

Brief Description WIDE+

WIDE+ is a **European feminist network** of women's rights advocates, gender specialists, women's rights organizations and development NGOs. It works through interlinked strategies of **analysis** and **capacity building** (feminist literacy), **innovative movement building** and **advocacy** informed by a feminist perspective.

The protection of women's human rights is WIDE+'s key objective. Members call for gender justice in combination with social justice, since gender justice can only be brought about if intersecting unequal power relations are addressed.

WIDE+ also strongly believes that women are a not homogeneous group and that without respect for the multitude of feminisms, we can't build agency. WIDE+ is a European network that works in solidarity with women's rights organizations in the Global South and other associations in the North, such as grassroots groups or migrant networks, representing different regions and identities

Not only an intersectional critical perspective that stands for a diversity of feminisms is important, also a participatory, empowering and holistic approach– that is what a feminist vision means to WIDE+. WIDE+ is a democratic association with 16 organizational and around 40 individual members. **The number of associations involved is indirectly much greater, bringing together approximately 300 associations;** at least half of the members organizations are national platforms or other kinds of networks that bring together a group of other associations

WIDE+ has the following aims:

- ***Create and widen spaces to multiply the impact of feminist activism;***
- ***Influence and transform institutional settings, power relations, policies and practices;***
- ***Act in solidarity with feminist and human rights movements.***

WIDE+ was formally registered in 2015 as an international non-profit and non-governmental association, complying with Belgian law, after operating for 4 year informally. When WIDE ended, after 20 years of advocating for feminist visions in European trade, development and external policies, some of WIDE members took the initiative to rebuild a network. WIDE+ has benefited from the longstanding expertise built up within WIDE, though it is a distinctively different network.

Past activities

WIDE+ has been creating feminist spaces, building alliances, doing advocacy work like promoting [women's rights in EU trade policy](#), and asking for [gender responsive budgetting in EU's external policies](#). It builds collective analysis on current challenges and development for feminists relating to the promotion of Beijing+20, female migration, feminist economics, etc. See for example: the 2013 [Workshop](#), 'Identifying feminist opportunities and voices in times of crises', in 2015: '[Proposals for a New Women's Rights Paradigm](#)'; and in 2018 produced by WIDE+ members: ["the Europe we want? Feminist approaches to gender, migration, and democracy"](#).

In terms of capacity building, WIDE+ and its members have organized almost each year a European event in different countries. For example in 2014 [Conferences 'Gender@sustainability'](#), and the 2016 ['Feminist Perspectives on Global Issues in Europe'](#), for 200 participants from over 30 countries. Since 2016, the promotion of women's rights in migration was the focus of a [European Advocacy Workshop](#) and of the 2018 ['Strengthening Innovative Solutions'](#) and of a two-year project in which WIDE+ contributed to a session of the 2018 [Feminist Forum](#) in the European Parliament. WIDE+ makes feminist voices also heard online: www.wideplus.org, [facebook](#), [twitter](#).

Highlights from our Action Plan 2018-2021:

- **European Forum for Feminism in 2020**

The European Forum for Feminism will bring something completely new to Europe: a huge catalyst meeting space between women's rights advocates, feminists and allies, including other civil society agents, in order to work together to share & build our knowledges and strategies. It will create a new momentum for feminist movement(s) in Europe as an answer to the current crisis we face in Europe and globally.

WIDE+ aims to make this a regular event. We are currently mapping the landscape of feminist and women's rights activism to bring the most strategic associations and individuals together.

- **Other Innovative Movement Building plans**

WIDE+ aims to implement innovative projects to support feminist action throughout Europe, including supporting the capacities of members and new local/national groups working to promote women's rights. Two such projects or formats are: **time banking** also known as a service exchange, and **'Buddy System'**, in which members act as mentors or peer-supporters.

WIDE+ will also continue to building trans-sectoral **alliances/collaborations** with different groups and social movements in Europe; **partnering with women's coalitions** from other continents and have **feminists more often represented** in global policy spaces.

- **Feminist Literacy**

Podcasts are a new, innovative space to use to bring feminist organizers and experts together to develop and disseminate knowledge that support women's rights advocates at national and local levels. There are currently no podcasts from a feminist perspective and WIDE+ wants to fill this gap. WIDE+ is also doing a lot on **social media, with its website and newsletter**, and it wants to strengthen and elaborate this type of knowledge sharing and visibility for feminist issues. Finally, WIDE+ want to continue to promoting women's voices through developing **Feminist literacy on global economic issues**. Educational materials packs should contain a combination of text, infographic, video, and trainer info.

- **Advocacy**

WIDE+ is currently advocating, at and European level, around **gender budgeting** in the external part of Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) of the EU, Gender Equality **in Sustainable Development Goals**, and demanding **female migrant (and refugee) rights**. Advocacy is generally done in collaboration and WIDE+ is leading with other associations the **advocacy of a feminist perspective in EU trade policy**.