formats**, which combined both online and in-person participation, also proved to be particularly successful. This approach accommodated different levels of digital comfort among participants, allowing those less familiar with online platforms to engage effectively. Offering interpretation services to those needing language support further fostered inclusivity, ensuring broader participation. Additionally, **collaboration with local organisations, schools, community groups, and local authorities working with migrant women has helped enhance outreach efforts.** By partnering with these entities, project partners successfully tapped into existing networks to promote events, distribute information, and increase participation.

Another key achievement was the recording of webinars and hybrid events. These recordings enabled the **further dissemination of key insights to a wider audience**, particularly for those unable to attend live. The recordings have also been repurposed for educational materials (e.g. online Treasure Box), outreach activities, and social media, helping to reinforce the project's messages over time while increasing long-term engagement and impact.

What Could Be Improved Upon

Despite these successes, project partners also identified areas for improvement. A key recommendation for future activities is to **establish clear attendance goals, aiming to increase participation beyond the current levels achieved**. Conducting surveys to understand the needs and preferences of the target audience, particularly in terms of timing and topics, would allow for more tailored event planning and ultimately boost both attendance and engagement.

The timing of events was another area for improvement. Partners learned that organising webinars during holiday periods, particularly in August, should be avoided as this can negatively impact participation. To ensure events are accessible to a broader range of participants in the future, surveys **should be used to determine the most convenient times for the target audience**.

Although project partners made a concerted effort to accommodate different languages, **accessibility to a wide range of languages still proved difficult due to limited budgets and resources**. Offering webinars in multiple languages would make them more inclusive for participants with varying language skills. If resources are available, project partners should consider investing in professional translation services or recruiting bilingual speakers to ensure that non-native speakers can participate fully.

Finally, promotional strategies could be enhanced. **Creating dynamic, visually engaging video presentations to promote upcoming webinars and events, rather than relying solely on static images, could greatly enhance visibility**. Sharing these videos across social media and community networks would capture more attention, spark interest, and drive greater engagement. These videos could help spark interest and ensure that events reach a wider audience. By improving these strategies, WE-EMPOWER project partners can make future events more inclusive, accessible, and engaging for all participants.