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Members Update, issue 14

Dear members, a lot has happened in the past months when it comes to protecting or advancing women's rights. Throughout the past months, women have been at the forefront demonstrating against the rejection of the Istanbul convention in Poland, the rising violence against women in Turkey, the inclusion of migrant women in COVID-19 recovery measures in Spain and of course marching for fair elections in Belarus. Members and partners of WIDE+ have been involved in these actions.

While as a network no member updates have been shared in the past two months, a lot has been done. In this first issue for the Autumn, I would like to share key updates from the WIDE+ and members.

For any suggestions or comments, please write to Gea Meijers, gea.meijers23@gmail.com.

WIDE+ reflection on COVID-19: underlining the urgent need for a 'new normal' of care work in Europe

In recent months, WIDE+ network members have been reflecting on challenges they have faced from the COVID-19 pandemic and key issues stemming from it that would call for collective feminist action. This review, written by WIDE+ coordinator Gea Meijers, outlines the main issues that have arisen from these reflections. While not presenting an exhaustive and systematic review of COVID-19 and its gendered impact, this article will hopefully stimulate further reflection and action that may provide new alternative models for our care economy.

With recovery packages being designed and implemented across Europe, including an EU package, WIDE+ is calling for a systemic review of and investment in care work and

a real inclusion of women* into these packages, including migrant women and women in the global south.

[Click here to read or download the article.](#)

Illustration by Ada Yokota, <https://www.instagram.com/adadotcomdotau/>



Applying for the tender Gender Equality and the socio-economic consequences of the COVID19 crisis”?

The Feminist Economic Literacy group wants to find out who among our members is planning to set up or take part in applying for this tender. And the second equally important question is: "Do you know of any partners to reach out to, who would be involved?". **Several WIDE+ members and partners would be keen to join a consortium. Suggestions for joining an existing consortium would be appreciated.** Please email them to Gea.Meijers23@gmail.com.

EIGE has launched this tender in order to contract a professional service provider that will carry out the study on “Gender Equality and the socio-economic consequences of

the COVID19 crisis”.

They want a project team that for 13 months does a study resulting in a document on the COVID-19 crisis impacts on gender equality with a nexus of: 1) labour market situation, working arrangement and income, 2) work-life balance, 3) the role of employment and income supporting factors, such as recovery measures and public policies. Part of the study is a survey. The research will support the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first semester of 2021 including a thematic focus on the Gender Equality Index 2022. This is the link to the tender:

<https://eige.europa.eu/procurement/eige-2020-oper-15>. Deadline is 7 September.

Webinar: "Gender Lens on Financing for Development: Tax Justice for Gender Equality", Thursday 3rd of September at 14.00 - 15.30 pm CEST

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the webinar by Feminist Task Force and WIDE+ member K.U.L.U. Women and Development.

The webinar will bring insights and discuss the links between tax justice and the Financing for Development (FfD) process from a gender equality and women's empowerment perspective, making connections to the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW. We will discuss this with:

- *Caroline Othim*, Campaigns & Policy Coordinator – Africa, **Global Alliance for Tax Justice**, Co-coordinator Gender & Tax Working Group, Kenya.
- *Kathleen Lahey*, **Professor and Queen's National Scholar**, Faculty of Law, Queen's University, Co-director, Feminist Legal Studies Queen's, Canada.
- *Resina Katafono*, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**.
- *Gea Meijers*, Coordinator, **Women in Development Europe Plus (WIDE+)**.

Taxation is the most sustainable solution to sufficiently fund women's and girls' basic needs and reduce gender inequality. However, the lack of an international tax system

that works for women, neoliberal economic and austerity policies, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows reduce the capacity of governments to raise tax revenues and finance women's rights issues.

The webinar is part of the Citizens for Financial Justice project consortium that is financed by EU DEAR funds and co-financed by KULU.



WIDE+ General Assembly: Thursday 15 October, starting at 18.00 CET, location: Zoom

WIDE+ annual meeting with members is held this year on the evening of 15 October. The General Assembly will review the annual report and annual financial report over 2019, discuss possible proposals for the statutes and/or internal regulations, decide on membership applications and hold elections for the board and caucus.

Proposals, reports and election forms will follow. We encourage partners, volunteers and allies to apply for membership. Kindly find all the details here:

<https://wideplus.org/about/join-wide-as-member/>.

Next WIDE+ Caucus Meeting: Wednesday 16 September at 16.00 CET, location: Zoom

Members are warmly invited to the next caucus meeting that will take place in two weeks on Wednesday afternoon. The caucus is the group within WIDE+ in which the overall strategies and activities are discussed. If one can join, kindly write to Gea Meijers for the zoom link: Gea.Meijers23@gmail.com.

In the past meeting the caucus reflected on the impacts of the COVID pandemic on gender equality and women's rights, as well as the work of members. Following this reflection, the caucus has updated the WIDE+ Strategic Action Plan for this and the next year. The Action Plan includes current plans WIDE+ shared among WIDE+ members, given that there is always room for new collective initiatives among

members.

[Read or download here the revised WIDE+ Strategic Action Plan 2020-2021.](#)

Image by [Lena Helfinger](#), at [pixabay.com](#)



WIDE+ webinar "Feminist grassroots perspectives on trade policy", Wednesday 30 September 17.00-18.30 CET

The WIDE+ Gender and Trade Working Group will organize a webinar that will be held during the Geneva Trade week that is replacing the WTO public forum, under the theme of Rethinking Trade (number S30).

This webinar will zoom in on experiences from indigenous women in Latin America, with an interactive discussion and quiz. The impacts of current trade agreements is very much felt by poor and marginalized communities in the global South, for example through forced displacements and environmental degradation resulting from mining, local agricultural production being out-competed by companies in Europe and the US, very lowly paid and protected work in light manufacturing sectors for export production such as the garment sector. Women and girls in particular are negatively impacted.

Our gathered knowledge on gender and trade linkages is not new for many gender and trade experts –building on collective work that started during the global trade negotiations in the nineties in Seattle. Still feminist economic perspectives and knowledge is not commonplace among mainstream perspectives on trade agreements and other measures.



WIDE+ webinar recording available: "[COVID19: Migrant Women in Europe resisting increased abuse and precariousness I](#)", 8 July 2020

WIDE+ webinar recording available: "[COVID19: Migrant Women in Europe resisting increased abuse and precariousness II](#)", 15 July 2020



Report from the webinar “EU’s Gender Action Plan III - A conversation between civil society and the European Commission” facilitated by CONCORD Europe and held 8 July 2020

The GAP is the guiding document to implement gender equality strategies in external action -development, other external policies, including ideally trade policies. The EU has been in the process to review the previous plan and is preparing to launch the third cycle of the GAP.

In July an online consultation with civil society was organized to brainstorm and provide feedback to the new GAP. WIDE+ as partner in the CONCORD Gender Reference Group contributed to this webinar in facilitating the session on digitalization. WIDE+ members also provided input in the session: "Impact and response to COVID-19".

[Download the report](#)



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